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THE HEALTH BUREAU ANNOUNCED THAT MORE MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO GET COVID-19 JABS WILL BE ROLLED OUT

FIRST GBA SHOPPING FESTIVAL OPENS IN BEIJING

DEUTSCHE BANK REVISED ITS GGR FORECAST TO MOP97 BILLION FOR THE WHOLE YEAR, MOP33 BILLION LESS THAN THE GOV'T'S TARGET

AP PHOTO



Indonesia's navy has seized a massive tanker believed to be loaded with thousands of tons of wasted black oil and has brought the ship to shore for further investigation, officials said yesterday. The Panamanian-flagged MT Zodiac Star was located Wednesday after the navy received an intelligence tip about a suspicious tanker near Tolop island and escorted it about 22 kilometers to a naval base in Batam on the Indonesian archipelago's southwestern tip near Singapore, said Rear Admiral Arsyad Abdullah, the country's western fleet commander.

Iran's state TV says 16 people were killed and 12 injured in the country's west when a mini-bus plunged off a road into a valley. The report says the accident happened in Kurdish province of the Kordestan region yesterday around noon. According to the report, 12 injured people were taken to hospital in Sanandaj city. The country's emergency organization deployed a rescue helicopter and an ambulance bus, as well as six ambulances to the scene. Authorities did not report the cause of the accident, saying only that it was under investigation.

Iran's state TV is reporting that the country's Interior Ministry has approved a new hard-line mayor for the capital, Tehran, after a city council election. Alireza Zakani, 55, heads a parliamentary research center, and he was one of the seven approved 2021 presidential candidates. He withdrew from the race to support the eventual winner, fellow hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi. Zakani previously served as a lawmaker. He was also the head of the Revolutionary Guard's volunteer unit at Tehran University in 1999.

More on backpage

FOREIGNERS RESTRICTED

Newest border-crossing post between Macau and the mainland will open to the public next week but is unable to facilitate crossings of foreign nationals

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CHINA TO ESTABLISH STOCK EXCHANGE IN BEIJING

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RENATO MARQUES



COVID-19

GOV'T ANNOUNCES FURTHER VACCINATION DRIVE, RESULTS OF NHC REVIEW

ANTHONY LAM

THE principle of "Vaccinate the Necessary Groups" will be upheld, and as such more measures to encourage the public to get Covid-19 jabs will be rolled out, Dr Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, said yesterday at the regular press briefing.

It was a conclusion reached after a four-day visit to Macau by a team of experts and officials from the National Health Commission (NHC) in mainland China.

"Necessary groups" includes healthcare staff, frontline immigration staff, civil servants, teachers and campus workers.

Tai said the Health Bureau (SSM) will issue a new round of "corresponding" measures with regard to boosting the vaccination rate. "We are now studying and considering these measures," Tai said.

In Macau, Covid-19 vaccination is administered in a voluntary manner and with informed consent.

The NHC expert team was satisfied overall with the city's pandemic control and prevention measures, but gave some suggestions to the city for further refinements.

For example, Tai revealed that the expert team had some opinions on use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The team offered suggestions to test "key groups," such as border checkpoint workers, healthcare staff, social workers, public service workers, retail workers and logistics workers.

These groups should be ranked in terms of risk exposure, which will define the frequency of testing required. "The same practice is conducted in mainland China," Tai said. "Once codified, the practice must be "rigorously implemented

and monitored."

Tai revealed that the expert team will compile a comprehensive report after each tour, for the reference of each city or province. Macau will therefore receive a report.

He added that the government will "seriously take reference from the suggestions of the NHC expert team with consideration [to] the situation of Macau." It will also work to continuously refine and strengthen the city's disease control and prevention mechanisms.

The visit did not have media sessions because, as Tai explained, the NHC viewed the visit as an internal technical tour and did not wish to include media interviews. In fact, according to Tai, the NHC expert team has been touring around the country without notifying the media.

Tai did not further explain why no notice was given to the press. About a month ago, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng hinted at the visit, but an exact date was not announced.

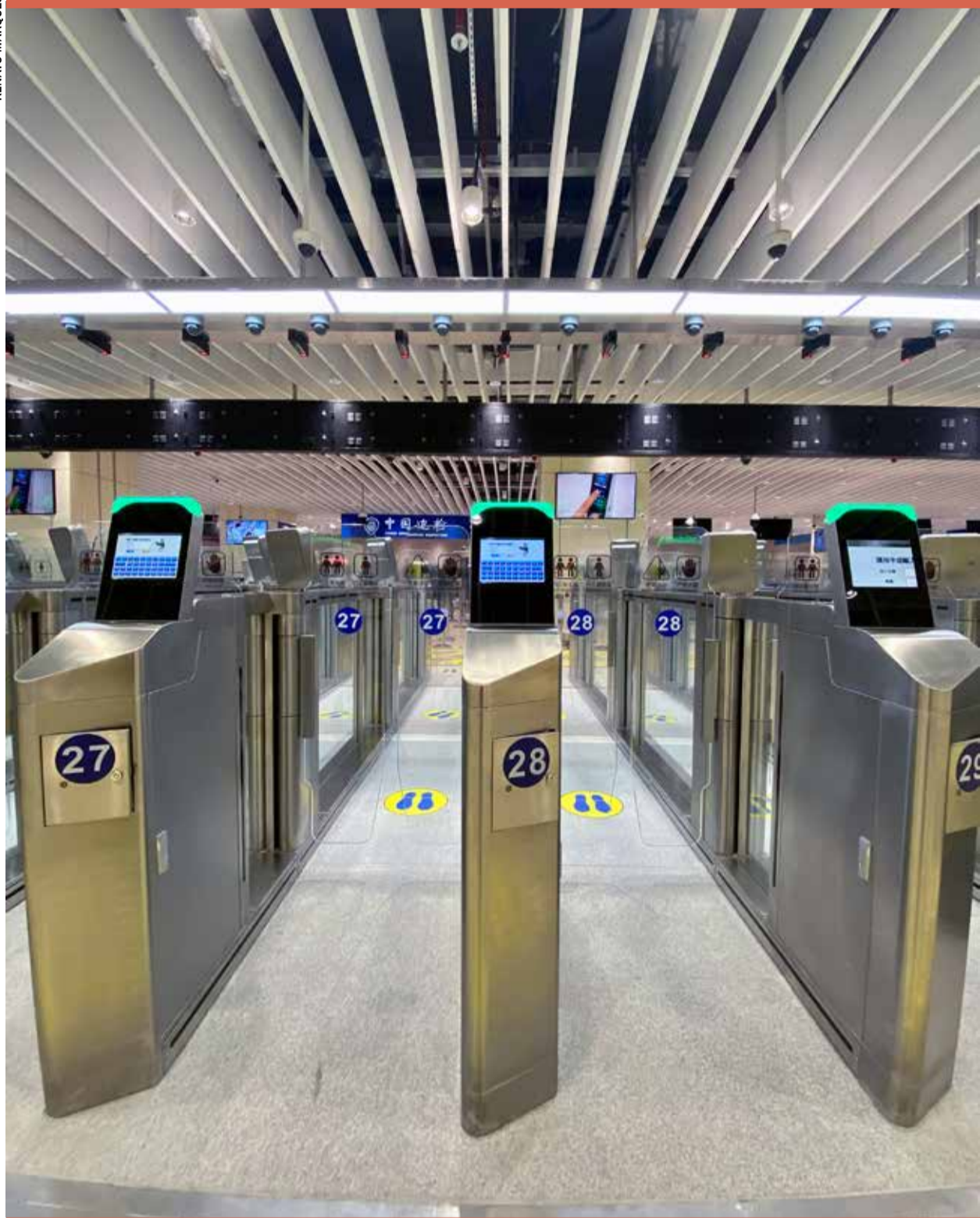
At the same briefing, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced that the Health Bureau had set up a backup system for the health code functionality as a contingency for the anticipated mass login on Election Day, September 12.

