



HONG KONG HAS RESERVED 400 HOTEL ROOMS TO HOUSE DOMESTIC WORKERS AS PART OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NEGOTIATED WITH PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA

CRIME: PJ DISCOVERS FAKE MARRIAGE DATING BACK TO 1997

HAVANA SYNDROME: US PROBES POSSIBLE HEALTH INCIDENTS THAT DELAYED HARRIS TRIP FROM SINGAPORE TO HANOI

China The LPGA Tour said in a statement yesterday that the Buick LPGA Shanghai tournament scheduled for mid-October has been canceled due to ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions. The tournament was scheduled for the Qizhong Garden Golf Club from Oct. 14-17.

Japan expanded its coronavirus state of emergency yesterday for a second week in a row, adding eight more prefectures as a surge in infections fueled by the delta variant strains the country's health care system. The government last week extended the state of emergency until Sept. 12 and expanded the areas covered to 13 prefectures from six including Tokyo. With four new prefectures added to a separate "quasi-emergency" status, 33 of Japan's 47 prefectures are now under some type of emergency measures.



Philippines Tough-talking Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has confirmed rumblings that he will run next year for vice president, in what critics say is an attempt at an end-run around constitutional term limits. Duterte, who is notorious for his vulgar rhetoric and crackdown on illegal drugs, which has killed thousands of mostly petty suspects, said in comments broadcast yesterday that he will run for vice president to "continue the crusade."



Indonesia's navy said yesterday that it seized an oil tanker that was wanted by Cambodian authorities on suspicion of stealing nearly 300,000 barrels of crude oil. The Bahamas-flagged tanker MT Strovolos was detained in waters off Indonesia's Riau islands in late July, the navy said in a statement. The captain and 18 other crew members — made up of Bangladeshi, Indian and Myanmar nationals — were also detained.

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HO ADMITS MORE SUPPORT TO SME NEEDED

FIRST BATCH OF MACAU, HK VISITORS ENTERS SINGAPORE WITHOUT QUARANTINE

CHINA ACCUSES US OF POLITICIZING COVID-19 ORIGINS RESEARCH

AGNES LAM PLEDGES TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LYNZY VALLES

REPORTS indicate that that non-Chinese local residents who speak the local language but who nevertheless cannot read or write characters may be suffering from discrimination in the job-market.

According to Agnes Lam, who is a candidate for the upcoming Legislative Assembly (AL) elections and the leader of the Macao Civic Power, she has received between 20 to 30 complaints about the issue.

Lam raised the matter in a press conference held by the group to review her work in the 2017-2021 AL term.

"Western BIR holders [are facing] employment issues. We've received cases [of these group that can] speak Cantonese fluently but cannot read or write Chinese [characters] that are finding it difficult to find a job," Lam said.



"This would be a kind of equal opportunity issue. We want to raise this issue as well but I don't think now is a good timing because there are more people losing their jobs." Lam thinks that it

is unsurprising that such an issue might arise in the current economic climate.

However, she pledged to follow the matter up if "there would be anything related to discrimination."

Earlier in June, Lam submitted nominations for this year's AL election, which will take place on September 12.

As in previous elections, the lawmaker and her list will run under the name of Civic Watch. Lam revealed that the team will consist mostly of professionals from various industries, such as education, culture, engineering, medicine and law.

The candidate pledged to prioritize employment opportunities in her electoral platform, noting that the current employment rate is facing a downturn due to the pandemic.

"I didn't put the employment issue before [in my electoral cam-

paign] but this time we'll emphasize it because people have started to lose their jobs. Some [are still] on no paid leave, so the economy and employment issues will be something that we want to tackle in the future as well," said the candidate.

Looking back over the past four years, Lam highlighted that she has always advocated for a better society and promoted the optimization of government policy.

She said that the group has achieved results in areas such as the livelihood ordinary people, urban infrastructure, cultural conservation, rights for the disadvantaged, and education.

Over her term in the AL, the group received 1,032 requests for help, of which 90% (936) have been followed up, involving more than 5200 citizens.

She also recalled that since October 2017 she has exercised the opportunity, as a member of the AL, to submit weekly written questions to the government on issues of public concern and also that she has also helped with cases referred to the association every week.

SINGAPORE APPROVES NEARLY 250 ARRIVALS FROM HONG KONG, MACAU

LYNZY VALLES

SINGAPORE has approved nearly 250 short-term visitors from Hong Kong and Macau following the easing of border measures for arrivals from the two Special Administrative Regions.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), as of 11:59 p.m. Tuesday it has approved 230 air travel passes for tourists from Hong Kong and 13 for travelers from Macau as cited in a report published by the The Straits Times.

The first cohort of 19 travellers from Hong Kong are set to arrive at the Changi Airport today, while the first two visitors

from Macau will land in the city on Saturday.

Last Thursday, Singapore's Transport Minister S. Iswaran announced that the government was about to lift its border restrictions for visitors from Hong Kong and Macau.

These visitors from Hong Kong and Macau will be allowed to enter Singapore with after undergoing only a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test upon arrival. Regardless of vaccination status, Hong Kong and Macau tourists may apply for an air travel pass to enter Singapore. After undergoing the Covid-19 test, they will be required to self-isolate until they

receive a negative test result. However, these visitors must have spent the previous 21 consecutive days in Macau or Hong Kong prior to their arrival.

Official data also shows that 63 Singapore citizens and permanent residents have returned from the two SARs since border restrictions were eased for the two cities on August 20.

Separately, CAAS also noted that until September 9, short-term visitors who have been fully vaccinated overseas can request that tamper-proof vaccination stickers be affixed to their passports as proof of vaccination status.

HONG KONG NABS MONEY-LAUNDERING RING WITH SUSPECTED LINKS TO MACAU CASINOS

RENATO MARQUES

CUSTOMS in the neighboring region of Hong Kong have apprehended a criminal money-laundering ring accused of smuggling HKD166 million over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), the South China Morning Post has reported.

According to information from Hong Kong Customs, the illicit funds had been transported over the bridge from Macau to Hong Kong over three months using several couriers hired for the task.

The report states that five people have been detained in what is said to be the first crack-down of its kind.

"It is the first time Hong Kong customs has broken up a money-laundering racket that was involved in bulk cash-smuggling operations and the use of cross-border drivers," senior superintendent Mark Woo, of the Syndicate Crimes Investigation



Bureau, said yesterday.

Woo said that Hong Kong officers had sought help from their counterparts in Macau and Zhuhai to trace the "dirty" money and locate its recipients at the other end of the criminal chain. He said that investigations were continuing and further arrests were possible.

Investigators from the neighboring jurisdictions suspect that at least part of the cash had been laundered in Macau through the local casinos.

Officers from the Customs

and Excise Department seized HKD20.3 million in cash along with money transfer recipients and mobile phones during an operation that ran from Thursday (August 19) to Monday (August 23).

The money was found upon the arrest of two drivers who were driving a seven-seater van and a tow truck over the HKZMB.

As part of the operation, another HKD580,000, deposited in bank accounts belonging to the suspects, has also been frozen by the Hong Kong authorities.

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ANTHONY LAM

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has highlighted the government's financial support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and promised to study the need for further support.

The disclosure was made in the head of government's reply to written enquiries from lawmakers Wang Sai Man and José Pereira Coutinho.

A written enquiry was made necessary after the CE cancelled his question time at the parliament. About a month ago, the city saw four new cases of coronavirus infection. Due to the apparently worsening situation outlined by the Health Bureau, the Legislative Assembly and the head of government announced that question time would be cancelled.

Both Wang and Coutinho asked the CE about the government's strategy for supporting local SMEs to survive the current crisis.

In response, the CE stressed that the government is aware of the economic impact of the pandemic on Macau. He first restated that the government has already released a measure of financial support to local SMEs, including the expanded coverage of the SME Subsidization Program, administered by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED). The bureau, he added, has also established interest subsidy programs and an extension of debt repayment.

Under the expanded initiative, the CE noted, SMEs subsidized under the SMEs Subsidy Program, the Youth Entrepreneurship Subsidy Program and the Typhoon Hato SME Special Subsidy Program will have the option to repay their debt in installments of MOP1,000 until the end of the year, with the difference being

CE vows to study need for further support to SMEs



equally distributed among all remaining installments. The authorities have approved 4,468 such applications, amounting to a total of MOP157 million.

