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CTM 40th Anniversary

LAWMAKER JOSÉ PEREIRA COUTINHO FORECASTS THAT CANDIDATE LISTS WILL NEED TO GAIN AROUND 10,000 VOTES TO GUARANTEE A SEAT IN THE PLENARY

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JUNE RECORDS WORST GGR IN SIX MONTHS, REACHING ONLY MOP6.5 BILLION

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THE NORTHERN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE HEAVY RAINSTORMS IN A MORE EFFICIENT WAY

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COMPLETE GOVERNANCE

AP PHOTO



Philippines A small volcano near the Philippine capital belched a dark plume of steam and ash into the sky in a brief explosion yesterday, prompting officials to start evacuating thousands of villagers from high-risk areas. Government experts said magmatic materials came into contact with water in the main crater of Taal Volcano in Batangas province, setting off the steam-driven blast with no accompanying volcanic earthquake. They said it's unclear if the volcanic unrest could lead to a full-blown eruption.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Thousands of Indonesians lined up at a sports stadium to get a Covid-19 vaccine dose yesterday in a one-day, mass vaccination event that's part of a push to dramatically scale up the nation's virus fight as hospitals fill with sick patients. Meanwhile, President Joko Widodo announced new community restrictions and the mobilization of the National Police and other resources to combat the surging infections.

AP PHOTO



Thailand embarked on an ambitious but risky plan yesterday that it hopes will breathe new life into a tourism industry devastated by the pandemic, opening the popular resort island of Phuket to fully vaccinated foreigners from lower-risk countries. As the first flight arrived, airport fire trucks blasted their water canons to form an arch over the Etihad jet from Abu Dhabi as it taxied to its gate.

More on backpage

XINHUA



President Xi Jinping proclaimed yesterday at the centenary celebration that the central government will ensure it exercises overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong and Macau to safeguard national security

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GOV'T EASES HONG KONG TRAVEL BUBBLE REQUIREMENT

AP PHOTO



P3

XI STRESSES ENSURING CENTRAL GOV'T'S OVERALL JURISDICTION OVER HONG KONG, MACAU

XI Jinping, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee, yesterday stressed ensuring that the central government exercises overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong and Macau.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in his speech at a ceremony marking the centenary of the CCP.

"We will stay true to the letter and spirit of the principle of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong, and the people of Macau administer Macau, both with a high degree of autonomy," Xi said.

Xi highlighted implementing the legal systems and enforcement mechanisms for the two special administrative regions to safeguard national security.

"While protecting China's sovereignty, security, and development interests, we will ensure social stability in Hong Kong and Macau, and maintain lasting prosperity and stability in the



two special administrative regions," he said.

Yesterday, a number of associations in Macau organized public viewings of the live broadcast of the centenary celebrations.

A member of the Women's General Association of Macau who watched the live broadcast

expressed that she "felt honored to participate in and witness the CCP celebration" virtually.

"I found out that the backbone of the founding of it was young people, so I felt inspired and motivated to work harder," she said.

Another member from the

same association expressed her sentiments about the CCP, stating that she believed that the "strength and success of the country could not have been achieved without the efforts of the CCP and the people."

"Growing up in Macau, I used to feel that I was far away from

the CCP. Later, after studying in the mainland and experiencing the epidemic-fighting work for more than a year, I learned that the Communist Party gives priority to the health of the people and works for the well-being of the people," she said.

Meanwhile, events are being held across China, including in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam was among officials seated on Tiananmen Gate, while her deputy defended the national security law imposed by Beijing last year and said it would be used further in the coming year to ensure stability.

Chief Secretary John Lee, said the national security law stipulates that human rights be respected and allows residents to enjoy freedom of the press and free assembly.

Celebrations in Hong Kong were more muted, although city officials ensured that Chinese national flags were on display and the logo of the centenary celebration was plastered on buses and trams. **MDT/AGENCIES**

GAMING

June GGR lowest in H1, still better than expected: JP Morgan

HONEY TSANG

MACAU recorded the lowest gross gaming revenue (GGR) monthly figure in the first half (H1) of this year for June, reaching only MOP6.54 billion, down 37.4% from the period's peak of MOP10.45 billion in the preceding month, according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

In a statement published yesterday, JP Morgan reflected that despite the sharp fall in June the number is still "better than feared," and reaffirmed its confidence in Macau.

The daily GGR run-rate for June dropped month-over-month for the first time in seven months, down 37% to MOP218 million per day, the lowest number since October 2020, according to the



brokerage firm.

The "poor revenue" in GGR for June was deemed unsurprising, given the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Guangdong province and ensuing cross-border travel restrictions that hindered Macau's ga-

ming business to some extent last month.

Guangdong province plays a pivotal role in driving the city's GGR as it is "the single largest feeder market," contributing on average 55% of the city's arrivals this year. In addition, the region

is considered a "main gateway" to Macau, with over 90% of mainland arrivals entering via Zhuhai.

JP Morgan noted that, notwithstanding this's month drop, the second quarter (Q2) of this year "still managed to print the highest GGR

since the pandemic," — with a significant boost by "solid recovery in mass [market]," and "robust" May GGR of MOP10.45 billion which is by far the highest tally in H1.

Overall, the GGR for Q2 increased 7% from the first quarter to MOP25.4 billion, equivalent to MOP279 million/day or 35% of 2019 levels.

Broken down into segments, the mass market GGR is expected to have grown 13% quarter-to-quarter in Q2, which translates to around 45% of the level in the same period in 2019, and "a further recovery from around 40% in Q1," JP Morgan said.

Meanwhile, the GGR for the VIP segment shows no advancement in Q2, standing at "only approximately 20% recovery levels,"

the same as that in the first quarter.

The government yesterday announced more particulars about the upcoming reinstatement of the Hong Kong-Macau border and confirmed that Hong Kong travelers will be barred from engaging in some mask-off activities upon arrival, such as using swimming pools, karaoke parlors, and so on.

Despite the proposed new scheme, JP Morgan confirmed that its GGR forecast was "unchanged given the unpredictability of these policy measures."

GGR is forecast to stand at MOP8.5-9.0 billion in July, representing 35% of pre-pandemic levels, and MOP 10.5-11.5 billion in August, or 45% of pre-pandemic levels, even higher than numbers in May.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Hong Kong travel bubble requirement eased, travelers restricted to 'mask-on' activities

HONEY TSANG

THE government confirmed yesterday that the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble is set to kick off should Hong Kong see no cases with unknown sources for 14 days.

This shorter time period is a relaxation of the previously announced requirement for 28 days of no locally transmitted cases registered in Hong Kong.

Tai Wa Hou, coordinator of the Health Bureau's Covid-19 Vaccination Operation, confirmed that even if Hong Kong records cases that are epidemiologically linked with imported cases, or cases with known sources (and their contagion risks are confirmed to have not permeated throughout the community) the intercity bubble can still be reinstated, albeit exclusively for fully vaccinated people, after 14 days.

Tai said the two governments are still discussing the specifics of when they should measure the 14 days.

But he warned that should the neighboring city registers any cases with unknown sources in the future, the "28 days of zero cases for Hong Kong"

requirement will be put into force again.