Voters are required to show their health code upon entry to polling stations.

Leong also explained that Macau has been following mainland China in terms of border crossing measures. As a result, any updates to such measures – even with Hong Kong only – will require the three jurisdictions to sit down and discuss.

"Any updates will be announced in due course," Leong added.

RENATO MARQUES



QINGMAO PORT

New border crossing ready to open; no foreigners permitted

RENATO MARQUES

THE newest border-crossing post between Macau and the mainland will open to the

public next week.

The Qingmao Port, located just a few hundred meters from the Border Gate Port, will finally open to the public on September 8 as construction concludes

after about three years.

The new border post will not allow crossings by any foreign nationals, being exclusively for residents of Macau and Hong Kong who also possess a "ho-

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Honey Tsang, 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

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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

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DSAT: Use public transportation to travel to Qingmao

RENATO MARQUES

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) wants people to use public transportation to arrive at the new Qingmao Port, DSAT's head of the Transport Management Division Ho Chan Tou announced yesterday afternoon during a presentation of the traffic arrangements and functions of the new port.

"As the new border post does not allow the border crossing of vehicles, we suggest citizens and tourists use public transportation to arrive at the port," Ho said, adding that there are six bus stops located near the Qingmao Port "that can respond to the needs of citizens in the use of public transportation."

According to Ho, the bus routes that pass through the area of the new border post cover basically all of Macau, including Cotai, Areia Preta, and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro.

Taxi operations will be managed in a similar way to other border posts, with passengers to be dropped off on the ground level, and taxi drivers then driving through the port to the first floor to queue for passenger pick up.

The taxi waiting lane can accommodate a total of 22 regular taxis. Special taxis will be allowed to pick up and drop off passengers on the ground floor in a specially designated area.

This area will also be used by private vehicles to drop off and pick up passengers, but Ho warned



DSAT's head of the Transport Management Division Ho Chan Tou

that special limitations will be enforced to prevent people from parking for a long time in this area.

Vehicles can remain parked in the pick up and drop off area for a maximum of 10 minutes, with vehicles remaining in the area beyond this time fined for parking illegally.

The DSAT division head also noted that the area is well served by public car parks, including one located in the basement level of the Qingmao Port itself, with five nearby parking facilities providing over 4,700 parking spaces.

Directly in front of the building will be a parking area for the exclusive use of private buses, such as those from travel agencies, so that passengers traveling in organized tour groups can be legally and easily picked up or dropped off.

CUSTOMS AND PJ READY TO CATCH SMUGGLERS

Both the Customs Service and the Judiciary Police are said to be well-equipped and on alert at the new Qingmao Port to immediately tackle any illegal activity regarding the import or export of illegal items via the port, as well as drug trafficking activities.

The port is equipped with the latest technology for scanning both luggage and people, and can detect attempts to smuggle dangerous or unlawful items in or out of Macau.

A special post for the Health Bureau has also been established for general use — particularly to address the pandemic situation where temperatures, health codes, and nucleic acid tests validity can be verified.

The port is also equipped with an immediate isolation room which can be used if necessary.

me-going card." It will also allow Chinese visitors registered to use automated border-crossing channels under the integrated border-crossing inspection system, which allows people to perform immigration procedures in an automated and streamlined way.

According to Commander Wong Kei Fong, deputy chief of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) Immigration Department, tests of the system showed that each person would need, on average, only 24 seconds to complete all immigration procedures.

The border post comprises 50 automated channels as well as two manual inspection channels, which may be used when children under seven years old are crossing the border or in emergencies.

Questioned by the Times, the Deputy Chief of the Immigration Depart-

ment confirmed that there is no possibility of people that are not Chinese nationals using the Qingmao Port since both local and Chinese electronic identification documents are required for border formalities.

This means that even foreign nationals who are local residents and in possession of a valid visa to the mainland may not use this border post, and must use another border checkpoint such as Border Gate, Lotus Flower, or Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port.

The same official revealed that, in preparation for the opening of the post, the immigration departments on both sides of the border conducted three large-scale exercises aiming to test the capacity of the port in high-pressure situations, when many people want to cross the border at the same time.

Wong said the tes-

ts showed the capacity to handle about 200,000 people crossing the border per day, and other drills and contingencies have also been performed with positive results.

Questioned on the capacity of the port and its likelihood of solving border crossing congestion, Wong said that the immigration department is very optimistic regarding the new post as "over 70% of the people crossing the border between Macau and Zhuhai are already using the automated passages," so no significant problems are expected.

Additionally, he noted that the highest number of border crossings registered in a day is between 400,000 and 500,000 across all border posts. This number gives comfort to the immigration department as it roughly matches the capacity of just this new port and Hengqin Port together.

Rainstorm warning signal system

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This warning signal is issued when heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 50 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

Yellow rainstorm warning signal - level 1
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MACAU-SHENZHEN FERRY SERVICES RESUME TODAY

The ferry services connecting Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and Taipa Maritime Terminal with Shenzhen's Shekou Ferry Terminal will resume today after being suspended for nearly a month due to the projected intensity of Covid-19 conditions in Macau in early August. In the early days of the service resuming, there will be two to four ferry slots in each direction every day. The government reminds travelers to contact ferry operators for the latest schedules. Travelers are also reminded that coronavirus polymerase chain reaction test results and conversion of health codes are required for boarding and border clearance.

TRIP.COM TO HOLD TRAVEL SUMMIT ON OCT. 29

Trip.com is set to hold a travel summit on October 29 at Sands Resorts Macao, with the theme "Revitalizing Trip." In a poster sent to the Times, the summit is described as "focusing on a brighter, better future," and for gathering "wisdom from across the industry." It will be supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM). In April, the largest online travel agency in China noted a continuing rise in popularity for destinations such as Macau among mainland Chinese travelers.