On the other hand, Ho said that the consumption subsidy scheme reinvigorated the market and "supported the development of SMEs." The CE disclosed that the scheme has, as of July 31, injected MOP272 million into the market.

Ho also said that apart from

financial support, the government has also offered operational training and consultation to local SMEs. Besides the DSED's Distinctive Shops Program, the bureau has commissioned the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) to assist SMEs with technological improvements, such as social media marketing.

The CE said that authorities have tried their hardest to ease

the impact of the pandemic on all walks of life. He added that government will consider extra financial support if necessary.

ACCEPTANCE OF CAEAL DISQUALIFICATION RULING

In response to lawmaker António Ng Kuok Cheong's written question on the allegations against him, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng restated that the government respects the decision to

disqualify 21 candidates from the election.

Ng is one of the 21 disqualified candidates.

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) made the decision to disqualify the candidates based on allegations that they did not pledge allegiance to the Macau Special Administrative Region and uphold the Basic Law of Macau.

Some of the disqualified candidates turned to the Court of Final Appeal for their rights to be upheld. The court ruled in favor of the CAEAL; although one of the judges inserted a declaration, signaling that he only partially agreed with the judgment.

Ng therefore put the question to the CE.

Ng accused the government of using its public authority to collect pictures of the concerned individuals and to construe the materials in a "critical and hostile" manner.

He added that the authorities have subjectively misinterpreted patriotic sentiments and interpreted them as disloyalty. "Through this, the authorities have deprived the individuals of the rights of political participation," Ng said in his written question.

Replying to the disqualified candidate, the CE stressed that the CAEAL is an independent body. Nobody, including the CE, has the right to interfere with its operations.

He reiterated that the CAEAL used its power under the relevant laws to censor candidates' qualifications. Its decision to make the disqualifications safeguarded the city's constitutional order and was "confirmed" by the court.

Meanwhile, Ho added that the principle of "Patriots Governing Macau" is the foundation of the "One Country Two Systems" Principle, and that the parliament should only consist of patriots.

Legislation for sandwich-class and senior housing to be promulgated within two years

THE government will endeavor to submit the bill regulating sandwich-class housing to the parliament next year, the Chief Executive revealed in reply to written questions from several lawmakers on housing issues.

The lawmakers concerned with housing issues included Ella Lei Cheng I, Wong Kit Cheng, Ho Ion Sang, Chan Iek Lap and Au Kam San.

In addition to the legislation on sandwich-class housing, the head of government also estimated that the bill for senior housing,

which is being drafted now, should be ready to be presented to the parliament in 2023. The housing is expected to be finished in the same year.

For the time being, Ho noted, the government is focused on the studies on the sandwich-class housing scheme. The issues concern the means of construction and related tax privileges, among other areas.

Ho restated that differing opinions were expressed during the public consultation on the scheme. Some thought the project

should be headed by private developers. Others thought the approach of "design-build" should be considered. Meanwhile, some proposed a mixed framework.

As for the Senior Residence Scheme, the government is working to determine the criteria for distribution, procedural details, regulations for occupancy, as well as other rules and regulations.

At this stage, the CE noted, the scheme assists senior residents with physical disabilities who live in multi-story residential bui-

ldings without elevators to afford their rent. It aims at helping them ease their difficulties of movement.

Ho added that when gauging the rentals of the housing units, the market price of nearby residences will be taken into account. However, he added that the financial capacity of senior residents is one of the factors for consideration.

The CE stressed that the scheme is a cutting-edge mode of housing to Macau. Housing units will be fitted with smart technologies to improve the quality of life for residents. **AL**





CRIME

PJ DISCOVERS FAKE MARRIAGE DATING BACK TO 1997

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) have discovered a case of a fake marriage dating back to 1997, in the time of Portuguese administration.

The case was referred to the police by the Identification Bureau (DSI) who found various activities of the couple to be suspicious.

Upon investigation, the PJ found that the now 49-year-old woman, originally from Fujian Province, was married on the mainland to a man from the same province.

Before arriving in Macau, she filed for a divorce from her husband, and just a few weeks after arriving in Macau she remarried a local 49-year-old man that the PJ found to be a cousin of her previous husband.

After the marriage, in 1997, she applied for resident status on the grounds of family reunion, received her Macau Identification Card, and began to work as a croupier in a casino in Macau.

She also had a son from her previous marriage, born in 1993, and applied for resident status for him around the year 2000.

Hitherto, there were few grounds for suspicion. However, just 20 days after she was granted permanent resi-

dent status in 2005 she filed for divorce from the local man and returned to the mainland to remarry her previous husband.

The DSI became suspicious when she recently attempted to apply for resident status for her original husband, leading the DSI to investigate her background.

Questioned by the PJ, the former (local) husband admitted that the 1997 marriage was a fake one and that they had never had conjugal relations.

He related how he was asked by his cousin's family to assist them, since they were very poor and in a difficult situation in Fujian.

However, the woman denied the story when questioned, and told a different version. She claimed that she divorced her first husband because of relationship difficulties, and later decided to divorce her second husband because she disliked his gambling addiction.

According to the PJ spokesperson, the police have sufficient evidence, besides the confession of the local man, to prove that his version is the accurate one.

Both suspects have been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office on charges of making false declarations as well as document forgery.

MAINLAND MAN CHARGED WITH RESISTING POLICE AFTER JAYWALKING

A 42-year-old man from the mainland has been charged with resisting and disobeying police officers from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) after having been caught jaywalking at Rua Cidade de Sintra in the NAPE district. Officers on patrol spotted the man crossing the street into the Garden of the Arts, and pursued him in order to identify him. Suspiciously, the man ran away from

officers in the direction of Ferreira do Amaral Square. When he was finally caught, the man continued to resist detention and when ordered by the officers to present his identification documents failed to comply. Later, at the Police Station, the PSP discovered that the reason for the man's flight was that he had overstayed his entry permit since August 10.

FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKER ARRIVALS IN HONG KONG TO BE 'RATIONED AND CONTROLLED'

LYNZY VALLES

HONG Kong has reserved a hotel with about 400 rooms to house domestic workers entering the city as part of special arrangements negotiated with the government of the Philippines and Indonesia.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam clarified that the government could not allow thousands of foreign domestic helpers to enter every week, putting the city at risk of further Covid cases.

Such cases, whether discovered at the airport or during the quarantine period, would overload the Hong Kong public hospital system, she said.

"I would ask the employers of foreign domestic helpers to be more patient with the system because they will not be able to welcome their foreign domestic helpers back in a very short period," Lam announced.

"If there are a few thousand being stranded in the Philippines and Indonesia, it will need quite a bit of time to allow them to come back in



an orderly manner," the official added.

The neighboring city is allowing foreign domestic workers to return to the region under special measures.

From next Monday, its government will begin approving the entry of fully vaccinated Filipino domestic helpers.

The arrangement will require them to wait out their 21-day mandatory quarantine in a designated hotel.

"It's the balance that we are always trying to strike - on the one hand to meet the essential needs of the Hong Kong residents, but on the other hand to keep Covid-19

at bay, that is to reduce as much as possible the chance of importing Covid-19 cases from abroad," Lam explained.

She added that such arrivals through the special arrangements "have to be rationed and controlled."

Currently, Macau has no plans to adopt such a measure despite many local families are finding it difficult to hire domestic employees.

The government has reaffirmed that they do not see any possibility of allowing the import of workers from high-risk countries, a classification which includes the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar.

MGTO RESUMES PROMOTION ON THE MAINLAND

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has stated that it will resume with its promotion of Macau to mainland visitors now that border restrictions have been eased and that the validity period for the nucleic acid tests (NAT) for border crossing is again seven days.

According to the statement, the MGTO has been publishing the news via its official accounts on WeChat, Weibo, Xiaohongshu, and Douyin, as well as conducting promotional campaigns which include special travel offers such as hotel and air ticket coupons.

The Office is also advertising through a television program in Guangdong Province in order to raise Macau's profile as a safe and quality destination, aiming to attract more visitors.