Several Hong Kong media ran stories yesterday claiming that the intercity border will be reopened as early as July 11.

However, Tai confirmed again that there is "no particular date" set for the official reopening of the Hong Kong-Macau border, given that it will take more time for the Macau government to monitor the coronavirus situation in Hong Kong.

Tai also revealed a set of proposed restrictions to be enforced on Hong Kong travelers upon their arrival in Macau. All Hong Kong arrivals will be granted a distinct blue health code: to distinguish them from other arrivals holding green, yellow or red codes.

Hong Kong tourists will be subject to a set of constraints designed to prohibit them from engaging in "mask-off" activities. This includes hotel floors designated exclusively to accommodate Hong Kong tourists, a ban on entering swimming pools, bars and karaoke parlors, and other measures.

When asked whether Hong Kong tourists are banned from dining in restaurants, necessarily a "mask-off" activity,

Tai suggested that this is not likely to happen as eating is an essential activity for a person, and "everyone needs to eat."

Only those who are fully vaccinated and possess a certificate of negative Covid-19 test conducted within 48 hours, can be granted entry to Macau. Upon arrival, Hong Kong travelers are required to undergo several nucleic acid tests, with the number of tests dependent on their length of stay.

In the initial reopening stage, a limited daily quota will apply for Hong Kong arrivals.

The Macau government is also thrashing out a solution with casino operators for regulations to allow Hong Kong tourists to enter casino areas safely.

Speculation circulating online suggests that there will be a designated zone for Hong Kong gamblers, and separate

zone for all other bettors.

Tai's remarks are seen as official confirmation of the proposed regulations which were first reported by the media over the past two days.

The Times sought confirmation from the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) that officials are discussing new arrangements with Macau's hoteliers for the accommodation of Hong Kong travelers after the border reopens.

According to official data, a total of 51 hotels in Macau, totaling 2,700 hotel rooms, expressed interest in hosting Hong Kong travelers.

The authority emphasized that the entry policies will not be reciprocal between the two cities. It is likely that the measures implemented by the Hong Kong government for arrivals from Macau will be more lenient.

ANOTHER TWO LAND PLOTS LAWFULLY RECLAIMED BY GOV'T

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled on another two plots of land that the government had reclaimed, claiming the expiry of the concessions.

As in previous cases, the decision of the highest court favored the government's claim, declaring the forfeiture of the land concessions.

The land plots in question are Lot 2 of zone D of Nam Van area, a plot 8,523 square meters in size that had been granted to the Sociedade de Investimento Imobiliário Va Keng Van for a period of 25 years. The concession expired on July 30, 2016, and the government reclaimed it due to its non-development.

The second plot is located on Tai-pa Island, next to the Povoação de Cheok Ká, and is a small parcel of just 887 square meters. According to the concession contract, the land was intended for agricultural use, and had a lease term of 50 years, issued in December 1952.

In this second case, the government had issued an extension for another 10 years, ending in December 2012, but subsequently decided not to extend the concession further, reclaiming the land. RM

BARRA-COLOANE FERRY ROUTE COMMENCES

STAFF REPORTER

ACCORDING to an announcement from the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA), the ferry tour route from the Barra Harbor Pier to the Coloane Pier has commenced, and the route will operate from Thursday to Sunday.

"The ferry tour route from Barra Harbor Pier to Coloane Pier operated by Shun Tak-China Travel Ship Management (Macau) Limited is the first route that uses Barra Harbor Pier as a waypoint, and the preparatory work has been completed, including sea trials of the ferry and berthing trials. The voyage will take about 20 minutes, and the exact sailing times can be checked with the shipping company."

In addition, DSAMA has reminded in the announcement that all passengers should wear masks throughout the voyage, and that the shipping company has the right to refuse those who do not wear masks to board the ship.

The Barra Harbor Pier is a public pier which opened in March 2021 for berthing of public vessels and is also equipped for berthing of Macau Cruise vessels.

VACCINATION RATE SURGES TO 35%

THE rapidly increasing vaccination rate has driven up Macau's vaccination rate to 35% of the overall population. Over the past two to three weeks, the daily number of people inoc-

ulated was between 5,000 and 6,000: ten times the average number seen in February and March. Around 40% of the population aged over 12 years is now vaccinated.



GOV'T URGED TO BETTER HANDLE HEAVY RAINSTORMS

HONEY TSANG

SEVERAL committee members of the Northern District Advisory Committee for Community Service advanced suggestions for the government on how to better handle heavy rainstorms at their regular meeting yesterday.

The meeting followed heavy rainfall hitting the city on June 22, when the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued the yellow rainstorm warning signal at 7:10 a.m., and the red rainstorm warning signal at 7:50 a.m.

that day: a time when most students were commuting to school.

This left many disgruntled parents and students complaining that the signal came "too late."

In view of this, Hoi Long Tong, who is one of the committee members, suggested the SMG considers issuing the rainstorm signal in a more "humane" manner next time, in a bid to minimize impacts on parents and their children.

Meanwhile, another member, Hong Wai Tong, asked the SMG to upgrade its hardware equipment to improve the accuracy of weather

forecasts, and urged the authorities to release messaging about extreme weather as early as possible so that the public have more time to prepare.

Some other members were concerned about the chronic flooding problem. They suggested prioritizing enhancement works, such as stepping up efforts to control illegal sewage, especially at the flooding black spots Ilha Verde and Toi San.

Another member called on the government to make good use of advanced technology to identify the sources of flooding.

IAM TO ESTABLISH REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR TAKEAWAY ESTABLISHMENTS

To further improve the food safety supervision system, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) recently announced that it plans to establish a registration system for establishments providing takeaway food.

Mandatory registration will be imposed on establishments which engage in takeaway activities and are not regulated by licenses at present.

"The focus will be on monitoring and control of food product sources and processing procedures to step up supervision of food safety," the IAM statement read.

It is proposed that the new registration system will require takeaway outlets to be registered before commencing operation, to operate in a physical store and to publicly display their registration certificate.

Third-party online food ordering platforms are also required to ensure that takeaway establishments using the platforms have completed registration before making their

food available for sale. This further clarifies responsibilities within the sector and safeguards public health.

At present, there are about 2,100 takeaway establishments in the city.

With the aim of ensuring food safety, IAM said that, after full consideration of public opinion and the business environment of local small and micro enterprises as well as iconic older shops, it has created a "suitable and operative registration system" for establishments of takeaway activities without affecting the existing license system.

It is planned that there will be two registration methods in the future for operators to submit applications, either by visiting any of the IAM service centers in person or by electronic application.

The new registration system will facilitate the comprehensive and systematic management of takeaway establishments by authorities and the third-party online food ordering platforms. LV

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ELECTIONS 2021

Pereira Coutinho forecasts around 10,000 votes needed for AL seat

RENATO MARQUES

INCUMBENT lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho forecasts that at the September direct elections for the Legislative Assembly (AL), candidate lists will need to gain around 10,000 votes to guarantee a seat in the plenary.

