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MARKET VOLATILITY SPARKED BY FEARS OF EVERGRANDE'S FINANCIAL COLLAPSE UNDERLINES 'HOW FAR POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL RISKS' IN CHINA HAVE RISEN: VICKERS P6

COVID-19: SCHOOL SUSPENSION EXTENDED TO AN 'UNCONFIRMED DATE' P4

VIETNAM LIFTS TODAY THE LOCKDOWN IN HO CHI MINH CITY ENDING NEARLY THREE MONTHS OF RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT TO CURB A CORONAVIRUS SURGE P10

AP PHOTO



Japan Fumio Kishida, the man soon to become Japan's prime minister, says he believes raising incomes is the only way to get the world's third-largest economy growing again. Kishida says he wants to promote a "new capitalism" that would be more equitable, with fairer distribution of national wealth — the only way to get frugal Japanese families to spend more.

AP PHOTO



Germany A former secretary for the SS commander of the Stutthof concentration camp was being sought on an arrest warrant yesterday after skipping the planned start of her trial in Germany on more than 11,000 counts of accessory to murder, officials said. The 96-year-old woman left the home where she lives in a taxi, heading for a subway station on the outskirts of Hamburg, German news agency dpa quoted Itzehoe state court spokeswoman Frederike Milhoffer as saying. Her destination wasn't known.

AP PHOTO



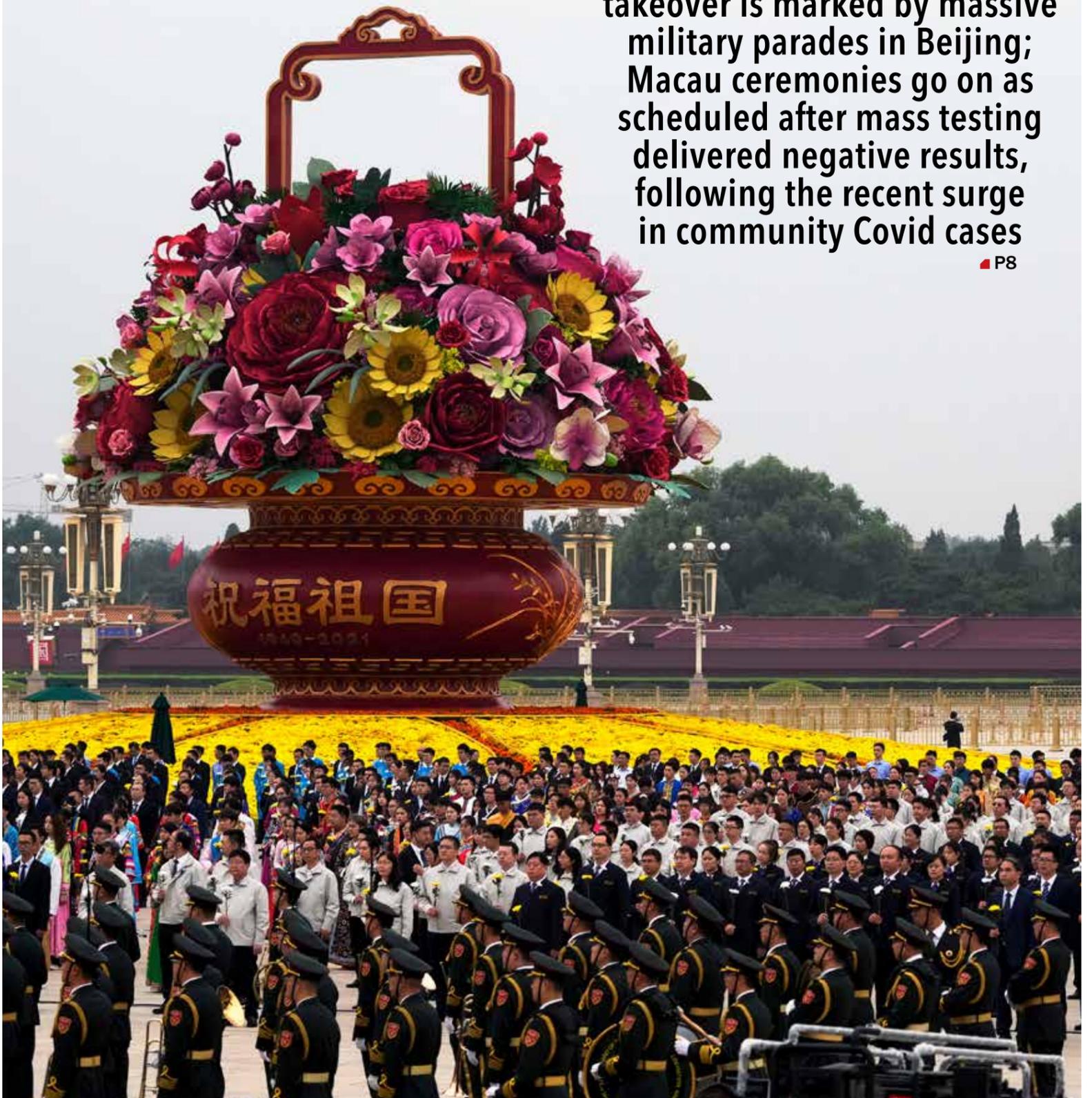
Israel's foreign minister made a landmark trip to Bahrain yesterday, the first high-level visit to the small Gulf state by a senior Israeli official since the signing last year of an agreement to establish diplomatic ties. Yair Lapid landed in Bahrain's capital, Manama, for meetings with his Bahraini counterpart and to inaugurate Israel's embassy. It was the first official visit by an Israeli Cabinet member.

More on backpage

RED OCTOBER

Today's celebration of the 72nd anniversary of the Communist Party of China's takeover is marked by massive military parades in Beijing; Macau ceremonies go on as scheduled after mass testing delivered negative results, following the recent surge in community Covid cases

P8



AP PHOTO

**JUST 796
COMMERCIAL
FLIGHTS IN AUGUST**

Arriving and departing commercial flights totalled 796 trips in August, an increase of 86.9% year-on-year from a low base in 2020. In the first eight months of 2021, the number of arriving and departing commercial flights increased by 1.1% year-on-year to 10,001 trips. Cross-border vehicular traffic last month rose by 23.5% year-on-year to 283,216 trips, of which light automobile trips (250,600) grew by 23.3%. From January to August, cross-border vehicular traffic totalled 2,767,901 trips, a rise of 126.5% year-on-year.

**IPIM HOLDS
TRAINING SESSION
FOR LOCAL
ENTREPRENEURS**

In an effort to help expand the market for local brands through e-commerce and new retail models, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) recently held the "E-marketing Training Session for Enterprises of Macau Ideas." The session attracted over 50 entrepreneurs. To date, a total of 154 local enterprises have joined Macau Ideas and, with its support, have been expanding their brand concepts and exploring broader markets. IPIM pledged to hold more online and offline business-themed talks and activities that cover the Greater Bay Area market.

**DSI LAUNCHES NEW
ONLINE SERVICE
FOR ASSOCIATIONS**

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has launched an online inquiry service for association and foundation office-holders' information. Residents can now check the current status of their positions in different associations and foundations in Macau electronically, according to a statement. This follows the introduction of online systems for managing information about members of the leadership structure and online applications for Certificates of Association and Foundation.



