


For your health and the health of others  
Get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination booking system



Please scan QR code or visit website  
<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>  
Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

Let's Play Together

Add \$30 get extra 30 GB Data Usage

Notes: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.

CTM 40th Anniversary

**THE CONVERSATION: VACCINES COULD AFFECT HOW THE CORONAVIRUS EVOLVES - BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO SKIP YOUR SHOT**

P2

**MACAU DELEGATION HEADS OFF TO SHAANXI FOR NATIONAL GAMES**

P4

**HEALTH AUTHORITIES WILL NOT FOLLOW HONG KONG STANDARDS REGARDING UNVACCINATED CIVIL SERVANTS**

P3



**North Korea** appears to have restarted the operation of its main nuclear reactor used to produce weapons fuels, the U.N. atomic agency said, as the North openly threatens to enlarge its nuclear arsenal amid long-dormant nuclear diplomacy with the United States. The annual report by the International Atomic Energy Agency refers to a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang.



**Indonesia** School bells rang in parts of Indonesia's capital for the first time in more than a year yesterday as schools shut by the coronavirus were allowed to begin reopening as cases decline. A total of 610 schools that passed standards set by the Jakarta Education Agency reopened their doors, though with many precautions still in place. In-person schooling will be blended with remote learning and gradually increased based on the government's evaluation of the situation. *More on p7*



**Malaysia's** new prime minister missed the swearing-in ceremony of his new government yesterday after coming into contact with someone infected with COVID-19, his office said. Ismail Sabri Yaakob has begun self-isolating and will virtually attend today's official National Day celebrations, according to a statement from his office. It did not say whom he came in contact with, whether he was tested and how long he would remain in self-isolation.

More on backpage



# STRAW BAN

The import and trading of plastic straws will be banned from January 1, 2022, a move environmentalists deem as 'baby step' toward an eco-friendly city

P5

**QINGMAO BORDER TO OPEN ON SEPT. 8**

P3



**ELECTIONS2021 ALLEGED CAMPAIGN MISCONDUCT REFERRED TO CCAC**

P4

THE CONVERSATION

# VACCINES COULD AFFECT HOW THE CORONAVIRUS EVOLVES - BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO SKIP YOUR SHOT

ANDREW READ, PENN STATE

**I**N 2015, my collaborators and I published a scientific paper about a chicken virus you have likely never heard of. At the time, it got some media attention and has been cited by other scientists in the years since.

But now, by late-August 2021, the paper has been viewed more than 350,000 times – and 70% of those views were in the past three weeks. It has even appeared on a YouTube video that's been seen by 2.8 million people, and counting.

The paper has gone viral because some people are using it to stoke paranoia that the COVID-19 vaccines will cause the virus to evolve in the direction of even more severe variants. Doctors have told me that patients are using the paper to justify their decision to not get vaccinated. Some pundits are even using it to urge an end to vaccination campaigns in order to prevent the sort of viral evolution we were studying in chickens.

I am receiving emails daily from people worried about getting vaccinated themselves or worried about people rejecting vaccination because of misunderstandings about the paper.

Nothing in our paper remotely justifies an anti-vaccine stance. That misinterpretation – if it causes people to choose not to be vaccinated – will lead to avoidable, and tragic, loss of life. A new study estimates that as of early May 2021, vaccines had already prevented nearly 140,000 deaths in the U.S.

For over 20 years I've been working with collaborators and colleagues on how vaccines might affect the evolution of disease-causing organisms like viruses and malaria parasites.

Nothing we have discovered or even hypothesized justifies avoiding or withholding vaccines. If anything, our work adds to reasons for investigating new vaccine schedules – and for developing second- and third-generation vaccines.

But in the context of the COVID-19 virus, our work does

THE CONVERSATION



prompt a fair question: Could vaccination cause the emergence of even more harmful variants?

## FROM CHICKENS TO COVID-19

In the 2015 paper, we reported experiments with variants of Marek's disease virus – the name of the chicken virus we were studying. It is a herpesvirus that causes cancer in domestic chickens. A first-generation vaccine against it went into widespread use in poultry in the early 1970s. Today, all commercial chickens and many backyard flocks are vaccinated against Marek's.

Chickens with Marek's disease virus became capable of transmitting the virus about 10 days after they get infected. In our lab experiments, we worked with variants of Marek's disease virus that were so lethal they would kill all unvaccinated birds in 10 days or fewer. So prior to the vaccine, the birds died before they could transmit the lethal variants to other birds. But we found that the first-generation vaccine protected the birds from dying. In other words, the Marek's-infected chickens lived and were thus able to spread the highly virulent strains to other birds.

In the case of COVID-19, it's becoming increasingly clear that even vaccinated people can contract and transmit the highly

transmissible delta variant. Since viral transmission from vaccinated chickens is what allowed more lethal variants to spread in Marek's, it's reasonable to ask whether COVID-19 transmission from vaccinated people could allow more lethal variants to spread.

## EVOLUTION CAN GO IN MANY DIRECTIONS

As evolutionary ecologist David Kennedy and I have written about previously, the evolutionary path that the Marek's disease virus took is one of many that are possible – in rare cases where vaccines drive evolution.

Only a minority of human and animal vaccines have influenced pathogen evolution. In nearly all of those cases – which include the hepatitis B virus and bacteria that cause whooping cough and pneumonia – vaccine efficacy was reduced by new variants. But in contrast to Marek's, there was no clear evidence that the evolved variants made people sicker.

In nature, we know of course that not all viruses are equally lethal. Biological differences in things like the linkage between disease severity and transmission can cause lethality to increase or decrease. This means that the future of one virus cannot be predicted by simply extrapolating from the past evolution of another. Marek's and SARS-

-CoV-2 are very different viruses, with very different vaccines, very different hosts and very different mechanisms by which they sicken and kill. It is impossible to know whether their differences are more important than their similarities.

Evolutionary hypotheticals are important to consider. But up against the hugely beneficial impact of COVID-19 vaccines on reducing transmission and disease severity – even against the delta variant – the possibility of silent spread of more lethal variants among the vaccinated is still no argument against vaccination.

As novel variants of the coronavirus spread in the months and years ahead, it will be vital to work out whether their evolutionary advantage is arising because of reduced disease severity among the vaccinated. Delta, for instance, transmits more effectively from both unvaccinated and vaccinated people than did earlier variants. Extrapolating from our chicken work to argue against vaccination because of the delta variant has no scientific rationale: The delta variant would have become dominant even if everyone refused vaccination.

## BUT WHAT IF?

If more deadly variants of the coronavirus were to arise, lower vaccination rates would make it easier to identify and contain

them because unvaccinated people would suffer more severe infections and higher death rates. But that kind of "solution" would come at considerable cost. In effect, the variants would be found and eliminated by letting people get sick, many of whom would die.

Sacrificing chickens was not the solution the poultry industry adopted for Marek's disease virus. Instead, more potent vaccines were developed. Those newer vaccines provided excellent disease control, and no lethal breakthrough variants of Marek's have emerged in over 20 years.