TOURISM BOARD WELCOMES TOURISTS AT AIRPORT

As the validity of coronavirus polymerase chain reaction test results returns to seven days for travelers flying in from the mainland, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) have rolled out a promotion at the local airport to welcome visitors. Staffers distributed Macao travel brochures and offered information about Macao Highlight Tours, "MAK MAK Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Pass" and other topics to visitors at MGTO's tourist information counter at the Macau International Airport, where props with welcome messages are displayed to express warm hospitality to visitors. The MGTO also used the opportunity to position Macau as a safe tourism destination.



GAMING

DEUTSCHE BANK FORECASTS MOP97B FOR THIS YEAR'S GGR

LYNZY VALLES

DEUTSCHE Bank has lowered its estimate for the 2021 gross gaming revenue (GRR) of the city following August's steep downturn in revenue.

The investment banking company revised its forecasts to MOP97 billion for the whole year, about MOP33 billion less than the SAR government had predicted earlier this year.

Managing director of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Carlo Santarelli, forecast that the city will record MOP19.2 billion of casino revenue in the third quarter, of which about MOP12 billion will be from the mass market, and MOP7.3 billion from the VIP sector.

To reach this figure, casinos must generate over MOP7 billion revenue this month.

In terms of the full year GGR, the firm forecasts that a total of MOP61.1 billion will be generated by the mass market, while the VIP sector could reach MOP34.4 billion.

Last month's GGR plummeted to

MOP4.44 billion, attributable to the Delta cases discovered in early August which led to strict immigration measures. Since then, Macau has seen a downturn in mainland visitors, as Zhuhai reduced the validity period for nucleic acid tests from 24 hours to 12 hours.

Early this year, the firm slightly rolled back its previous projection of Macau's GGR for 2021, from USD26.60 billion to USD26.35 billion.

Local experts have already expressed that the 2021 GGR is unlikely to reach the government's target of MOP130 billion, which is around 44.5% of 2019 figures.

Meanwhile, although August was also the lowest GGR month of 2021, there is some positive momentum heading into September.

Sanford C. Bernstein noted that "visitation and GGR have experienced the beginning of recovery in the latter part of the month as the travel impediments have been gradually relaxed, and China reducing travel restrictions in many areas after passing the peak of the most recent Covid outbreak."

ELECTIONS2021

CANDIDATE COMPLAINS ABOUT CAMPAIGN SITE SET-UP AT ZAPE

AGNES Lam, a candidate in the Legislative Assembly election, complained yesterday afternoon about being put in "a cage" at the designated campaign site on Alameda Dr Carlos D'Assumpção.

An area in the Dr Carlos D'Assumpção Park has been cordoned off with plastic crowd management barriers by the Municipal Affairs Bureau. No through-passage was allowed according to officers and security guards on site.

Highlighting the situation in a live video on social media, the candidate pointed out that the barriers would obstruct candidates from interacting with pedestrians and voters. In addition, she noted that the authorities did not allow them to make an opening in the barriers for any interested pedestrians to enter and interact with candidates.

She also raised the problem of the confined space sitting right at the intersection of two passageways of the park, which may strengthen public perceptions of the election being a nuisance.

Interviewed by the Times, Lam said that certain negotiations were conducted on site but no change was made possible. "But after we left, I got a call from the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), explaining that there was a miscommunication and that through-passages are allowed," the candidate said.

The CAEAL, in reply to a related enquiry from the Times, said that "pursuant to the [campaign] management guidelines, [...] clear partitions between campaign and public areas must be achieved." The CAEAL stressed that this arrangement should not be substantially altered or changed. **AL**

Melco earnings up 10% year-on-year



MELCO International Development Limited recorded earnings of HKD8.43 billion in the first half of the year, an increase of 9.7% compared with the HKD7.68 billion recorded in the same period of 2020.

The increase was largely due to an improvement in performance across the mass market table games segment and in non-gaming operations, owing to an increase in inbound tourism in Macau compared to the previous year.

Losses after tax for the period were HKD3.75 billion, compared with losses after tax of HKD7.06 billion in the same period of 2020, according to a recent announcement by the parent company

of international IR operator Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

Lawrence Ho, group chairman and CEO of Melco International, said "Macau has enjoyed a steady recovery in its overall economy as travel restrictions loosen and visitors gradually return. This also led to a gradual recovery in business levels at our integrated resorts during the second quarter of 2021."

With the most notable recovery currently in mass market and premium players, Ho said that the group will continue to focus on the development of these market segments going forward.

"We remain committed to our investment program in Macau and abroad." **LV**

FIRST GBA SHOPPING FESTIVAL OPENS IN BEIJING

THE first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area shopping festival kicked off in Beijing yesterday.

An online opening ceremony was held at 3 p.m.

The festival, which is aimed at boosting consumption upgrade, will showcase more than 13 million products from 298,000 brands in food, cosmetics, digital, home appliances, and other industries.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is one of the most open areas in China with economic vitality, an official with Ministry of Commerce said.

With the launch of the shopping festival, the area

can fully display its distinctive national brands and innovative products, the official said, adding that the event will contribute to the integration of the area.

The event is guided by the Ministry of Commerce, the provincial government of Guangdong, and the liaison offices of the central government in Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.

The event came as China is about to celebrate the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on September 21, and its National Day on October 1. The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional festival that focuses on family reunion. **MDT/AGENCIES**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

WITH colleague immunity established as a key company objective to ensure a safe environment for colleagues, guests and the community, Melco Resorts & Entertainment is supporting the Macau SAR government's efforts towards community-wide vaccination. Earlier, the company announced its plan earmarking nearly MOP 16 million towards a special Get the Job immunity incentive program to encourage colleagues suitable for the COVID-19 vaccine to become fully vaccinated.

Having now reached a vaccination rate of over 70% for colleagues in Macau and Hong Kong, the company last week hosted a \$3 million (USD 375,000) lucky draw, with three colleagues each winning \$1 million (USD 125,000). Another \$3 million prize draw is to be scheduled upon reaching 75% inoculation rate for Macau and Hong Kong colleagues with the aim to help uphold the campaign's momentum.

The drawing and announcement hosted by Chairman & CEO Mr. Lawrence Ho was livestreamed to colleagues in all Macau and Hong Kong properties and offices. Melco was honored to have Dr. Liang Sung Wen, Coordinator of COVID-19 Outreach Vaccination Working Group, Macao Health Bureau join the viewing for colleagues at City of Dreams.

Furthermore, in late July, four colleagues inoculated through the company's on-site outreach vaccination session were awarded a collective cash prize total of half a million following a lucky draw. So far, 25 lucky colleagues have received cash prizes, gift certificates and gifts. Subject to applicable terms and conditions, all fully vaccinated colleagues from Melco's Macau properties and Hong Kong corporate offices are eligible for entry to the million-prize money lucky draws.

