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12 HONG KONG PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS PLEADED GUILTY YESTERDAY TO PARTICIPATING IN AN UNAUTHORIZED CANDLELIGHT VIGIL TO MARK JUNE 4

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ELECTIONS: CAEAL REMINDS PUBLIC OF NO-CAMPAIGN POLICY BY MIDNIGHT

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INDONESIA URGED THE TALIBAN TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND NOT ALLOW AFGHANISTAN TO BECOME A BREEDING GROUND FOR EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES

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Japan PM Yoshihide Suga announced it is extending a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and 18 other areas until the end of September as health care systems remain under severe strain, although new infections have slowed slightly. The current state of emergency, which was to end on Sunday, was issued first in Okinawa in May and gradually expanded. Despite the prolonged emergency, the largely voluntary measures have become less effective as the exhausted public increasingly ignores them.



North Korea Military search dogs and goose-stepping trainers. Health workers wearing gas masks and red hazmat suits. And a slimmed down, beaming Kim Jong Un in a cream-colored business suit. The parade marking North Korea's celebration of its 73rd anniversary was a marked departure from past militaristic displays, with a domestic audience worried about the pandemic likely in mind, according to South Korean intelligence.



Afghanistan's Taliban authorities will allow between 100 and 150 Westerners, including Americans, to fly out from Kabul in the coming hours, marking the airport's first such flight since U.S. forces withdrew from the country. The large group of foreigners would depart today on a Qatar Airways flight that had earlier ferried humanitarian aid to the country, said Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani, a Qatari special envoy. More on p7,8

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DIVERSIFICATION TIME ZONE

This morning, the Chief Executive will meet the press to detail the newly announced master plan for the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin - a great opportunity for diversification, says veteran international law expert Jorge Costa Oliveira in an exclusive interview with the Times

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MACAU OPENS BORDERS TO FOREIGNERS VIA HONG KONG

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COOPERATION ZONE

PROFESSOR CHEN GUANGHAN

THE PLANS FOR HENGQIN, QIANHAI IS TO SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF MACAU AND HONG KONG

THE plans of Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin and the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone have always been regarded as a major arrangement of China to enrich the practice of "one country, two systems".

It is said that the cooperation zone in Hengqin will be an important driving force for Macau's long-term development. And at the same time, Qianhai will play an exemplary and leading role in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

What key information do these two plans reveal? What positive impacts will they bring to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?

GToday interviewed Professor Chen Guanghan, the chief expert of the Institute of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies of Sun Yat-sen University. He shared some views about what these plans will bring to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- How will the two plans enrich the practice of "one country, two systems"?

Prof. Chen - At present, Hong Kong's economic development has some problems. Because Hong Kong's economy is overly dependent on finance and real estate, the industrial structure is not reasonable. In particular, housing problems and employment problems for young people are becoming prominent. In general, Hong Kong's economic development is not sustainable. Macau also has a serious problem with industrial structure. The gaming industry is too powerful.

New blood and fresh ideas should be introduced to invigorate both the economic developments of Hong Kong and Macau. In my opinion, the Development Plan for the

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and especially these two plans issued by China's central authorities, are mainly to solve these problems.

- What do you think about the breakthrough of the plan for building a Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin?

Prof. Chen - The plan for Hengqin has some hard-hitting content. For example, declaration procedures for outbound and inbound goods between Macau and the cooperation zone will be further simplified. Inbound and outbound travel will also become highly convenient. It's a significant policy change. In the plan, except for developing new industries, the cooperation zone will be constructed as a new home for Macau residents to live and work. It will surely be more integrated with Macau in many aspects, like legal system and infrastructure construction. It is indeed a new challenge. If it works out, the pattern of Hengqin could be promoted to Guangzhou and Shenzhen to promote further the integration of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau. In this way, the plan sets the goal for the zone to fully demonstrate the strong vitality and strength of "one country, two systems."

- How do you understand the positioning and significance of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone?

Prof. Chen - The construction of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone is an important initiative to support Hong Kong's economic and social development, enhance the level of cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau, and build a new pattern of opening up. According to the plan, Qianhai will advance the development of the modern service industry, promote free trade in services with Hong Kong and Macau, expand the opening-up of the financial sector, and promote high-level participation in international cooperation. In fact, all these actions help Hong Kong's economy better integrate into the overall development of our country.

In this sense, I think the future development of Qianhai has an all-around significance for China's reform. The plan was formulated to help Qianhai better play an exemplary and leading role in developing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. China's economic development has entered a new stage,

in which the domestic economic cycle plays a leading role while the international economic cycle remains its extension and supplement. Therefore, except for supporting the development of Hong Kong, Qianhai serves as an explorer of China's reform and open up for a new development pattern.

- How would Qianhai Cooperation Zone stimulate the development of Hong Kong's science and technology industry?

Prof. Chen - Qianhai has two important strategic positions: a new experimental platform for comprehensively deepening reform and innovation, and the other is a high-level opening-up gateway hub. From my point of view, the high-tech industry is promising to be the new driver of Hong Kong's economic growth. In that case, it is not enough to do some research and publish some papers in universities, whilst leaving the industrialization of scientific research achievements to only happen in cities in Guangdong.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in Lok Ma Chau is a demonstration base for cooperation among the top high-tech companies, R&D institutions, and universities, prioritizing the development of six key areas, including medical technology and big data, and artificial intelligence. But this is only an innovation chain. I think Hong Kong still needs an industrial chain. For example, Hong Kong can develop some high-end manufacturing industries to complement scientific research and innovation, attracting many enterprises to Hong Kong. In addition, there are taxation, channels, and price advantages for Hong Kong to enter the international market and the mainland market. Bright prospects are waiting for Hong Kong. **MDT/NEWSGD**



"HK's economic development is not sustainable. Macau also has a serious problem with industrial structure. The gaming industry is too powerful."

PAULO COUTINHO

JORGE Costa Oliveira, a veteran expert in international law is hopeful about the materialization of the "Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin," (GMICZH) because all sides "have much to gain" from its development.

Oliveira's Legislative Affairs Office led the legislative works on the transition of Macau in the legal fields; later on, he was the strategist and creator of Macau's legal framework on gaming law.

In an exclusive email interview, the former vice-minister of Portugal highlights the 'once in a lifetime' set of opportunities that this plan offers for the development of Luso-Chinese cooperation.

Oliveira, who currently owns and manages an international business consultancy firm, sees potential in several industry clusters to be developed in the 106 square km cooperation area in Hengqin, mentioning high-tech industries, digital trade and financial services as key sectors for the long-sought goal of diversifying the Macau economy.

An 'enlarged' territory, seamless connections, facilitating the flow of people and goods, preferential status for local people and companies, are other advantages the plan presents in meeting that goal.

Although "most of Macau's main problems are not linked to the size of its territory...", says Oliveira, "the economic and business opportunities in Hengqin will undoubtedly help solve problems and shortcomings arising from territorial limitations. The assumption that the Cooperation Zone will be 'a new space for Macau residents to live and work' may reduce accommodation costs for Macau families and office space expenses for companies."

The correspondence started with his highly qualified reflections on the imbroglio in the legal system for which he suggests a step-by-step, field by field approach.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Let's start with the "head"; a dual administration, with the top executives of Guangdong and Macau heading a committee to manage the zone. How do you see this working?