There are probably ways the available COVID-19 vaccines could be improved in the future to better reduce transmission. Booster shots, larger doses or different intervals between doses might help; so too, combinations of existing vaccines. Researchers are working hard on these questions. Next-generation vaccines might be even better at blocking transmission. Nasal vaccines, for instance, might effectively curtail transmission because they more specifically target the location of transmissible virus.

As of late August 2021, more than 625,000 Americans have died from a disease that is now largely vaccine-preventable. It is sobering for me to think that some of the next to die might have avoided lifesaving vaccines because people are stoking evolutionary fears extrapolated from our research in chickens.

In the history of human and animal vaccines, there have not been many cases of vaccine-driven evolution. But in every one of them, individuals and populations have always been better off when vaccinated. At every point in the 50-year history of vaccination against Marek's disease, an individual chicken exposed to the virus was healthier if it was vaccinated. Variants may have reduced the benefit of vaccination, but they never eliminated the benefit. Evolution is no reason to avoid vaccination.

**MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

**+20,500**

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

**DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Lynzy Valles **SENIOR WRITER** Honey Tsang  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

**NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui  
**DESIGNERS** Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua  
**SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

**ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

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

**Advertisement** advertising@macaudailytimes.com

**For subscription and general issues:**

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

COVID-19

# Gov't will not follow HK standards regarding unvaccinated civil servants

RENATO MARQUES

**L**OCAL health authorities have refuted the idea of adopting the standard in force in the neighboring region of Hong Kong which requires unvaccinated civil servants to perform a frequent nucleic acid test (NAT), which they must pay for themselves, Dr. Tai Wa Hou, coordinator of the bureau's Covid-19 Vaccination Operation said to a media question during yesterday's Covid-19 press briefing.

According to Tai, the local authorities are not planning to change any of the current measures which state that vaccination is a completely voluntary process and individuals are not subjected to measures that would compel them to get vaccinated against their will.

Information aired from the media sources states that in Hong Kong, unvaccinated civil servants and other public sector employees must undergo frequent NAT to be able to continue to work at their job posts. The individuals must pay for these tests and will receive no financial support from the government.

According to the same source, these measures have been regarded as a significant influence on creating a high rate of vaccination among the neighboring region's civil servants.

"Our goal is a step-by-step increase in the vaccination rate. If we can vaccinate all the population, that would be ideal, but this is not likely to happen. Still, we want and will strive for the increase of the [vaccination] rate to



be as higher as possible," Tai said, adding that some achievements in the vaccination of the population have been reached, such as a 70% vaccination rate among medical and health care staff.

"We will continue to promote and incentivize the different groups and sectors to vaccinate. We will focus on civil servants, teachers, and other people that work in senior citizens homes, and other services. We are aiming at them as they have a broader contact [with people] and higher responsibilities. If they get infected, it is very easy to infect other people.

They have the duty and responsibility of getting vaccinated and

also to incentivize others [to get vaccinated]," Tai remarked.

Questioned by the media on why the government is attributing more responsibility to these people than other residents, Tai said, "When we say responsibility, we are talking about the frontline workers, all of them. As health professionals, we have the duty to promote the vaccine."

Meanwhile, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Non-Higher Education Department head, Wong Ka Ki, noted that the program of promoting vaccination in schools is ongoing, with several seminars for different groups being held.

Wong added that for the time

being there is no specific date for when will the vaccination outreach program in schools will

commence as the DSEDJ is still preparing and collecting data at schools.

Wong noted that, regarding the NAT for cross-border students, teachers, and school staff members, the DSEDJ has received a total of 11,000 requests for the tests, of which 80% have been concluded.

## CASE 61 RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

Health authorities also confirmed yesterday that one of the patients infected with the Delta variant of Covid-19, a 12-year-old girl, was released from hospital last Friday after concluding treatment and testing negative for Covid-19 in two consecutive tests.

"The patient, classified as the number 61 in Macau, has been now transferred to the last phase of the recovery, being released from medical care," Tai confirmed.

She is the daughter of a family of four found to be infected in early August after a school trip to Xi'an.

## ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS YET TO BE DONE

**T**HE health authorities said that the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center is still in talks with the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) to decide on the final guidelines and procedures to be followed on the September 12 elections. Answering several questions from the media, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said that the final arrangements of how or if residents undergoing medical observation in quarantine can vote have not yet been settled, but will

be soon announced by the CAEAL, she said. She added that other details, such as infection prevention measures related to the voting and polling stations are also to be announced. "We have gathered several times but there are many details that still need to be defined. We still have time to discuss this," Leong said, adding, "I believe that CAEAL will publish these instructions soon, so it is best to wait for their publication."

# Qingmao Border to open on Sept. 8

ANTHONY LAM

**L**OCATED 800 meters from the Border Gate, the Qingmao Border Checkpoint will open on September 8, the government announced yesterday.

When it opens, the city's newest border checkpoint will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is expected to handle about 200,000 instances of people crossing the border per day.

The new border checkpoint is the third such facility applying the collaborative ID check mecha-

nism, which would mean that individuals crossing the border will only need to line up once to clear ID checks on both the Macau side and the mainland side.

The other two checkpoints using this mode of border clearance are the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the new Hengqin Border.

Heavily relying on electronic border clearance, the Qingmao Border will have a total of 100 ID check channels, divided equally among inward and outward traffic.

Two inward and two

outward manual ID check channels are also available at the new border checkpoint.

Users will have their IDs checked one after another on the same line.

However, passport holders will only be allowed to use the manual channels for border clearance.

Unlike other land connections with mainland China, the Qingmao Border Checkpoint does not have a vehicle channel.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) reminded users of the new checkpoint

to ensure they bear valid ID cards that are valid and in good physical condition. Pre-registration must be conducted to facilitate border crossing. The service is available at the Qingmao Border Checkpoint before ID check counters.

During the pandemic, users of the new facility will have their body temperature checked upon entry. After ID checks, they will have their Health Code and nucleic acid test result checked by healthcare personnel.

As usual, the authorities stressed the importance



of early conversion between Macau and Guangdong health codes to avoid crowds gathering within the checkpoint building.

The inception of the Qingmao Border Che-

ckpoint started in May 2012 and was approved by the State Council of China in April 2017. Ground was broken for construction in early 2018 and works concluded in May 2021.

ELECTIONS2021

# ALLEGED CAMPAIGN MISCONDUCT REFERRED TO WATCHDOG

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) revealed in a reply to a news outlet that it has referred an allegation of corruption to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) for investigation.

According to reports by local media outlet All About Macau, The Jiangmen Communal Society allegedly gave out gifts at de-facto campaigning activities, labelled as intra-group workshops on the election, for its connected list, List 1 – Macau-Guangdong Union.

According to the report, the activity was presented as a tea gathering to teach attendees on the voting process of the election. However, a picture posted by the local media included a marquee facing the audience that displayed the theme of the event as the introductory session on List 1 – Macau-Guangdong Union.

After the event, participants were given a pack containing mooncakes, a fan, an umbrella, a facemask, a reusable bag and brochures promoting the list.

The media made a subsequent enquiry to the CAEAL, which replied, saying that candidate lists are allowed to distribute materials aiming at promoting the lists. How-



ever, the CAEAL noted that the case has been transferred to the CCAC for investigation.