ANALYSIS

**THE MGM & ORIX USD9.1B
BID FOR OSAKA IR**

PROF. I. NELSON ROSE

OSAKA Prefecture has selected MGM and Orix for the Integrated Resort (IR). Osaka will submit the proposal to the Japanese national government in April 2022.

MGM Resorts Int'l. and its Japanese partner, Orix Corp., has officially applied for the right to spend one trillion Japanese Yen to build an integrated resort on Yumeshima Island in Osaka. There are obviously many steps to go, but it looks like the USD9.07 billion casino complex will eventually be approved: The Governor immediately said the plans are in line with what the government had envisaged. Of course, it also helps that MGM-Orix is the only bidder left standing.

The Governor immediately said the plans are in line with what the government had envisaged. Of course, it also helps that MGM-Orix is the only bidder left standing.

Most of the discussion in the gaming industry centered on the extended timeline: Instead of 2025, when there will be a World Expo, the IR won't open until 2028, or even 2030. Local businesses are no longer enthusiastic; according to Asia Gaming Brief, "when the Osaka City Government made a tender offering for the development and

maintenance of a 2,000 square meter plot of land around the under-construction Yumeshima subway station, not a single local company stepped forward to make a bid." And the proposed IR was actually scaled-down, from an expected USD10 Billion.

No one is openly asking the big question: Can a USD9.07 billion casino make money?

The cost of the proposal cannot be ignored. The late Sheldon Adelson's Las Vegas Sands built the now-iconic Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, with its three 55-story towers linked at the top by a SkyPark, for a reported USD5.5 billion. The scuttlebutt in the industry was that this most expensive-ever IR actually cost billions more before it opened in 2011. But, even adding in another couple billion, it was far short of the costs MGM-Orix will have to recover, after operating expenses, before they can start making a profit.

In November 2019, I was invited to address the Japan Academy of Integrated Resorts and Gaming Studies to discuss the legal questions that should be answered before Japan, the last major industrialized nation in the world without casinos, opens its first IR. I met in Tokyo with MGM's then lead operator, Brian Sandoval. MGM is smart; if that name sounds familiar, it's because

he had retired that year from being Governor of Nevada.

But MGM has also made enormous mistakes in the past. In 2008, it almost went bankrupt, having spent way too much developing Las Vegas' City Center right before the last Great Recession.

A USD9.07 billion IR needs a lot of free-spending patrons. Where will they come from?

Almost every other country in Asia already has casinos, even North Korea. China recently made it a crime, punishable by 10 years in prison, to solicit its citizens into gambling overseas. And, unlike Macau, Japan is a true island and the most expensive place to visit in the region. Some players will fly in from South Korea. But that country's many struggling casinos show the problems casinos face when they don't allow locals to gamble.

Macau and Singapore don't tax casino winnings of visiting foreigners. It looks like Japan has finally decided it had to do the same to be competitive, at least for smaller winnings. But the government will likely tax locals. Japan will put up no barriers to its resident's dining, shopping, and attending conferences. But the tax would be in line with the government's goal of discouraging Japanese residents from even entering its casinos.

Singapore thought it could prevent its residents from overdoing it by requiring permanent residents to pay S\$100 (USD73) a day or S\$2,000 (USD1,467) a year, just to enter either of its two casinos. The city-state was surprised to find it took in more than a hundred million dollars a year in entry fees. So, in 2019, the government raised the fees 50%, to S\$150/day (USD110) or S\$3,000/year (USD2,200). But Singaporeans still rank as the second-largest losers per capita. Australians, with pokies (slot machines) everywhere, are first. Japanese, at the moment, aren't even on the list.

So, Japan could follow the examples of Vietnam and Cambodia and restrict casinos to foreigners. In which case, the MGM-Orix casino will be a USD9.07 billion white elephant.

My guess is the national government will make it even more expensive than Singapore for locals to gamble. In 2018, before Singapore raised its fees, the Japanese government agreed that residents would have to pay a ¥6,000 (USD55) entrance fee. That is now clearly way too small. If USD73 did not work in Singapore, USD55 will certainly not work in Japan. Singapore already charges its residents more than US\$100 just to enter a casino. How high will the Japanese government go to protect its residents from themselves? \$120? \$150? \$200? Just to enter a casino.

And Americans complain about having to pay for parking.

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COVID-19

SCHOOL SUSPENSION EXTENDED TO AN 'UNCONFIRMED DATE'

ANTHONY LAM

PUBLIC health doctor Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said in response to a press question that students on school suspension should stay home, and away from playgrounds.

Her comment was given at the regular health press briefing yesterday.

When the current cases were detected on September 24 and 25, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) ordered a suspension on classes at all education levels. The suspension was set until October 3.

However, at yesterday's press conference, Kong Chi Meng, deputy director of the DSEDJ, said that the suspension will be extended to an as yet unconfirmed date.

At the same time, officials from the Health Bureau have reiterated that the latest three cases should not pose great risk to the community because they were detected while the patients were in quarantine.

The authorities were asked why the current measures affecting the resumption of school are not aligned with the risks reported or estimated by the government.

Leong said that, after an evaluation, the risk posed for the community by the three latest cases was low but not zero. As a result, the authorities decided on an extension of the school suspension order. "We hope to maximally lower the

RENATO MARQUES



risks," Leong said.

She added that if students are not deemed suitable for schooling by the authorities, they should not be in crowded places either. "We discourage parents or guardians from bringing their children to crowded areas such as playgrounds and parks," Leong said.

Complaints have been made on social media platforms that the sudden school suspension has left many parents absent from work because no adult was able to take care of the children at home.

Regarding this, Kong from the DSEDJ reiterated the importance of community safety in support of the suspension extension. Moreover, he recalled that last year the authority had worked with schools on "friendly measures" which allowed

schools to remain moderately open in order to take care of students whose parents needed to work and lacked access to the care of another adult.

However, he added that these "friendly measures" will only be available when there is an extensive school suspension like that of last year.

'VACCINATION AGAINST SEVERITY'

Questions were also raised on vaccination, with the government changing its position from "vaccination against infection" to "vaccination against severity." In light of the latest eight cases – seven new and a relapse – having all been vaccinated, questions were raised regarding the risk of widespread infection being possible regardless of vaccination.

Furthermore, should the go-

vernment retain its position that herd immunity is achievable, given these cases demonstrate that infection is still possible after vaccination?

Neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, admitted to the change in official discourse. He also admitted that the whole world had expected the vaccine to be able to halt infections, which was later proven not to be possible.

Explaining this, Tai said: "First, no vaccine is 100% capable of preventing infection. Second, variants have made vaccines less effective in preventing infection. The vaccines available to us have claimed at least 80% protection against severe cases and fatality."

He added that the six new patients had not developed signi-

ficant symptoms because they were vaccinated. "If they were not detected by regular tests, they would not have been spotted," he said. He did not address the risk to the community had they been able to roam around the city without being detected.

The latest six cases, according to the Health Bureau, were linked to the 64th patient – also vaccinated – with a travel history in the Middle East. This proves that vaccinated individuals may still be contagious if they contract the virus.

Tai added that if the six patients were not vaccinated, "our ICU might have taken them in due to [symptomatic] severity."

The authorities were also asked whether they should or would begin promoting the new normal, in which the city has a vaccination rate of 80% or above and when a community outbreak is detected, no restriction measures will be implemented.