According to the latest weekly figures reported by the investment research and institutional asset manage-



ment company, Sanford C Bernstein Ltd, the gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the period from August 16 to 22 recovered, registering an increase of 55% week-on-week.

This was the first week of August that showed an increase, and follows significant drops in the first two weeks.

The weekly report shows that the casino revenue last week reached a daily average of 120 million patacas, up 55% from the 78 million registered in the previous week, numbers which the brokerage company said were the

"lowest daily GGR since late September."

Conducting an aggregate analysis of the first three weeks of this month, Sanford Bernstein noted that the gross revenue totalled about 2.4 billion patacas, with a daily average of 109 million patacas per day.

The figure still constitutes a drop of 62% compared to the same period last month, when the daily average was 272 million patacas, and a staggering drop from August 2019 (before the pandemic), when the GGR was 783 million patacas per day.

AP PHOTO



Fu Cong, a Foreign Ministry director general, speaks at a briefing for foreign journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Beijing

PANDEMIC

China accuses US of politicizing Covid-19 origins research

KEN MORITSUGU,
BEIJING

CHINA went on the offensive yesterday ahead of the release of a U.S. intelligence report on the origins of the coronavirus, bringing out a senior official to accuse the United States of politicizing the issue by seeking to blame China.

Fu Cong, a Foreign Ministry director general, said at a briefing for foreign journalists that "scapegoating China cannot whitewash the U.S."

"If they want to baselessly accuse China, they better be prepared to accept the counterattack from China," he said.

China, the U.S. and the World Health Organization are entangled in a feud that centers on whether the virus that causes COVID-19 could have leaked from a lab in the city of Wuhan, where the disease was first detected in late 2019.

A joint WHO-China report earlier this year concluded that a lab leak was "extremely unlikely," and China wants the investigation to move on to other possibilities. The most likely scenario, the report said, is that the virus jumped from bats to another animal that then infected humans.

But the findings are not conclusive, and WHO Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in late March that "all hypotheses are on the table and warrant complete and further studies."

U.S. President Joe Biden ordered a 90-day review by intelligence agencies of both theories. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that an unclassified version of the report was expected to be released within "several days."

China has responded to continuing speculation about a leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology by suggesting the virus could have escaped from Fort Detrick, a U.S. military lab in Maryland.

Fu, who heads the Foreign Ministry's Arms Con-

trol Department, denied that China is engaging in a disinformation campaign.

He said that if other parties insist on pursuing the lab leak theory, then the WHO team of researchers should visit Fort Detrick. He portrayed it as a fairness issue, since the WHO has been to the Wuhan institute twice.

"If Dr. Tedros believes that we should not rule out the hypothesis of a lab leak, well, he knows where to go," Fu said. "He needs to go to the U.S. labs."

China notes that the Fort Detrick's infectious disease institute has studied coronaviruses and that it was closed for several months in 2019-20 for safety violations. MDT/AP

TRADE

Turkmenistan strikes natural gas deal with Chinese CNPC

CHINA'S state-owned CNPC has started work to set up new wells at Turkmenistan's giant natural gas fields in exchange for future gas supplies, news reports said yesterday [Macau time].

It will take China National Petroleum Corporation 2 1/2 years to make three new wells at the Galkynysh

field operational, Turkmen media reported. Each will have a daily output of three million cubic meters of gas.

Under the deal with CNPC, Turkmenistan will pay for its services by supplying 17 billion cubic meters (600 billion cubic feet) of gas a year for the period of three years to

a total of 51 billion cubic meters (1.8 trillion cubic feet) of gas.

Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov said the country annually supplies 40 billion cubic meters of gas to China.

Turkmenistan's economy is overwhelmingly dependent on ex-

ports of its vast natural gas reserves.

China is the main export market for Turkmen gas, and the country ships smaller amounts to Russia. The Central Asian nation also has been working to build a pipeline that would pump gas to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. MDT/AP

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

The Scrumptious Moments at Aux Beaux Arts

DELICACIES are made for over-indulging, be it an occasion or a sweet Sunday morning, **Aux Beaux Arts** at MGM MACAU has unveiled a scrumptious array of food and beverage delights for you to enjoy a leisurely moment.



Home to one of the best brunches in town, **Aux Beaux Arts** welcomes friends and family with our finest mid-morning eateries of French favorites. Say "Bonjour!" at our **Sunday Brunch** with seafood theme and other French seasonal ingredients every weekend until end of September, while basking under the warm sunlight at the heart of the European-inspired Grande Praça. For those who like your brunch with a touch of glamor and sprinkle of special, elevate the weekend indulgence with two hours of endless bubbles, beers and soft drinks on point from MOP 180* per person!



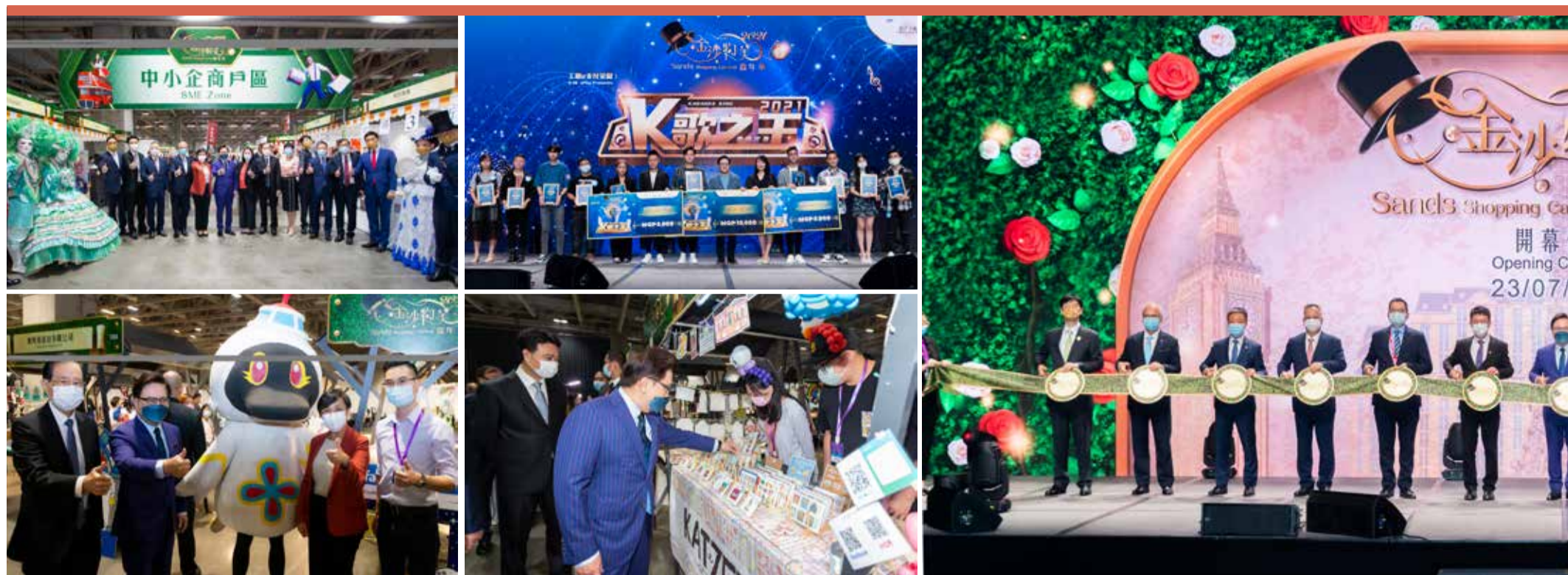
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*All prices are subject to 10% service charge.





SANDS China Ltd.'s 2021 Sands Shopping Carnival was successfully held at The Venetian Macao from July 23 to 25, welcoming over 110,000 local residents and tourists.

The free-admission weekend carnival at Cotai Expo featured over 560 booths and was the largest sale event in Macao, in support of the Macao SAR government's Consume for the Economy initiative and consumption e-voucher scheme.

The three-day mega event in the city provided a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers with an aim to heed to the government's call of supporting local businesses amid the economic crisis of the pandemic.

Sands Shopping Carnival attracts over 110,000 visitors and help stimulate domestic consumption

Back for a second year, after last year's inaugural event welcomed more than 100,000 visitors, Sands China added 10% more booths this year, totaling over 560.