Commissioner of the CCAC, Chan Tsz King, suggested associations suspend the giveaway of non-urgent welfare. "Even for constant welfare, such as scholarships and elderly allowance, association management should consider postponing the distribution to after the election, so as to avoid false connection," Chan said.

The anti-corruption body also stressed that associations should take into account the risk of violating the law if they decide to give out gifts or host lucky draw events.

In response to the allegation, the

second candidate of List 1, Lo Choi In, disclosed on radio the list declared the gift giveaway to the CAEAL and will comply with government's guidelines. She hopes the matter will not be exaggerated.

The CAEAL also stressed the importance of complying with disease prevention guidelines issued by the Health Bureau.

As per another report made by All About Macau, participants at the sessions revealed that some candidates from the list were present at the "workshops" and there were no social distancing measures enforced, as participants were seated shoulder-to-shoulder.



## MACAU DELEGATION HEADS OFF TO SHAANXI FOR NATIONAL GAMES

RENATO MARQUES

**A** local delegation of 154 members is heading to Shaanxi Province for the 14th National Games of China.

During the official farewell ceremony that took place yesterday at the government's headquarters, the delegation received the Macau flag from the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong.

At the ceremony, Ao Ieong wished the local athletes good participation, and expressed the hope that they can push their limits and promote fair play.

"I hope local athletes can make the most of this precious possibility of participating [in the games], dedicating their best efforts not just to achieve good

results but also [to gain] more experience, and learn from other athletes from the different Chinese provinces," Ao Ieong said.

The Macau delegation will participate in a total of 17 different sporting events across the Games that will take place between September 15 and 27.

The Secretary also took the opportunity to remark on the efforts of the government to promote sports locally, specifically noting the equal development of sports across all levels.

Among the efforts noted, Ao Ieong mentioned the importance of the local athletes' training which has been improved through the improvement of sports facilities as well as through regional cooperation to allow local sportspeople to participate in competitions in the representation of Macau.

# CEM power box renewal subsidy not generating much interest

**E**LECTRICITY supplier CEM has issued invitation to 68 buildings to participate in a power box renewal scheme — but only has received 11 confirmations.

The scheme was unveiled in December last year, aiming to subsidize and technically support local buildings to renew their public electricity supply facilities. To be eligible, the buildings must be aged at least 30 years, no taller than seven stories, and have no management committee, residents' association or management services.

After surveying about 2,800 such buildings, the power supplier discovered that more than 100 such buildings are at elevated risk.



The main difficulty, according to Cheng U Man, customer services director of the CEM, is that to participate in the scheme residential complexes must hold a general meeting of the residents' association, and obtain the approval of more than half of the residents.

Of the 11 buildings that have confirmed their

intention to participate, only one has completed the said renewal. Cheng hopes that the success of the project will help encourage other buildings in similar situations to participate in the scheme.

Cheong Ka Meng, engineer with the CEM, said that many buildings have their power box installed too low to the ground.

When floods occur, they will be at significant risk of short circuiting, power outages and, in the worst case, power leakage.

The renewal will thus include raising the power boxes of these buildings.

The scheme was kicked-off with an initial investment of MOP30 million by shareholders of the CEM. It is expected that, in its first three years, the scheme will be able to provide assistance to between 150 and 200 buildings, benefiting about 3,000 households. The CEM will sponsor 80% of the project. The remaining costs, usually ranged between MOP2,000 and MOP4,000 per household, will be shared among all residents in the building. **AL**

## OCCUPANCY RATE AT 63.7% IN JULY

**I**N the first seven months of 2021, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 52.3%, up by 27.3 percentage points year-on-year.

Data from the the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that the average occupancy rate of guest rooms surged by 51.6 percentage points year-on-year to 63.7% in July, with that of 5-star hotels (63.6%) soaring by 55.8 percentage points.

The number of guests checked into hotels & guesthouses leapt by 358.6% year-on-year to 697,000 in July, with mainland guests (556,000) shooting up

by 904.3% - from low base last year; and local guests (107,000) rising by 31.1%.

A total of 4,075,000 guests of hotels & guesthouses were recorded.

There were no inbound package tour visitors in July while the number of visitors joining local tours added up to 5,000. Outbound residents using services of travel agencies totalled 21,000, and 99.0% of them visited mainland China. In the first seven months of 2021, number of visitors joining local tours jumped by 246.1% year-on-year to 32,000. **LV**

ENVIRONMENT

# Further awareness needed amid banning of single-use plastic straws

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE import and trading of plastic straws is set to be banned by January 1, 2022, a move environmentalists deem as “baby step” into turning the city into a more eco-friendly environment.

Yesterday, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng mandated that the government will prohibit both the import and trading of single-use plastic straws and stirrers.

The message was previously revealed by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPB) director, Raymond Tam Vai Man, who noted that the bureau was reviewing the ban and was consulting the city’s restaurant sector and other government entities.

Calls for such a ban have been long-since made by local environmentalists including Annie Lao and Joe Chan, who are continuously calling for the government to further encourage the use of reusable items.

“It’s good news in the view of



green NGO, even though plastic straws and stirring sticks only make up less than 5% of the whole total disposal plastic waste,” Joe Chan, vice president of Green Future Macau told the Times.

“It’s a significant step to show the government’s determination in cutting single use plastic,” he lauded.

Environmentalist Annie Lao expressed that the move was “a

baby step, but [it’s] better than nothing.”

Although the ban is considered a step forward, education is still a crucial factor.

For Chan, the government should use this change to educate public on why it is necessary, in addition to the long term prospects of environmental policy.

However, the concern whether such a cut in single-use plastics would make a significant reduction in the city’s plastic flow still remains. Global reports note that bans on plastic straws have only made a minor difference in plastic waste production.

National Geographic stated in its 2018 report that out of 8 million tonnes of plastics which flow into the ocean every year, plastic straws only comprise 0.025% of the total.

Therefore, banning plastic straws might not make a significant improvement to the environment.

Therefore, for Lao, the reason for the ban needs to be clear to

the public - that is, to reduce waste at the source by not using or wasting plastic straws or stirrers, rather than searching for eco-friendly materials and still being disposed of afterwards.

She recommended the government charge consumers for straws in a bid for the public to make it a habit to bring their own - a move similar to the single-use plastic bags in retail locations costing MOP1.

Although there is still a long way to go to achieve the international green standard, these “baby steps” are already considered as an achievement among the group.

“We look forward to seeing the timetable for more plastic regulation. Our city, Macau, is relatively behind the international green standard, we need to speed up our progress in order to avoid the irreversible consequence,” said Chan.

For Lao, the most effective way for the city to move forward fast is with a more aggressive approach on a single-use plastics ban such as plastic bottles, take away containers and unnecessary plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables at supermarkets.

“These can be avoided and should be taxed when used. [...] Climate change is an urgent crisis [and] everyone’s action is needed now,” she said.