This scenario carried the implication that regular, pre-Covid life would resume as if nothing had happened.

In response, Tai admitted that not even the health authorities dare to imagine what the future will be like. It is still unclear whether daily mask wearing will still be needed even if an 80% vaccination rate is achieved.

Tai instead posed a challenge to the public — that if they do not get vaccinated, life will continue in the current mode.

"Imagine if many people get vaccinated and they don't develop symptoms even if they contract the virus, it will just be a flu," he added. "This is a state of living with the virus."

However, he stressed that the authorities do not dare to guarantee whether "living with the virus" will happen, even if a certain vaccination rate is reached.

GRAND PRIX

Porsche Carrera Cup back on track for the first time since 2013

LYNZY VALLES

THE 2021 Porsche Carrera Cup Asia (PCCA) is back on the city's legendary Guia Circuit from November 19 to 21 for the annual Macau Grand Prix.

The last time the PCCA race was held in Macau was over two weekends in 2013 during the 60th Grand Prix special edition, which also marked the 50th anniversary of the PCCA event.

According to reports, the latest Porsche 911 GT3 Cup (992) is set to make its maiden appearance

during the city's annual event.

Alexandre Gibot, managing director of Porsche Motorsport Asia Pacific Ltd, said: "Porsche Carrera Cup Asia presented by AximTrade has enjoyed an excellent season in 2021, with the new 992 car a huge success."

"Racing at Macau is a massive honour for the series and I'm delighted to see the championship return to the incredible Guia Circuit. The Macau GP is always a fantastic event and I know that it will be amazing once again this year. I'm

looking forward to seeing the PCCA cars and drivers racing around the track, putting on a great show for the fans," he added.

The Guia Circuit measures 6.2 kilometres in length and contains 19 corners.

As cited in a report by Daily Sports Car, in addition to the PCCA's usual Pro, Pro-Am and Am driver classes, there will be an additional category for previous generation 991 cars.

The additional category gives Porsche Sports Cup China racers the

opportunity to compete with the regular PCCA field, indicating that 991 and 992 cars will race on-track together for the first time, the report added.

On Wednesday, the Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced that Grand Prix will be held as usual this year.

The calendar of the PCCA shows that the race will be held for three days. This may mean that, this year, the Grand Prix could again be reduced to a three-day format, held over the weekend.

RENATO MARQUES



CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



PROPERTY

Evergrande collapse fears highlight rising political risk: SVA

LYNZY VALLES

MARKET volatility sparked by fears of property developer Evergrande Group's financial collapse has underlined how far political and commercial risks in China have risen, according to Steve Vickers, CEO of Steve Vickers and Associates (SVA).

In a report, the firm noted that "Evergrande's plight is a neat illustration of the 'grey rhinos' (in terms of financial risk) warned of by President Xi Jinping."

According to SVA, a specialist political & corporate risk consultancy, "companies should understand that the principal threats are now political, and should adapt quickly to protect their commercial interests."

Local proprietors have previously expressed the view that the ongoing crisis would not have a direct impact on the SAR, as the real estate systems of China and Macau are different.

However, market concern lingers in China due to the possible collapse of one of its biggest real estate developers which is struggling to avoid default on billions of dollars of debt.

The debt ballooned as the group borrowed to finance its various pursuits.

According to data provider Refinitiv Eikon, Evergrande is the country's most indebted developer, with more than USD300 billion worth of liabilities. This includes nearly USD20 billion in international bonds.



The property giant's struggles have raised fears that it may destabilize China's financial system and set off a global chain reaction.

The crisis is also the most significant fallout yet from the ruling Communist Party's efforts to rein in surging debt levels that Beijing sees as a possible threat to the economy.

China's Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has already warned that the company might not pay up.

"Evergrande is struggling with a liquidity crisis, with potential implications for China's entire property market," SVA stated.

According to the firm, Evergrande's plight will likely damage the broader economy – meaning that some kind of restructuring

(even if not declared) is likely.

SVA noted that the property onshore obligations include wealth management products (about USD6.2 billion outstanding) and liabilities on pre-sales of apartments (about USD30 billion).

Some commentators suggest Evergrande might become China's "Lehman moment," referring to the collapse of the Wall Street bank Lehman Brothers, a forerunner to the 2008 crisis. However, economists say the risk of wider financial market contagion is low.

"The Chinese Communist Party prioritises stability, and risks of a Lehman-style collapse are just too high to permit such an event. So far, the Chinese government has yet to comment in full. Even

so, any restructuring exercise will likely follow a well-trodden path," the report said, taking the reorganization of bad banks in the late 1990s, or of the HNA Group and Anbang Insurance as examples.

"[In these examples], the government took control of the stricken businesses (sometimes indirectly), and carved them up, injecting capital into some units, and letting others fold – over a lengthy period, so as to manage any contagion," it added.

According to reports, Evergrande was caught by tighter restrictions on borrowing imposed by Chinese regulators last year, as part of a campaign to reduce the economy's reliance on surging debt.

The company has already sold

billions of dollars of assets to meet government limits.

The implications for the broader economy are not yet clear, but surely will be significant.

According to SVA, "the government wishes to rein in speculation, albeit without provoking a collapse in housing prices." The firm added that the CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping recently noted that "houses are for living in, not for speculation," and is championing a "common prosperity" drive.

"As such, this shift is no 'flash in the pan,'" it added.

SVA added that the government's action against certain executives is probable as Evergrande founder Xu Jiayin has links to Jack Ma, and political ties at the highest level.

Xu was China's richest entrepreneur in 2017, with a net worth of USD43 billion, according to the Hurun Report.

In a letter to employees on September 21, Xu expressed confidence the company will survive.

"Evergrande will surely get out of the darkest moment as soon as possible," Xu said in the letter, marking the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival.

Meanwhile, SVA added that Xu could "come under pressure to divulge details of prior dealings, so as to provide leverage ahead of the 20th CCP Congress in the autumn of 2022; and associated lower level anti-corruption investigations will undoubtedly follow."

"This will make the lead up to the 20th Party Congress a period of intense activity and cause some disruption to business," the firm forecasts.

The group recommends companies reassess political risks in the property sector, take account of the changing investment climate, and factor in the policy priorities of the Chinese government, among other several measures.

Mike Goodridge steps down after four IFFAM editions

MIKE Goodridge is set to step down as the artistic director of the International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) after four editions.

The international film festival was cancelled this year due to restrictions in place in Macau, such as border and mass gathering controls.

In 2020, the fourth edition of the festival was rolled out virtually from December 3 to 8.

To the Times, Goodridge clarified that he is on an "annual contract and since there is no festival this year, there is no contract."

"I have to move on and find other work. Macau is where my heart is," he said.

In a public statement, he noted that IFFAM's future is "uncertain in an age of Covid and seismic local changes, but I wish it continued prosperity."

"I have had an incredible experience working with my friends and colleagues in Macau," said Goodridge, who replaced Marco Mueller as the festival's artistic director.