Jorge Costa Oliveira (JCO) - A dual administration seems to be the only reasonable way to handle

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INTERVIEW | JORGE COSTA OLIVEIRA

COOPERATION ZONE

Hengqin-Macau: Legislation should be implemented 'field by field, subject by subject'



the joint management of the GMICZH. A strong cooperation and articulation between the Macau SAR and the Guangdong Provincial governments is necessary since decisions on major plans, major policies, major projects, and major personnel appointments to the Cooperation Zone will be jointly taken. I expect it to work well since both sides have much to gain from the development of this Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

MDT - The plan talks of the intention to establish step by step a civil and commercial regulatory system. Is this to be a new law, a kind of a new jurisdiction? A "common law"?

JCO - It is necessary to ponder carefully what should be done in terms of the regulatory system. First, it depends on how one envisages the evolution of the Cooperation Zone. If the Cooperation Zone – mainly set up to facilitate the diversification of Macau's economy – is to become autonomous in the future, then it may make sense to have its own regulatory system; if it is to be gradually "merged" with the Macau SAR, then it is not necessary to have its own legal regulatory system. The Macau SAR legal system belongs to the Romano-Germanic family; this type of legal system is applied all over the EU, in Japan, South Korea, and many countries around the world and is good for the development of a sound and proper legal and regulatory system in civil and commercial matters. Laws and regulations are the main source of law, judicial precedent either does not exist or is not very relevant as a source of law. "Common law" does not match

a Macau-type of legal regulatory system. I think that this guideline should be implemented as follows - field by field, subject by subject, the legislator should search for the most advanced and adequate comparative legislation and adapt it for the Cooperation Zone policy in said field or subject, in such terms that are easy to articulate with the Macau legal system. To a large extent, this is how most relevant legislation in Macau has been made since the 90s.

MDT - The zone will be administered separately by "subzone and category." Can we speculate that there will be subzones under the MSAR jurisdiction, a desire expressed by Ho Iat Seng (to deploy "more Macaus" in Hengqin) or this master plan puts an end to that aspiration?

JCO - It all depends on how one envisages the evolution of the Cooperation Zone. If the Cooperation Zone gradually becomes more and more integrated with Macau's economy, it makes sense that gradually new "tiers" of Hengqin be allocated to Macau. This probably will be in everyone's interest since the autonomy that the Macau SAR enjoys is not easily replicated, even in adjacent areas.

MDT - On the other hand, the master plan for the GMICZH highlights that this development will strengthen and consolidate the "One Country, Two Systems" formula. How do you read this?

JCO - Notwithstanding the traditional difficulty in diversifying Macau's economy, the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" and this "Master Plan

of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin" are extraordinary opportunities for Macau that go way beyond what one could expect. Macau's autonomy and its second system will not remain unchanged just because that is enshrined in treaties and laws. It will endure because it is useful for China and China's development. The second system autonomy not only grants Macau residents a continuity in their way of life but is quite useful for the country's development. The Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is a good example of how China's decision makers perceive Macau's usefulness – Macau is useful for China because it is different, and that is asserted and reiterated time and again in this Master Plan.

MDT - Which areas, within the scope given by the master plan, benefit Macau's own interests?

JCO - The areas mentioned in the "Development of Scientific and Technological Research and High-end Manufacturing Industries" are impressive - integrated circuits, electronic components, new materials, new energy, big data, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), biomedicine industries, specialized chip design, testing and inspection, Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6), the Fifth Generation Mobile Communication (5G), and the next generation of Internet industry cluster. Let us hope it is possible to attract companies and start-ups in these fields.

To establish "an international hub port for digital trade, to facilitate transformation from tradi-

tional trade to digital trade" also offers Macau great potential for new business.

The development of Macau branded industries is interesting but will take time.

As regards the development of a "modern financial industry" there are some suggestions that are very interesting, but their implementation should be further and judiciously discussed.

MDT - Can the finance industry in this zone grow enough to compete with gaming, and become another 'pillar' of the local economy?

JCO - Macau has potential to cultivate a financial industry. So, in principle there should be no need for the Hengqin Cooperation Zone to establish a financial services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. Yet, albeit the mandate to move in this direction has existed since the end of 2016, the time taken to develop a strategy or plan for a platform of financial services in Macau, along with the local difficulties in creating the legal regulatory framework, is probably what lies behind the decision to establish a financial services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Hengqin. This said, both sectors can grow in parallel. It will take time until the point at which the finance industry has grown

to become another 'pillar' of the local economy. But I see no reason for any of them to obstruct the other. And it is good for Macau and Macau residents to have other industries so as to avoid depending so much on gaming.

MDT - In China gambling is prohibited. Is the gaming industry in Macau at any peril?

JCO - Gaming in Macau, as an important component of the tourism and entertainment industries, is implicitly protected by

Article 118 of Macau's Basic Law. Until at least 2049 I do not think this will be an issue.

MDT - Will this "rapid integration" contribute, as some critics say, to the dilution of Macau and its way of life? Does the Communist leadership of China really want to retain the difference? Does it see it as an advantage?

JCO - It is well known that Macau's economy has gradually become more integrated with that of the Mainland. Yet, it is not inevitable that it leads to a dilution of Macau's way of life. This Master Plan mentions several times "the Hengqin-Macau integrated development" but functionalizes it for Macau's long-term prosperity and stability. The document underlines "the advantages of "Two systems" and the "advantages of Macau as a free port".

MDT - Finally, how would this give the much-needed impetus to Forum Macau's mission?

JCO - Before this "Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin," the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" had already set in place ways to enhance the relevance of the Macau Forum. In particular, the establish-

ment in Macau of a China-Lusophone countries' platform of financial services. But the Macau Forum is an institutional entity that has limited scope. We should not expect the Macau Forum to be able to cover all fields, namely tasks that were never part of its original purpose, especially related to the entrepreneurial sector. That opens possibilities for new mechanisms, and more cooperation between different types of entities from China and Lusophone countries.



"The legislator should search for the most advanced and adequate comparative legislation and adapt it for the Cooperation Zone policy in said field or subject."

GAMING TAX COLLECTIONS ONLY 44% OF GOAL BY MID-YEAR

Macau SAR's tax revenue from the gaming industry stood at only MOP22.2 billion in July this year, representing just 44% of the MOP50 billion estimate for 2021. The government's current budget plan for the fiscal year aims to gather some MOP50 billion from gaming revenue, which requires the city to collect nearly MOP4.2 billion in taxes per month. However the city recorded a downturn in August GGR due to the Delta cases that led to border restrictions, only recording MOP4.44 billion in revenues, down 46.4% from the prior month.

ALVIN CHAO SELLS STAKE IN SUN INTERNATIONAL

Casino mogul Alvin Chao has sold his entire stake in Sun International for just over USD9 million, according to a report issued by Inside Asian Gaming. First Cheer is a company jointly held by the Suncity Group CEO and Sun chairman Cheng Ting Kong. First Cheer has agreed to sell an aggregate of 1,435,009,040 sale shares, representing approximately 62.82% of the total issued share capital of the company, to Fresh Success Investments. The consideration for the sale shares is HKD143.5 million, equivalent to HKD0.10 per sale share.