Pereira Coutinho spoke yesterday on the sidelines of the submission of the list's candidates and political platform to the AL Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL).

According to Pereira Coutinho the elections this time "will be difficult." He said that "[this year] there



will be 19 lists [running in the direct elections], while four years ago there were

24," explaining that this means the number of votes necessary to achieve the

election of one member will grow by 1,500-2,000. As a result, he added, "I will need 9,500-10,000 votes to be elected, so this means that my seat is on the line here."

Pereira Coutinho also noted that it will be important to understand to

whom the supporters of Angela Leong and Ho Ion Sang will redirect their votes, as they transfer from the direct to the indirect elections. He said that it is particularly important to understand how the traditional Leong voters will behave on September 12.

"We are doing a test here. I don't know if people still believe in us, but either way I feel very honored to have been able to perform these duties for 16 years," he said, noting that if he is not elected, it is "hardly [likely] another [...] Portuguese lawmaker will be elected to the AL."

300 NOMINATIONS A DIFFICULT TASK

Gathering the necessary 300 nominations that comprise the nomination committee for the list to be accepted as valid and legal in standing for the elections was this year a difficult task, Pereira Coutinho said.

"We had to remove [and replace] over 100 signatures [nominations] that we had previously gathered as they were from Civil Servants and members from the [Macau] Security Force that were forbidden to support any candidacy lists," he remarked.

Still, the head of the New Hope (Nova Esperança) list said he was happy that two of his list members, including the second candidate, are people that work in the public service and, in his words, "had the courage to side with him."

ELECTIONS 2021

NEW HOPE PLEDGES CONTINUITY IN RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

RENATO MARQUES

YESTERDAY incumbent lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho delivered the New Hope (Nova Esperança) candidates list and political platform to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL).

According to the head of the list, New Hope presented a political platform that promises continuity, following the same policies and aims as in previous elections.

In a press briefing after he delivered the documents to the CAEAL, Pereira Coutinho said, "New Hope will keep the same profile that it has maintained over the years and that is based on [the idea] of serving the communities."

Among the top priorities of the list will be the continued call for more transparency at the Legislative Assembly (AL) by opening the seven committees to the public and the press.

"It's unacceptable that after over 20 years of MSAR the seven working committees continue working behind closed doors. The citizens have the right to be informed and the me-

dia has the duty to inform the citizens. This is why we hope that the Chief Executive and the AL change one of the rules to allow that the citizens and the media can be present [at the committee meetings] except in situations where there are sensitive matters that have to do with the privacy of the people. In these situations, it should evaluate case-by-case if there is a need to close the meeting," Pereira Coutinho said.

Another of the topics that he nominated as a priority is the urgent regulation of conflicts of interest.

"Lawmakers cannot use their particular or private interests, overlapping the public interest, in matters they are discussing or regulating. We need to create mechanisms in which,

due to their individual interests, they should be banned from interfering in the analysis of the bill. This must be a law that has a monitoring system in which a third party informs the lawmaker that he or she cannot take part on a certain matter," he noted, adding that for this to happen, lawmakers need to clearly and publicly disclose their interests and this information needs to be published on the AL website.

His third priority is the establishment of a regime of responsibility for high-ranked officials.

"We need to have at least [some] political responsibility. Blunders are made at the management level that are harmful to the public purse and nobody is held responsible for that," Pereira Coutinho concluded.

CE FOR A DAY

EYEING re-election as a lawmaker, Pereira Coutinho expanded yesterday on what he would do if he had the chance to be Chief Executive for a day.

"If I was Chief Executive for one day, I would demolish everything that has to do with the LRT (Light Rapid Transit). The [LRT] ruined the image and physiognomy of Macau. Not only that, it's [...] huge [public] spending," he remarked, adding that the project has already proven both unfeasible and irrelevant to the public.

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庆祝中国共产党成立100周年
The 100th Anniversary of the Founding of
The Communist Party of China

GT STAFF REPORTERS

SURROUNDED by seas of cheers and applause, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, reviewed the historical mission of the CPC in realizing China's complete reunification and "irreversible" national rejuvenation, and expressed China's unshakable resolve and ability in defending national interests in the face of outside forces, as he addressed the grand ceremony to celebrate the centenary of the CPC.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a ceremony marking the centenary of the CPC in Beijing.

"We must take resolute action to utterly defeat any attempt toward 'Taiwan independence,' and work together to create a bright future for national rejuvenation," Xi said, stressing that no one should underestimate the great resolve, the strong will, and the extraordinary ability of the Chinese people to defend their national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Xi's remarks were acclaimed by seas of cheers and applauses from Tiananmen Square. Another climax appeared when Xi announced that Chinese people will never allow any outside forces to bully, oppress or subjugate us. Anyone who dares try to do that will have their heads bashed bloody against the Great Wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people. Xi said the founding of the CPC has profoundly changed the destiny of the Chinese people, and also changed the world. Since the CPC was born, it established its mission to seek happiness for the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

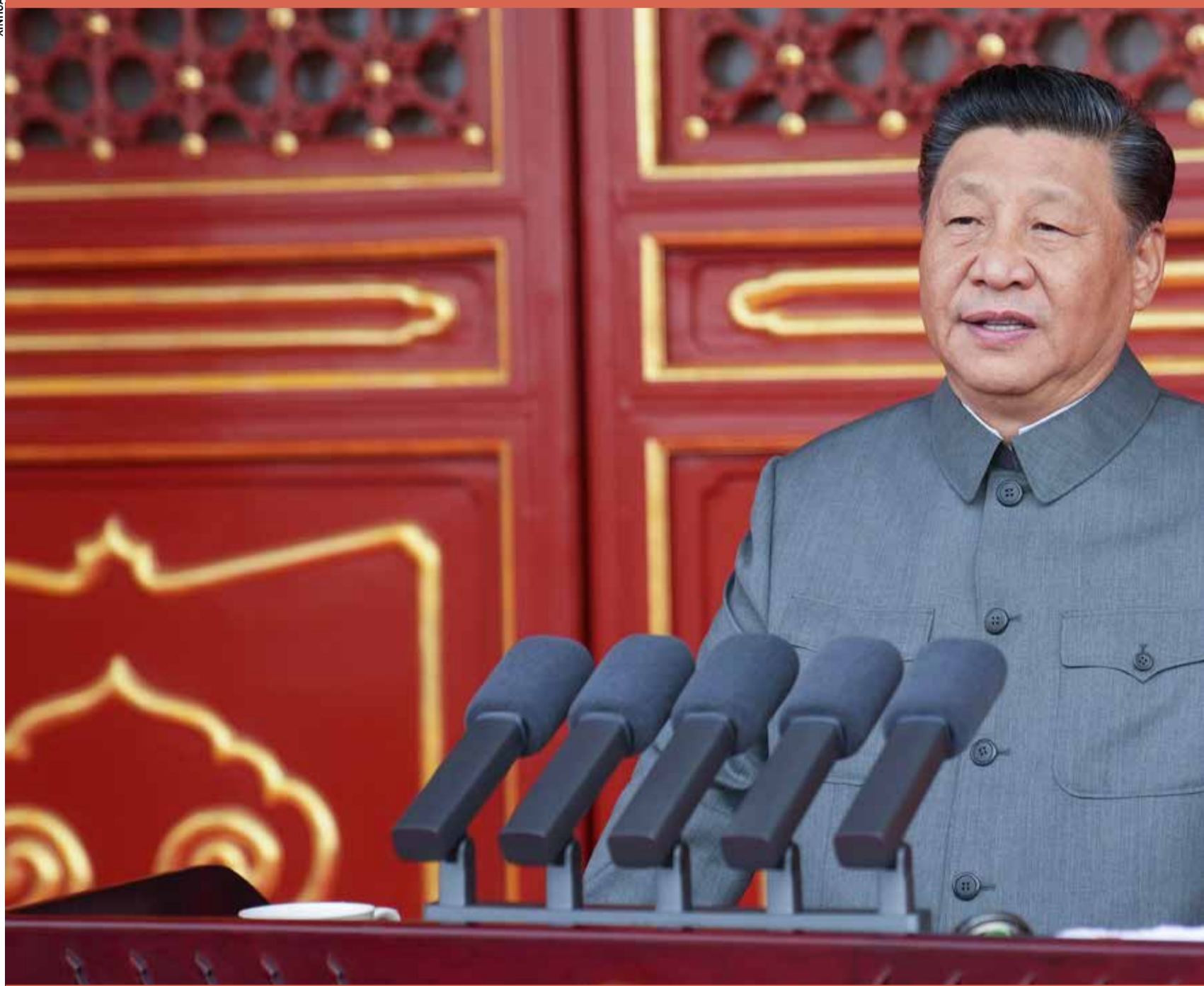
The CPC has united and led the Chinese people over the past 100 years for one ultimate theme – bringing about the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The CPC and the Chinese people, through tenacious struggle, have shown the world that China's national rejuvenation has become a historical inevitability, Xi said.