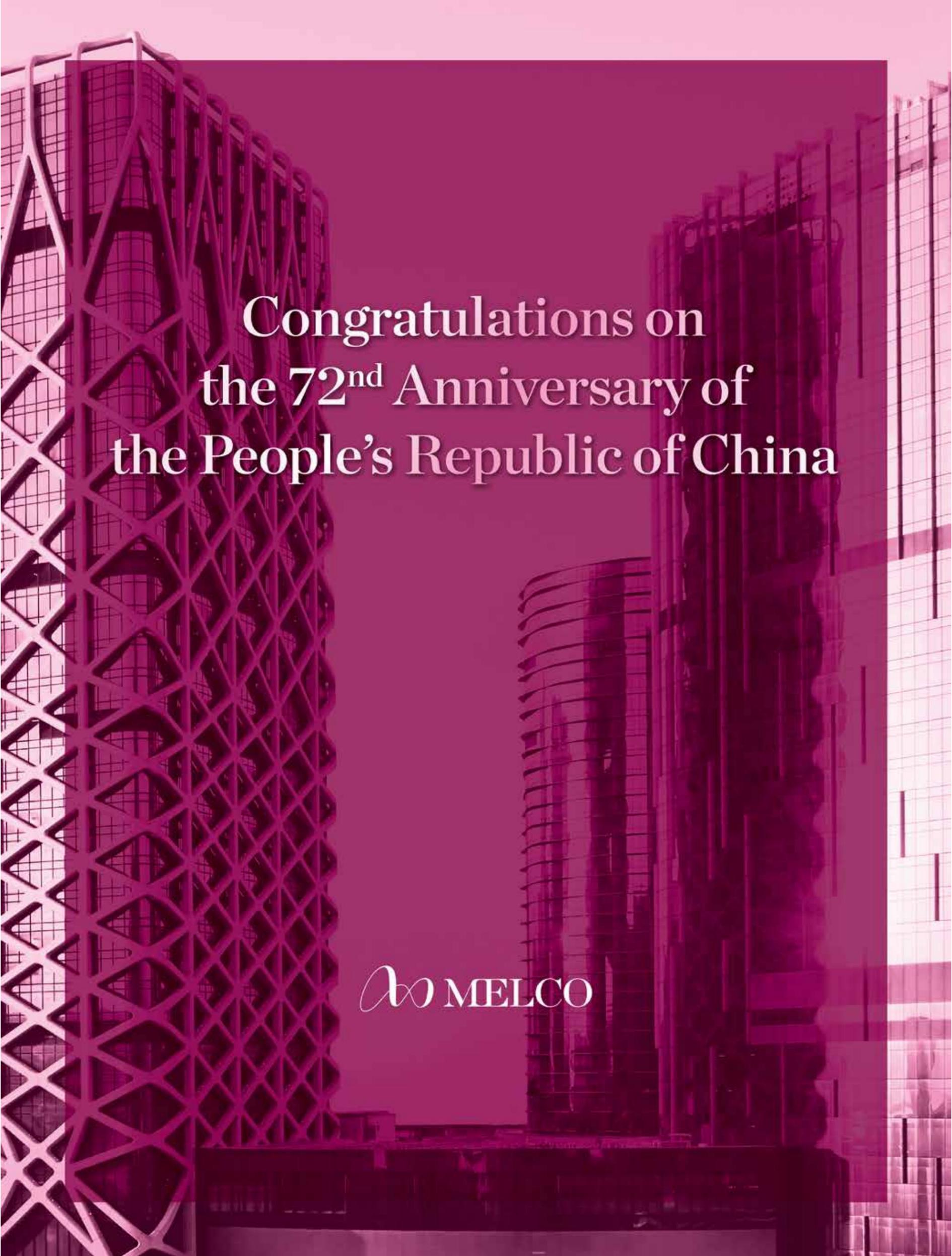
"We built the audience for different kinds of cinema in the city and created an event that resonated

across the region and the world. The team we assembled was second to none, and we were all dedicated to stimulating the growth of film-making and film-going in Macau."

Goodridge was appointed as IFFAM artistic director in 2017. He is slated to continue his production and curation work through his Good Chaos company.

Last year, the festival screened a total of 31 flicks worldwide on a dedicated video streaming platform. Goodridge was also a consultant for this year's Chicago International Film Festival. LV

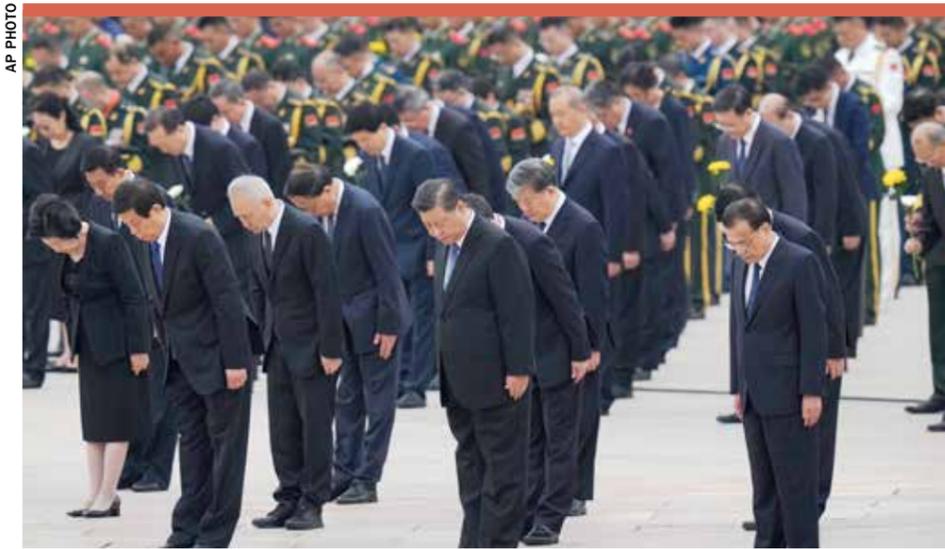




Congratulations on
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the People's Republic of China

MELCO

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Chinese President Xi Jinping leads other members of the Chinese Politburo Standing Committee including Premier Li Keqiang to bow as they pay respects before the Monument to the People's Heroes

Xi leads Martyr's Day ceremony amid patriotism drive

CHINESE leader Xi Jinping paid respects at a solemn commemoration yesterday for those who died in the struggle to establish Communist Party rule, as he leads a national drive to reinforce patriotism and single-party authority. Xi and the six other members of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee led aged veterans and government and military leaders in paying their respects at

the Monument to the People's Heroes in the center of Tiananmen Square while a military band played.

Xi, who heads the party and also serves as state president, made no remarks, although Premier Li Keqiang is scheduled to address a reception yesterday evening.

The Martyr's Day ceremony underscores the stress Xi places on Communist traditions after establishing himself as China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, who founded the People's Republic in 1949 after sweeping to power in a bloody civil war. This year's ceremony follows commemorations of the centenary of the founding of the party in 1921.

While building up a cult of personality, Xi has pushed a hardline on foreign policy and a crackdown on free speech and political opposition in the semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong. Relations with the U.S. have sunk to their lowest level in decades, with Beijing issuing a bevy of complaints on issues from human rights to Washington's support for Taiwan.

China claims the self-governing island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use military force to bring it under Beijing's control. Xi, who also controls China's vast military, has upped that threat by sending military aircraft into airspace near the island on a near-daily basis while ground troops conduct drills on the coast opposite.

Tiananmen Square and surrounding roads were closed off for Thursday's ceremony, which began with a trumpet fanfare, the singing of China's national anthem and a minute of silence.