RED PANDA TONG TONG PASSES AWAY

Tong Tong, Macau's red panda, passed away Wednesday at the age of eight after a short illness, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has announced. Tong Tong lived at the Seac Pai Van park since 2016. She started to lose her appetite at the beginning of the month. The IAM said that it had consulted experts from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding for a medical treatment plan. The bureau said it suspects that her death was caused by a tumor, and will conduct an autopsy to confirm the cause of her death.

GBA ACCOUNTING FIRMS, GROUPS SIGN STRATEGIC AGREEMENT

A strategic development agreement was signed by a number of accounting firms in the Greater Bay Area to facilitate sharing of trade information, convenient cooperation, intellectual exchange between people, and exploration of businesses and technical collaborations. The agreement was signed by 83 firms in Guangdong, 53 in Hong Kong and 15 in Macau, as well as industry groups from the three jurisdictions. A signing ceremony was held recently in all three jurisdictions, with all venues connected by video conference. Lei Wai Nong, Secretary for Economy and Finance, hinted that obstacles must be overcome to achieve greater integration between accounting professionals in the three jurisdictions.

ELECTIONS2021

CAEAL REMINDS PUBLIC OF NO-CAMPAIGN POLICY THIS WEEKEND

ANTHONY LAM

NO election campaigning, whether direct or indirect, may take place this coming Saturday and Sunday pursuant to the law, the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) reiterated in a statement yesterday.

The commission also noted that, according to the guideline No. 1/CAEAL/2021, all campaign material, information and posters must be retrieved by midnight on September 10.

Any campaign materials that have been on display or distributed in private venues must be removed prior to midnight on September 10. The requirement applies in both online and offline spaces.

According to the CAEAL, material that expressly or implicitly suggests that voters



vote or not vote for a particular candidate or list of candidates should be removed.

Additionally, on both days, nobody should wear any clothing, accessories, masks or other items with the number, logo or acronym of any can-

didate list, or the name of any candidate.

The CAEAL stressed that this may constitute illegal campaigning.

Nonetheless, the color of face masks will not be a concern. The CAEAL conceded

that masks of various colors exist and it is normal for masks of various colors to be worn on the two days.

A signboard or banner posted at the election headquarters and each branch may remain. Material posted on designated boards by the CAEAL will also be allowed to remain.

While the CAEAL says that casting blank ballots is not against the law in Macau, Tong Hio Fong, president of the CAEAL, hopes that voters will use their votes wisely.

Noting that the city may be affected by a typhoon over the weekend, Tong confirmed that the CAEAL is closely monitoring the situation. The election may be postponed if typhoon signal No. 8 or an orange (or more severe) rainstorm warning is issued.

Contingencies will be announced by 6 p.m. tomorrow.

GOV'T PLEDGES TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN HENGQIN PROJECT

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice Andre Cheong pledged that the SAR government will work with Guangdong province to create a "stabilized situation of win-win cooperation, fully implement various tasks, and jointly build and develop the Hengqin in-depth cooperation zone."

Cheong represented the SAR, via a conference call, at a press conference in Beijing regarding the development of Hengqin and Qianhai, held by the State Council Information Office.

During the event, he emphasized that the government has continuously supported innovation and entrepreneurship among Macau's youth in Hengqin, and continued to provide young people with better employment, opportunities, and good living conditions in the cooperation zone.

"The SAR government will study and issue support for the development of Macau youth in the cooperation zone, and promote support policies for Guangdong and Macau for the local youth [in



a bid] to provide Macau youths with more employment options and more talents," he said.

Cheong also added

that, as far as cooperation goes, the SAR government will focus on studying and understanding the policy direction of the in-depth

cooperation zone construction, so as to lay the foundation for follow-up work.

The government also pledged to fully cooperate with Guangdong province to "form a strong synergy and jointly create a good situation of win-win cooperation."

The Secretary added that the task list will be broken down, departmental responsibilities will be clarified, and various tasks will be fully implemented to build and develop the Hengqin cooperation zone. **LV**

JAPANESE DEPARTMENT CHAIN STORE DEBUTS

LOCATED at a prime residential estate in Fai Chi Kei District, a Japanese department store chain opened its doors in Macau for the first time yesterday morning.

The store covers a floor area of 1,776 square meters and will operate 24 hours a day.

Set up in Tokyo, Japan in September 1980 by Takao Yasuda as Just Co., the chain store initially focused on retail but switched to wholesale in two years. The brand opened its first Don Quijote store in Tokyo in 1989.

Don Don Donki is the brand's store concept designed for the Southeast Asian market. It identifies as a Japanese specialty store, although they do not restrict their stock to food items and sell products ranging from cosmetic goods to household products.

Following the store's model at home, the Macau premiere store sells various products imported from Japan, such as foods, fruits, sushi and sashimi, ready-to-eat meals and pet products.

For example, the store

boasts its frozen eel teriyaki product. A store representative told the media that the fish is both grown and processed in Japan, in contrast to some products for which one or both aspects of production take place outside of Japan.

In the early phase of the store's launch, few whole fish will be featured in the chilled seafood section. At the media preview, the store displayed only sea bream and snapper. However, store representative said in future

more fish would be sold.

Moreover, the store sells several varieties of vegetables. It highlights sweet potatoes from Japan, which the store representative described as easy to cook.

The store also boasts several exclusive products, such as a series of cup noodles sold only in Macau, special-flavored potato chips co-produced with Nissin Noodle Company, and two flavors of vegan instant noodles, which contain no animal products in the manufacturing process. **AL**





ANTHONY LAM

COVID-19

CERTAIN foreigners who have been in Hong Kong for at least 21 days will be allowed to enter Macau by application and with several conditions, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced yesterday.

These people must not have been to any other places except mainland China, Macau or Hong Kong in the 21 days prior to their application date.

The new measure will commence with applications opening on September 15. The first group of approved applicants will enter Macau on September 20 at the earliest.

Applicants above age 12 must present proof of full vaccination or a medical certificate showing that they are medically unable to be vaccinated. Upon arrival, all permitted entrants will need to show a negative Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction test result and will be quarantined centrally for 14 days.

Applicants in categories three and four – family members and those participating in important activities – must have their application initiated by a family member or the activity organizers in Macau, respectively. Applications can be submitted via the Health Bureau's website.

Chief Executive Carrie

Gov't to allow foreign entrants from Hong Kong to Macau

Lam of Hong Kong announced this Tuesday the Come2HK scheme, under which arrivals from Macau will be permitted to enter Hong Kong without quarantine on arrival.

Questions on the matter were raised at the regular health press briefing yesterday.

Lei Tak Fai, head of the Public Relations Division of the Public Security Police Force, said that the authority does not yet have many details which can be released to the public. He added that, as per information publicly available, it is just a "plan, and the Hong Kong government has said that it will announce further details."

Given that it is a policy of Hong Kong, Lei suggested the public stay tuned for further announcements from the Hong Kong government.

Asked whether returnees from Hong Kong on the Come2HK scheme will be quarantined upon arrival in Macau – a hot topic among the public – Lei said that, as per current health measures, they will be quarantined when they re-enter Macau.

On whether Macau will have a similar plan to boost interactions within the Greater Bay Area, Leong reiterated that Macau will follow mainland China's lead on disease prevention and control measures, given the many interactions between the city and mainland China's low-risk areas.

On the possibility of a third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, the Health Bureau reiterated that more scientific data is needed before they can decide whether or not this is beneficial. Also, no authorities have officially permitted a third dose.