Mr. Lawrence Ho, Chairman & CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "The health and safety of Melco colleagues, guests and community is a top priority. Our properties follow the best-in-class safety procedures, as demonstrated by their being among the first in the world to achieve the Sharecare Health Security VERIFIED® with Forbes Travel Guide certification. Through the efforts of the government, we are fortunate that vaccines are readily available. Our commitment to



GET THE JOB INCENTIVE PROGRAM RAISES EMPLOYEE VACCINATION RATE TO OVER 70%

Melco supports SAR government efforts towards community-wide vaccination



creating a safe environment and contributing to the government's goal of achieving herd immunity is demonstrated by our resources dedicated to the immunity incentive program."

The program's other initiatives incentivizing colleagues to become inoculated against COVID-19 include MOP 1,000 prize money for each fully vaccinated colleague. In addition, shuttle transportation to attend vaccination appointments are provided, together with two full days of paid vac-

cine leave. Also, in coordination with the Macau Health Bureau and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the company continues to provide colleagues with education seminars and vaccination outreach sessions.

So far, Melco has completed two onsite outreach vaccination sessions hosted over a total of 8 days in coordination with Macau Health Bureau at Studio City Event Center, at which colleagues, family and friends have been provided access to vaccines pro-

tecting them against the novel coronavirus. A total participation number of 4,300 was recorded for the two sessions.

Furthermore, in May and June, Melco hosted two special seminars titled 'Understanding the benefits of the COVID-19 Vaccination'. The seminars were attended by nearly 1,000 colleagues both in person and online. Melco was honored with the presence of Dr. Lio Chon Fu, Public Health Specialist, Representative of the Macao Health Bureau and Dr. Tai Wa Hou, Representative of the Macao Health Bureau, President of Macau Physician Association of Public Hospital and Clinical Director of the Public Conde S. Januário Hospital Center as guest speakers.

Outreach vaccination session attendee, Ms. Tippy Wong said, "After joining one of the health seminars hosted earlier, I felt well informed about the vaccine's benefits and decided to sign up to the outreach vaccination session.

It feels great to finally receive the first dose of the vaccine at my place of work – it's so convenient. I'm glad I took this step forward to protect myself and my family. I hope more and more of us will, like myself, get vaccinated so that life can go back to normal as soon as possible."

Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Melco Chairman and CEO, said, "With colleague immunity established as a key company objective to ensure a safe environment for colleagues, guests and the community, we are thrilled to see colleagues' positive response to the Get the Job campaign. We will continue to host more health seminars to promote the benefits of vaccination and to answer colleagues' queries so that informed choices best suited to each individual's needs can be made, whilst supporting to the government's efforts towards achieving herd immunity."



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

XI UNVEILS NEW MEASURES TO FACILITATE TRADE IN SERVICES

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping yesterday unveiled a slew of new measures to facilitate trade in services in the country's latest efforts to share its development opportunities and boost global economic recovery.

China will explore the development of national demonstration zones to promote the innovative development of services trade and increase support for services sector in countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi said while addressing the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) held in Beijing.

The country will optimize the rules for the services sector by supporting Beijing and other localities in piloting the alignment of domestic rules with the ones in high-standard international free trade agreements and in building digital trade demonstration zones, Xi said.

A stock exchange will be set up in Beijing to serve innovation-oriented small and medium-sized firms, Xi said.

"Let us join hands to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and get

PHOTO ARCHIVE



through these tough times," Xi said.

"Using peace, development and win-win cooperation as the

'golden key', we will be able to address the challenges facing the world economy and international trade and investment, and

create a brighter future for all," he said.

With more than 10,000 enterprises from 153 countries and

regions signing up for participation, this year's IFTIS.

Appreciating China's endeavors to promote global trade in services, experts and business leaders have said the event will help the world share China's development opportunities and bolster global confidence in the economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"China is growing faster in the service sector than any other country in the world," said Stephen Perry, chairman of Britain's 48 Group Club.

China's services trade fair will provide people with a great opportunity to get a sense of the world's digital future, as well as China's fast expanding service industry, said the business leader.

The services trade fair is an important platform that demonstrates China's opening-up, said Dennis Wilkens, Germany Trade and Invest's director for China.

"A large number of companies have emerged in China that are being offered opportunities in Germany and Europe. The development shows the performance of China and its companies in the digital and services sector in recent years," Wilkens said.

Themed "Towards Digital Future and Service Driven Development," the 2021 CIFTIS will last from Sept. 2 to Sept. 7. **MDT/XINHUA**

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TECH

Regulators order ride-hailing firms to correct unfair tactics

CHINESE regulators have ordered ride-hailing platforms to correct unfair market tactics amid a broad crackdown on the internet sector that has spooked investors and shaved billions off the valuations of some of China's biggest technology companies.

The transport ministry, internet watchdog and other regulators on Wednesday ordered 11 such platforms by year's end to stop unfair competition tactics and practices such as recruiting unlicensed drivers, according to a statement published yesterday.

The ride-hailing industry led by companies such as Didi Global and Meituan employs millions of drivers who are part of China's growing gig economy, and platforms often jostle for market share by offering passengers and drivers discounts and incentives.

The Chinese government has expressed concern over the exploitation of such workers, as they often work long days and lack basic welfare benefits. China's state union in July called for better protection of labor rights

and encouraged gig economy workers to form unions to boost protections.

Sector leader Didi has nearly 90% of the market in China, but China's internet watchdog is investigating alleged data privacy violations.

Competition among its rivals intensified as they try to gain customers amid the Didi investigation.

The 11 companies were told to inspect their own business practices, form a compliance plan and correct any issues by the end of the year to "promote the healthy and sustainable development" of the ride-hailing industry.

Chinese authorities have in recent months targeted sectors such as e-commerce and online education, after years of rapid growth in the technology sector amid fears that they may have outsized influence on society.

Beijing launched a barrage of anti-monopoly, data security and other enforcements beginning in late 2020, as it sought to tighten control over internet giants such as Alibaba and Tencent. **MDT/AP**

US envoy Kerry says China crucial to handling climate crisis

CHINA needs to expand its efforts to reduce carbon emissions to help hold back the rise in global temperatures, U.S. envoy John Kerry said yesterday.

Kerry, a former secretary of state, also said that China "plays a super-critical role" in the effort to combat climate change, according to a brief video clip from the meeting shown on CGTN, the international arm of state broadcaster CCTV.

The State Department said Kerry told Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng in a virtual meeting that there is "no way" for the world to solve the climate crisis without China's "full engagement and commitment."

China is the world's largest carbon emitter, producing an estimated 27% of global greenhouse gases, followed by the United States.

Kerry is in the eastern Chinese port city of Tianjin for talks on stronger efforts to curb rising temperatures to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels.

Global decarbonizing efforts will come under the spotlight at a U.N. conference to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in late November known as COP26.