Xi expressed great respect to the Chinese Communists, with Comrade Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao as their chief representatives who made great contributions to the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation that will go down in the annals of history.

Xi called for cherishing the memory of veteran revolutionaries and revolutionary martyrs. Xi said Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yun and other veteran revolutionaries had contributed greatly to China's revolution, construction, and reform, and to the founding, consolidation, and development of the CPC.

He also paid tribute to revolutionary martyrs who bravely laid down their lives to establish, defend and develop the People's Republic of China; people who dedicated their lives to China's reform, opening-up, and

Xi reviews CPC historical mission



socialist modernization; and those who fought tenaciously for China's national independence and liberation of the people in modern times. Their great contributions will be immortalized in the annals of history and their noble spirit will live on forever in the hearts of the Chinese people, Xi said.

Any attempt to divide the Party from the Chinese people or to set the people against the Party is bound to fail, Xi said, noting "The more than 95 million Party members and the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people will never allow such a scenario to come to pass."

China welcomes helpful suggestions, but will not accept sanctimonious preaching. "We are eager to learn what lessons we can from the achievements of other cultures, and welcome helpful suggestions and constructive criticism," said Xi.

"We will not, however, accept sanctimonious preaching from those who feel they have the right to lecture us," he said.

Xi also announced yesterday that China has realized the first centenary goal – building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. "This means that we have brought about a historic resolution to the problem

of absolute poverty in China, and we are now marching in confident strides toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects," Xi said.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and winners of the July 1 Medal, the highest Party honor, were among those on the Tiananmen Rostrum as President Xi delivered the speech. Before Xi's speech, a congratulatory message jointly issued by eight other Chinese political parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and personages without party affiliation was read out to express strong support for the CPC's leadership.

GENUINE JOY

Tiananmen Square welcomed early morning guests who flocked to the iconic place brimming with joy and excitement, decorated by flowers and national and Party flags. They were eager to take pictures of them with the Party flag, as a way of celebrating the Party's centenary.

Starting from 7:00 am, the rhythm of the "Sing a folk song to the Party" "Unity is strength" and others were resounding at Tiananmen Square to raise the curtain of the grand ce-

remony. The guards of honor escorted the national flag in quick march, parade steps and quick march again with each kind of exactly 100 steps while a 100-gun salute was fired to honor the CPC's 100-year grand history at Tiananmen Square and the sound could be heard by residents living 10 kilometers away.

Representatives of the Chinese Communist Youth League and members of the Young Pioneers saluted the CPC and expressed commitment to the Party's cause with poems. Spearheading the aerial performance formations at the event, a Z-8L flew past Tiananmen Square hoisting a CPC flag, with two Z-10 attack helicopters flying in the same formation. Four more Z-8Ls followed in a second formation.

This is the first time the Z-8L has made a public flight performance.

Fifteen J-20 stealth fighter jets soared past Beijing's skies in formation during the celebrations yesterday, marking the largest number of the country's most advanced warplanes displayed to the general public in a single event. Thunderous applause as well as cheers burst among the crowd before and during Xi's speech with people who attended the ceremony at

Tiananmen Square waving national flags to express their excitement. A man who is working in the railways department in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region told the Global Times that he is thrilled to watch the ceremony at Tiananmen Square and will deliver the spirit of Xi's speech to Party members when he returns home.



mission in address



In Shaoshan, Central China's Hunan Province, the hometown of Mao Zedong, one of the founding leaders of the Communist Party of China, days of heavy rain failed to stop people from all over the country rushing to visit Chairman Mao's birthplace. Starting at 6 o'clock in the morning, hundreds of people gathered in Mao Zedong Square, singing, bowing, saluting, and offering flowers.

Among the people at the scene, there were a large number of young people. They told the Global Times that they were very excited to salute the great leader on this special day and hoped to make greater contributions to the country in the future.

In Hunan's provincial capital Changsha, on Wednesday night, fireworks bloomed in the sky, lighting up the statue of Mao Zedong standing firmly at the center of Juzizhoutou, looking like he is watching the splendid views with the cheering crowds enjoying the prosperity of China that he himself and many other revolutionary martyrs had dreamed of and striven for their entire lives. Over the past few days, the whole nation has been overwhelmed by the color of red with landmark buildings in big and small cities in China being lit up, fireworks being presented, national flags flying in residential communities in remote border areas.

The festive atmosphere is also unprecedented in Hong Kong this year as the city celebrates the CPC centenary, the 24th anniversary of the city's return to the motherland, and the one-year anniversary of the implementation of the national security law for Hong Kong simultaneously. "The many red flags look like a sea of red," some local residents told the Global Times, referring to hundreds of Chinese national flags and flags of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region being displayed in the city's downtown areas.

Banners showing the celebrations of the CPC centenary and the 24th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland are also displayed at local communities, with

some colorful signs putting the word "CPC" on the top and some LED signs showing "a prosperous country, and a prosperous Hong Kong."

Several Hong Kong residents, including Jacky Ko Chung Kit, a 41-year-old Hong Kong resident, who has been organizing a number of celebration activities, came to the landmark tourist site, the Hong Kong Observation Wheel to sing the national anthem and take photos with the national flag on yesterday morning. "We hope more young Hong Kong people will understand the CPC, including the achievements the CPC has made, and understand more about our country," he told the Global Times.