AD

**合夥人 PARTNERS:**  
官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha  
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 Correia  
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues  
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo  
白穎怡 Iclília Berenguel  
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins  
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  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳芷喬 Joana Chan  
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

**實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:**  
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong  
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng  
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U  
**法律專家 JURISTS:**  
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
潘卡莉 Candice Pun  
陳子健 Kimi Chan  
伍福賢 Domingos Ng



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors Macau SAR, China  
地址: 澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓  
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623  
Office hours: Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30  
Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00  
Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL

# GREAT TIMES

MGM 'Virtual Exhibition' - Yuan Jai

THE pursuit of beauty in life and art is endless. "Awakening", Special Exhibition of "Art Macao 2021", on view now in MGM COTAI, features precious works from MGM Chairman's Collection, see its beauty in our virtual feature.



### Artist of the Session: Yuan Jai

Featuring a wide variety of subject matters, the works of Yuan Jai represent the unique combination of both wild imaginations and orderly structures. Her pieces, through a bold contrast of colors, serve as a bridge linking Chinese and Western art forms. Yuan, who has worked at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan and is well-versed in academic theories on traditional Chinese painting, art history and the restoration of royal cultural relics, constantly seeks to innovate while retaining the essence of traditional culture, something that is perfectly aligned with the concept of the 'Awakening' exhibition.



One art piece in the collection titled 'Lion Cub' infuses traditional crafts such as painted pottery and silk textiles into contemporary aesthetics. This painting reminds people of the courage of lions in a time when the world is coping with the challenges, also is a rallying roar for solidarity through which we will emerge victorious.

### More art pieces from Yuan Jai



Unrestrained - Embrace a moment of peace, enjoy an escape from daily chaos. Connected - Staying apart but connected.

Visit "Awakening" Special Exhibition now at MGM COTAI to appreciate the spiritual essence of art.

## CHINA LIMITS CHILDREN TO THREE HOURS OF ONLINE GAMING A WEEK

CHINA is banning children from playing online games for more than three hours a week, the harshest restriction so far on the game industry as Chinese regulators continue cracking down on the technology sector.

Minors in China can only play games between 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays, weekends and on public holidays starting Sept. 1, according to a notice from the National Press and Publication Administration.

That limits gaming to three hours a week for most weeks of the year, down from a previous restriction set in 2019 that allowed minors play games for an hour and a half per day and three hours on public holidays.

The new regulation affects some of China's largest technology companies, including gaming giant Tencent, whose Honor of Kings online multiplayer game is hugely popular globally, as well as gaming company NetEase.

Tencent's stock price closed down 0.6% at 465.80 Hong Kong dollars yesterday ahead of the regulator's announcement. Its market capitalization of \$573 billion is down more than \$300 billion from its February peak, a decline equal to more than the total value of Nike Inc. or Pfizer Inc.

New York-listed NetEase's stock was down about 9% at the market's



open.

The gaming restrictions are part of an ongoing crackdown on technology companies, amid concerns that technology firms — many of which provide ubiquitous messaging, payments and gaming services — may have an outsized influence on society.

Earlier this month, Tencent said it would limit gaming time for minors to an hour a day and two hours during holidays, as well as ban children under the age of

12 from making in-game purchases.

The company issued the curbs hours after a state-affiliated newspaper criticized the gaming industry and called games "spiritual opium."

Regulators said in yesterday's notice that they would strengthen supervision and increase the frequency of inspections of online game companies to ensure that they follow the regulations closely.

Chinese authorities in recent months have

targeted e-commerce and online education, and have implemented new regulations to curb anti-competitive behavior after years of rapid growth in the technology sector.

Last month, authorities banned companies that provide tutoring in core school subjects from making a profit, wiping out billions in market value from online education companies such as TAL Education and Gaotu Techedu. MDT/AP

## MILLENNIA-OLD TOMBS, ARTIFACTS UNEARTHED IN GUANGZHOU

FIFTY-EIGHT tombs and artifacts from the pre-Qin period (before 221 B.C.) have been unearthed from a site in Guangzhou, capital of the Guangdong Province.

According to the Guangzhou Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, over 200 tombs, pits and cellars have

been cleaned at the Lanyuanling site in Guangzhou's Huangpu District.

The institute said the remains date back to two periods - the late Neolithic Age to the early Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.), and from the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 B.C.) to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-

476 B.C.).

The excavation work began in June and has spanned some 2,000 square meters. Over 160 pieces and sets of earthenware, proto-porcelain, and wares made of bronze, jade and stone have been unearthed, including a well preserved, high-quality jade bracelet, according to the institute.

Zhang Qianglu, deputy head of the institute, said the new discoveries will help reconstruct the early history of the northeast region of Guangzhou.

They are also further proof that the area was important to the development of early civilization in the Pearl River Delta in south China, Zhang added. XINHUA

NINIEK KARMINI, JAKARTA

INDONESIA

**S**CHOOL bells rang in parts of Indonesia's capital for the first time in more than a year yesterday as schools shut by the coronavirus were allowed to begin reopening as cases decline.

A total of 610 schools that passed standards set by the Jakarta Education Agency reopened their doors, though with many precautions still in place.

In-person schooling will be blended with remote learning and gradually increased based on the government's evaluation of the situation. Elementary students will initially attend school three days a week, junior high students four days and high school students five days, all with shortened class periods.

The city administration initially planned to reopen schools in June, but postponed the restart when a wave of infections triggered by the highly contagious delta variant engulfed the country.

"We have passed the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 infections," Jakarta Vice Governor Ahmad Riza Patria said, adding that officials hope to reopen all schools by January.

There are 5,341 schools ranging from elementary to high school in Jakarta, according to government data.

"I feel nervous," said Akila Malawa, a 12-year-old student going to class for the first time in more than a year at Suluh junior high school. "But I'm so happy to see

AP PHOTO



my friends again."

"I hope the coronavirus in Indonesia will end so I can go to school and meet friends every day," said her classmate, Amalwin Harjodisastra.

Schools in several other cities also reopened yesterday.

As schools restart, government guidelines have changed many class traditions. Chatting in class is not allowed, facemasks must be worn at all times and no one can leave class for recess. Schools must slash class capacity by 50% by holding classes in two shifts.

Teachers must be vaccinated.

The Health Ministry reported 5,436 new infections yesterday, the lowest daily total since June 9. They have declined since new cases peaked on July 15, when more than 56,000 were recorded.

Indonesia, the world's fourth

most populous country, has recorded more than 4 million cases since the pandemic began. It took 15 months for it to hit 2 million confirmed cases on June 21, and just over nine weeks to hit double that amount last week.

Jakarta, once the country's COVID-19 center, has recorded declines in active and new cases since mid-July, from more than 100,000 active cases to below 8,000 a day and from more than 10,000 new cases per day to below 500.

Patients are no longer being turned away from hospitals as bed occupancy rates have declined in several regions. The Central Jakarta Health Service says the occupancy rate in several Jakarta hospitals is now below 30%.

Restrictions on public activities, which the government credits with helping reduce pressure on hospitals, are being eased in the capital. Authorities have reopened malls, places of worship and outdoor sporting venues since mid-August with capacity limits, and people must show they've been vaccinated.

Last month, Indonesia began vaccinating those aged between 12 and 18.