"Secretary Kerry emphasized the importance of the world taking serious climate actions in this critical decade and strengthening global climate ambition," the State Department said in a statement.

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Han as telling Kerry that China had made "huge efforts" in tackling climate change and had



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry meet via video link in China

achieved "remarkable results."

China "hopes the American side will create the appropriate circumstances for jointly tackling climate change based on the spirit of the conversations between their leaders," Xinhua quoted Han as saying.

Kerry made a stop in Japan on Tuesday to discuss climate issues with Japanese officials before heading to China.

BAD TIES COULD SET BACK CLIMATE TALKS: WANG

On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned Kerry that deteriorating U.S.-China relations could undermine cooperation between the two on climate change.

Wang told Kerry by video link that such cooperation cannot be separated from the broader relationship and called on the U.S. to take steps to improve ties, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Relations between Washington and Beijing have been strained by disputes over trade, technology and human rights. However, the two sides have

identified the climate crisis as an area for possible cooperation following U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to rejoin the the 2015 Paris climate accord.

China obtains roughly 60% of its power from coal and is opening more coal-fired power plants, while also committing to reducing its use of the fossil fuel.

Beijing has pointed to historical U.S. emissions as a reason to resist action while making advances in solar power and other renewable energy sources. The country has set a target of generating 20% of its total energy needs from renewables by 2025, becoming carbon-neutral by 2060 and reducing total emissions starting from 2030.

Biden has announced a goal of cutting up to 52% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 — double the target set by then President Barack Obama in the Paris agreement. The 2030 goal vaults the U.S. into the top tier of countries on climate ambition. **MDT/AP**

TAIWAN ISLAND GETS FIRST PFIZER-BIONTECH VACCINES AFTER LONG DELAY

TAIWAN received its first batch of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines yesterday after a prolonged purchasing process that gave rise to a political blame game with Beijing.

Taiwan had been unable to buy the vaccine itself directly from BioNTech, the German company that had partnered with U.S.-based Pfizer to develop the mRNA vaccine.

Eventually, two private companies, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. and Hon Hai Precision Electronics, as well as a Buddhist organization Tzu Chi, stepped in to buy the vaccines and donate them to Taiwan.

The three organizations bought a total of 15 million doses. The flight carrying the first 930,000 doses arrived at Taoyuan International Airport yesterday morning.

Even their arrival has been dogged by politics. Local media at first reported Taiwan



A shipment of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines from an aircraft at the Taoyuan International Airport yesterday

was getting doses ahead of schedule because they weren't needed in mainland China, where the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has not yet been cleared for use.

Health Minister Chen Shih-chung said last week that he had been told by TSMC that the vaccines would have simplified Chinese

labels from China. Taiwan uses traditional, rather than simplified, Chinese characters. However, he emphasized that what mattered was the safety and the quality of the vaccine, not the labeling.

TSMC said yesterday that they would remove the simplified Chinese labels after the vaccines arrived.

Chinese company Fosun Pharma has distribution rights for the vaccine in Greater China, which includes Taiwan. Fosun said on its social media Wednesday that it had supplied the batch of vaccines that was due to arrive, complete with an image of the shipment that displayed their logo prominently.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be given to 12-17-year-olds, Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control had said.

Taiwan has been using AstraZeneca, Moderna and the domestically made Medigen vaccine in its campaign so far and has vaccinated 43% of its population with at least one dose. The island's policy is to give out first doses widely. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the White House's Oval Office

DIPLOMACY

Biden meets Ukraine leader in long-sought Oval Office visit

AAMER MADHANI,
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden used his first meeting with a foreign leader since ending the war in Afghanistan to send the message yesterday [Macau time] that the United States — unburdened of its “forever war” — is determined to become a more reliable ally to its friends, in this case Ukraine.

Biden played host to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a long-sought Oval Office meeting and tried to reassure him that his administration remains squarely behind the Eastern European nation.

Biden didn't mention Afghanistan in his brief appearance with Zelenskyy before cameras.

But he highlighted his concerns about Russian aggression in the region. Biden, in making his case to end the war in Afghanistan, repeatedly said winding it down would allow the U.S. to put greater focus on combating malevolent acts from adversaries Russia and China.

“The United States remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression and for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations,” Biden said.

The Ukrainian leader, who had found himself ens-

narled in Donald Trump's first impeachment, arrived at the White House looking to Biden for increased military aid and backing for his country's bid for NATO membership.

The meeting was postponed two days while Biden and his national security team were consumed by the military withdrawal from Afghanistan. The withdrawal, which concluded Monday, left behind many Afghans who had worked with the Americans and their allies and who now fear Taliban rule. This led to criticism that the U.S. was less than a reliable international partner, something Biden was eager to counter.

The optics of the moment did not go unnoticed by the Ukrainian president. “At a difficult time for the world and the United States ... still you found time for us and we're thankful for this indeed,” Zelenskyy said.

In advance of the sit-down, the Biden administration said it was committing up to \$60 million in new military aid to Ukraine. The administration said the aid was necessary because of a “major increase in Russian military activity along its border” and because of mortar attacks, cease-fire violations and other provocations.

The package includes more Javelin anti-tank missiles, which Kyiv sees as cri-

tical to defending against Russia-backed separatists. The U.S. has overall committed more than \$400 million in military aid this year.

Zelenskyy thanked Biden for the aid.

“The war in Donbas is in its eighth year, and we have lost 15,000 people,” Zelenskyy said in a reference to the conflict in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

In their private talks, Zelenskyy and Biden also discussed Washington's decision not to block the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which would carry Russian natural gas directly to Germany, bypassing Ukraine. The pipeline is vehemently opposed by Ukraine and Poland as well as both Republicans and Democrats in Congress, with Zelenskyy describing it as a powerful geopolitical weapon for Russia.

Zelenskyy, a television actor new to politics, took office in May 2019 anxious to firm up his country's relationship with the United States. Instead, he almost immediately found himself under pressure from Trump envoys and soon Trump himself, who in the phone call that led to his first impeachment asked Zelenskyy to “do us a favor.”

In that now famous July 2019 call, Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Biden and his son Hunter, who had served on the board of a

Ukrainian energy company.

Trump's European Union envoy, Gordon Sondland, later told impeachment investigators that Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani explicitly sought a “quid pro quo” in which an Oval Office visit would be contingent on Zelenskyy announcing the politically charged investigation Trump wanted.

“Was there a ‘quid pro quo?’” Sondland asked. “With regard to the requested White House call and White House meeting, the answer is yes.”

Besides the coveted invitation to the White House, Sondland also said it was his understanding that Trump had held up nearly \$400 million in military aid until Ukraine announced the investigation.

Allegations that Trump withheld congressionally approved military aid while seeking Ukraine's help for his reelection campaign formed the basis of the first impeachment case against him. Trump was acquitted by the Senate. The Oval Office meeting with Zelenskyy never happened.