Steps and the upper level of the monument, an obelisk standing 10 stories partially carved with images from the struggle to establish Communist rule, were covered in red carpet.

The ceremony also featured a choir of children wearing the white shirts and red scarves of the party's Young Pioneers youth organization singing their anthem, "We are the heirs of communism."

Martyr's Day is commemorated on the eve of China's National Day, which begins a 10-day holiday. **MDT/AP**

CHINA, US IN TALKS ON MILITARY RELATIONS AMID STRAINED TIES

DEFENSE officials from China and the U.S. have held two days of talks in a small sign of progress amid a continuing sharp downturn in relations.

The secure video conference held this week was led by Maj. Gen. Huang Xueping, deputy direct of the People's Liberation Army's Office for International Military Cooperation, and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China Michael Chase.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian yesterday said the sides "exchanged in-depth views on relations between the two countries and the two militaries and issues of common concern."

However, he blamed "continuous provocation and containment" of China by the U.S. for the "considerable difficulties and challenges" between the two militaries.

"China's sovereignty, dignity and core interests brook no violations," Wu said at a monthly briefing. "Regarding the relationship between the two armed forces, we welcome communication, welcome cooperation, face differences and oppose coercion."

In a statement issued in Washington, Department of Defense spokesperson Lt. Col. Martin Meiners said the meeting was "an important component of the Biden-Harris administration's ongoing effort to responsibly manage the competition between the U.S. and the PRC by maintaining open lines of communication with the PRC."

During the talks, he said the two sides held "a frank, in-depth, and open discussion on a range of issues."

"Both sides reaffirmed consensus to keep communication channels open. The U.S. side also made clear our commitment to uphold shared principles with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific re-

gion," he said.

Relations between China and the U.S. are facing the worst strain in decades over trade, technology, human rights and Chinese military activities in the South China Sea, where Beijing has built airstrips and other infrastructure atop man-made islands.

Military-to-military ties have been characterized by deep mistrust, with the U.S. accusing China of a lack of transparency as it massively upgrades the capabilities of the PLA, the military wing of the ruling Communist Party.

China has been angered by the Navy sending ships to sail close to islands it controls in what Washington calls freedom of navigation operations, along with U.S. support for Taiwan.

President Joe Biden has maintained a tough line on China, but has sought better communication with Beijing. The talks between Huang and Chase are believed to mark the first direct high-level contact between defense officials under the Biden administration.

The talks also follow revelations that the top U.S. military officer, Army Gen. Mark Milley, made a pair of calls to his Chinese counterpart on Oct. 30 and Jan. 8 to reassure him during the waning days of the Trump administration.

Wu also reiterated China's opposition to a three-way strategic defense alliance announced by Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. that includes building nuclear-propelled submarines for Australia. Beijing views the arrangement as firmly directed at containing its development.

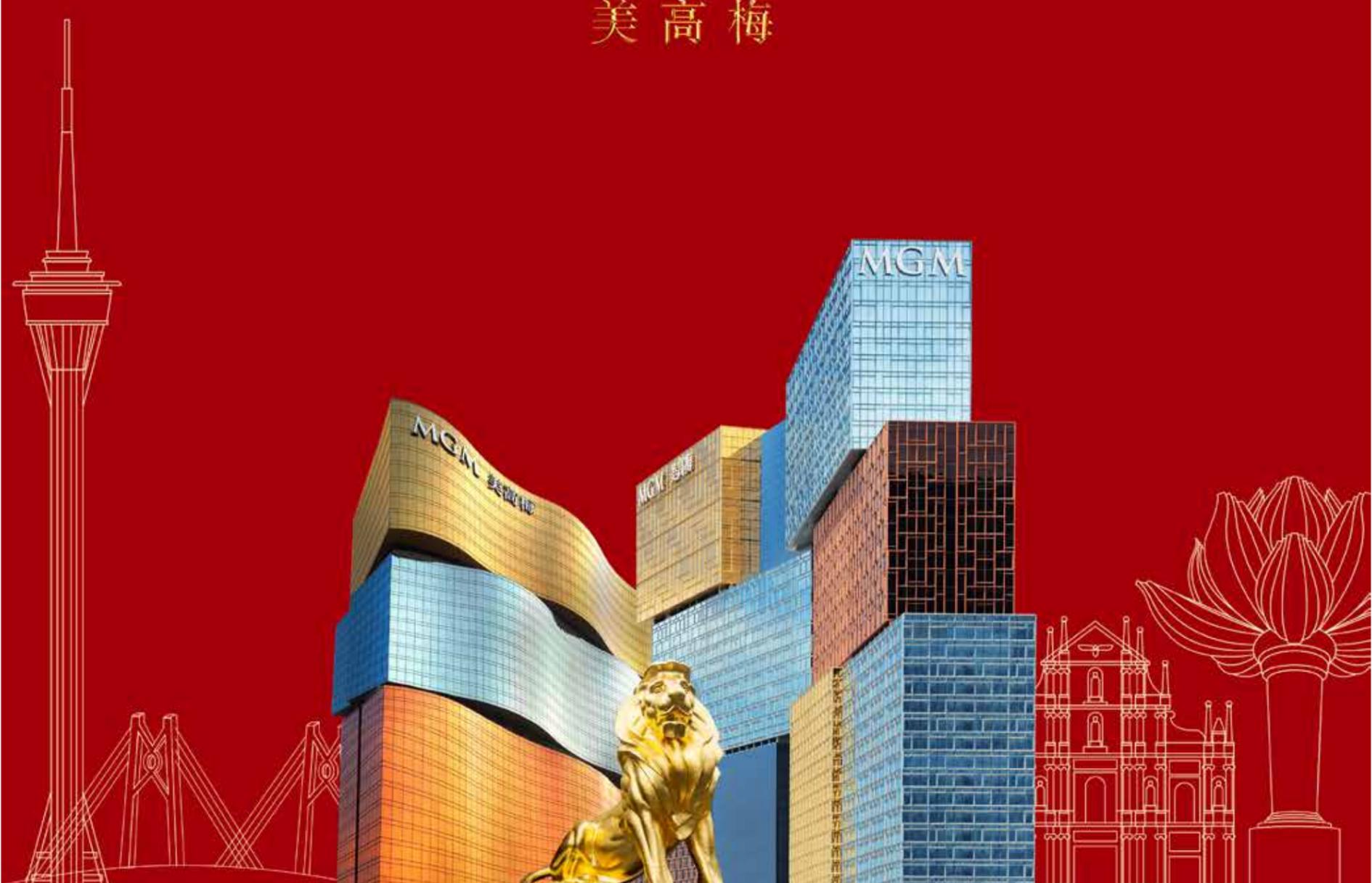
"China urges the three countries to abandon their Cold War mentality and zero-sum game thinking, revoke the mistaken decision to develop nuclear submarine cooperation," Wu said. **MDT/AP**

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VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY TO END VIRUS LOCKDOWN AFTER THREE MONTHS

HAU DINH, VUNG TAU

VIETNAM will lift the lockdown in its largest city today, ending nearly three months of restrictions on movement to curb a coronavirus surge.

People in Ho Chi Minh City, a metropolis of 10 million, will be able to leave their homes, restaurants can serve take-away meals and other essential businesses can open, the city said on its website yesterday.