Xi called for cherishing the memory of veteran revolutionaries and revolutionary martyrs

The Macao Youth Federation also organized dozens of young people in Macao to watch the live broadcast of the grand ceremony taking place in Beijing. "I was thrilled when listening to Xi's speech, reviewing the glorious path that the CPC has been embarking on over the past 100 years," Mok Chi Wai, chairman of the federation, told the Global Times.

The successful practice of the "one country, two systems" brings us a happy life, and we should always be thankful for that, Mok said, noting that it's also time to learn the history of the CPC and the history of the nation, and understand the robust development of China is inseparable from the leadership of the CPC.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The enthusiastic and festive atmosphere across the country has especially inspired young people with many expressing their willingness to join the Party.

One day ahead of the centenary celebrations, Henricks Xu, 28, from Heihe, Northeast China's

Heilongjiang Province, delivered his application to join the Party in his 4000-word handwriting. Born in a city bordering Russia where several ethnic groups live together, Xu, who carries the blood of China, South Korea, Georgia and Mongolia, has been taught to know what the CPC is and what the Party's mission is as his family are all CPC members since he was a child. His determination to join the Party was reinforced after his study in Germany where he sometimes felt discriminated.

"Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CPC has been stressing the equality of all ethnic groups. The pledge became so evident to me, rather than just a slogan, after I found some people in Germany would mock and discriminate against different races. This has never happened in my hometown - people would never look down upon others simply because they speak the different languages or are from different cultural background," Xu told the Global Times.

"Every time when I was asked if I would return to China after graduating, I would say yes as the land is full of hope, warmth and light," Xu said. "I would grow up, and forge a stronger bond with my motherland together."

Xu is one among numerous young Chinese people who have been encouraged by the contributions made by CPC members and are ready to make their own for future development.

On the Chinese social media platform Sina Weibo, thousands of netizens are discussing why they chose to join the Party. Stories they shared in videos show the Chinese people, especially the younger generation, inheriting the ideals from their family and truly believe that only the CPC can save China. Applications, Party emblems and work logs that Party members and netizens displayed on their posts vividly interpreted their original aspirations: if you want to chase the light, become the light and give it out. **GLOBAL TIMES**

CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE NATION

On the day when the world's largest ruling party is celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Chinese people, among whom 95 million are Party members, have been collectively expressing their joy of witnessing their country walk on the path of rejuvenation under the leadership

of the CPC.

Yesterday, many Chinese people have watched the ceremony online and expressed their excitement and shared touching moments upon listening to Xi's speech on social media. Various topics regarding the ceremony to celebrate the centenary of the CPC are the most searched and trending on Sina Weibo.



AP PHOTO



EXPLAINER

Why Bill Cosby's conviction was overturned

MARYCLAIRE DALE
& ALANNA DURKIN
RICHER, PHILADELPHIA

BILL Cosby's sexual assault conviction was thrown out yesterday [local time] by Pennsylvania's highest court in a ruling that swiftly freed the actor from prison more than three years after he was found guilty of drugging and molesting Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion.

Cosby, 83, was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era, and his conviction was seen as a turning point in the movement to hold powerful men accountable for sexual misconduct.

Here's a look at the case against Cosby and the court's decision:

WHY DID THE COURT TOSS HIS CONVICTION?

The split court found that Cosby was unfairly prosecuted because the previous district attorney had promised the comedian once known as "America's Dad" that he wouldn't be charged over Constand's accusations. Cosby was charged by another prosecutor who claimed he wasn't bound by that agreement.

The court said that's not the case. The justices found that Cosby relied on that promise when he agreed to testify without invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in a lawsuit brought against him by Constand.

The court concluded that prosecutor who later brought the charges was obligated to stick to the nonprosecution agreement, so the conviction cannot stand. The justices wrote that "denying the defendant the benefit of that decision is an affront to fundamental fairness, particularly when it results in a criminal prosecution that was foregone for more than a decade."

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE NONPROSECUTION AGREEMENT?

The promise not to prosecute Cosby was made in 2005 by Bruce Castor, who was then the top prosecutor for Montgomery County. Castor was also on the legal team that defended former President Donald Trump during his historic second impeachment trial over the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.

During a court hearing weeks after Cosby's 2015 arrest, Castor testified that he promised Cosby he wouldn't be prosecuted in the hopes that it would persuade the actor to testify in a civil case brought by Constand and allow her to win damages. Castor acknowledged the only place the matter was put in writing was in the 2005 press release announcing his decision not to prosecute, but said his decision was meant to shield Cosby from prosecution "for all time."

His successor noted, during the appeal arguments, that Castor went on to say

in the press release that he could revisit the decision in the future.

Castor had said that Constand's case would be difficult to prove in court because she waited a year to come forward and stayed in contact with Cosby.

The first jurors who heard the case may have agreed with him, as they could not reach a verdict in 2017. But a second jury empaneled after the #MeToo movement exploded found him guilty at his 2018 retrial. Constand settled her civil case against Cosby for more than \$3 million.

Castor's successor, District Attorney Kevin Steele, charged Cosby in 2015 after a federal judge, acting on a request from The Associated Press, unsealed documents from her 2005 lawsuit against Cosby, revealing his damaging testimony about sexual encounters with Constand and others. Castor has said Cosby "would've had to have been nuts to say those things if there was any chance he could've been prosecuted."

HOW RARE IS THIS?

Extremely rare.

Wesley Oliver, a Pennsylvania law professor who has followed Cosby's case closely over the years, said he has never heard of a high court in Pennsylvania or anywhere else grappling with a prosecutor's informal promise not to prosecute.

"It breaks new ground entirely," said Oliver, who teaches at Duquesne University

School of Law in Pittsburgh. "It sets precedent not just for Pennsylvania but probably other states."

He said the ruling should drive home to prosecutors the risks of suggesting at news conferences, in press releases or verbally in private that they will not prosecute.

"They should at least add three words — 'at this time,'" he said. "If you add that qualifier, which wasn't done in Cosby's case, you should be good to go," Oliver said.

CAN COSBY BE TRIED AGAIN?

It's highly unlikely. The decision bars Cosby from being tried again over Constand's complaint, finding it to be the "only remedy that comports with society's reasonable expectations of its elected prosecutors and our criminal justice system."

And the accusations raised by dozens of other women, including the five who testified at his 2018 trial, often go back decades and are most likely too remote to prosecute.

Cosby turns 84 next month. However, his lawyer said he remains in good health, except for vision problems that render him legally blind.

The trial judge deemed him a sexually violent predator who could still pose a danger to women given his wealth, power and fame, and ordered that he be on a lifetime sex offender registry and check in monthly with authorities. However, the decision negates that finding. MDT/AP

this day in history

1992 IRA MURDERS 'INFORMERS'



The IRA has admitted killing the three men found by the army at different roadsides in South Armagh last night.

They claim the men were informers for MI5 and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) Special Branch and they had been tried and killed by the IRA.

The victims were from Portadown, County Armagh and have been identified as Gregory Burns, 33, John Dignam, 32, and Aidan Starrs, 29.