With Biden, Zelenskyy now has a president with a long history of involvement in Ukraine, one who has supported its determination to break free from Russia, shore up its young democracy and be more fully welcomed into the Western club.

As vice president, Biden was the Obama administration's point person on Ukraine and pushed for tougher action against corruption. He once boasted of his success in getting Ukraine to fire its top prosecutor, who had blocked some corruption investigations. Trump later twisted this by insisting, wrongly, that Biden had done so to protect his son and the energy company on whose board he served.

Zelenskyy is the latest Ukrainian president to promise to tackle systemic corruption and then struggle once in office. Biden administration officials wanted assurances that Zelenskyy remains committed to following through on various reforms.

To that end, a joint statement issued following the meeting highlighted the need for Ukraine to move quickly to select a new specialized anti-corruption prosecutor and pass legislation to enshrine the authority of the head of the country's National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the process for selecting that agency's successor. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1954 NATIONAL TRUST BUYS REMOTE ISLAND



The National Trust for Scotland has taken control of Fair Isle, famous for its bird life and knitted sweaters.

The remote island situated between Shetland and Orkney was bought by George Waterston, an Edinburgh ornithologist, in 1948. He set up a bird observatory which has since built up a worldwide reputation.

The National Trust says it plans to expand research into migratory bird life.

It also plans to ensure greater security and stability for the dwindling population which currently numbers just 45 men, women and children.

The charity was able to buy the island thanks to a £5,500 grant from the Dulverton Trust.

Fund to protect birds

The Pilgrim Trust has given £7,000 to the Bird Observatory Trust to expand their activities and begin a Fair Isle endowment fund.

It is hoped that those interested in birdlife will make donations to the fund to help protect wild birds and research their behaviour.

Mr Waterston told reporters today in Edinburgh that the plan for a bird observatory was concocted in a German prisoner of war camp with fellow inmate and ornithologist Ian Pitman.

Along with fish, Fair Isle's main export is its world famous woollen garments decorated with traditional designs handed down from generation to generation.

The Fair Isle sweater became highly fashionable in the 1920s when the Prince of Wales was often seen wearing one when playing golf.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The National Trust was founded in 1895 by Octavia Hill and its Scottish arm set up in 1926 to “protect and promote Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy”. In 1956 the National Trust organised a conference on Fair Isle to discuss ways of saving the island's economy by improving communications to the remote island.

By 2003 the population had risen to about 70 islanders.

Fair Isle still houses an observatory for research into the origins, routes, wintering areas and feeding habits of spring and autumn migratory birds.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're not one for staying down in the dumps, Aries. Friday's cosmic landscape encourages you to leap back into a positive mindset after a bit more emotional shuffling.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Friday's skies hold little activity in store, Taurus. Take advantage of the slow pace! Your ruling planet, lover Venus, locks into an adjustment-requiring aspect with dizzying Neptune.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Luna's low-key lack of aspects implies a light schedule, so try to maintain some fluid space for that artistic energy to emerge and be brought to life.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Luna's presence here directs you to focus on your untapped talents and the current state of your finances. What changes can you make to increase your earning style?

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
It's been important for you to tap back into your sense of self-worth in recent weeks, Leo. You've needed to shore up your own confidence in your abilities rather than rely on other people for positive feedback.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
It's best to refrain from involving yourself in highly social situations or heavy workloads. Luna's lack of contacts only further encourages a slow-paced day.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Let yourself seek out your friends today, Libra. You thrive on having a sense of community. Thus today's cosmos works to feed your soul with the support and joy of connection.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
The self-expressive Leo moon squares off with change-demanding Uranus, highlighting what needs shifting within partnership matters.

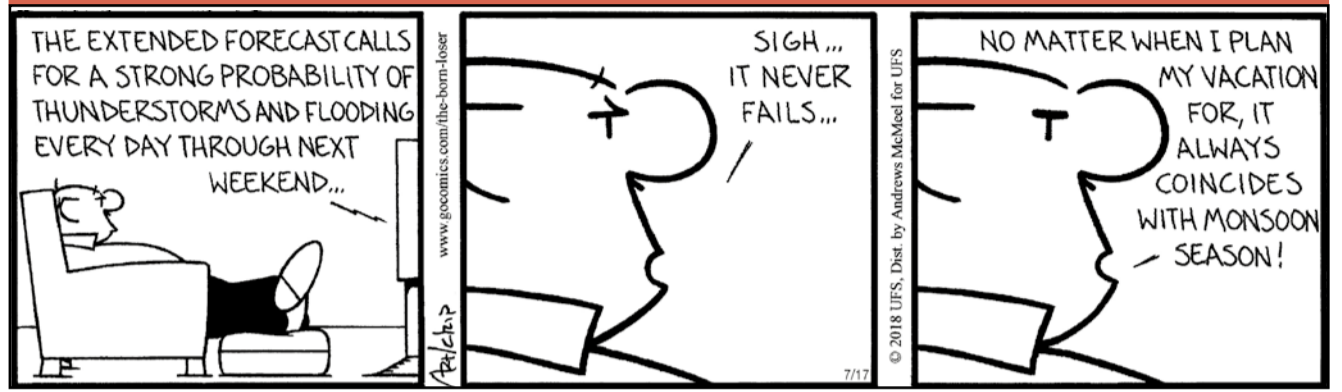
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
To a Sagittarius, there's nothing worse than being bound to tiresome routines and day-to-day trappings. Let yourself gallop across the open plains today as the moon bounces into fiery Leo this morning.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
The universe has been pushing you to shore up old wounds around your self-confidence, Capricorn. Your ruling planet, limitation-setting Saturn, has been seeking new outlets for self-expression.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Friday's skies are welcomingly low-key and simply highlight the current state of give-and-take in your close personal relationships as the moon floats into your opposite sign of self-expressive Leo.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Let yourself get down to business today, Pisces. You'll feel your best if you manage to cross multiple things off your to-do list and still leave time for exercise and proper meals.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	30	cloudy
Harbin	17	28	cloudy
Tianjin	25	35	rain
Urumqi	22	28	showers
Xi'an	25	36	cloudy
Lhasa	21	27	cloudy
Chengdu	26	35	rain
Chongqing	25	34	thunderstorms
Kunming	26	35	cloudy
Nanjing	21	29	cloudy
Shanghai	25	31	thunderstorms
Wuhan	25	31	rain
Hangzhou	16	27	fine
Taipei	23	29	overcast
Guangzhou	15	28	overcast
Hong Kong	20	29	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	7	13	rain
Frankfurt	12	26	sunny
Paris	16	27	overcast
London	13	22	overcast
New York	16	24	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Hew; 5- Extra-terrestrial being; 10- Arrived; 14- Wheel parts; 15- Color anew; 16- Scored 100 on; 17- Oil of ___; 18- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 19- Comedian Carvey; 20- Closed; 22- ___ cholesterol; 23- Garden tool; 24- Establish; 25- Time spans; 29- Diplomatic; 33- Smart guy; 34- Poker declaration; 36- Designer Schiaparelli; 37- Moving vehicle; 38- Equipped; 39- Not at home; 40- Coup d'___; 42- Psychic; 43- Book after Jonah; 45- Associated; 47- Fetter; 49- Stephen of "The Crying Game"; 50- Modern art?; 51- A Simpson; 54- Young sprat; 60- Netman Nastase; 61- Sharp end; 62- River of Spain; 63- Fit snugly; 64- Small canyon; 65- Classic autos; 66- Frozen treats; 67- Hitching post?; 68- Mil. leaders;