A social distancing order, however, will still be enforced. Schools are closed, public transport remains suspended, travel in and out of the city will be controlled and public gatherings of more than 10 people outside is banned.

People who wish to attend social activities will have to show proof of vaccination to be admitted to establishments, authorities said.

Ho Chi Minh City along with 18 southern provinces went into lockdown in mid-July when cases started to surge.

In the past three months, the

AP PHOTO



delta variant of the virus has infected 770,000 people and killed over 19,000, according to the health ministry. Most of Vietnam's COVID-19 deaths occurred in this

wave, with Ho Chi Minh City accounting for the majority of them.

Other southern cities have also eased lockdown restrictions, gradually resuming activities as in-

fections decline.

In the past week, Vietnam's average new cases dropped by a third compared to earlier in the month when 14,000 were being

recorded daily, the health ministry said.

In Vung Tau city, 70 kilometers from Ho Chi Minh city, barricades set up on the streets to control traffic during the lockdown were taken down as local residents cheered.

"We will have to celebrate this day, that the city is removing the barricades so we can go out again and get back to our normal lives," local resident Pham Van Thanh said as he helped officers remove a barricade on his street.

Vietnam is speeding up vaccinations in order to reopen the country, with priority for big cities and vulnerable locations such as industrial zones.

Ho Chi Minh City's health authority last week approved shortening the interval between two shots of AstraZeneca to six weeks, against the recommended eight to 12 weeks by the manufacturers, in order to fully vaccinate people quickly.

The health ministry says 98.5% of the city's adults have been inoculated and 48% of them have received both shots.

However, Vietnam's overall vaccination rate remain low with only 9.3% of its 98 million people fully vaccinated. The authority said short supply is the reason for the delay of virus inoculation. MDT/AP

AD

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KOREAS

Kim seeks better ties with South, but slams US

HYUNG-JIN KIM & KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

NORTH Korea leader Kim Jong Un expressed willingness to restore stalled communication lines with South Korea in coming days while shrugging off U.S. offers for dialogue as “cunning ways” to conceal its hostility against the North, state media reported yesterday.

Kim’s statement is an apparent effort to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington as he wants South Korea to help him win relief from crippling U.S.-led economic sanctions and other concessions. Pyongyang this month has offered conditional talks with Seoul alongside its first missile firings in six months and stepped-up criticism of the United States.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency closed meeting today [Macau time] at the request of the United States, the U.K. and France on North Korea’s recent tests.

During a speech at his country’s rubber-stamp parliament on Wednesday, Kim said the restoration in early October of cross-border hotlines — which have been largely dormant for

more than a year — would realize the Korean people’s wishes for a peace between the two Koreas, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim still accused South Korea of being “bent on begging external support and cooperation while clamoring for international cooperation in servitude to the U.S.,” rather than committing to resolving the matters independently between the Koreas.

Kim echoed his powerful sister Kim Yo Jong’s calls for Seoul to abandon “double-dealing attitude” and “hostile viewpoint” over the North’s missile tests and other developments. Some experts say North Korea is pressuring South Korea to tone down its criticism of its ballistic missile tests, which are banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions, as part of its quest to receive an international recognition as a nuclear power.

South Korea’s Unification Ministry responded that it’ll prepare for the restoration of the hotlines that it said is needed to discuss and resolve many pending issues. It said it expects them to operate smoothly because their restoration was directly instructed by Kim Jong Un.

On the United States,

Kim Jong Un dismissed repeated U.S. offers to resume talks without preconditions, calling them an attempt to hide America’s “hostile policy” and “military threats” that he said remain unchanged.

The Biden administration “is touting ‘diplomatic engagement’ and ‘dialogue without preconditions’ but it is no more than a petty trick for deceiving the international community and hiding its hostile acts,” Kim said.

He added: “The U.S. remains utterly unchanged in posing military threats and pursuing hostile policy toward (North Korea) but employs more cunning ways and methods in doing so.”

He has warned he would bolster his nuclear arsenal and stay away from negotiations with Washington unless it drops its “hostile policy,” a term used to describe the U.S.-led sanctions and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul.

U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed hope to sit down for talks with North Korea “anywhere and at any time,” but have maintained they will continue sanctions until the North takes concrete steps toward denuclearization. The diplomacy has been

stalled for 2 ½ years due to disagreements over easing of sanctions in return for limited denuclearization steps.

China, North Korea’s last major ally, said yesterday it hopes the hotlines restoration would help improve ties between the two Koreas. But it also urged the U.S. to roll back some of the sanctions targeting the North’s civilian economy.

“The U.S. should avoid repeating empty slogans, but rather show its sincerity by presenting an appealing plan,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said. “It should invoke the rollback terms of the Security Council’s (North Korea)-related resolutions as soon as possible and make necessary adjustments to relevant sanctions.”

President Joe Biden told the U.N. General Assembly last week that his administration would seek “serious and sustained diplomacy” to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

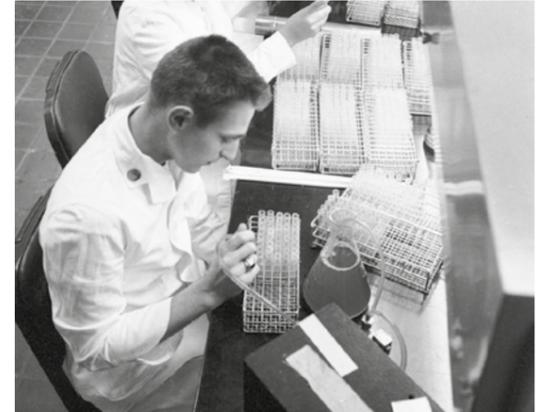
North Korea’s outreach to Seoul came after South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who seeks progress in his appeasement policy on North Korea before he leaves office next May, proposed a symbolic peace declaration during his U.N. speech last week.

“Kim Jong Un will likely continue to use South Korea to move the Biden administration in its favor,” Kwak Gil Sup, head of One Korea Center, a website specializing in North Korea affairs, wrote on Facebook. “He’ll make more outright attempts to wedge South Korea and the U.S. apart. It’s a highly sophisticated strategy to make the best use of the impatience of the (Moon) government preoccupied with producing progress in its peace process on the Korean Peninsula in its final months in office.”

Meanwhile, Kim’s sister was elected as a member of the State Affairs Commission led by her brother during this week’s Supreme People’s Assembly session, KCNA reported. The appointment of Kim Yo Jong, who already is a senior ruling party official who handles Pyongyang’s relations with Seoul, is another sign Kim is solidifying his family’s rule in the face of mounting economic difficulties caused by the pandemic and the sanctions. MDT/AP

this day in history

1957 BRITISH PUBLIC GETS ‘ASIAN FLU’ VACCINE



A vaccine against the strain of influenza currently sweeping around the world has been made available to the British public.

The so-called Asian Flu pandemic has already killed thousands of people around the globe - many of them in the United States.

The virus is believed to have originated in North China in February before spreading worldwide.

It reached the UK three months ago.

The vaccine, which is being produced at the Wright-Fleming Institute of Microbiology in west London, will be distributed free on the National Health Service.

To give the fullest protection against the flu strain two injections are needed at an interval of not less than three weeks.

Tens of thousands of units of the vaccine have been produced during the last two months, however, there is still not enough at present for everyone to be vaccinated.