Indonesia began immunizations earlier than many other countries in Southeast Asia. It aims to inoculate more than 208 million of its 270 million people by March 2022. So far, authorities have fully vaccinated only 35.3 million people and partially vaccinated 26.9 million others. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

# Author Murakami criticizes PM over pandemic measures

**J**APANESE novelist Haruki Murakami in his monthly radio show criticized the country's prime minister, saying Yoshihide Suga has ignored a growing COVID-19 surge and public concerns about the pandemic.

Murakami quoted Suga's comment that "an exit is now in our sight after a long tunnel," made just before the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics last month. Since the games began, daily new cases have gone up nearly five times nationwide, and more than tripled in Tokyo.

"If he really saw an exit, his eyes must be extremely good for his age. I'm of the same age as Mr. Suga, but I don't see any exit at all," said Murakami, 72.

"It seems he doesn't listen to others, and perhaps he only has eyes that see well, or he sees only what he wants to see," he said.

AP PHOTO



Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami

Murakami previously has criticized politicians for reading texts prepared by bureaucrats and not communicating with powerful messages that can reach

people's hearts. "While we still don't see an exit, we must survive until we really start seeing an exit, while we make use of everything available," Mu-

rakami said. Suga, seen as overly optimistic about vaccine efficacy, has faced criticism for holding the Olympics and Paralympics despite wi-

despread health concerns and public protest. Support ratings for his government have nosedived to below 30% this month, from about 70% soon after his inauguration last September.

The prime minister last week expanded emergency COVID-19 measures to cover about three-quarters of Japan.

As Suga expanded the emergency measures, he cited a recently launched cocktail infusion treatment as an additional weapon, and said, "We are beginning to see a light clearly," triggering a backlash. He also has praised the pace of Japan's rollout since late May to exceed a targeted 1 million daily doses, despite the delayed and slow start.

About 44% of Japan's population is fully vaccinated. Suga says he hopes to fully vaccinate all eligible and willing people by October or November, but experts

say herd immunity would be impossible due to the highly contagious delta variant.

Murakami began writing while running a jazz bar in Tokyo after graduating from university. Following his 1979 debut novel "Hear the Wind Sing," the 1987 romance "Norwegian Wood" became his first bestseller, establishing him as a young literary star. He is also known for bestsellers such as "A Wild Sheep Chase," "The Wind-up Bird Chronicle," and "1Q84."

His "Murakami Radio" show started in August 2018 on Tokyo FM. In Sunday's prerecorded program, "Music in Murakami," he played songs based on fan requests. Music is an important motif in Murakami's stories. An avid listener and collector of music, he has also written books on the topic, including one on classical music published in June. **MDT/AP**



AFGHANISTAN

# Rockets fired at Kabul airport amid US withdrawal hit homes

KATHY GANNON, KABUL

**R**OCKET fire apparently targeting Kabul's international airport struck a nearby neighborhood yesterday, the eve of the deadline for American troops to withdraw from the country's longest war after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was hurt.

The rockets did not halt the steady stream of U.S. military C-17 cargo jets taking off and landing at Hamid Karzai International Airport in the Afghan capital. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Last week, the Islamic State group launched a devastating suicide bombing at one of the airport gates that killed at least 169 Afghans and 13 U.S. service members.

The airport has been a scene of chaos in the two weeks since the Taliban blitz across Afghanistan took control of the country, nearly 20 years after the initial U.S. invasion that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But since the suicide bombing, the Taliban have tightened their security cordon around the airfield, with their fighters seen just up to the last fencing separating them from the runway.

In the capital's Chahr-e-Shaheed neighborhood, a crowd quickly gathered around the remains of a four-door sedan used by the

attackers. The car had what appeared to be six homemade rocket tubes mounted in place of backseats. The Islamic State group and other militants routinely mount such tubes into vehicles and quietly transport them undetected close to a target.

"I was inside the house with my children and other family members, suddenly there were some blasts," said Jaiuddin Khan, who lives nearby. "We jumped into the house compound and lay on the ground."

Some of the rockets landed across town in Kabul's Salim Karwan neighborhood, striking residential apartment blocks, witnesses said. That neighborhood is some 3 kilometers from the airport. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Five rockets targeted the airport, said U.S. Navy Capt. Bill Urban, a spokesman for the American military's Central Command. A defensive weapon known by the acronym C-RAM — a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar System — targeted the rockets in a whirling hail of ammunition, Urban said. The system has a distinct, drill-like sound that echoed through the city at the time of the attack.

In Washington, the White House issued a statement saying officials briefed President Joe Biden on "the rocket attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport" in

Kabul, apparently referring to the vehicle-based rocket launch that morning.

"The president was informed that operations continue uninterrupted at HKIA, and has reconfirmed his order that commanders redouble their efforts to prioritize doing whatever is necessary to protect our forces on the ground," the statement said, using an acronym for Kabul's airport.

After the rocket fire, planes continued to land and taxi across to the northern military side of the airport. Planes took off roughly every 20 minutes at one point. One C-17 landing yesterday shot off flares as it approached the airport — a defensive maneuver to protect against heat-seeking missiles and a sign that the U.S. military remains concerned about surface-to-air missiles loose in the country.

Smoke from several fires along the airport's perimeter could be seen throughout Monday. It wasn't clear what was ablaze, though U.S. forces typically destroy material and equipment they won't take with them during the evacuation.

The airport had been one of the few ways out for foreigners and Afghans fleeing the Taliban takeover. However, coalition nations have halted their evacuations in recent days, leaving the U.S. military largely alone at the base with some remaining allied Afghan forces provi-

ding security.

The White House said that over the last 24 hours, the American military carried out some 1,200 evacuees on 26 C-17 flights, while two coalition flights flew out 50 others. Since the end of July, U.S. forces have evacuated some 122,300 people, the White House said.

Ross Wilson, the chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul now working out of the airport, insisted those evacuations remained ongoing in a message on Twitter.

"This is a high-risk operation," Wilson wrote. "Claims that American citizens have been turned away or denied access to HKIA by Embassy staff or US Forces are false." He did not elaborate.

The U.S. State Department released a statement Sunday signed by around 100 countries, as well as NATO and the European Union, saying they had received "assurances" from the Taliban that people with travel documents would still be able to leave the country.

The Taliban have said they will allow normal travel after the U.S. withdrawal is completed today and they assume control of the airport. However, it remains unclear how the militants will run the airport and which commercial carriers will begin flying in, given the ongoing security concerns there.

While the Taliban have honored a pledge not to attack Western forces so long as they evacuate by today, the threat from the Islamic State's local affiliate remains a danger. The group, known as the Khorasan Province after a historic name for the region, saw some of its members freed as the Taliban released prisoners across the country during their takeover.

On Sunday, a U.S. drone strike blew up a vehicle carrying IS suicide bombers before they could attack the ongoing military evacuation at Kabul's airport, American officials said. However, the Taliban said the strike killed at least 10 people — including civilians and three children, sparking anger over the civilian casualties.

Urban acknowledged the reports of civilian casualties.

"We would be deeply saddened by any potential loss of innocent life," he said in a statement.

The U.S. carried out another drone strike elsewhere in the country on Saturday; it said two IS members were killed. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1997 PRINCESS DIANA DIES IN PARIS CRASH



Diana, Princess of Wales, has died after a car crash in Paris.