DOWN: 1- Gator's kin; 2- Hawaiian city; 3- Yemen neighbor; 4- Mental; 5- Reasoned; 6- Be in front; 7- Out of work; 8- Watched warily; 9- PBS benefactor; 10- Member of the Girl Scouts; 11- Rent-___; 12- Course list?; 13- Dutch cheese; 21- Watch; 22- Brief instant; 24- Quartz grains; 25- Street machine; 26- Overjoy; 27- Kidney-related; 28- Brought into being; 29- Rows; 30- Assemblage of animals; 31- Customary; 32- Shop shaper; 35- Marseilles Mrs.; 38- In the Black?; 41- Goals; 43- Female horse; 44- Floating mass; 46- Driver's aid; 48- Seller of Stetsons; 51- Start of something small?; 52- One of the Baldwins; 53- Stand; 54- Fleece; 55- "Java" trumpeter; 56- Actress Swenson; 57- Busy as ___; 58- Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9; 59- Throw; 61- Links org.;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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One Central **HKD 16,500/mth**
Ref: 2106 1001 1,292 ft² 2 2

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"

Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**
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JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

WHAT is life worth? asks Washington lawyer Kenneth J. Feinberg (Michael Keaton) in the opening scenes of the based-on-a-true-story drama "Worth," while writing the question on a blackboard for a room full of law school students.

To Feinberg, it's not a trick question or a moral one. It's a calculation. There are legal parameters and predictions of future earning power that dictate the answer.

"The answer is a number," he says. "And that's the job"

In Sara Colangelo's "Worth," which premieres Friday on Netflix, Feinberg's formulas are dramatically tested in extraordinary tragedy. After Sept. 11, Feinberg is among those brought to Washington to advise on compensation for the families of the victims. The idea floated is that Congress, for the first time, should create a fund for the families affected. It's done partly out of genuine compassion for a horrific loss — "government-sponsored charity" as one calls it — and partly to avoid an avalanche of civil suits that could cripple the airline industry. It's national mourning plus business interests.

And it's that collision that Colangelo intelligently mines in "Worth," a somber procedural

AP PHOTO



Michael Keaton (left) and Stanley Tucci in a scene from "Worth"

DRIVE IN

IN 'WORTH,' WEIGHING THE PERSONAL LOSSES OF 9/11

about the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund that details the complicated messes that result when government bureaucracy meets human lives that aren't so neatly computed.

The movie is based on Feinberg's own thoughtful account of his experience, his 2005 book "What Is Life Worth?" Seeing a way to serve his country, Feinberg, a mediator who had resolved the Agent Orange class-action suit, took the job pro bono,

knowing full well that weighing the value of janitors alongside CEOs would be a thankless task. In "Worth," he takes a grateful call from President George W. Bush, who says he wouldn't wish the job on his worst enemy.

Feinberg has two years to figure out who deserves what.

Arriving almost exactly on the 20-year anniversary of Sept. 11, "Worth" is a well-acted, humanistic film that takes a humble path to a historical trauma. Capturing

how individual lives are shaped, warped and maybe manage to claw out something good in a dehumanizing bureaucracy might not seem the stuff of movies. (Though one of the great films, Akira Kurosawa's "To Live," does just that.) Yet "Worth" builds its case steadily, gently grappling with life and death, value and money in America. It doesn't go as deeply as it could into the moral implications of the entire enterprise. But Colangelo ("The Kinder-

garten Teacher") and screenwriter Max Borenstein (who has penned most of the recent "Godzilla" films) are attuned to the many soulful dimensions of the story.

Feinberg's principal opponent is Charlie Wolf (Stanley Tucci), a widower who vehemently disagrees with Feinberg's calculations. But everything that comes at Feinberg is an argument, in some form, that families don't fit formulas. His aim to bring an objective, clinical calculus to inherently personal and emotional losses is gradually ground down by the many family members that push their way through his door, including a Staten Island firefighter's widow (Laura Benanti, terrific).

But as good as the supporting cast is, Keaton holds the movie together. Like many of his best roles, it's a subtly smart performance resistant to the film's inclinations to sentimentality. A story about the victims of Sept. 11 maybe ought not to focus on a lawyer dispensing the cash. But Keaton — a truly great actor in his responsiveness to those around him — makes a compelling, initially tone-deaf listener to the stories that filter through "Worth."

"Worth," a Netflix release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for some strong language and thematic elements. Running time: 118 minutes. ★★★★★

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
馬保安 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 Isó de Azeredo
白穎怡 Icília 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:
張仲鴻 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



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Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 Sat: 9:00-13:00

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LIFESTYLE POST-MODERN CLASSIC

LUXURY watch manufacturer Armin Strom announced the launch of two new models of its ground-breaking Tribute 1. The brand's post-modern interpretation of the classic dress watch was introduced in June of this year in an edition limited to only 25 pieces, which sold out quickly. Watch aficionados who missed the opportunity to acquire the Tribute 1 First Edition in grey with an 18k white gold barrel bridge now have the chance to add one of the new models to their collections. The two references – one with a black dial and one with a blue dial – are available in limited editions of 100 each.



MORNING STUDIO, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST



Chinese Executive Chef Jackie Ho of Lai Heen, at The Ritz-Carlton, Macau



From left: Chef Olivier Elzer of L'Envol at The St. Regis Hong Kong and Chef de Cuisine Paul Lau of Tin Lung Heen at The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong

TASTE OF EDESIA

Untold stories of chefs

IRENE SAM, MDT

MARRIOTT BONVOY has recently launched a six-part video series, "Fueling the Culinary Fire," a special glimpse behind the scenes and inside the minds of the greatest Michelin-starred chefs in Hong Kong and Macau. From Chef de Cuisine Paul Lau of **Tin Lung Heen** at The Ritz-Carlton,

Hong Kong who has over 40 years of experience in establishing his authority in traditional Cantonese cuisine, to Chef Olivier Elzer of **L'Envol** at The St. Regis Hong Kong who earned his second Michelin star earlier this year, each episode explores how the chefs established their unique identities in the world of fine dining. With vivid cinematography and first-person nar-

ratives, the video series brings viewers into the world of Michelin star dining, and tells the stories behind the inspirations, passions and philosophies that have brought these chefs to the pinnacle of their professions. Chinese Executive Chef Jackie Ho of **Lai Heen**, at The Ritz-Carlton, Macau, reflects on his 40-year career working in Mainland China, Southeast Asia and

Europe, and believes that cooking is about the taste and feelings of dishes, which must be continuously improved and changing with the times. In conjunction with the campaign launch, guests can enjoy chef specialties for a limited time, such as the Double-boiled Fish Maw Soup with Conpoy and Blaze Mushroom from the Lai Heen Autumn Mushrooms Tasting Menu.