Doctors, nurses and other medical staff are being given priority.

Yesterday the Registrar-General’s latest bulletin showed the influenza mortality rate rose sharply last week with 121 deaths registered in England and Wales compared with 47 the previous week.

The latest deaths brought the total to 472 since the beginning of the year.

But that figure is well down on the 1,073 influenza deaths registered in the same period last year.

However, what is causing the concern is the rate at which the deaths due to Asian Flu are increasing.

The elderly and young children and those with heart or lung disease, are influenza’s chief victims with many dying of secondary problems, such as bronchial pneumonia.

The killing power of influenza comes from the ability of the virus to mutate easily and rapidly meaning a new vaccine must be produced to deal with each strain.

But it is rare for an epidemic to be transmitted beyond national boundaries and become a pandemic - the last was the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918-1920.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

By December 3,550 people had died from influenza in England and Wales - three times as many flu fatalities as in the corresponding period of 1956.

After the vaccine was made available deaths fell but a second wave of the virus in November saw fatalities rise again.

One hundred thousand deaths worldwide were attributed to Asian Flu - nearly 70,000 of them in the United States.

However, the 1957 influenza outbreak was by no means as severe as the other two main pandemics of the 20th century.

During 1918-1920 Spanish Flu resulted in up to 40 million deaths worldwide while in 1968 Hong Kong Flu claimed 700,000 victims.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The universe has been keeping you on your toes, Aries. Thursday's skies continue to unlock more stories, as retrograde Mercury backs into a square with truth-revealing Pluto.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You're craving a retreat from the harsh realities of the world today, Taurus. Let yourself seek out the quiet restfulness you so long for as the moon roams through lazy Leo.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Children will want to help, too.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Wherever the moon goes, you follow devotedly, Cancer. Friday's skies find Luna marching through Leo's self-concerned prairies, sending your focus towards your resources and underutilized talents.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
The universe is fully activating your self-expression today, Leo. Don't try to shy away from the limelight, as you're beckoned to proudly step into your power and share your charisma.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Rather than burn yourself out, aim to slow your pace. Luna's invigorating meet-up with go-getter Mars and the energizing sun helps you privately activate your talents.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Extended periods of alone time can be draining to your happiness. Friday's skies encourage you to ease up on your career concerns and aim your efforts at reconnecting with your community of friends.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You can't help but concern yourself with your career trajectory today, Scorpio. The moon treks through self-concerned Leo, making it an ideal day to chip away at ambitious projects.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Friday's skies encourage you to break free from tiring routines and mundane obligations as the dynamic Leo moon pushes you towards seeking adventure.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Today's skies beckon you into a quiet, introverted headspace. The moon roams through heart-centered Leo, sending your focus towards any pent-up feelings around partnership that need releasing.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Friday's skies gently nudge you to check in on your current relationship story as the moon floats through your opposite sign of romance-craving Leo.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You're in the mood to cross things off your to-do list today, Pisces. The self-concerned Leo moon encourages you to handle any looming errands in order to free up the weekend ahead.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	22	cloudy
Harbin	5	14	cloudy
Tianjin	20	34	fine
Urumqi	22	28	cloudy
Xi'an	22	33	fine
Lhasa	16	22	cloudy
Chengdu	25	31	cloudy
Chongqing	25	34	thunderstorms
Kunming	24	35	showers
Nanjing	18	29	fine
Shanghai	24	32	cloudy
Wuhan	20	32	fine
Hangzhou	4	14	cloudy
Taipei	18	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	8	23	fine
Hong Kong	18	26	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	3	11	overcast
Frankfurt	11	20	overcast
Paris	12	18	rain
London	8	6	rain
New York	13	22	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Puts down; 5- Lure; 10- French clergyman; 14- Drug-yielding plant; 15- Eat away at; 16- Deception; 17- Poet Angelou; 18- Guides; 19- Configuration; 20- Likely customer; 22- Foyer; 23- Players; 24- Extreme reverence; 26- Kind of battery; 29- Offhand; 33- Make fit; 34- Pipsqueak; 35- Actress Long; 36- ___ delighted!; 37- The Little Mermaid; 38- Helsinki resident; 39- ___ gratias (thanks to God); 40- 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.; 41- Arrogant; 42- Incoming; 44- Aromatic herb; 45- Comic Fox; 46- Apple product; 48- High public esteem; 51- Launching of a rocket; 55- Dash; 56- John of "The Addams Family"; 58- Peter Fonda title role; 59- Et ___ (and other men); 60- Unsoiled; 61- Appraise, charge per unit; 62- Apply powder to oneself; 63- Accord maker; 64- Gave the once-over;

DOWN: 1- Light source; 2- Chemical used on trees; 3- It's used to walk the dog; 4- View of the ocean; 5- Strikes out; 6- Upright; 7- Outer garment; 8- Like 1 and 3, e.g.; 9- Affirmative answer; 10- To meet the expense of; 11- Amoeba-like alien; The ___; 12- Zinger; 13- TV award; 21- Constituent; 22- Reindeer herder; 24- Skedaddles; 25- British nobleman; 26- You ___ mouthfull; 27- More bizarre; 28- Toil; 29- Move to and fro; 30- Negatively charged particle; 31- Nasal cavity; 32- Accessible; 34- Tendency; 37- Ardent; 38- Break; 40- At any time; 41- School orgs.; 43- Sardonic; 46- Greek epic poem; 47- Spiritual sustenance; 48- Warmth; 49- Spicy stew; 50- Arrest; 51- Bingo call; 52- Oil of ___; 53- Celebration; 54- Give eats; 56- Rhine whine; 57- ___-pitch softball;

Yesterday's solution

L	U	A	V	A	T	I	T		R	A	A				
A	B	I	S		T	R	N	I	E		H	A	R	M	
V	E	D	A		R	A	N	G	E		I	N	T	O	
A	D	A	G	I		S	E	L	F	E	S	S			
E	D	G	E		R	R	E	A	L						
T	H	O		E	R	A	S		R	I	T	U	A	L	
H	O	B		A	A	R	O	N		L	O	R	N	E	
R	N	I	D		M	E	D	A	L		P	A	N	T	
I	D	E	A	L		G	A	V	I	D		V	E	A	
T	R	A	S	P	E	D		G	E	T	A		E	X	T
H	E	R	E		L	E	T	S							
D	R	U	N	K	A	R		R	A	T	T	L	E		
Y	U	R	I		M	O	O	L	A		O	R	A	L	
E	L	S	A		A	S	S	O	C		O	V	E	C	H
S	E	A			E	E	L				D	E	S	I	

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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Hellene Gardens HKD 10,880,000
Ref: 2107 6005 1,707 ft² 4 2 1

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Traditional apartment HKD 2,680,000
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft² 2 1

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
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澳娛綜合度假股份有限公司
SJM RESORTS, S.A.

TASTE OF EDESIA

Edible gems

IRENE SAM, MDT

FOR those who love jewellery and desserts, Four Seasons Hotel Macao and Qeelin fine jewellery created the “Qeelin Bo Bo” afternoon tea at **Xiao Ting**. With balance and harmony as its core values, Qeelin is a fine jewellery brand that carries rich cultural connotations, reinterpreting traditional symbols with stylish designs. By fusing modernity into classic confectionery making, Four Seasons’ culinary team succeed in turning auspicious emblems in Chinese tradition into an edible pleasure as exquisite as Qeelin’s jewellery selection.