MOTHER OF FAMILY NOW IN RECOVERY QUARANTINE

The mother of the family of four diagnosed with Covid-19 in early August has recovered and was released from the public Conde de São Januário Hospital yesterday, Dr Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the hospital, announced yesterday.

Aged 43 years, she is the 63rd patient diagnosed with the disease in Macau, and now is the 62nd recovered patient. She is now in

the Public Health Clinical Center for recovery quarantine. If all goes well, she will return to the community on October 7.

Tai said that during her hospitalization she experienced fever, headache and mild loss of her senses of taste and smell. She developed pneumonia

during the onset of her disease but no signs of it have been detected recently.

Her husband is still hospitalized but her two children are now also in recovery quarantine.

When questioned about who will take care of the two teens, who are set to finish quarantine earlier

than their mother, Tai responded that the Health Bureau is in touch with the Social Welfare Bureau. If the family has a need for childcare services, the latter bureau will offer assistance.

In addition, Tai added they have relatives who can take care of them.

AD

Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin



Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

Overview

Innovative System

Guangdong and Macao will jointly form an administrative committee of the Cooperation Zone.

- The administrative committee is run under a dual director system, jointly led by the Governor of Guangdong Province and the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

An executive committee will be set up under the administrative committee.

- The person-in-charge will be appointed by the MSAR Government.

Guangdong and Macao will establish a proceeds sharing mechanism for the Cooperation Zone.

Matching and docking of regulations and mechanisms.

- Civil and commercial affairs regulatory system matches with those of Macao and aligns with international criteria.

Construct a new high-standard and open system that integrates with Macao.

- Goods movements under the "first-tier" relaxing administration and the "second-tier" strict customs control.
- Facilitate convenient inbound and outbound travel for persons.
- Implement favourable income tax rates.
- Innovative cross-border monetary control.
- Establish a high-level market access facilitation system.
- Promote safe and orderly cross-border flows of worldwide Internet data.



Master Plan (full version)



Corresponding Contents

FOREIGNERS SHOULD FIT INTO ONE OF THE FIVE PERMITTED CATEGORIES:

- Those possessing a permit of stay issued by a competent Macau authority.
- Those possessing a non-resident worker condition or an endorsement of entry for work purposes issued by a competent Macau authority, as well as their family members who possess a permit of stay issued by a competent Macau authority.
- Spouses or immediate family members of Macau residents.
- Those entering Macau for the purpose of participating in important business, academic or professional activities.
- Students who have been admitted by a Macau higher education institution.

HONG KONG

ACTIVISTS PLEAD GUILTY OVER UNAUTHORIZED VIGIL

A dozen Hong Kong pro-democracy activists pleaded guilty yesterday to participating in an unauthorized candlelight vigil to mark Beijing's crackdown in Tiananmen Square.

The 12 were charged with participating in the unauthorized assembly in Victoria Park on June 4 last year, when thousands of Hong Kongers turned up to light candles and sing songs despite police warnings that they may be breaking the law. Seven of the 12 were also charged with inciting others to take part in the assembly.

Authorities have banned the vigils for the past two years, citing public health risks due to the pandemic, although critics believe the ban is part of an ongoing crackdown on dissent in the semiautonomous Chinese territory following months of anti-government protests in 2019.



Simon Leung Kam-wai (center), a committee member of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, is escorted by police

Prior to the ban, the candlelight vigil event held on June 4 every year was attended by massive crowds and was the only large-scale public commemoration on Chinese soil of the 1989 crackdown in Beijing.

Those who pleaded guilty include lawyer Albert Ho, former lawmaker Eddie Chu and Figo Chan, a former leader of the Civil

Human Rights Front which was known for organizing large-scale pro-democracy rallies in the city.

The 12 are expected to enter mitigation pleas. They face up to five years in prison.

They are part of a larger group of activists who were arrested over the June 4 assembly. Some of them, including jailed Apple Daily

founder Jimmy Lai, have pleaded not guilty.

Prominent activist Joshua Wong and three others who were also charged over the June 4 vigil had previously pleaded guilty in April and were given prison sentences of between 4 to 10 months.

Separately, national security police yesterday raided the closed June 4 museum in Hong Kong, a day after four core members of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China were arrested.

The alliance organizes the annual June 4 vigil and runs the museum each year.

This year's museum was closed three days after it opened to visitors following an investigation by authorities over its lack of appropriate licences. The alliance was later fined 8,000 (\$1,000) Hong Kong dollars. MDT/AP

TAIWAN

TSAI COMMISSIONS DOMESTIC-MADE NAVAL WARSHIP

TAIWAN'S leader oversaw the commissioning of a new domestically made navy warship yesterday as part of the island's plan to boost indigenous defense capacity amid heightened tensions with China.

Tsai Ing-wen spoke at a naval base in Su'ao, on the island's east coast, saying the ship "proves that on the path to becoming independent in national defense, no matter what difficulties arise, we can overcome them one by one."

The ship known as the Ta Jiang and nicknamed a "carrier killer" was built by Lung Teh Shipbuilding Co., a Taiwanese company. The ship is designed to have air defense capabilities and can carry anti-ship missiles.

It is the first of six of its kind that will be commissioned by the navy.

Tsai has made boosting Taiwan's domestic defense industry a priority. She has pushed the military aviation industry with the production of new trainer jets and called for the development of more sophisticated systems by utilizing the island's high-tech industries.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian noted Tsai's commissioning of the warship, saying "there is no way out for Taiwan's separatist forces to use military means to confront the mainland." MDT/AP

AD



MACAO FILMOGRAPHY
Presented by Maxim Bessmertny

britcham @ Artyzen Grand Lapa - Thursday 30 Sept. 2021

Join Maxim Bessmertny as he shares the development of his debut film set in the unique East meets West universe of Macao. The film is entitled 'Fai Di' [The Lost Painting] and it follows a painter who loses his client's painting in the taxi and goes on a desperate search for it through Macao (based on a true incident). The project has raised over half of its required production budget and aims to complete funding by end of October for an early year shoot. It will be the first fully privately financed, fully localized independent feature film aimed at the global movie market.

Maxim is a director, screenwriter and producer making award winning short films for the past 10 years. Maxim's narrative short film 'Tricycle Thief' was the first Macao made short film to have its World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, going on to win numerous awards including the Kodak Gold Award. Maxim's mystery thriller screenplay entitled "Foreign Cop" was selected by the Torino Film Lab to take part in its extended workshops and the Cannes Film Market Fantastic 7 Genre pitching competition last year.



Brews & Buzz Evening
Date: 30 Sep 2021 (THU)
Venue: Vasco Bar - Artyzen Grand Lapa Macao

Time:
1830: Registration
1900: Presentation, Brews & Buzz
2100: Close

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ADVERTORIAL



Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne (second left) and Defense Minister Peter Dutton (rear left) walk with their Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi (right) and Prabowo Subianto (rear right)

Indonesia, Australia urge Taliban to respect rights of women

NINIEK KARMINI, JAKARTA

THE foreign minister of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, urged the Taliban yesterday to respect the rights of women and not allow Afghanistan to become a breeding ground for extremist activities.

Retno Marsudi made the comments after meeting with Australia's foreign and defense ministers, who are visiting Jakarta to bolster security ties.