In a style typical of IRA ritual killings the bodies were found in ditches, naked and hooded with evidence of beatings and single bullets through the backs of the heads.

The IRA tried to justify the murders in an unusually detailed statement, outlining the intelligence work of the three and linking them to the murder of civil servant Margaret Perry, 26.

Her body was found on Tuesday in a shallow grave over the border in Mullaghmore, County Sligo after she disappeared on her way to work in Portadown over a year ago.

The IRA claim that Ms Perry was having an affair with one of the dead men, Mr Burns, but says she had threatened to expose the group's intelligence links to the IRA, so they had kidnapped and murdered her.

All three men disappeared from their homes a few days ago and their bodies were dumped close to the border within 10 miles of each other, at Newtownhamilton, Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

The army left them overnight in case they had been booby trapped.

These are the first killings in Northern Ireland in eight weeks, and come in the wake of recent progress at talks in Stormont, Belfast and London.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prime Minister John Major said, "The IRA's actions demonstrate yet again the true nature of terrorism".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The three men were buried within days of their discovery, along with Margaret Perry, in Portadown. The exact truth behind their activities and deaths remains unclear, but letters written by the men shortly before their disappearances suggest that they knew they were going to die. Some evidence suggests that at least one of them was involved in the recovery of Ms Perry's body. Peace talks at Stormont continued until December 1993 when Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major agreed The Downing Street Declaration. It laid the foundations for future multi-party talks and aimed to achieve self-determination based on consensus in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Luna spends the day in a sweet connection with Mercury, making it easy to get things off your chest in conversational settings and regain emotional equilibrium.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
The me-first Aries moon links up with expressive Mercury too, making it easy to tap into your talents and regain a sense of balance through them.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Luna's sweet connection with your ruling planet, talkative Mercury, revives your charismatic communication skills and helps you cultivate a sense of balance between head and heart.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
The cosmos suggests sending your energy towards getting ahead with your personal career ambitions, as the moon coasts through initiative-hungry Aries.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
The pioneering Aries moon encourages you to get out of your comfort zone, explore new things, or get lost in a good book or movie that mentally resets you.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
The self-concerned Aries moon points your focus towards relationship hang-ups and any unexpressed feelings that need honoring. It's an ideal day to seek out a therapeutic outlet.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
The moon floats through your opposite sign of self-motivated Aries, calling your attention towards the expectations, projections, and needs associated with romantic partners.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You need time to shake off this week's intensity, Scorpio. The universe encourages you to devote attention to your work/life balance in order to feel your best.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
The moon's presence in self-motivated Aries encourages you to devote energy to creative passion projects and romantic relations. Save productive action for another day.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You've got things to get off your chest today, Aquarius. Rather than bottling them up and chewing on them rationally, aim to share from a vulnerable place.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've got everything you need to push ahead and further hone your abilities. Luna's supportive link with mentally sharp Mercury offers healing conversations on the home and family front.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Someone you care deeply about has been living in a bit of a fantasyland lately, and it's going to be up to you to give them the reality check they need. It's never fun to burst someone's bubble...

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

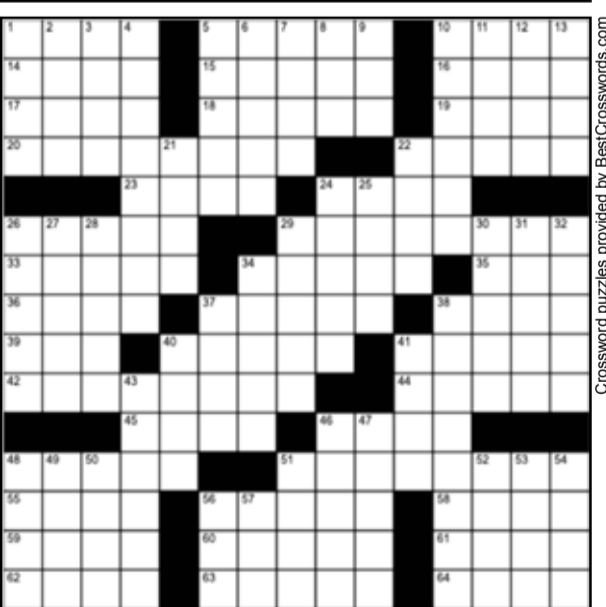
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	29	thunderstorms
Harbin	19	29	rain
Tianjin	25	29	rain
Urumqi	23	27	showers
Xi'an	24	28	rain
Lhasa	21	27	cloudy
Chengdu	27	35	cloudy
Chongqing	28	34	thunderstorms
Kunming	25	30	showers
Nanjing	21	26	showers
Shanghai	28	37	cloudy
Wuhan	24	28	rain
Hangzhou	19	28	thunderstorms
Taipei	23	28	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	15	26	thunderstorms
Hong Kong	23	31	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	13	18	moderate rain
Frankfurt	16	26	drizzle
Paris	14	21	cloudy
London	12	21	drizzle
New York	21	28	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Thrust with a knife; 5- Golden Horde member; 10- Buck follower; 14- Certain something; 15- Trample; 16- "David Copperfield" wife; 17- Let's just leave ___ that; 18- President Garfield's middle name; 19- Galoots; 20- Like Wittenberg University in Ohio; 22- Discharge; 23- Looking up; 24- Timbuktu's land; 26- Opposed to cation; 29- Lucid; 33- Explosive weapons; 34- Lofty nest; 35- Cheer for Manolete; 36- Wings; 37- Dark; 38- Latvia's capital; 39- Purse; 40- European kingdom; 41- Flat-topped hills; 42- Echo-free; 44- Until now; 45- They're all charged up; 46- Attention-getting sound; 48- French wine valley; 51- Woman who brings you the bacon?; 55- One of the Baldwins; 56- Severe; 58- To ___ (perfectly); 59- Blackbird; 60- Japanese three-line verse; 61- Anatomical passage; 62- "The Morning Watch" author; 63- Rich tapestry; 64- Zip;

DOWN: 1- Travel on water; 2- Ballerina's skirt; 3- Smell ___; 4- Casual coatlike garment; 5- Former Russian rulers; 6- In check; 7- Undecided; 8- Dr.'s org.; 9- Tach reading; 10- Slow movement; 11- Weapon in Clue; 12- Minerals; 13- Kiln for drying hops; 21- Seemingly forever; 22- Nobelist Wiesel; 24- San Rafael's county; 25- Busy; 26- Addis ___; 27- Atari founder Bushnell; 28- Icon; 29- Piece of history; 30- Like a subway; 31- Aquarium buildup; 32- Minimum; 34- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 37- On top of; 38- Hold back; 40- Sneaker or loafer; 41- Pole; 43- Ringlike formation; 46- Anorak; 47- Nasal cavity; 48- Tibetan monk; 49- Designer Cassini; 50- Able was ___; 51- Small dam; 52- Bluesy James; 53- Bird feed; 54- Lab fluids; 56- Doo-wop syllable; 57- Paving material;

Yesterday's solution



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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AD



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

REVIEW

BELGIUM TAKES ON ITALY FOR SPOT IN EURO 2020 SEMIFINALS

BELGIUM'S leading scorer at the European Championship is no stranger to Italy's veteran defenders.