The carnival provided an ideal shopping and leisure summer hotspot for families under one roof, and aimed to give back to the community by offering the best deals to Macao residents and tourists

in order to stimulate domestic consumption and help boost the economy.

"Come rain or shine, Sands China remains unwavering in our commitment to uphold the business philosophy of supporting the growth of SMEs," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"We have not forgotten our roots, and are glad to once again provide a quality business platform - spanning diverse industries and fields such as distinctive shops, old Macao stores, IP-protected brands and food specialties - for local SMEs and Sands retailers amid the pandemic, thereby helping promote Macao's image as a 'safe tourist destination,'" the top executive added.

Gathering feedback from exhibitors and attendees last year, the company has made this year's carnival even better in scale and layout, range of ac-

tivities, and overall experience.

"The company is grateful for the continued support of the Macao SAR government, and our thanks go to the Economic and Technological Develop-

"We have not forgotten our roots, and are glad to once again provide a quality business platform [...] for local SMEs and Sands retailers amid the pandemic."

DR. WILFRED WONG
PRESIDENT OF SANDS CHINA LTD.

ment Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the Macao Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, the Macao Chamber of Commerce, and all

of the event sponsors and supporters," Dr. Wong expressed.

NGOS PROMOTE GOOD CAUSES AT CARNIVAL

The carnival is a crucial platform for entrepreneurs to gain exposure, but not all of them went for profits - some non-profit organizations (NGOs) were riding on this mega event to make a venture for a good cause.

The philanthropic organizations include Macau Special Olympics (MSO) and the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM), two NGOs dedicated to offering support to athletes with intellectual disabilities and people with addiction issues, respectively.

This year marks the second time MSO took part in the carnival.

Hetzer Siu Yu Hong, chief executive officer and national director of MSO, said that the

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CARNIVAL

- **Over 560 retail booths** offered some of the best deals in town, including **MOP1 products** and **discounts of up to 90%** off from Sands retailers.
- **Food Court** featured international cuisine, local specialties, and eco-friendly tableware.
- **"Play and Fun" Kids Area** with inflatable slides, game booths, sports games and more.
- **Karaoke King Singing Competition 2021** featured adult and teenage categories, with preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday, and the final round and award ceremony on Sunday.
- **Little Master Chef Workshop**, a free food-prep and decorating activity for children led by Sands China's food and beverage team, was enjoyed by nearly 400 participants who made donuts, pizza, dumplings and more.





Over 110,000 visitors to carnival and boost economy

event offered a channel where the public and MSO members could get to interact with each other.

"We made ceramics products for this event, in the hope that the public can know more about the talents of people with disabilities, and realize that they are also capable of integrating into and contributing to society."

Not only did MSO members craft items themselves, but they also played the role of salespersons to promote their products.

This gave them a great boost to their self-worth and confidence after receiving patrons' praise for their artwork.

What's more, they could acquire communication skills in pitching their handiwork to customers.

MSO also partnered with Sands China to organize a field trip of "reporter program," in which MSO's young members role-played as reporters to

interview Sands China's president, Dr. Wilfred Wong, to enhance their communication and writing skills.

Over 20 MSO members signed up for the event, with 6-8 of them serving as salespersons, and 12-14 others as reporters. Siu said these experiences could help them fare better in so-

Some non-profit organizations were riding on this mega event to make a venture for a good cause

ciety and in their career paths.

ARTM was a first-time participant in the carnival. The association enlisted 6-8 people to operate a booth titled "Hold On To Hope Project (H2H)," which is also a brick-and-mortar café that opened in December 2020 at Nossa Senhora Village of Ká-

-Hó and is run by groups who complet their rehab.

The H2H booth features fresh products like cookies, cakes and savory small bites, all made daily by ARTM members.

Augusto Nogueira, chief executive officer of ARTM, said that these members went through addiction problems related to drugs, alcohol, or others. During the rehab provided by ARTM, Nogueira invited them to have a go at this vocational project to run a café and acquire culinary skills.

He expressed that the Sands Shopping Carnival is crucial for ARTM, to allow his members to "be more confident, gain skills, face and feel graced by the people and gain respect. Also, Macau society can understand that people who use drugs are not criminals – they are people who made mistakes in life. And they need support from society

so they can go back to the community successfully."

Sands China also invited other NGOs to join the event, such as Fuhong Society of Macau, Everyone Stray Dogs Macau Volunteer Group and more. It enlisted 100 Sands Cares Ambassadors to offer on-site support for NGOs.

"Sands China is very pleased to once again work with local community groups to promote social inclusion at this year's Sands Shopping Carnival," said Dr. Wong.

A CARNIVAL FOR ALL

The 2021 Sands Shopping Carnival expanded its children's area and food court, and added a Macao Original IP Zone and Green Lifestyle Zone in pace with social development trends. The carnival also accepted various wireless payment methods for the convenience of both local residents and tourists.

Carnival visitors enjoyed browsing nine zones at the 21,000-square-metre exhibition: Household Products, Parenting and Family, Gourmet, Food Court, Sands Retailers, Cultural & Creative, Green Li-

festyle, Kids Area, and Macao Original IP.

The 2021 Sands Shopping Carnival was organised by Sands China Ltd., co-organised by the Macao Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office, and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, and sponsored by Bank of China, ICBC, BNU, and Bank of Communications.

Chui Yuk Lum, vice president of the board of directors of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, said: "The Macao Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to partner with Sands China again this year to bring back this large-scale carnival – with COVID-19 largely under control in the city. We hope that this event will drive more large-scale enterprises to support local SMEs, in turn helping them navigate the difficulties brought on by the pandemic."

Also, Sands China implemented a series of strict sanitization and safety measures to safeguard public health at the carnival and prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

WHAT THE SMES SAY...

"This carnival gives us a platform to expand our market. [I hope] there can be more platforms such as this as it is good for local businesses. It's quite expensive for [local SMEs] to spend on advertisement but this platform gives us exposure."

RDS Fried Chicken | Heitor Madeira de Carvalho Che

"We are the first Made-in-Macau mask company. Through this carnival, we're looking forward to continually expand our products. We expect an increase of sales during this three-day event. Through this platform we can introduce our products to mainland China customers."

853 Mask | Amy Chan

"Thanks to Sands China, the public's awareness of the shop has raised, since we also participated last year. Hopefully, we'll meet our sales target this year. This platform definitely helps SMEs a lot. We really enjoy showcasing our products and being out there to meet new friends, partners and joint ventures."

Bespoke Atelier | Olivia Lei



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Harris urges Vietnam to join US against China 'bullying', Beijing denounces American 'hegemony' bid

VICE President Kamala Harris called on Vietnam to join the U.S. in challenging China's "bullying" in the South China Sea, continuing her sharp rhetoric against Beijing as she met with Vietnamese leaders yesterday.

"We need to find ways to pressure and raise the pressure, frankly, on Beijing to abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to challenge its bullying and excessive maritime claims," she said in remarks at the opening of a meeting with Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

Harris also expressed support for sending an additional U.S. Coast Guard cutter to Vietnam to help defend its security interests in the disputed waterway, and pledged that the U.S. would "maintain a strong presence in the South China Sea" to challenge China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin responded to Harris' yesterday comments by accusing Washington of simply seeking to defend "U.S. hegemony and its own interests," rather than standing up for the rights of small countries.

"China firmly rejects the U.S. deployment of law enforcement forces in the South China Sea, meddling in regional affairs and disrupting regional peace and stability," Wang said at a daily briefing.

During remarks in Singapore on Tuesday, Harris said Beijing's actions to press its territorial claims in the South China Sea amount to "coercion" and "intimidation."

The vice president's rebuke of China comes in the middle of her weeklong tour of Southeast Asia, a trip that brought her to Singapore and Vietnam in a bid to strengthen U.S. ties to the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's growing military and economic influence there.

In addition to her commitment to defend the South China Sea against Beijing advances, Harris



The U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris meets Vietnam's President Nguyen Xuan Phuc in the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, yesterday

unveiled an array of new partnerships and support for Vietnam in areas including climate change, trade and the coronavirus pandemic.

She announced that the U.S. will send 1 million additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to Vietnam, bringing the total U.S. vaccine donation to Vietnam to 6 million doses.