OPINION

China Daily

Zhao Manfeng, China Daily

AS WITH ALL THINGS, MODERATION IS KEY IN GAMING: TO THE POINT

It may be the best of times for the Chinese parents — and the worst of times for young video game players. On Monday, word spread the National Press and Publication Administration had released a document imposing restrictions on the weekly time a pupil can spend on video games.

According to the official notice, companies can only provide services to juveniles for one hour between 8 and 9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and other public holidays.

The new regulation, widely cheered by many adults online and off, will ban minors from playing online games entirely between Monday and Thursday.

The move reflects a longstanding concern about the impact of excessive gaming on the young, and represents an effort to protect the physical and mental health of minors.

In a survey released by the Beijing Juvenile Law Aid and Research Center in August, youths who indulged in video games can play as much as 10 hours a day, and many have no interest in studies or socializing after these marathon sessions.

It's not rare to see videogames trigger family arguments and cause broader social problems, due to distracting players from their school and family responsibilities.

In an extreme case, a 13-year old boy in Nantong, Jiangsu province died after he jumped from a fourth floor in September 2018. His mother vehemently condemned the game Player Unknown's Battlegrounds, saying the boy did so trying to see if he could survive like the characters in that game.

Video games are designed to be addictive — repeat customers are essential to any business, and game companies are no different. Children with poor impulse control or who have a hard time fitting in are most vulnerable to game addiction.

What's more, excessive screen time at a close distance is a proven contributor to myopia. This can also negatively affect sleep quality. Too much screen time also correlates with sloth and weight gain.

While there are definitely positives to video games, it might be important to remember bad habits have to start somewhere. Moderation is key, and young children should learn to control themselves and properly manage their time.

The regulation sounds a bit cruel to kids, but as the Chinese saying goes, good advice doesn't sound nice, and bitter medicine has effective results.

It is, of course, good for kids to cultivate good habits. But regulations are only one piece of the puzzle. Parents and teachers' efforts are also needed for supervision and education to protect minors from overindulging. They should suggest more healthy and productive activities that can cultivate the youths' passion for real life — in the real world.

WHO LAUNCHES HUB IN BERLIN TO HELP PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS

THE BUZZ

The World Health Organization inaugurated a new "hub" in Berlin that aims to help prepare the globe better to prevent future pandemics.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and German Chancellor Angela Merkel cut the ribbon to launch the new WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence. WHO says Germany is making an initial investment of \$100 million in the facility.

The hub is meant to promote more effective data collection, information-sharing and analysis, leading to better and more coherent decision-making after the patchy global response to the

COVID-19 pandemic. It will be headed by Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, currently the director-general of the Nigeria Center for Disease Control.

The COVID-19 pandemic "has taught the world many painful lessons," Tedros said. "One of the most clear is the need for new, powerful systems and tools for global surveillance to collect, analyze and disseminate data on outbreaks with the potential to become epidemics and pandemics."

Merkel emphasized that the information gathered by the new hub "should be shared with all countries."

RECORD BREAKER

RONALDO BECOMES HIGHEST SCORING MAN IN INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

CRISTIANO Ronaldo became the highest-scoring man in the international soccer history with his 110th goal for Portugal yesterday [Macau time].

The Portugal captain scored in the 89th minute against Ireland in a World Cup qualifier, moving ahead of former Iranian striker Ali Daei. He added a second — another header — minutes later in the 2-1 victory. Earlier in the game, he had a penalty saved in the 15th minute.

"I'm very happy, not only because I beat the record but for the special moments that we had," Ronaldo said. "Two goals at the end of the game is so tough, but I have to appreciate what the team did. We believed until the end."

The 36-year-old Ronaldo, who finalized his return to Manchester United on Tuesday after leaving Juventus, was playing in his 180th game for Portugal. The forward made his debut for the national team in 2003 and began his historic scoring run at the 2004 European Championship in a 2-1 loss to Greece in the group stage.

The only two men to net



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (right) celebrates after scoring his side's second goal

more than 100 times for their countries are Ronaldo and Daei, who scored 109 goals in 149 games for Iran from 1993-2006 and played for German clubs Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin.

The most prolific scorer in international soccer is 38-year-old Christine Sinclair of Canada, who scored her 187th goal at the Tokyo Olympics where she won gold last month.

Ronaldo, whose only title with Portugal came at Euro 2016, was top scorer at this year's European

Championship with five goals in four games but his team's title defense ended in the round of 16.

Ronaldo became the first player to score in five different editions of the continental tournament, taking his haul to 11 to overtake Michel Platini's record of nine goals at Euros.

Ronaldo is also the top scorer in the history of the Champions League with 134 goals — 14 more than Lionel Messi, according to UEFA. **MDT/AP**



Belarus The authoritarian leader of Belarus said that the country will soon receive a large batch of Russian weapons, including dozens of combat jets, helicopters and top-of-the-line air defense missile systems. President Alexander Lukashenko announced the expected acquisition as Russia and Belarus prepare to conduct joint war games starting next week that are set to involve about 200,000 troops.

German police carried out raids yesterday against biker groups in several western cities in connection with three killings. Tactical operations units and hundreds of regular officers conducted raids in Duisburg, Moenchengladbach, Leverkusen and Muelheim an der Ruhr, police said in a statement. German news agency dpa reported that at least 20 premises were searched.



Greece Hundreds of Greek health care workers, accompanied by ambulances with sirens blaring, marched through central Athens yesterday to protest regulations mandating coronavirus vaccines for anyone working in their sector. Under the regulation, which went into effect the day before, any health care worker who isn't vaccinated against COVID-19 or hasn't recovered from the disease within the last six months will be suspended from work without pay.

Italy Police outnumbered demonstrators at several of Italy's main train stations as COVID-19 vaccination or tests became mandatory Wednesday for long-distance travel within the country. Threats by some of the rule's opponents to block railroad tracks apparently fizzled. On the eve of the requirement's taking effect, Premier Mario Draghi's government had vowed to crack down on demonstrators who had called for their ranks to occupy tracks at around 50 stations to protest the measure, which they say impinges on their freedom of movement.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Eric Gay



Determination. Cyclists peddle through floodwaters caused by the effects of Hurricane Ida near the New Orleans Marina, earlier this week, in New Orleans.