She was taken to hospital in the early hours of Sunday morning where surgeons tried for two hours to save her life but she died at 0300 BST.

In a statement Buckingham Palace said the Queen and the Prince of Wales were "deeply shocked and distressed".

Prince Charles broke the news of their mother's death to Princes William and Harry at Balmoral Castle in Scotland where the royal family had been spending the summer.

The accident happened after the princess left the Ritz Hotel in the French capital with her companion, Dodi Al Fayed - son of Harrods owner, Mohammed Al Fayed.

Dodi Al Fayed and the vehicle's driver were also killed in the collision in a tunnel under the Place de l'Alma in the centre of the city.

The princess' Mercedes car was apparently being pursued at high speed by photographers on motorbikes when it hit a pillar and smashed into a wall.

Mr Al Fayed and the chauffeur died at the scene but the princess and her bodyguard were cut from the wreckage and rushed to hospital.

The French authorities have begun a criminal investigation and are questioning seven photographers.

Tributes to the princess have been pouring in from around the world.

Speaking from his home in South Africa, the princess' brother, Lord Charles Spencer, said his sister had been "unique".

While it was not the time for recriminations there was no doubt the press had played a part in her death, the earl added.

Hundreds of mourners have gathered at the princess' London home, Kensington Palace and many have laid flowers at the gates.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Only Princess Diana's bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, survived the crash.

Blood tests showed the driver, Henri Paul, had taken both drugs and a large amount of alcohol before the accident.

The royal family was criticised for its reserve during a time when there was an unprecedented national outpouring of grief.

Around one million people lined the streets to see the princess' funeral cortege as it made its way to Westminster Abbey in early September.

No charges were brought against the paparazzi who had been pursuing the princess' car.

But the behaviour of the press came under close scrutiny and the code governing the British media was tightened in December 1997.

An inquest into the princess' death was opened in the UK in 2004. It has been adjourned while the Metropolitan police, led by Lord Stevens, carry out an investigation into the crash.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 It's hard to tell which direction you're going in today. While you're feeling driven to get things done, you may find yourself confused and passive when it comes to fine-tuning your aim.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 You've been steadily undergoing some major life changes. Today's skies work to highlight the work still waiting to be done, as the self-concerned Leo moon squares off with rebellious Uranus.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 As a Gemini, you're often lost in the maze of your mental world. Today's skies remind you to reconnect with your body on the earthly plane as the nourishing moon spends time in your sign.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 The moon's presence in can-do Sagittarius gives you the energy and drive to apply yourself work-wise, yet Luna's dizzying square with dreamy Neptune can create a fog of fantasy around your thinking.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 The universe is pushing you to define your goals. Are you carving out enough time to see those dreams through? Today's skies highlight this ongoing story as the moon floats through versatile Gemini.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Luna's square to irritable Mars and passive Neptune can make it hard to stay on track and maintain follow-through, so try to tackle what you can and leave the rest.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 You may find yourself longing for distant lands today, Libra. The playful Gemini moon pushes you to step back and examine your world from a macro point of view.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 You're naturally drawn towards deep diving to the bottom of things. Today's cosmic landscape encourages this natural approach to your world as the moon paces through thought-juggling Gemini.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 What's taking place in your closest one-on-one partnerships, Sagittarius? Have you devoted too much or too little time to your cherished relationships?

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 Luna's messy square with go-getter Mars and sleepy Neptune can make it hard to maintain a consistent focus, so work to tackle whatever you can without demanding too much of yourself energetically.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Luna's hard square with motivated Mars and sleepy Neptune makes it hard to send energy in any one direction, so let yourself flow into light-hearted activities that feel right.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Spend some time tucked away at home today, Pisces. The reflective Gemini moon pushes you to seek connection with your family, roots, and living space.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

			5			4	6	
		7						
							8	
1	2			6				
7						2		
			4					
3		2			7			
8				4				
						1		

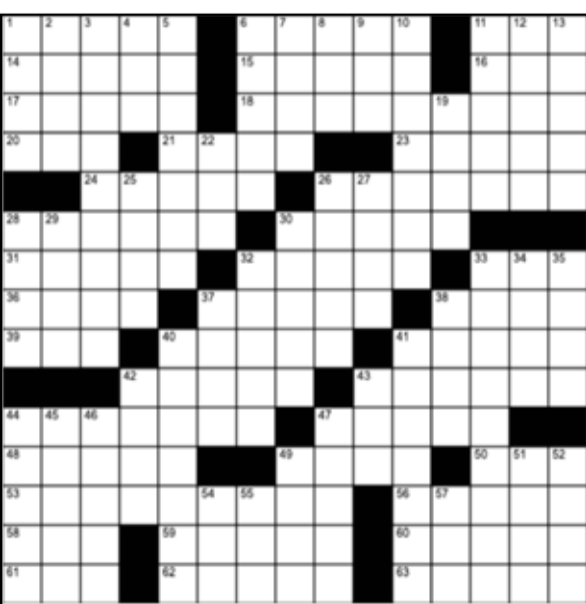
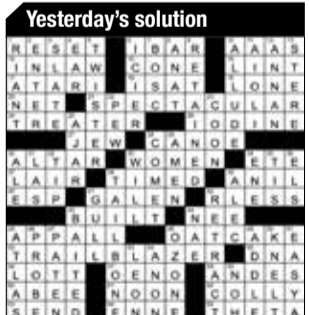
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	22	29	cloudy
Harbin	18	25	thunderstorms
Tianjin	25	32	rain
Urumqi	22	25	showers
Xi'an	26	35	cloudy
Lhasa	21	27	thunderstorms
Chengdu	26	33	rain
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	25	33	cloudy
Nanjing	20	27	cloudy
Shanghai	24	34	cloudy
Wuhan	24	30	overcast
Hangzhou	17	27	cloudy
Taipei	22	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	17	30	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	31	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	19	28	overcast
Frankfurt	11	22	rain
Paris	13	22	overcast
London	12	19	cloudy
New York	22	27	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Sham; 6- Swift; 11- Nipper's co.; 14- Lend \_\_\_; 15- Sip; 16- Where it's at; 17- Mother-of-pearl; 18- Permissible; 20- Canonized Mlle.; 21- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 23- Godly love; 24- Strike hard; 26- Word before beauty or bridge; 28- Assaults; 30- Scuffle; 31- Roomy dress cut; 32- Eccentric; 33- Bordeaux, e.g.; 36- Classic autos; 37- Parlor game; 38- Off-the-wall; 39- Campaigned; 40- Little bits; 41- Pooh's creator; 42- Conductor Dorati; 43- Current; 44- Warship; 47- Russian revolutionary leader; 48- Multitude; 49- Like some decisions; 50- General on Chinese menus; 53- Stupid; 56- Drops; 58- Beverage commonly drunk in England; 59- Govt. security; 60- Ways to the pins; 61- Mama's boy; 62- Income source; 63- Plant problem;