They all play in Serie A. Romelu Lukaku will likely be the main attacking threat when Belgium takes on Italy in Munich on tomorrow in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals. The Inter Milan forward has scored three goals in his team's four victories so far.

And with Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard both doubtful for the game, Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini and teammate Leonardo Bonucci — both defenders at Juventus — will know just who to focus on.

"It's a quarterfinal. It will be decided on small details," Belgium midfielder Yuri Tielemans said. "I think one phase can turn the game in our favor, or against us. We have to be concentrated from the first minute and finish strongly. It's going to be very, very tough, very, very physical."

Belgium, which is trying to win its first major soccer tournament three years after a third-place finish at the World Cup, hasn't lost in 13 games and is the top-ranked

AP PHOTO



team in the world. The Italians haven't been beaten in a national team record 31 matches, though they were taken to extra time by Austria in the round of 16.

"It's a nice challenge to beat them after a run of 31 unbeaten games. I estimate the odds 50-50," said Belgium midfielder Thorgan Hazard, Eden's younger brother and the scorer of the only goal in the team's 1-0 victory over Portugal in the last round. "It's an advantage that we didn't have to play extra time."

Both teams won all three of

their group matches, and with France, Portugal, the Netherlands and Germany all eliminated from Euro 2020, the winner in Munich will certainly be among the favorites for the title.

"We must continue to believe in ourselves," Italy midfielder Jorginho said. "The most serious mistake would be to think that we've already done something great."

Neither De Bruyne nor Eden Hazard's injury worries are new. De Bruyne fractured his nose and eye socket in a collision with Chelsea defender Antonio Rüdiger while playing for Manchester City in the Champions League final, but the latest problem is a bruised left ankle sustained after a tackle from Portugal midfielder João Palhinha in the round of 16.

"I don't know if De Bruyne will play in the game, but he's definitely a player who makes the difference, with a higher-than-average football intelligence," said Jorginho, a Chelsea midfielder who plays against De Bruyne in the Premier League.

The injury-prone Hazard was also taken off early against Portugal with a hamstring issue. Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said Monday that both Hazard and De Bruyne were "50-50" for tomorrow's game.

Belgium has only beaten Italy once before in a competitive game — in the 1972 European Championship quarterfinals. **MDT/AP**

UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	City	ODDS
Sat	Jul 3	0:00	Switzerland	Spain	St. Petersburg	H 6.2, D 3.85, A 1.7
Sat	Jul 3	3:00	Belgium	Italy	Munich	H 3.55, D 3.13, A 2.42
Sun	Jul 4	0:00	Czech Republic	Denmark	Baku	H 4.48, D 3.35, A 2.18
Sun	Jul 4	3:00	Ukraine	England	Rome	H 10, D 4.7, A 1.44

ODDSCHECKER.COM

AD

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山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata
趙魯 Zhao Lu
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:
高文軒 Adelino Carneia
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isó de Azevedo
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

F&B

UNEXPECTED EXPRESSION

DOM Pérignon Vintage 2003 – Plénitude 2 is unveiled for the first time globally on 1st July 2021. For each vintage and from its inception, a limited number of bottles are set aside in the cellars, predestined for longer maturation. By doing so, Dom Pérignon is patiently elevated to a new summit of expression called Plénitude 2, the second life of Dom Pérignon. Dom Pérignon achieves a state of Plénitude by unfurling across every dimension – wider, deeper, longer, more intense – and gifted further with an extended longevity.

2003 is a year that will remain forever ingrained in the memory of Champagne, as the year when the effects of climate change became brutally tangible. Capturing the collective attention, the climate of 2003 saw a combination of severe frost in the spring – resulting in the loss of 70% of potential chardonnay grape harvest from the Côte des Blancs – and a scorching August heatwave that imposed the earliest harvest in the history of Champagne since 1822. 2003 dictated an engagement with the rhythms of nature and taking risks. Rather than submission, bold

and creative action made it possible to exist and express the uniqueness of the year.

It took eight years for Dom Pérignon Vintage 2003 to reach its desired harmony, and a further nine years of elaboration to elevate this vintage to its second life. Transferring their energy, the lees have infused it with vibrancy. The elegantly bitter finish of the Vintage 2003 has elongated. The taste persists, lasting as a new saline sensation creates an even more flavourful dimension on the palate.

The bouquet reveals itself in a spiral, with first a taste of dried apricot, then the candied fruitiness of raspberry and fig. Unexpectedly, the freshness of lemon verbena, white pepper, and rosemary rises for an instant, before plunging into the sultry darkness of spices and licorice root.

On the palate, Dom Pérignon Vintage 2003 – Plénitude 2 unfolds, then envelops in a tactile and vibrant embrace. Like a wave, it is built on rhythm and breaks. It is generous and structured, before withdrawing into a deep, dark verticality that slowly stretches towards a bitter, sapid iodine sensation.



IRENE SAM, MDT

FASHION

Shining bright

SWISS Haute Horlogerie manufacturer Audemars Piguet releases three new diamond-set versions of the Royal Oak “Jumbo” Extra-Thin. Each example is housed in a 39mm case, executed in 18-carat pink or white gold. The case, bezel and bracelet are dressed with 1,102 brilliant-cut diamonds (7.09 carats).

The dial is enriched with a “Petite Tapisserie” pattern and incorporates baguette-cut diamond hour-markers. A light blue dial option is available in a choice of 18-carat pink gold or white gold with colour co-ordinated Royal Oak hands with lumines-

cent coating. The third option pairs a black dial with an 18-carat white gold case and hands. In addition to the brand’s name positioned below noon, an “AP” logo is located in the lower portion of the dial, consistent with “Jumbo” convention.

At the heart of this watch is the Manufacture Calibre 2121, visible via the glareproofed sapphire caseback. This movement is equipped with an openworked, bidirectional 22-carat gold oscillating

weight, conveniently harnessing the motion of the wearer’s wrist to power the watch. The oscillating weight is hand finished, encompassing both Clous de Paris and satin-brushing. The movement also incorporates hand finishing on the bridges and mainplate, utilising the expertise of the manufacture’s craftspeople. This includes “Côtes de Genève,” polished bevels, satin-brushed edges and circular graining on the recesses.

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE LANTAU 1500 METERS TURF
2021-07-03 | Sat | 16:00

YOU have to give N. Moore’s horse Sepreeding a good chance this Saturday. If you pay close attention to his last 1500 turf race 19/6; it seems Sepreeding has more up to his sleeves, he cut into the front so easy from an awkward barrier gate ten, without any asking from his rider, grabbed the lead and gallop smoothly all the way to the winning line. Although 2 horses at the finish to challenge late, but Sepreeding has much more in his tank to tackled them up. This was his first win, and he also scored 3 places this season. His trainer makes a good decision to run him again this Saturday, he also engaged B. Yamzon the winning jockey to ride him, this time Sepreeding drawn barrier five and only shoulder 2 lbs more. He should again run a big race and hopefully to bring another solid win to N. Moore and Sepreeding’s connection this Saturday.