Marsudi said Indonesia is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and hopes the country will not be used as "a breeding and training ground for terrorist organizations and activities that threaten peace and stability in the region."

On Tuesday, the Taliban announced an all-male interim government that includes many veterans of their hard-line rule in the 1990s and 20-year battle against U.S.-led forces.

Indonesia has suffered a series of militant attacks since bombings on the tourist island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreigners, including 88 Australians. The Bali bombings were blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network.

In the following decade, Indonesian security forces backed by the U.S. and Australia crushed Jemaah Islamiyah, killing leaders and bomb makers and arresting hundreds of militants. But a new threat has emerged in recent years from Islamic State group sympathizers, including Indonesians who traveled to the Middle East to fight with the group.

Marsudi and her Australian counterpart, Marise Payne, urged the Taliban to respect and promote human rights, especially those of women and girls.

"Indonesia has a significant role to play as a Muslim country with a strong voice on these issues," Payne said in a joint video news conference with Marsudi, Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton and Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto.

Payne and Dutton arrived in Jakarta on Wednesday for the first of a series of meetings with foreign and defense ministers in Indonesia, India, South Korea and the United States to underscore Australia's role in the Indo-Pacific region, where China's influence and military power are growing.

Their trip will also prepare for Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit to Washington, D.C., later this month to meet with U.S., Indian and Japanese leaders in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.

China has called the so-called Quad an attempt to contain its ambitions.

Payne described the Indo-Pacific region as the most dynamic, innovative and prosperous in the world.

"To maintain that prosperity and security, we welcome a region that supports a level playing field based on rules and norms to ensure healthy competition, rather than competition that risks sliding into instability or conflict," she said.

The four ministers agreed to cooperate in defense, cybertechnology and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

Surging infections have strained Indonesia's healthcare system as it struggles to roll out vaccinations. Australia has provided it with 1 million vaccine doses, 1,000 ventilators and more than 800 oxygen concentrators and cylinders. **MDT/AP**

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Integrated Talent Development Programme Welcomes New Cohort

Customised programme targets management professionals

A new group of 60 Sands China team members recently began the nine-month Sands China Integrated Talent Development Programme, after attending an opening ceremony at M.U.S.T. last month.

The programme debuted in 2019 after being custom-tailored in conjunction with M.U.S.T. for Sands China's management professionals. This new group of team members is the second to join the programme, following the success of the first cohort.

The management training initiative combines practical and sustainable learning approaches and is facilitated by distinguished academics from across Asia. It aims to enhance the management quality of Sands China's management team members and nurture them as future leaders.

Participating team members develop innovative management strategies, which they then implement at work at the end of the programme. The process requires them to engage in a number of cross-departmental projects, which in turn helps them obtain operational insight across various business divisions within an integrated resort environment.

Sean McCreery, Sands China's senior vice president of resort operations, said: "Sands China believes that ongoing learning and development is instrumental to the success of any organisation, so we are very pleased to continue this programme. It is designed to elevate the concept of leadership development within an integrated resort, and it creates opportunities for professional growth and development across many key areas of the business. We hope this innovative programme continues to help build the talent pool for both the company and the integrated resort sector in Macao, in contribution to the city's further development as a world centre of tourism and leisure."

Up to 60 Management professionals from various departments are participating in this second round of the programme after being identified as the company's future generation of leadership. The training aims to empower them to contribute to the company's success through their actions on a daily basis.

Sands China views its team members as its greatest asset and delivered more than 1.48 million training hours to team members and Macao locals in 2020 alone, with training content stretching across 20 different programmes.



9/11

Pentagon chief says al-Qaida may seek comeback in Afghanistan



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin (left) and Qatari Defense Minister Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah

ROBERT BURNS,
KUWAIT CITY

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said yesterday the al-Qaida extremist group that used Afghanistan as a staging base to attack United States 20 years ago may attempt to regenerate there following an American withdrawal that has left the Taliban in power.

Austin spoke to a small group of reporters in Kuwait City at the conclusion of a four-day tour of Persian Gulf states. He said the United States is prepared to prevent an al-Qaida comeback in Afghanistan that would threaten the United States.

"The whole community is kind of watching to see what happens and whether or not al-Qaida has the ability to regenerate in Afghanistan," he said. "The nature of al-Qaida and (the Islamic State group) is they will always attempt to find space to grow and regenerate, whether it's there, whether it's in Somalia, or whether it's in any other un-governed space. I think that's the nature of the organization."

The Taliban had provided al-Qaida with sanctuary while it ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. The U.S. invaded and overthrew the Taliban after it refused to turn over al-Qaida leaders

following the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the United States. During the course of the 20-year U.S. war, al-Qaida was vastly diminished, but questions have arisen about its future prospects with the Taliban back in Kabul.

"We put the Taliban on notice that we expect them to not allow that to happen," Austin said, referring to the possibility of al-Qaida using Afghanistan as a staging base in the future.

In a February 2020 agreement with the Trump administration, Taliban leaders pledged not to support al-Qaida or other extremist groups that would threaten the United States. But U.S. officials believe the Taliban maintain ties to al-Qaida, and many nations, including Gulf Arab states, are concerned that the Taliban's return to power could open the door to a resurgence of al-Qaida influence.

Austin has asserted that the U.S. military is capable of containing al-Qaida or any other extremist threat to the United States emanating from Afghanistan by using surveillance and strike aircraft based elsewhere, including in the Persian Gulf. He also has acknowledged that it will be more difficult without U.S. troops and intelligence teams based in Afghanistan.

Austin and Secretary of

State Antony Blinken appeared together in Qatar on Tuesday in a show of U.S. gratitude for that Gulf state's help with the transit of tens of thousands of Afghans and others evacuated from Kabul. Blinken also visited an evacuee transit site in Germany, and Austin visited Bahrain and Kuwait.

Together, the Austin and Blinken trips were meant to reassure Gulf allies that President Joe Biden's decision to end the U.S. war in Afghanistan in order to focus more on other security challenges like China and Russia does not foretell an abandonment of U.S. partners in the Middle East. The U.S. military has had a presence in the Gulf for decades, including the Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain. Biden has not suggested ending that presence, but he — like the Trump administration before him — has called China the No. 1 security priority, along with strategic challenges from Russia.

Austin, a retired Army general, has a deep network of contacts in the Gulf region based in part on his years commanding U.S. and coalition troops in Iraq and later as head of U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East. This week's trip, however, was his first to the Gulf since taking office in

January.

Austin had been scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia on Thursday as the final stop on his Gulf tour. But on Wednesday evening his spokesman, John Kirby, announced that the visit had been dropped due to "scheduling issues." Kirby offered no further explanation but said Austin looked forward to rescheduling.

Austin indicated that his visit was postponed at the Saudis' request. "The Saudis have some scheduling issues; I can't speak to exactly what they were," he said.

The Saudi stop notably was to happen two days before the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people. Fifteen of the men who hijacked commercial airliners and crashed them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001 were Saudis, as was Osama bin Laden, whose al-Qaida network plotted the attack from its base in Afghanistan. The attack prompted the U.S. invasion that became a 20-year war in Afghanistan.

U.S. relations with the Saudi government have been strained at times in the intervening years. In 2018, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman oversaw an unprecedented crackdown against activists, rivals and perceived critics. The year culminated in the gruesome killing of Washington Post contributing columnist and dissident Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in the Saudi Consulate in Turkey.