DOWN: 1- Devotees; 2- Med school subj.; 3- Economic decline; 4- Automobile; 5- Recluse; 6- Condition; 7- \_\_\_ Alto; 8- Alien's subj.; 9- DDE's command; 10- Dehydrate; 11- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 12- Mea \_\_\_; 13- Staggering; 19- Malaria symptom; 22- Aliens, briefly; 25- Department store department; 26- Food and water; 27- Some are pale; 28- Roseanne, once; 29- Zeno's home; 30- Wall painting; 32- Emirate on the Persian Gulf; 33- Sweetheart; 34- Hostleries; 35- Russian no; 37- Pigeon coop; 38- Rigatoni relative; 40- Six legged creatures; 41- Sewer system entrance; 42- Assistant, particularly to heads of state; 43- Bandleader Brown; 44- Markers; 45- Lover of Juliet; 46- Living in a city; 47- Shoe ties; 49- Ceremonial act; 51- Arise (from); 52- Greek peak; 54- One \_\_\_ million; 55- Chat room chuckle; 57- Deranged;



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



**SELL INVEST RENT**  
 MORE INFO  
 (853) 2835 2699

**jml property**  
 卓雅物業  
 hello@jmlproperty.com  
 www.jmlproperty.com  
 jmlmacau jmlproperty

**FOR SALE**  
 Centro Internacional **HKD 4,200,000**  
 Ref: 2108 6003 800ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1

**FOR RENT**  
**REDUCED**  
 One Central **HKD 16,500/mth**  
 Ref: 2106 1001 1,292ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2

**Rain Dance Property**  
 "We dance until it's SOLD!"  
 Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**  
 Ref: 2103 6001 788ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1

AD

AP PHOTO



## Box Office

**ESTIMATED** ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released today [Macau time].

1. "Candyman," \$22.3 million (\$5.2 million international).
2. "Free Guy," \$13.5 million (\$37.3 million international).
3. "PAW Patrol," \$6.6 million (\$10.3 million international).
4. "Jungle Cruise," \$5 million (\$2.7 million international).
5. "Don't Breathe 2," \$2.8 million (\$1.6 million international).
6. "Respect," \$2.2 million.
7. "The Suicide Squad," \$2 million (\$4.6 million international).
8. "The Protege," \$1.6 million.
9. "The Night House," \$1.2 million.
10. "Black Widow," \$855,000.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'CANDYMAN' SLASHES WAY TOWARD NO. 1 BOX OFFICE SPOT

JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.  
LOS ANGELES

"CANDYMAN" hooked the top spot at the North American box office.

The Universal Pictures film starring Yahya Abdul-Mateen II impressively pulled in more than \$22.3 million through a quiet weekend despite concerns over the delta variant. The R-rated horror movie, co-written by Jordan Peele and directed by Nia DaCosta, delves into an urban legend that believes if someone repeats "Candyman" five times in front of a mirror, that person would summon

the hook-handed killer.

The sequel is a follow up to the original "Candyman" in 1992. The new film expects to gross \$5.23 billion in 51 international markets.

"It was a quiet weekend, but it was another check mark in the success column for horror," Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

"Candyman" claimed No. 1 over second place "Free Guy," which scored first place at the box office the previous two weekends. The action comedy starring Ryan Reynolds as a background character in a video game, earned more than \$13.5 million.

After "Free Guy," the numbers begin to substantially drop.

Dergarabedian said consumers are being very selective in what they do outside of their homes, particularly when it comes to heading into theaters.

"When you have brand new movies, if they are of a genre that people love like horror or have star like Ryan Reynolds and a movie that's perceived to be great, people want to go out to see them," he said. "The other films that are either available on streaming and/or not getting the greatest buzz or reviews are going to drop by the wayside. It's just the nature of this

marketplace."

In third place, "PAW Patrol" reeled in \$6.6 million – a 50% dip from the film's opening weekend number. The Paramount film, based on the popular kids TV show, has garnered more than \$24 million.

"Jungle Cruise" placed fourth with \$5 million, helping the Disney action-adventure film starring Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt eclipse the \$100 million mark in North America during a five-week span.

"Don't Breathe 2" earned \$2.8 million, "Respect" starring Jennifer Hudson brought in \$2.2 million and "The Suicide Squad" tallied just

over \$2 million.

Meanwhile, "The Protege" with Michael Keaton and Maggie Q pulled in \$1.6 million and "The Night House" had \$1.2 million.

"Black Widow" barely held onto the 10th spot with \$855,000. In eight weeks, the Marvel film starring Scarlett Johansson has accumulated more than \$181.5 million in North America.

Dergarabedian believes the box office could experience some growing pains in the coming weeks.

"You're going to have a very top-heavy box office and particularly for films that are available on streaming," he said. "If they're not totally buzzworthy, then people will just stay at home and check them out there.

"If those movies at the top are generating great word of mouth and goodwill with audiences toward going to the movie theater, that's good for the business long term," Dergarabedian said. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Melco hosts MOP3 million lucky draw for fully vaccinated colleagues



Having reached a vaccination rate of over 70% for colleagues in Macau and Hong Kong, Melco last week hosted a MOP3 million lucky

draw, with three colleagues each winning MOP1 million. Another MOP3 million prize draw will be scheduled upon reaching 75%

inoculation rate for Macau and Hong Kong colleagues.

Forming part of its "Get the Jab" vaccination incentive program, the drawing and announcement hosted by Chairman & CEO Lawrence Ho was livestreamed to colleagues in all Macau and Hong Kong properties and offices.

"We remain strongly committed to supporting the governments in their aim to attain community-wide protection through education and vaccination and will continue to dedicate substantial resources to create a safer environment for the community, our customers and our colleagues," said Ho.

### MGM organizes 'The MGM Experience' for ten consecutive years



With the aim of encouraging local youth to make the best out of their summer holiday and to broaden their horizons, MGM once again organized its annual summer

program, "The MGM Experience" for the 10th year.

The program offered teenagers hands-on work experience at an integrated resort and volunteering

work at various community associations, which enabled them to discover their future career paths while getting to care more about their own community.

Taking place in July, the program was participated by a total of 100 local teenagers, who were referred by Education and Youth Development Bureau and different associations, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

The teenagers visited back-of-house areas of MGM properties, and then experienced the day-to-day operations at various departments, including Pastry Kitchen, Room Service, Spa and Gym, Concierge, Hotel Front Office and Linen Room.

FOOTBALL | EPL

# Greenwood's goals well timed before Ronaldo's United return

ROB HARRIS

WOLVES 0, MAN UNITED 1

**M**ASON Greenwood is making sure Manchester United doesn't neglect his scoring abilities when Cristiano Ronaldo returns.

The 19-year-old striker — who is almost half Ronaldo's age — has now scored in all three matches for United at the start of the season.

The latest goal ensured an underwhelming United performance at Wolverhampton still ended in a 1-0 victory yesterday [Macau time]. It was set up by Raphaël Varane, a former teammate of Ronaldo's at Real Madrid, on the defender's United debut.

But it is the frenzy over Ronaldo's unexpected return to Old Trafford that has lit up this transfer window, with the



AP PHOTO

Manchester United's Mason Greenwood celebrates scoring their side's goal

36-year-old star completing his move ready for a second debut after the international break.