An autumn special, this creative tea set features artful western savouries and sweets inspired by jewellery designs. One of Qeelin’s iconic collections, Bo Bo, features the adorable Panda as its muse, and takes centre stage in this afternoon tea as an iconic tea stand, Bobo is also

carefully incorporated into the pastry designs on display.

Crafted by Executive Chef Benjamin Lim and Executive Pastry Chef Raymond Fung, bites include Salmon roe and heirloom carrot tartlet, citrus smoked scallops with corn, and a crispy Wagyu and pumpkin custard with gold leaves.

A symphony of auspicious colours of red agate, jade and gold, signature of Qeelin jewellery brings the afternoon tea to a delightful finale with Granny Smith apple mousse, strawberry vanilla cremeux, mango and passionfruit meringue and Hibiscus mandarin pudding, inspired by the iconic Wulu, a symbol of good fortune which traces the outline of the auspicious number 8.

The Bo Bo collection also celebrates the collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature with the adorable panda, the embodiment of friendliness and a symbol of innocence and peace, as its muse.



AD

Congratulations on

The 72th Anniversary

of The Founding of
The People's Republic of China



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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**UK MUST RESIST
 BEING GLOBALLY
 BOORISH BRITAIN**

The United Kingdom government under Prime Minister Boris Johnson is desperate to position the country as “Global Britain” after its messy withdrawal from the European Union. But such a dream can never come true if the Johnson government insists on realizing it through exacerbating geopolitical competition and raising regional tensions.

On Monday, for the first time since 2008, a UK warship, HMS Richmond, a frigate deployed with the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier strike group to the Asia-Pacific, sailed through the Taiwan Straits. The move was clearly intended to challenge China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

One day later, the UK announced it would begin formal negotiations with Japan to deepen their defense relationship. The UK’s defense ministry said the talks with Japan would send a clear signal about the determination of the two countries to support the rules-based international order. This again marks a major UK strategic shift toward the Asia-Pacific in unison with the United States with the aim of targeting China.

Johnson is desperate to secure a trade deal with the US. Even its chaotic response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been unable to cover up the consequences of Brexit for the UK economy. The post-deal chickens are now coming home to roost and causing a heck of a ruckus. To strut on the global stage in a manner it considers befitting to the puffed-up jingoism it is pandering to and secure a we-have-put-all-our-eggs-in-this-basket deal with the US, the Johnson government is closely following the lead of the US.

Yet it keeps slipping on the melting fudge of the Northern Ireland Protocol. US President Joe Biden once again warned Johnson that the chances of securing a trade deal with the US are little to none if its post-Brexit policy damages the protocol aimed at maintaining the Good Friday Agreement.

The moves Johnson has taken to scamper behind the US as the Biden administration ramps up its “Indo-Pacific” strategy will stoke confrontation and create tensions on the geopolitical front, which will, in turn, pose a threat to regional peace and stability.

In its unseemly eagerness to bark from behind the heels of Washington, the UK is aggravating the already simmering tensions in the Taiwan Straits, where the US frequently seeks to provoke China. The Johnson government should not indulge in the illusion that China’s bottom line on its territorial integrity is something that it can play with in its games with the US.

The UK government should be fully aware of the sensitivity of the Taiwan question as it forms the very political foundation for the UK’s ties with China. Nor should it underestimate Beijing’s strong determination, resolve and ability to safeguard the country’s territorial integrity.

Instead of trying to exploit the situation in the region to fish for rule-Britannia support at home, the Johnson government should abandon its colonial-style pretensions and ensure that the UK acts as a responsible member of the international community by respecting the aspirations of the region for peaceful development.

**FROM 007 TO MACBETH:
 DANIEL CRAIG PLOTS RETURN TO BROADWAY**

**THE
 BUZZ**

Fresh off his turn as James Bond in “No Time To Die”, which opened in U.S. theaters, Daniel Craig (right) has his next project lined up and its also got plenty of blood being spilled.

Craig will return to Broadway in 2022 as Macbeth in a revival of Williams Shakespeare’s tragedy, with Ruth Negga making her

Broadway debut playing Lady Macbeth.

“Macbeth” will play the Lyceum Theatre starting March 29, 2022, with an opening set for April 28. Tony Award-winner Sam Gold will direct. Barbara Broccoli, who produces the James Bond films with her brother, is a producer of “Macbeth.”



Name is Charles, Prince Charles

**INDIA BUILDS
 STRATEGIC TUNNEL
 PROJECT IN KASHMIR**

DAR YASIN, SONAMARG

HIGH in a rocky Himalayan mountain range in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, hundreds of people are working on an ambitious project to drill tunnels and construct bridges to connect the Kashmir Valley with Ladakh, a cold-desert region isolated half the year because of massive snowfall.

Strategically important Ladakh shares de facto borders with Pakistan and China and currently depends on air supplies for about six months of the year.

Officials say a 6.5-kilometer tunnel, the first of four, is already complete and will make the resort town of Sonamarg accessible during the winter months for the first time. Sonamarg marks the end of conifer-clad mountains before Ladakh begins across the rocky Zojila mountain pass.

The \$932 million project’s last tunnel, about 14 kilometers long, will bypass the challenging Zojila pass and connect Sonamarg with Ladakh. Officials say it will be India’s longest and highest tunnel at 11,500 feet.

“It’s not like any other construction work. It’s great learning,” said one of the workers, Tariq Ahmed Lone, as he helped at a drilling machine.

Indian and Chinese soldiers have been engaged in a sometimes violent standoff in the Karakoram mountains in Ladakh for over 16 months along their de facto border, called the Line of Actual Control. Both countries have stationed tens of thousands of soldiers there, backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets.

Indian military planners view the tunnel project as extremely important for Ladakh. Experts say it will provide



Vehicles run through the Zojila Pass



Turkey intends to seek compensation for its removal from a U.S.-led stealth fighter jet program, possibly during a meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden on the margins of a Group of 20 meeting next month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. Erdogan, speaking to journalists during a flight back from a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, also said there would be no “turning back” from deal with Russia for Turkey’s acquisition of S-400 advanced missile defense systems.

Netherlands Police in the Netherlands and Germany have arrested nine suspected members of a gang responsible for a string of robberies targeting ATMs in Germany and for setting up a training center for blowing up cash machines, European Union police agency Europol said yesterday. The makeshift training facility in the central Dutch city of Utrecht helped unmask the gang during an 18-month cross-border investigation, according to Europol.



French ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy, who was convicted yesterday and sentenced to a year of house arrest for illegal campaign financing of his unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid, will appeal the ruling, his lawyer said. The court said Sarkozy would be allowed to serve the one-year sentence at home by wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet. Sarkozy’s lawyer,

logistics flexibility to the military and give it operational and strategic mobility.

Politicians also see an opportunity in the project.

The Zojila part of the tunnel is to be functional in 2026, but India’s road transport and highways minister, Nitin Gadkari,

said on a visit to the project site on Tuesday that he hopes the work will be finished before a 2024 general election.

“It’s a challenge I know, but I’m confident they can do it on time,” Gadkari said. “Obviously, we would want it to be finished before the elections.” MDT/AP

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holidays. The Times will be back on the stands on Wednesday, October 6. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.