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden directed the declassification of certain documents related to the 9/11 attacks, a gesture to victims' families who have long sought the records in hopes of implicating the Saudi government. Public documents released in the last two decades, including by the 9/11 Commission, have detailed numerous Saudi entanglements but have not proved government complicity.

The Saudi government denies any culpability. MDT/AP

this day in history



1963 AMERICAN EXPRESS COMES TO BRITAIN



American Express, one of the world's largest banking houses, has opened a credit card service in Britain.

Holders of the cards will be able to use them at nearly 3,000 hotels, restaurants, shops and hire-car agencies in this country and at more than 83,000 establishments abroad. The cards can also be used to obtain travel tickets.

This move by American Express is bound to give a powerful boost to the idea of credit cards in Britain, which have not, so far, spread very far.

Until now, American Express card holders have been able to use their cards in this country, but only if they could settle their accounts in dollars.

There will be an annual fee of £3 12s, but supplementary cards can be obtained at half price for immediate family members. Companies can also apply for cards and issue them to members of staff.

Customers use the card to pay for goods on credit. American Express then issues a monthly bill which covers all outstanding charges on the account.

The Bank of England has given permission for the scheme to go ahead - on condition users do not spend more than £75 on any one item purchased abroad.

American Express Vice President Maxwell Elliot said the people most likely to take up the new card would be managers and sales executives earning £2,000 a year or more.

He rejected suggestions the new scheme would be open to fraud and also said he expected little competition. Diners Club is the only other company operating a similar credit scheme.

Mr Elliot said: "There is only one (competitor) known to me and that covers about 2,000 hotels in this country alone. More than 83,000 establishments around the world now honour the American Express card."

Credit cards have been available in Britain since 1951 when Donald McCullough launched Finders Services after a trip to the United States. It merged with another company, Credit Card Services, to become Diners' Club last year.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Diners Club was the first universal credit card, introduced in the United States in 1950. It became the first major credit card company in Britain in 1962 formed from the merger of Finders Services and Credit Card Facilities.

American Express was the next big company to launch into the credit business in 1958.

A report in the Financial Times in 1965 said the average Diners Club card holder was 41, male and married with a family, earning well over £3,000 a year as a senior commercial or business executive.

Switch and Visa debit cards were introduced in the 1980s. Customers use the cards for payment of goods and the money is directly debited from their account. The cards can also be used to withdraw money from cashpoint machines and they act as cheque guarantee cards.

The Credit Card Research Group carried out a survey in 2001 and found there were 62 million credit cards in circulation in the UK, with many people owning more than one.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Friday's skies see you taking things to the next level intimacy-wise as lover Venus departs from peace-keeping Libra and enters into honesty-first Scorpio.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Venus' time here works to strengthen existing relationships if committed and attract new romantic opportunities if single and looking now through October 7.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Venus' presence here works to attract new opportunities to your current work environment, making it an ideal time to send out applications or connect with authorities in your field.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Venus' time here works to re-invigorate creative passion projects and bring an enriching boost to your sex life. Let yourself prioritize pleasure; you've earned it.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Venus' time here works to strengthen family bonds and beautify your current home environment. Now's the best time of year for redecorating and patching up shaky parental bonds.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Friday's skies bring you some much-needed mental alleviation, Virgo. Sweetener Venus departs from her stay in logical Libra and slinks forward into sensual Scorpio, where she remains until October 7.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
The universe is demanding some major changes from you today, Libra. In order to figure out what needs release and renewal, you'll need to look deep into your family history and early upbringing.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Venus' time here works to magnetize others to you like a moth to the flame! Now is the best time of year for refreshing your appearance and self-pampering.

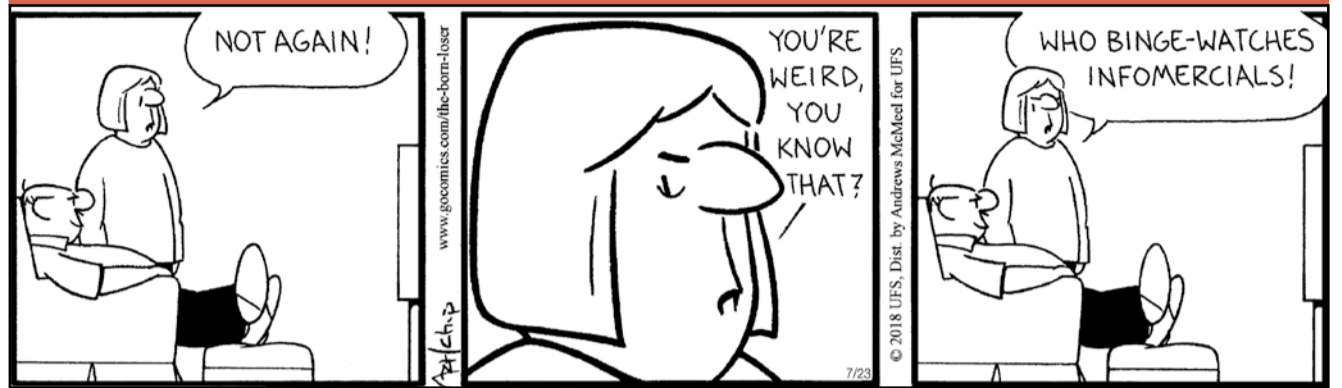
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A soft stillness and desire for reflection seem to slow your pace today. Lover Venus departs from social-butterfly Libra and saunters forward into deep-feeling Scorpio, where she remains until October 7.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Venus' time here works to attract new social contacts and community connections while sweetening existing bonds among your friend group.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Venus' stay here marks the best time of year for launching projects, seeking advancement, and strengthening connections with people in your field.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Venus' stay here works to attract new travel plans, educational ventures, and other opportunities that stretch your comfort zone. This transition marks the best time of year to embark on new adventures and studies.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
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| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 17 | 28 | cloudy |
| Harbin | 13 | 22 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | 19 | 30 | cloudy |
| Urumqi | 20 | 32 | fine |
| Xi'an | 15 | 28 | fine |
| Lhasa | 9 | 19 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 20 | 28 | showers |
| Chongqing | 21 | 30 | cloudy |
| Kunming | 16 | 23 | cloudy |
| Nanjing | 22 | 27 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 24 | 27 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 20 | 29 | cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 23 | 29 | overcast |
| Taipei | 26 | 32 | fine |
| Guangzhou | 26 | 34 | thunderstorms |
| Hong Kong | 27 | 31 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 16 | 13 | rain |
| Frankfurt | 28 | 14 | bright |
| Paris | 30 | 17 | fine |
| London | 29 | 20 | fine |
| New York | 25 | 18 | fine |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Lowly workers; 6- Pierces; 11- Dr.'s org.; 14- Arm joint; 15- Japanese three-line verse; 16- Hoover ___; 17- Not dead yet; 18- Many times; 19- LAX info; 20- Employ again; 22- Profundity; 24- Dismissal; 28- Soft subdued color; 29- Rubber; 30- Follows orders; 32- Judge's seat; 33- Sophia of the screen; 35- Formerly, formerly; 39- Famous last words; 40- Life support?; 41- At hand; 42- Carbonized fuel; 43- War of 1812 treaty site; 45- Attention; 46- In conflict with, with "of"; 48- Jumpy; 50- Playground retort; 53- Braided; 54- Like a candle; 55- Fiddlesticks!; 57- Greek nickname; 58- Male duck; 60- Memento; 65- Poivre's partner; 66- On the up-and-up; 67- ___ Mio; 68- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 69- Actress Verdugo; 70- Din;