The U.S. will also provide \$23 million to help Vietnam expand distribution and access to vaccines, combat the pandemic and prepare for future disease threats. The Defense Department is also delivering 77 freezers to store vaccines throughout the country.

Vietnam is grappling with a new coronavirus surge driven by the delta variant and low vaccination rates. Only about 2% of the country's 98 million people are fully vaccinated, and the surge in cases prompted a recent lockdown in Ho Chi Minh City, the nation's business hub and the center of the latest outbreak.

The new U.S. aid to Vietnam includes investments to help the country transition to cleaner energy systems and expand the use of electric vehicles, and millions in aid to clear unexploded weapons left over from the Vietnam War.

That U.S. war has retur-

ned to the spotlight over the past week as the U.S. struggles with a similarly messy end to the Afghanistan War. Images of the evacuation of Kabul, as the Taliban took full control of Afghanistan, evoked similar shots of U.S. helicopters lifting off from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon decades prior, prompting comparisons between the two failed wars.

Yesterday in Vietnam, however, Harris referenced the progress the two former foes have made, telling Vietnam's president that "our relationship has come a long way in a quarter of a century."

She also embraced elevating the relationship with Vietnam from a comprehensive partnership to a strategic partnership, a diplomatic designation that would reflect the deepening ties between the two countries.

After her bilateral meetings, Harris took a moment of silence in the pouring rain and laid flowers at the monument where John McCain's plane was shot down by the North Vietnamese in 1967. She noted it was the three-year anniversary of Sen. McCain's death.

For Harris, the focus this week has been on developing U.S. ties in the region to offer a strong contrast to China, which has also

sought to woo Singapore and Vietnam with economic support and vaccines. While she emphasized during remarks in Singapore on Tuesday that the U.S. policy in the region is not merely about countering any one nation, the Biden administration has made confronting China globally a centerpiece of its foreign policy.

In the afternoon, Harris announced the launch of a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Southeast Asia regional office. The new office will be one of four regional CDC offices globally, and is focused on collaborating with regional governments on research and training to deal with and prevent global health crises. She said that while combating the current pandemic is a priority, "we must be, if we are honest, better prepared for the next one."

But even as Harris aimed to keep her focus squarely on those key agenda items, her visit was shadowed by a recent security scare in Vietnam.

Harris' flight to Vietnam was delayed for hours Tuesday afternoon after the vice president's office was made aware of an investigation into two possible cases of the so-called Havana Syndrome in Hanoi, according to administration officials. (See p12) MDT/AP

this day in history

1959 US TO 'STAND BY' WEST GERMANS



America will stand by West Germans in their efforts to remain strong and free, the United States President has pledged.

President Dwight D Eisenhower was speaking shortly after landing at Wahn Airport, Bonn, on the first day of his European tour.

Mr Eisenhower is visiting the country to reassure West Germans he will not exclude them from talks with the Soviet Union. He will also emphasise that peace should not come at the expense of security, US sources say.

Many Germans are worried America will not push for the continued four-power status of Berlin and allow it to be divided.

A cheering crowd of more than 100,000 people greeted the president when he landed at 1830 local time (1630 GMT) and troops fired a 21-gun salute in his honour.

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer paid Mr Eisenhower a warm personal tribute at the airport.

Dr Adenauer welcomed the general to the country in a short speech and called the US the "standard bearer of freedom throughout the world".

The president said the name Adenauer in America symbolised the determination of the German people to remain "strong and true".

He added: "The American people stand by your side in ensuring that the loyal, free people of free Berlin will, like yourselves, always continue to enjoy that great privilege."

The chancellor then accompanied Mr Eisenhower on the 12-mile (19-km) drive into Bonn. Large crowds had assembled in all the villages along the route and hundreds of flags flew from buildings.

The presidential convoy passed under the archway of Bonn University, where students had laid out a huge map of the US.

Banners had also been hung across the road with the message: "To the President - a warm welcome."

Mr Eisenhower will spend tonight at the US Ambassador's house at Bad Godesburg. Talks with Dr Adenauer will begin tomorrow at 0930 local time (0730 GMT).

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Berlin surrendered to Soviet troops on 2 May 1945 and was divided into four sectors at the Yalta Conference.

The sectors were administered by the four victorious powers at the end of World War II: the US, France, Britain and the Soviet Union.

In 1948, the USSR closed all transport links leading into the west of the city. US and British air forces organised the Berlin airlift, which supplied the Western sectors for almost a year.

The Soviets backed down in May 1949. The same year western Germany became the Federal Republic of Germany and the east, the German Democratic Republic.

In 1961, troops in East Germany constructed the Berlin wall, dividing the city in two.

It was finally dismantled in 1989 and East and West Germany were reunified the following year.

President Eisenhower left office in 1961. He died after a long illness in March 1968.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This pairing helps you look beneath the surface of your work/life balance and highlights which difficult changes are still waiting in the wings.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20

Messenger Mercury and the nurturing moon both spend the day in talks with renewal-bringing Pluto, helping you deepen your understanding of what long-held mental patterns need changing.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21

You're slipping beneath the surface today, Gemini. Your ruling planet, quick-footed Mercury, finds itself in a supportive connection with transformative Pluto today.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The cosmos have been doing a number on your experience of close relationships, Cancer. Renewal-bringing Pluto has been handling the majority of this dirty work in recent years...

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This pairing works to help you dig deep into your current work/life balance and sort out what elements still need changing. Rather than cling onto what's safe, aim to release what you've outgrown.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

As a Virgo, you're guided by the silver-tongued planet Mercury. Today's skies find Mercury in a supportive, but intense, connection with regeneration-seeking Pluto.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your home life has been in an ongoing state of change in recent years. Transformative Pluto has pushed for you to explore your roots, redefine your living space, and explore family connections in a deeper sense.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today's skies find this story further explored, as messenger Mercury and the soulful moon contact Pluto, allowing you to dig beneath the surface and breathe fresh life into old stories.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This story is likely to highlight ancient issues around your self-confidence, and this intense and insightful pairing allows you to illuminate the blockage with clarity.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This energy encourages looking beneath the surface, doing the work emotionally, and confronting shadows. Aim to see where you can shift perspectives and allow new philosophies to be built.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

In recent years, the cosmos have been pushing you to deal head on with long standing emotional blockages, Aquarius. While you're finding yourself nearing the tail end of that journey.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

This potent pairing pushes you to look beneath the surface of your close interactions and explore the blockages that have been blocking your path forward.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

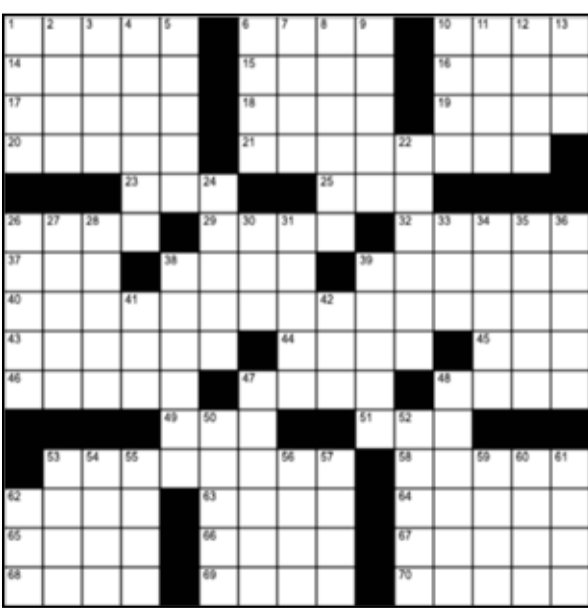
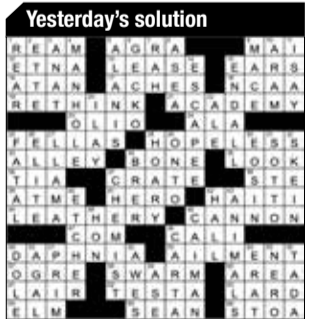
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-19	-6	clear
Harbin	-28	-20	cloudy
Tianjin	-16	-8	clear
Urumqi	-24	-16	clear
Xi'an	-10	-3	overcast
Lhasa	-3	12	clear
Chengdu	0	3	overcast
Chongqing	5	8	drizzle
Kunming	7	19	overcast
Nanjing	-8	-4	cloudy
Shanghai	-6	3	overcast
Wuhan	-4	2	clear
Hangzhou	-4	4	overcast
Taipei	9	15	drizzle
Guangzhou	7	15	overcast
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-5	-4	flurry
Frankfurt	-1	4	sleet
Paris	0	3	sleet
London	0	5	sleet
New York	0	7	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Seventh sign of the zodiac; 6- ___-majesty; 10- Wagers; 14- On ___-to-know basis; 15- Blues singer James; 16- Away from the wind; 17- Martini's partner; 18- Rat-___; 19- Consumer; 20- Bandleader Shaw; 21- Comedian; 23- Kind of reaction; 25- Runner Sebastian; 26- James of "The Godfather"; 29- Sea eagle; 32- Sudden convulsion; 37- Relief; 38- Bond classic; 39- Charlotte ____, Virgin Islands; 40- Make a trade?; 43- Sales incentive; 44- Before long; 45- Spot checker?; 46- Peace goddess; 47- Convey; 48- Untidy condition; 49- For example; 51- "Hold On Tight" band; 53- Affecting the whole body; 58- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 62- "Fargo" director; 63- Ancient Greek coin; 64- Oil source; 65- Old Dodge model; 66- Briefletter, paper money; 67- Penultimate round; 68- Resting place; 69- Close with force; 70- Use a soapbox;