Race 1 Horse no. 5 SEPREEDING Win & Place Bets.



OPINION

World Views

Lihong Shi, Case Western Reserve University
 MDT/The Conversation

**CHINA'S 'ONE-CHILD
 POLICY' LEFT AT LEAST 1
 MILLION BEREAVED PARENTS
 CHILDLESS AND ALONE IN OLD
 AGE, WITH NO ONE TO TAKE
 CARE OF THEM**

A child's death is devastating to all parents. But for Chinese parents, losing an only child can add financial ruin to emotional devastation.

That's one conclusion of a research project on parental grief I've conducted in China since 2016.

From 1980 to 2015, the Chinese government limited couples to one child only. I have interviewed over 100 Chinese parents who started their families during this period and have since lost their only child – whether to illness, accident, suicide or murder. Having passed reproductive age at the time of their child's death, these couples were unable to have another child.

In 2015, the Chinese government raised the birth limit to two, an effort to reverse declining birthrates and to rejuvenate an aging population. In May 2021, it announced that Chinese families could have up to three children.

The new "three-child policy" received generally lukewarm responses in China. Many Chinese couples say they prefer not to have multiple children due to the rising cost of child rearing, how it would complicate women's professional aspirations and declining preference for a son.

The childless parents I interviewed told me they felt forgotten as their government moves further away from the birth-planning policy that left them bereaved, alone and precarious in their old age – in a country where children are the main safety net for the elderly.

Having and losing an only child

China's one-child policy was a massive social engineering project launched to slow down rapid population growth and aid economic development efforts.

Until the early 1970s, most Chinese women had at least five children. By 1979, China's population had nearly reached 1 billion – up from 542 million in 1949. The Chinese government claimed that the one-child limit prevented 400 million births in China, although this calculation has been disputed as an exaggeration.

The birth limit was unpopular at first.

"Back then, we wanted to have more children," said a bereaved mother who was in her 60s when I interviewed her in 2017. "My parents had an even harder time accepting that we were allowed to have only one child."

To enforce the unpopular one-child policy, the Chinese authorities designed strict measures, including mandatory contraception and, if all else failed, forced abortion.

Those who violated the policy paid a financial penalty, and children from unauthorized births often could not be registered for citizenship status and benefits. Parents who worked for the government – and under China's economic system, many urban workers did – risked losing their job if they had more than one child.

Several bereaved mothers told me that they had gotten pregnant with a second or third child in the 1980s or 1990s but had an abortion for fear of job loss.

The one-child policy, while painful, contributed to an age structure that benefited the economy: The large working-age population born before and after it grew rapidly compared to the country's younger and older dependent population.

This "demographic dividend" accounted for 15% of China's economic growth between 1982 and 2000, according to a 2007 United Nations working paper.

An uncertain old age

Yet China's one-child policy also created a risk for couples: the possibility of becoming childless in old age.

"Families with an only child are walking on a tightrope. Every family can fall off the tightrope at any moment" if they lose their only child, one bereaved mother explained to me.

"We are the unlucky ones," she said.

In China, where the pension and health care systems are patchy and highly stratified, adult children are the main safety net for many aging parents. Their financial support is often necessary after retirement.

[Abridged]

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said yesterday he'll push to further upgrade relations with China, his main ally, as he struggles to navigate his country out of a deepening crisis linked to the pandemic.

Kim made the comments in a message to Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulating him on the 100th founding anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

"The Workers' Party of Korea, by its firm unity with the Chinese Communist Party, would raise [North Korea]-China friendship to a new strategic point as required by the times and as desired by the peoples of the two countries," Kim was quoted as saying.

In an apparent reference to the United States, Kim said that "hostile forces' vicious slander and all-round pressure upon the Chinese Communist Party are no more than a last-ditch attempt and they can never check the ongoing advance of the Chinese people," according to KCNA.

Russian health authorities yesterday launched booster vaccination for those who had been sick with Covid-19 or immunized more than six months ago, an effort that comes amid a surge in new infections and deaths. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said he had received a booster shot and urged city residents to follow suit. Moscow health authorities started offering booster shots with the domestically produced, two-shot Sputnik V vaccine and its one-shot Sputnik Light version.



AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO

**TRUMP ORGANIZATION
 CFO SURRENDERS AHEAD
 OF EXPECTED CHARGES**

MICHAEL R. SISAK

THE Trump Organization's Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg surrendered yesterday ahead of expected charges against him and former President Donald Trump's company, according to multiple news outlets.

Weisselberg was seen walking into the courthouse in lower Manhattan around 6:20 a.m. (EDT) with his lawyer.

New York prosecutors were expected to announce the first criminal indictment yesterday in a two-year investigation into Trump's business practices, accusing his namesake company and Weisselberg of tax crimes related to fringe benefits for employees.

The Trump Organization released a statement yesterday defending Weisselberg, describing him as a family man who has worked at the company for 48 years.

"He is now being used by the Manhattan District Attorney as a pawn

in a scorched earth attempt to harm the former President. The District Attorney is bringing a criminal prosecution involving employee benefits that neither the IRS nor any other District Attorney would ever think of bringing. This is not justice; this is politics," the organization wrote in the statement.

The Trump Organization released a statement yesterday defending Weisselberg who has worked at the company for 48 years

The charges against the Trump Organization and Weisselberg remained sealed Wednesday night but were to be unveiled ahead of an afternoon arraignment at a state court in Manhattan, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The people were not authorized to speak about an ongoing investigation and did so on condition of anonymity.

There was no indication Trump himself

would be charged at this stage of the investigation, jointly pursued by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. and New York Attorney General Letitia James, both Democrats.

Trump did not respond to reporters' shouted questions about the New York case as he visited Texas on Wednesday,

but earlier in the week, the Republican had blasted the New York prosecutors as "rude, nasty, and totally biased" and said his company's actions were "standard practice throughout the U.S. business community, and in no way a crime."

The planned charges were said to be linked to benefits the company gave to top executives, like the use of apartments, cars and school tuition, the people familiar with the matter told the AP.

Weisselberg's lawyer, Mary Mulligan, declined to comment. The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment. **MDT/AP**

Albania Western Balkan countries yesterday launched free roaming for all mobile phone users within the region as a first step of regional cooperation in their path toward joining the larger European Union bloc. Cell phone providers will no longer apply roaming charges for people traveling inside the region following an agreement that the regional countries — Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia — reached two years ago.



AP PHOTO

Sweden's caretaking Prime Minister Stefan Lofven was tasked yesterday with trying to form a new government, hours after the head of the center-right opposition Moderates party said he failed to secure enough support from lawmakers on his side to do so. Parliament speaker Andreas Norlen said that Lofven must answer by Monday whether he can find enough support in the 349-seat Riksdag assembly to form a Cabinet.

Netherlands A Belgian F-16 fighter jet collided with a building at a Dutch airbase yesterday morning as it prepared to take off, injuring two people, Dutch and Belgian authorities said. Belgium's defense ministry said in a statement that the incident happened at the start of an F-16 mission and "the pilot had to use his ejector seat." There was no fire or explosion following the incident at Leeuwarden military airbase.