DOWN: 1- Green shade; 2- Building wing; 3- Japanese sash; 4- When DST ends; 5- Deviate suddenly; 6- Grave robber; 7- Big lugs; 8- Ceremony; 9- Just make, with "out"; 10- First day of the week; 11- Masterful; 12- Photo finish; 13- ___ and the Night Visitors; 21- British nobleman; 23- Concentrated extracts; 24- Renaissance fiddle; 25- One of the Muses; 26- Devilfish; 27- Kiss; 28- Compose; 30- Bay window; 31- Capital of Switzerland; 34- Island of Hawaii; 36- Peruses; 37- Beetle Bailey's boss; 38- Cornered; 43- Moo ___ gai pan; 44- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 47- Caress; 49- Unit of force; 50- Covered with water; 51- Less common; 52- Banish; 53- Iota preceder; 55- Leaf of a book; 56- Pelt; 59- Fam. reunion attendee; 61- Barcelona bear; 62- Pond fish; 63- They loop the Loop; 64- Society page word;

Yesterday's solution

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| PSP 28 573 333 | Macau Daily Times 28 716 081 |
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DRIVE IN

'SHANG-CHI' ADDS A THRILLING HERO TO MARVEL UNIVERSE

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

IF the Marvel Cinematic Universe has taught us anything it's that heroes arise from unexpected places. For their 25th film entry, that place is valet parking.

The titular hero of "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" is laying low living on tips as a hotel parking attendant in present-day San Francisco when we meet him as an adult. He doesn't even fly to work; he takes the bus.

But by the time the film is over, he's a glorious addition to the Marvel universe, a tried and dependable warrior whose valor has been tested in more than one dimension and joined by a predominantly Asian cast. And forget about the bus — now he rides dragons.

Simu Liu plays our hero with Spider-Man's aw-shucks sweetness but a lethality when it comes to his fists. It turns out that Shang-Chi has run away from his domineering father, who's a total bummer: He's over 1,000 years old, obsessed with controlling the

MARVEL STUDIOS VIA AP



Tony Leung (left) and Fala Chen in a scene from "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"

universe and in possession of 10 magical rings that give him superhuman powers.

Shang-Chi has fled rather than become the cold-hearted assassin his dad wants and that's why he's parking cars. That is, until dad (Tony Leung) wants the family back for a mission to rescue his dead wife, testing the bounds of reality and credibility and bui-

lding into a Shakespearian show-down.

"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" might have ridden this grim coming-of-age backstory tale like something from DC, but that's not what Marvel does best and it finds its lightness in Awkwafina and later by leaning on the Disney brand for some mind-blowing computer

creatures and a surreal realm.

Awkwafina plays Shang-Chi's platonic friend Katy as a comic tetter to reality, often commenting on the madness. "I'm pretty confused right now," she'll say after a stone dragon vomits a map in water (seriously). Later, as she and our hero hear a terrible sound, she says: "You're going toward that noise?" She mocks our hero's An-

glicized name change to "Shaun" and what she does with the Eagles' "Hotel California" is glorious.

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the film is somewhat overstuffed and lumpy in parts and the last surreal third is poorly knitted into the rest of the narrative, but it's all impossible to predict and you'll leave the theater satisfied, if maybe a bit confused at parts.

The screenplay — by Cretton, David Callaham and Andrew Lannam — knows exactly when the viewer is tiring and adds an ounce of lunacy, whether it's a guy live-blogging the fight on the bus or a flight attendant being surreal. There are nods to "Avatar" and martial arts tangoes worthy of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," even sucking in one of that film's stars, Michelle Yeoh. But the critical role of the father, Xu Wenwu, is murky, mercurial and unsatisfying.

Beneath the beauty and the violence is a story about the ties between siblings, fatherly expectations, the modern world's demands versus traditions and our own legacies. Plus, did we mention, there's an adorable chicken-pig with no face called Morris?

"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," a Marvel Studios release, is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, and language. Running time 172 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

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Barley risotto beetroot, Hokkaido scallops, wild rocket, feta and burrata cheese, Calvisius Oscietra Royal caviar

The Canary Island aquanaria sea bass with Kalamata olive, Japanese cherry tomato and quinoa, Paimpol coco bean, Verm

Zolfini bean spinach, mushroom, black truffle ravioli

TASTE OF EDESIA

Sustainable Dining

IRENE SAM, MDT

COOKING with sustainable produce is a significant game changer in today's world. The Manor's Executive Sous Chef Michele Dell'Aquila has raised his game by collaborating with sustainable food producers, utilising seasonal ingredients to design a menu that not only tantalises the taste buds but is also environmentally friendly.

"I believe that chefs can play a vital role in reconnecting people with the environment. It is our duty to promote the products that best reflect a smarter and more sustainable relationship with the planet," he says.

The six-course sustainable menu includes True Born Tenderloin Tartare, crème fraiche and Calvisius Siberian caviar, True Born Tomahawk with Maitake mushroom, smoked potato foam and port wine sauce and True Born Sirloin with beluga lentil, green pea, pumpkin, foie gras and beef jus. The beef originates from Monte do Pasto, in

the sunniest plains of Portugal. Open-air breeding, animal welfare, a perfect blend of the best European breeds, cut design, maturation and deep freezing are the secrets to this tasty, tender and nutritious beef.

The Canary Island Aquanaria Seabass with Kalamata olives, Japanese cherry tomato, quinoa, Paimpol coco bean and Vermentino emulsion is the true definition of haute cuisine. The award-winning seabass breeds in the deep and oxygenated waters of the Atlantic sea with constant temperatures all year round and are fed with whole fishes from a sustainable fishery, monitored and certified by the Marine Trust. Chef Michele uses a variety of cooking techniques to maximise flavours, including searing, smoking and the gentle sous-vide method that slowly cooks the fish in a vacuum over a longer time to preserve the delicate texture of the fish.

Calvisius Oscietra Royal Caviar crowns the barley risotto with Hokkaido scallops and burrata cheese. Calvisius caviar originates from Calvisano, Italy's northern

region of Lombardy where the sturgeons live in the purest fresh spring water from local rivers and are given an all organic feed which reproduces the types of algae that live in their natural habitat. The bold caviar finishes with a clean, pure unabashed flavour.

Zolfini Bean, also known as the Fagiolo del Centro "the bean of the hundred" is aptly named for its traditional sowing on the 100th day of the year. They have long been cultivated between the Arno River and Pratomagno mountains at altitudes as high as 600 meters. This scarce delicacy is dressed with spinach, mushroom and black truffle ravioli.

For the finale, Glenilen' Yogurt Pannacotta with apricot, peach, wild berry and clotted ice cream features cream from Glenilen Farm. The small dairy farm resting on the banks of the River Ilen in Ireland has been around for generations. The lush hills offer its cows a rich and plentiful supply of nutritious grass which in turn supply the rich tasty milk free of artificial additives or preservatives.