DOWN: 1- Pasternak heroine; 2- Are you ___ out?; 3- Of the highest quality; 4- Yield; 5- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 6- Fall faller; 7- Famous last words; 8- Batting coach's concern; 9- Jack Sprat could ___ fat; 10- Oz creator; 11- Designer Schiaparelli; 12- High schooler; 13- Sun. talk; 22- Sycophant; 24- Brief; 26- Island in the Bay of Naples; 27- Broadcaster; 28- Sun-dried brick; 30- "ER" extras; 31- Din; 33- Friend; 34- Not dead yet; 35- Dimensions; 36- Confronts; 38- Can't stand; 39- Battery terminal; 41- Devoted follower; 42- Suffix with ball; 47- Emblem; 48- Female parent; 50- Ages; 52- Oater prop; 53- A bit; 54- Longings; 55- Bad mood; 56- Mite; 57- Skelton's Kiddlehopper; 59- Tibetan priest; 60- Dismounted; 61- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 62- Jailbird;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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AD

AUTOMAKERS

EDMUNDS SAYS GOODBYE TO FIVE DISCONTINUED VEHICLES FOR 2022

RYAN ZUMMALLEN, MDT/
EDMUNDS

AUTOMAKERS are constantly introducing new models and nameplates to their lineups to meet consumer preferences and to keep their lineup fresh. With that comes the need to cycle older models out.



2021 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF: Hatchbacks have fallen out of favor with many shoppers over the years. The latest casualty for the class is one of its most well known: the Volkswagen Golf, which ends its long run in the U.S. after the 2021 model year. VW will still offer the Golf GTI and the Golf R, which return as fully

redesigned 2022 models.

Find one of these remaining Golfs and you'll get a small hatchback that's practical and comfortable. But there are also signs that VW just didn't have much interest in keeping this final-generation Golf competitive. Compared to other small hatchbacks, this Golf suffers from mediocre performance and a lack of technology features and advanced driver aids.



2021 MAZDA 6: A number of sedans have been put to rest recently. But the Mazda 6's passing is especially notable. The current generation debuted for the 2014 model year, though the 2021 car hardly shows its age considering its

sleek styling, sharp handling and an optional turbocharged motor with power to spare.

That wasn't enough to keep the Mazda 6 on the market, however. Shoppers are increasingly turning to crossover SUVs instead of smaller cars and sedans, and there wasn't enough interest in the 6 to warrant Mazda's continued investment. It's unfortunate since the 6 is one of Edmunds' highest-rated sedans. It's worth seeking one out.



2021 VOLVO V60: Station wagons are a niche vehicle that few automakers bother with in 2021. Volvo has been a wagon cheerleader longer than most, but it too is throwing in the towel on its small V60

and larger V90 wagons. Both models offer near-SUV practicality, attractive styling and appealing value.



2021 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER: Imagine a dinosaur that somehow survived to see the present day. That's the Toyota Land Cruiser. This big traditional SUV is quite dated compared to the versatile crossovers that now dominate the automotive landscape. But the Land Cruiser enjoys a fan base of old-school loyalists despite its lack of smartphone connectivity and a base price of nearly \$90,000. This generation debuted in 2008. The Land Cruiser exits with no Toyota replacement in the works.



2021 ACURA NSX: The all-wheel-drive hybrid Acura NSX launched for 2017 as one of the most ambitious vehicle reboots to hit the market in recent memory. Highlights include accessible performance and good fuel efficiency for an exotic sports car. But its high price, tiny trunk and dated infotainment system are also notable turnoffs.

Acura will produce 300 upgraded NSX Type S models for the U.S. market in 2022 as a proper send-off. With that, this generation of the NSX will come to an end with no successor in sight. In a field of exceptional options, the NSX simply struggled to stand out.

EDMUNDS SAYS: Car shoppers are buying crossovers and SUVs in large numbers, which leaves little room for other models. That squeeze is leaving shoppers with less diversity of choice, but the sales figures are undeniable.

MDT/AP/EDMUNDS

AD



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



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'ULTIMATE DRUMMER': STARS REACT TO WATTS' DEATH

"He was a lovely guy. ... Condolences to the Stones. A huge blow to them because Charlie was a rock. A fantastic drummer, steady as a rock. Love you, Charlie, will always love you. Beautiful man, and great condolences and sympathy to his family."

Paul McCartney, in a video on Twitter

"A very sad day. Charlie Watts was the ultimate drummer. The most stylish of men, and such brilliant company."

Elton John on Instagram

"Not just one of greatest drummers in one of the greatest bands of all time, but a gentleman's gentleman. He singlehandedly brought the Rock world some real class. Rock and Roll will miss him profoundly. We are significantly less without."

Little Steven Van Zandt on Twitter

"Charlie Watts was the most elegant and dignified drummer in rock and roll. He played exactly what was needed - no more - no less. He is one of a kind."

Joan Jett on Twitter

"God bless Charlie Watts we're going to miss you man peace and love."

Ringo Starr, via Twitter

"The beat of The Stones. There are no words, every groove has spoken for itself."

Lenny Kravitz on Twitter

"Drummers are the most ensnared individuals. Though they are loudest, they are the last to be heard. They have insecurities due to the fact that everyone has their back turned on them. Herein lies the band's secret; there is no greatness without a great drummer."

Perry Farrell on Twitter

"The heartbeat of Rock & Roll. The Great Charlie Watts. all due respect."

Questlove on Instagram

"This is Charlie Watts. Mourned and beloved by all."

Patti Smith on Instagram

"Charlie Watts wept at Keith Moon's funeral. I wish I was capable of such tears today. Instead I just want to say goodbye. Not a rock drummer, a jazz drummer really, and that's why the Stones swung like the Basie band!! Such a lovely man."

Pete Townshend on Instagram

"I feel terrible for Charlie's family. Charlie was a great drummer and I loved the Stones music, they made great records. Love & Mercy."

Brian Wilson on Twitter

"A monumentally sad day learning my personal hero Charlie Watts has died. I'm devastated and my soul aches for Shirley, Serafina, the extended Watts family, and of course his band mates."

Max Weinberg on Twitter

"A hero is gone. No words. A huge gaping hole in the universe."