United is in need of increa-

sed firepower up front. While Greenwood's first goal of the campaign was in a 5-1 rout of Leeds, last week's was requi-

red to salvage a draw at Southampton.

The winner at Wolves only came in the 80th minute and after United required David De Gea's sensational double save with about 20 minutes to go to thwart Romain Saïss.

"I think we were below (par) today, we didn't play too well," the goalkeeper said. "But it's a massive win for us."

While United moved onto seven points, the only team with a perfect record after three games is Tottenham. All three wins have been 1-0, the latest against Watford clinched by Son Heung-min's free kick — which beat goalkeeper Daniel Bachmann — on his 200th Premier League appearance.

Burnley striker Chris Wood scored the 30,000th goal since the inception of the Premier League in 1992 but the northwest club was denied a

first win of the season against Leeds after Patrick Bamford recovered a 1-1 draw.

Burnley had never even played in the Premier League when Ronaldo left United in 2009. In fact, half of the teams currently in the Premier League were not in the top flight when he completed a third title-winning season before heading off to Madrid.

Now the 36-year-old Ronaldo is rejoining from Juventus in an attempt to help United win its first Premier League title since 2013.

"Cristiano he's evolved as a player, he used to play wide right, wide left, up front, he's more of a center forward for me at the moment, definitely," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said, speaking to media for the first time since Friday's announcement of Ronaldo's return.

"But there will be games where we play with two up front, three up front. I want him in the box, I want him scoring goals. We've always been watching Cristiano, that one day he would move and we would be interested. We never thought that he was going to leave Juventus this season, when he did we had to speak to him of course." **MDT/AP**

AD

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

**K** **KTRANZ**  
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

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

OPINION

China Daily  
 Editorial, China Daily

**MOVING TEACHERS AROUND NOT ENOUGH ON ITS OWN**

To make the distribution of public education resources fairer, many cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, have released regulations in response to the call of the central authorities for education reform that will rotate teachers of public primary and junior middle schools.

According to the regulations that will be carried out from the start of the new semester on Wednesday, headmasters and teachers of public schools are required to work at different schools for certain periods of time. In so doing, the reformers expect to fill the gap between the prestigious schools and those common ones so that the nine-year compulsory education can become fairer.

However, whether the reform can achieve that objective depends on how it will be carried out. That's why the public is holding a wait-and-see attitude to it.

As a matter of fact, Beijing piloted a similar work shift reform seven years ago for the same purpose. But the reform seems to have come to nothing. Otherwise, the city would not have reintroduced the reform again. This round of work shift reform of teachers must heed the lessons of the previous trials.

Transferring the limited number of experienced teachers from a small number of key schools to more common schools, and filling the key schools with teachers from other schools, do not necessarily mean win-win results. The reason why some schools can stand out from their peers is because of their long-term accumulation of not only teaching experience and methods, but also management and a commitment-to-excellence atmosphere.

The fairness of a public education system does not lie in egalitarian-oriented reform aimed at making all schools the same, but the fairness of its screening mechanism that enrolls students on their merits, not family backgrounds.

Dispersing the best teachers from key schools in a city to other schools citywide without establishing a system for nurturing high-quality teachers will not inevitably improve the teaching quality at the schools to which they move. But it will undoubtedly lower the quality of teaching at the schools from whence they are shifted.

So the education authorities should pay more attention to prompting the key schools to share their management experience with the other schools, and give more support to help the latter improve their training programs and conditions for their faculties.

Before the widening income gap in the country is effectively addressed, it will be difficult to level the competition for children from different families. So the education reform has to be accompanied by reforms in other social and economic sectors to avoid overreaching itself.

Universal Studios announced yesterday that its first theme park in China will open in the country's capital in September.

The company set the opening date for Sept. 20, according to a statement and video posted on the Chinese social media site WeChat.

Under construction since 2016, the theme park has received strong backing from Beijing authorities, including the extension of one of the city's main subway lines to the site.

Along with rides, shows, restaurants and exhibits, the resort

features a pair of hotels. The project will complement Universal's other two Asian parks in Japan and Singapore.

The Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and Kung Fu Panda film franchises feature heavily, along with the Minions from the "Despicable Me" movies.

Beijing's historic sites have long drawn tourists. The coronavirus pandemic curtailed a rapidly growing demand for domestic travel and tourism, but new cases of domestic transmission have been falling, feeding optimism in the tourism sector.

AP PHOTO



**EU SET TO RECOMMEND REINSTATING RESTRICTIONS ON US TRAVELERS**

SAMUEL PETREQUIN, BRUSSELS

THE European Union plans to recommend that its member states reinstate restrictions on tourists from the U.S. because of rising coronavirus infection levels in the country, EU diplomats said yesterday.

A decision to remove the U.S. from a safe list of countries for nonessential travel would reverse advice from June, when the 27-nation bloc recommended lifting restrictions on U.S. travelers before the summer tourism season.

The guidance could come as early as this week, according to the EU diplomats. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the review process was still ongoing.

Any decision would be nonbinding, however. The EU has no unified COVID-19 tourism policy and national governments have the authority to decide whether they keep their borders open to U.S. tourists.

The European Council updates the list based on criteria relating to coronavirus infection levels. It gets reviewed every two weeks.

The threshold for being on the EU list is having not more than 75 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants over the last 14 days. Coronavirus cases have surged in the U.S. in recent weeks, running at more than 1,100 a day, the highest level since mid-March.

Last week, new cases per day averaged over 152,000, turning the clock back to the end of January, and the number of people in the hospital with the coronavirus was around 85,000, a number not seen since early February. MDT/AP

Qatar played an outsized role in U.S. efforts to evacuate tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan. Now the tiny Gulf Arab state is being asked to help shape what is next for Afghanistan because of its ties with both Washington and the Taliban, who are in charge in Kabul. Qatar will be among global heavyweights when U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hosts a virtual meeting to discuss a coordinated approach for the days ahead.

AP PHOTO



Poland A group of pro-democracy activists entered the grounds of the country's constitutional court in an act of civil disobedience yesterday, on the eve of an expected court ruling critical to the country's future relationship with the rest of the European Union. As smoke bombs sent black plumes into the air, a smaller group made it to the court's main entrance. They had brought boards and nails hoping to nail the door shut, but didn't manage to do that.

AP PHOTO



Italian firefighters yesterday were tackling remaining hotspots and continuing to search a 20-story apartment building in Milan that was destroyed by fire, but said that there was no indication that anyone was missing inside. Some cases of smoke inhalation were reported from Sunday's blaze, but no serious injuries or deaths.

France Starting yesterday, the speed limit on nearly all streets of Paris is just 30 kph. It's the latest initiative by a city trying to burnish its climate credentials and transform people's relationship to their vehicles. City officials say it's also aimed at reducing accidents and making Paris more pedestrian-friendly. Car owners are fuming. Delivery drivers say it will create longer wait times for customers. Taxi drivers say it will drive up rates and hurt business.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko



Rollin'. United States's Susannah Scaroni competes in the women's 5000-meters T54 final during the 2020 Paralympics at the National Stadium in Tokyo, last Saturday. Each athlete has unique differences that have to be classified according to individual impairments.