True born beef

OPINION

World Views

David McHugh, MDT/AP Business Writer

EUROPE'S CENTRAL BANK
EASES SUPPORT, BUT IT'S
NOT A TAPER

The European Central Bank will dial back some of its massive emergency pandemic support for the economy amid signs of increasing business activity and consumer readiness to spend as the 19 countries that use the euro rebound from the coronavirus recession.

Bank head Christine Lagarde was careful to say the shift was only a "recalibration" of existing stimulus — not a signal that pandemic support is being phased out.

The bank's 25-member governing council decided Thursday that it would conduct its bond purchase stimulus at "a moderately lower pace" than in recent months. Since March the statement has said that the bank would purchase bonds at a "significantly higher pace" than in the first three months of the year.

The "rebound phase in the eurozone economy is increasingly advanced," Lagarde said, putting the eurozone on track to return to pre-pandemic activity by the end of the year. She said however that the program wasn't being tapered, or reduced stepwise on the way to ending it: "The lady isn't tapering," she said. She cautioned that there was "some way to go before the damage from the pandemic is overcome" such as ongoing job losses.

Yesterday's decision arrives ahead of upcoming governing council discussions about how and when to phase out the program, which is slated to run at least through March 2022. The U.S. Federal Reserve has already indicated it is moving toward scaling back its bond purchase stimulus by year end.

Higher inflation across the globe has raised questions about whether central banks will eventually need to tighten monetary policy to cool off the economy. In the ECB's case, inflation of 3% in August exceeds the bank's goal of 2%, but Lagarde said that is mostly due to temporary factors that sooner or later should ease. The bank foresees inflation of 1.7% next year and 1.5% in 2023, still below its target.

The eurozone economy emerged from recession in the second quarter with growth of 2.2% and a number of economic indicators show activity is picking up strongly. Europe's recovery initially lagged those in the U.S. and China due in part to initial short supply of vaccines in early 2021. But Europe has since made progress and reached its goal of vaccinating 70% of the adult population, although there are wide differences among countries. Retail foot traffic has already returned to pre-pandemic levels, and indexes of business activity show a strong expansion after a double-dip recession at the end of last year and the beginning of this year.

While the current picture is brighter, the recovery faces hurdles from supplier bottlenecks like a semiconductor shortage that has clipped auto production, and also the spread of the delta variant of the coronavirus, which has led to fears a fourth wave could mean more trouble for the economy this winter.

The 1.85 trillion (\$2.2 trillion) bond purchase program has no set amount for purchases each month. Analysts have suggested the bank could ease purchases back to 70 billion euro or 60 billion euros, from roughly 80 billion per month since the "significantly higher" announcement. The purchases, made with newly created money, drive down longer-term borrowing rates and lower the cost of financing for businesses and other economic activity.

ECB policy is closely watched because any shift can have wide-ranging effects on borrowing costs, stock and bond markets and growth.

The U.S. Federal Reserve indicated last month that it was moving closer to scaling back its \$120 billion in monthly bond purchases, although weaker-than-expected data on U.S. jobs growth on Friday lends support to the camp that believes tapering may be farther off than first thought. The Bank of England maintained its stimulus levels at its Aug. 5 meeting, although it laid out a road map for eventually starting to reduce its bond purchases in years ahead.

Researchers say federal government data significantly understated the ravages of COVID-19 in nursing homes last year.

Official numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are missing about 12% of COVID cases among nursing home residents and 14% of deaths. That's according to new estimates published yesterday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Network Open, by a Harvard researcher and her team.

It translates to thousands of missing data points, suggesting more than 118,300 nursing home residents died of COVID-19 last year, or about 30% of all coronavirus deaths nationally.

The researchers attributed the data holes to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services not requiring nursing homes to report cases and deaths until May 2020, well into the pandemic. The new estimates rely on numbers from states that required fuller reporting.



The Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center is under construction



USA President Joe Biden is toughening COVID-19 vaccine requirements for federal workers and contractors as he aims to boost vaccinations and curb the surging delta variant that is killing thousands each week and jeopardizing the nation's economic recovery. Biden will sign a new executive order to require vaccination for employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government.

9/11

GROUND ZERO REBUILDING
STILL UNFINISHED,
20 YEARS LATER

KAREN MATTHEWS,
NEW YORK

TWO decades after its destruction in the Sept. 11 attacks, the work to rebuild the World Trade Center complex remains incomplete.

Two planned skyscrapers, a performing arts center and a church are still unfinished at the site, which plays host Saturday to the annual ceremony honoring nearly 3,000 people killed in the attacks.

Visitors to the commemoration will find a place that no longer has the feel of a construction zone, though, even as the work continues.

The memorial plaza with its twin reflecting pools opened in 2011. One World Trade Center — the spire originally known as the Freedom Tower — opened in 2014, as did the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum. An underground transit hub and shopping mall opened in 2016. Three other glassy towers built to replace those lost in the attack are open.

Cranes and construction fences, however, can still be seen around the site. Here is a look at the unfinished work:

Planned as the second tallest skyscraper at the

site, 2 World Trade Center, might someday reach 80 stories. But for now, just a low stump of a building exists as a placeholder, covered with colorful graffiti-style murals at the northeast corner of the Trade Center site.

Developer Larry Silverstein has said he wants to sign an anchor tenant for the tower before starting construction.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic emptying out office buildings, the now-90-year-old says he is confident a tenant will be found so the Norman Foster -designed tower can be built in his lifetime.

"At the end of the day, my goal is to put the shovel in the ground as soon as possible, and complete the rebuilding project we started 20 years ago," Silverstein said in an emailed statement.

After years of delays, the Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center is under construction just to the west of 2 World Trade Center's future site and is scheduled to open in 2023.

While a performance center was part of World Trade Center master planner Daniel Libeskind's original scheme, disputes over its budget and design threa-

tened its viability in the years after Frank Gehry and the Norwegian firm Snøhetta were tapped to design it in 2004.

In 2015, the center's leaders announced a new team of architects, Joshua Prince-Ramus of Rex Architecture P.C. plus the firm Davis Brody Bond, who have designed a translucent glass and marble cube.

Once finished, the arts center's top floor will house a flexible set of spaces that can be configured into one, two or three theaters for drama, dance, film and music. Free performances will take place on a small stage on the lobby level.

"All of the components are automated, so the walls move, the floor and the seats move," said the center's president, Leslie Koch.

Perelman, the banker and investor, secured naming rights with a \$75 million donation. Besides that gift, the \$500 million center is being built with private donations and \$100 million from the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency created after the attacks to spur redevelopment. Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg is the chair of the board and a donor. MDT/AP



The number of workers still on furlough in Britain has fallen to its lowest level since a salary support program was first introduced at the outset of the coronavirus pandemic 18 months ago, official figures showed yesterday. HM Revenue and Custom, which compiles the data, said that 1.6 million people remained on the government's support plan at the end of July, down 340,000 on the month before. Unions are urging the government to come up with fresh support after September.



Israel For nearly two decades, Zakaria Zubeidi (pictured) has been an object of fascination for Israelis and Palestinians alike, who have seen his progression from a child actor to a swaggering militant, to the scarred face of a West Bank theater promoting "cultural resistance" to Israeli occupation. In his latest act, he has emerged as one of Israel's most wanted fugitives after tunneling out of a high-security prison on Monday with five other Palestinian militants.