Sheryl Crow on Twitter

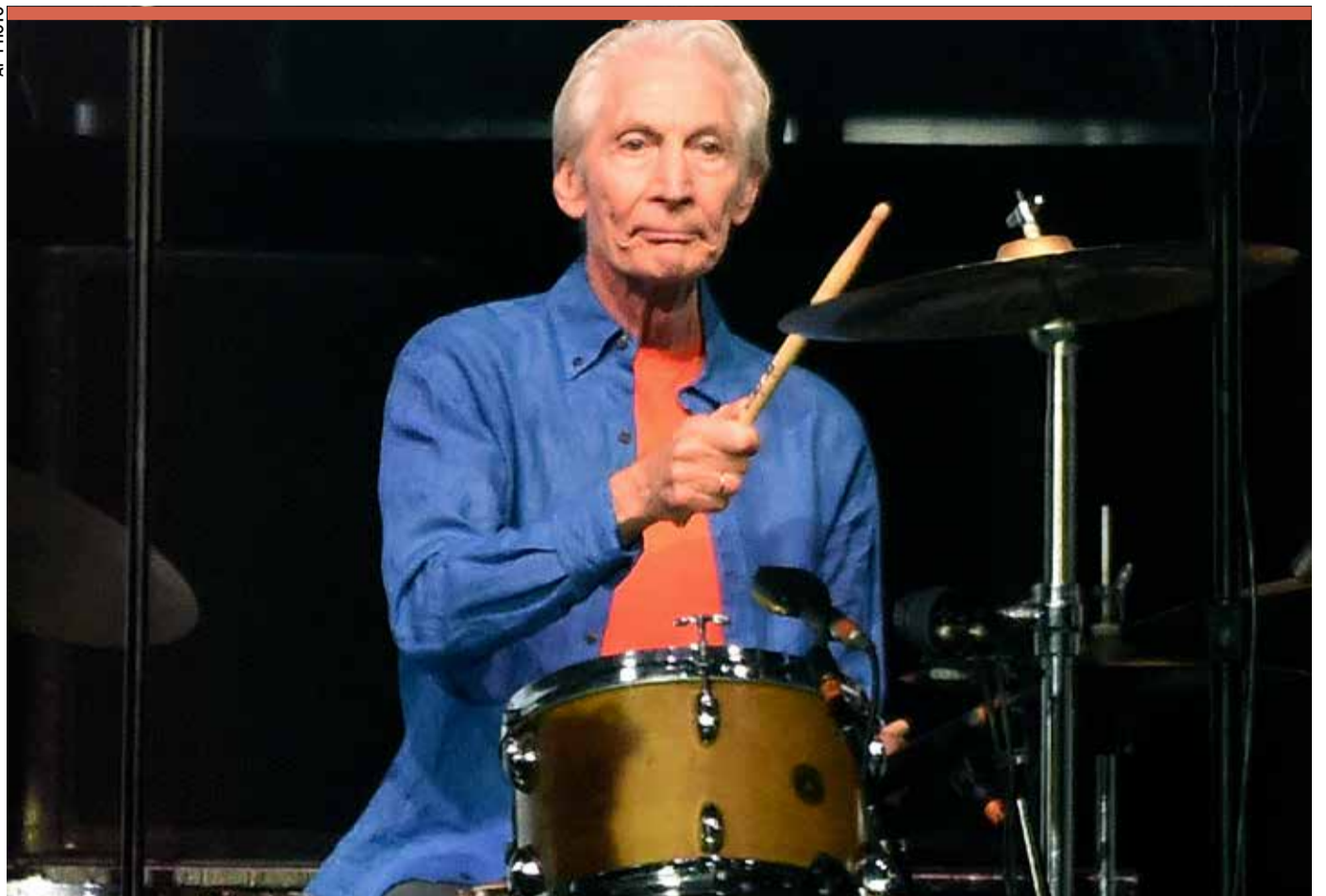
"The most subtlety, warmth and feel of any rock drummer in history. Rest beautifully Charlie we treasure your gifts."

Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, via Instagram

"Rest In Power #CharlieWatts RIP. You are a smooth brother. Thanks for all the great music."

Nile Rodgers on Twitter

AP PHOTO



Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts (1962-2021) performs at the Rose Bowl, on Aug. 22, 2019, in Pasadena

OBITUARY

How Charlie Watts infused The Rolling Stones with a little jazz

VICTOR COELHO,
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

IN an era when rock drummers were larger-than-life showmen with big kits and egos to match, Charlie Watts remained the quiet man behind a modest drum set. But Watts wasn't your typical rock drummer.

Part of the Rolling Stones setup from 1963 until his death on Aug. 24, 2021 [yesterday, Macau time], Watts provided the back-beat to their greatest hits by injecting jazz sensibilities – and swing – into the Stones' sound.

As a musicologist and co-editor of the Cambridge Companion to the Rolling Stones – as well as a fan who has seen the Stones live more than 20 times over the past five decades – I see Watts as being integral to the band's success.

Like Ringo Starr and other drummers who emerged during the 1960s British pop explosion, Watts was influenced by the swing and big band sound that was hugely popular in the U.K. in the 1940s and 1950s.

Modest with the sticks

Watts wasn't formally trained as a jazz drummer, but jazz musicians like Jelly Roll

Morton, Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk were early influences.

In a 2012 interview with the New Yorker, he recalled how their records informed his playing style.

"I bought a banjo, and I didn't like the dots on the neck," Watts said. "So I took the neck off, and at the same time I heard a drummer called Chico Hamilton, who played with Gerry Mulligan, and I wanted to play like that, with brushes. I didn't have a snare drum, so I put the banjo head on a stand."

Watts' first group, the Jo Jones All Stars, were a jazz band. And elements of jazz remained throughout his Stones career, providing Watts with a wide stylistic versatility that was critical to the Stones' forays beyond blues and rock to country, reggae, disco, funk and even punk.

There was a modesty in his playing that came from his jazz learning. There are no big rock drum solos. He made sure the attention was never on him or his drumming – his role was keeping the songs going forward, giving them movement.

He also didn't use a big kit – no gongs, no scaffolding. He kept a modest one more

typically found in jazz quartets and quintets.

Likewise, Watts' occasional use of brushes over sticks – such as in "Melody" from 1976's "Black and Blue" – more explicitly shows his debt to jazz drummers.

But he didn't come in with one style. Watts was trained to adapt, while keeping elements of jazz. You can hear it in the R'n'B of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," to the infernal samba-like rhythm of "Sympathy For The Devil" – two songs in which Watts' contribution is central.

And a song like "Can't You Hear Me Knocking" from 1971's "Sticky Fingers" develops from one of Keith Richards' highest caliber riffs into a long concluding instrumental section, unique in the Stones' song catalog, of Santana-esque Latin jazz, containing some great syncopated rhythmic shots and tasteful hi-hat playing through which Watts drives the different musical sections.

You hear similar elements in "Gimme Shelter" and other classic Rolling Stones songs – it is perfectly placed drum fills and gestures that make the song and surprise you, always in the background and never dominating.

Powering the 'engine room'

So central was Watts to the Stones that when bassist Bill Wyman retired from the band after the 1989 "Steel Wheels" tour, it was Watts who was tasked with picking his replacement.

He needed a bass player that would fit his style. But his choice of Darryl Jones as Wyman's replacement was not the only key partnership for Watts. He played off the beat, complementing Richards' very syncopated, riff-driven guitar style. Watts and Richards set the groove for so many Stones songs, such as "Honky Tonk Women" or "Start Me Up." If you watched them live, you'd notice Richards looking at Watts at all times – his eyes fixated on the drummer, searching for where the musical accents are, and matching their rhythmic "shots" and off-beats.

Watts did not aspire to be a virtuoso like John Bonham of Led Zeppelin or The Who's Keith Moon – there was no drumming excess. From that initial jazz training, he kept his distance from outward gestures.

But for nearly six decades, he was the main occupant, as Richards put it, of the Rolling Stones' legendary "engine room." **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

OPINION

China Daily

Zamir Ahmed Awan, China Daily

CHINA, PAKISTAN COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING REGIONAL TERRORISM

Recently, there have been a number of attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, which is a matter of grave concern for Pakistan as well as for China.

While China is rising rapidly and emerging as a global power, the enemies of China have increased and become hyper-active to contain China and resist the rise of China, including through terrorism.

For Pakistan, it is even more concerning to see attacks targeting one of the nation's longtime friends. China-Pakistan relations have long stood as a role model and often been cited as exemplary in international affairs. According to an independent Pew survey, Pakistanis are the people who love China the most, after the Chinese themselves.

These enemies consider Pakistan a convenient place to harm Chinese, and consequently have increased their attacks against China in Pakistan. Recent incidents include a terrorist attack on the stock exchange, one on the hydropower project in Dasu, and one targeting Chinese workers in Gwadar.

Pakistan has raised two divisions of highly professional army units to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the nation been providing excellent security to Chinese nationals and their assets in Pakistan. There have been times when Pakistani security officials sacrificed their lives to protect Chinese brothers.

China has recognized Pakistan's efforts to provide such a high level of security to Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Wang Wenbin, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, during his regular press briefing on Aug 23 in Beijing said:

"Terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. China firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical interests." He further reaffirmed that China would continue to work with Pakistan to deal with the threat of terrorism and protect the safety of the Chinese people and personnel in Pakistan. Expressing shock and condemning the attack on a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar, he offered condolences over the killing of Pakistani personnel in the attack and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families and injured.

Since the launch of CPEC, our common rival India has created problems. India has allocated a huge budget to its notorious intelligence agency to sabotage CPEC and spoil China-Pakistan relations. The Indian media is heavily engaged in spreading fake news and fabricating stories to sabotage CPEC.

Unfortunately, India is exploiting unrest in Afghanistan to launch terrorist attacks from Afghan soil.

Pakistan's investigations concluded that most of the terrorist attacks were planned by India and launched from Afghanistan. Pakistan has compiled concrete, irrefutable evidence and submitted the dossiers to the UN and international community already. The criminal silence and inaction to stop India's cross-border terrorism represent serious sins.

Pakistan has taken more strict measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and their assets in Pakistan. Meanwhile, China has enhanced collaboration with Pakistani security institutions to work together to overcome terrorism. Chinese and Pakistani security institutions are in close contact for dealing with such threats in the future.

On the other hand, the Afghan debacle for America and India is a positive sign in ending the use of Afghan soil to attack a third country. The Taliban, after recapturing Kabul, has announced that they believe in peace and wanted good relations with all neighbors and regional countries. They also have announced that they will ensure that Afghan soil will be not used against any third country.

China and Pakistan are committed to pushing ahead with CPEC and accelerating CPEC projects to make it a success story and role model for the rest of the world. China-Pakistan relations are time-tested, unshakable and above all doubt. Both governments and people are confident, collectively, that we may achieve our CPEC dreams in advance.

China-Pakistan cooperation will only be strengthened with efforts from both sides.

TIKTOK TO LET USERS SHOP THROUGH APP WITH SHOPIFY DEAL

TikTok users will soon be able to buy stuff directly through the short videos on the app — something they had only been able to do through ads until now.

Canadian e-commerce company Shopify said that businesses will be able to add a shopping tab to their TikTok profiles to create a "mini-storefront" that links directly to their online store for checkout.

The shopping tool, which is still being tested, is available to merchants in the U.S., the U.K. and Canada, and will roll out to more regions in the coming months. Shopify already had a deal

with TikTok that let merchants create "shoppable" video ads that drive customers to online stores.

ByteDance, the Beijing-based company that owns TikTok, already runs a thriving social media marketplace on Douyin, its twin video app for the Chinese market. Buying products through social media websites isn't yet as common in the U.S., though Pinterest and Facebook-owned Instagram have made some inroads.

Reality star Kylie Jenner is among the first merchants to participate in the program by selling her skincare and cosmetics line through TikTok.

THE BUZZ

HAVANA SYNDROME

US PROBES POSSIBLE HEALTH INCIDENTS THAT DELAYED HARRIS TRIP

U.S. officials are continuing to investigate two possible cases of so-called Havana Syndrome health incidents that delayed Vice President Kamala Harris' trip from Singapore to Vietnam.

The investigation was in its early stages and officials deemed it safe for Harris to make her scheduled stop in Vietnam, after initially hitting pause for a few hours on Tuesday. Havana Syndrome is the name for a rash of mysterious health incidents first reported by American diplomats and other government employees in the Cuban capital beginning in 2016. Harris on her trip is reassuring Asian allies after the tumultuous evacuation of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

U.S. officials had not yet confirmed the latest reported Havana Syndrome case, and it did not involve anyone traveling with Harris, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said yesterday [Macau time]. In light of the reports, "there was an assessment done of the safety of the vice president, and there was a decision made that she could continue travel along with her staff," Psaki said.

There have been two separate cases of unexplained health incidents reported by U.S. personnel in Vietnam within the past week, U.S. officials said. It was not immediately clear who was impacted by the syndrome, though officials said it was not someone who worked for the vice president or the White House, according to the officials, who were not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation.

Yesterday, Harris appeared before U.S. diplomatic staff in Hanoi to sign a lease to a new

What is Havana syndrome?

The medical mystery named for the Cuban city where U.S. diplomats first experienced sudden, debilitating symptoms in 2016 has been reported by Americans serving in several other countries.

Acute symptoms (often occurring suddenly) may include:	Chronic symptoms (can last weeks, months or longer) may include:
Loud sounds (sometimes described as chirping, clicking or screeching) and pain in one or both ears; many felt the sensations came from a particular direction or were felt when in a specific location	Headache
Tinnitus, hearing loss	Impaired concentration, memory loss
Intense pressure or vibration inside the head	Insomnia
Difficulty with memory or concentration	Depression
Visual disturbances	Impaired balance
Nausea	
Unsteady gait, loss of balance, vertigo/dizziness	

No definitive cause has been found, but scientific studies have noted many of the acute symptoms are consistent with exposure to directed radio frequency (RF) energy. One theory posits the use of RF energy by a U.S. adversary as a weapon or a tool of espionage.

Source: National Academy of Sciences

Symptoms associated with Havana syndrome, which has afflicted Americans serving at diplomatic posts in several countries

embassy there. She didn't weigh in directly on the Havana Syndrome situation but expressed gratitude to those working for the U.S. across the globe.

Some of those impacted by Havana Syndrome report hearing a loud piercing sound and feeling intense pressure in the face. Pain, nausea, and dizziness sometimes follow.

Similar, unexplained health ailments have since been reported by Americans serving in other countries, including Germany, Austria, Russia and China.

A variety of theories have been floated to explain the incidents, including targeted microwaves or sonic attack, perhaps as part of an espionage or hacking effort.

Particularly alarming are revelations of at least two possible incidents in the Washington area, including one case near the White House in No-

vember in which an official reported dizziness. Administration officials have speculated that Russia may be involved, a suggestion Moscow has denied.

Congress has raised alarms over such incidents, finding rare bipartisan support in the House and Senate for continued government-wide investigation into the syndrome, response as well as support for American personnel receiving medical monitoring and treatment.

The Biden administration is facing new pressure to resolve the mystery as the number of reported cases of possible attack has sharply grown. But scientists and government officials aren't yet certain about who might have been behind any attacks, if the symptoms could have been caused inadvertently by surveillance equipment — or if the incidents were actually attacks. MDT/AP

Thailand Four police officers charged with murder in connection with the deadly shakedown of a suspected drug dealer in custody were arrested yesterday after a video clip of the incident shared on social media caused a public furor. Three other officers were still being sought in connection with the Aug. 5 incident at their police station in the province of Nakhon Sawan, north of Bangkok, said police Col. Kissana Phathanacharoen, deputy national police spokesman. They include a police colonel with the nickname "Jo Ferrari" because of his collection of expensive sports cars, Thai media reported.



Gaza Strip Hamas-backed Palestinian activists launched a new wave of incendiary balloons into Israel, further raising tensions after a night of Israeli airstrikes on the seaside territory. The enemy sides this week have engaged in their heaviest cross-border fighting since an 11-day war in May. In the occupied West Bank, meanwhile, officials said a Palestinian teen was killed in a clash with the Israeli military.

Russia A man from a Russian-held island claimed by both Tokyo and Moscow is seeking asylum after being found in a wetsuit on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, media reports and officials said yesterday. The man was found in the town of Shibetsu on the coast of Hokkaido across from Kushshiri island, one of four Russian-held islands claimed by both countries, Japanese media said. He said he swam about 20 kilometers to Hokkaido to seek asylum, the reports said.



Poland has ended its evacuations from Afghanistan, an official said yesterday, one of the first Western countries to halt operations helping people flee the Taliban takeover as a full American withdrawal looms. President Joe Biden declared the day before that he is sticking to his Aug. 31 deadline for completing the U.S. pullout, ramping up pressure on the already risky airlift from Kabul to get out as many people as possible in the coming days.