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WINNER OF MACAU GP'S FIRST-EVER F4 RACE CHARLES LEONG IS SET TO RACE ONCE AGAIN AND REPEAT LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENT

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TREASURE HOTEL WILL BE A QUARANTINE FACILITY FOR HIGH-RISK ARRIVALS: INSIDERS

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LVS REMAINS CONFIDENT IN THE CONCESSIONAIRE RENEWAL PROCESS AS IT BOASTS ITS TRACK RECORD, DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT IN THE CITY

P5

Taiwan An earthquake shook Taipei yesterday and caused falling rocks that injured a woman and damaged a car. No deaths were reported. The 6.5-magnitude quake struck at 1:11 p.m. and was centered near Yilan, a city about 35 kilometers east of Taipei near the northeastern coast, according to the Central Weather Bureau. It was followed seconds later by a 5.4-magnitude quake. The subway and some other mass transit services were suspended and a woman was injured by falling rocks in Taroko National Park in Hualien County.

Pakistan A radical Islamist party agreed yesterday to suspend for three days its march of thousands toward the capital Islamabad after Pakistan agreed to drop pending charges against the party's leader. Party supporters Saturday departed the eastern city of Lahore, clashing for a second straight day with police who lobbed tear gas into the crowd. The group began its journey a day earlier with the goal of reaching Islamabad to pressure the government to release Saad Rizvi, head of the Islamist Tehreek-e-Labial Pakistan party.

Afghanistan A roadside bombing targeting a Taliban vehicle in eastern Afghanistan killed at least two civilians Saturday, including a child, Taliban and health officials said. Four others were wounded. Two bombs detonated as a Taliban vehicle was passing by, killing one child, district police chief Ismatullah Mubariz said, adding that no Taliban fighters were harmed.



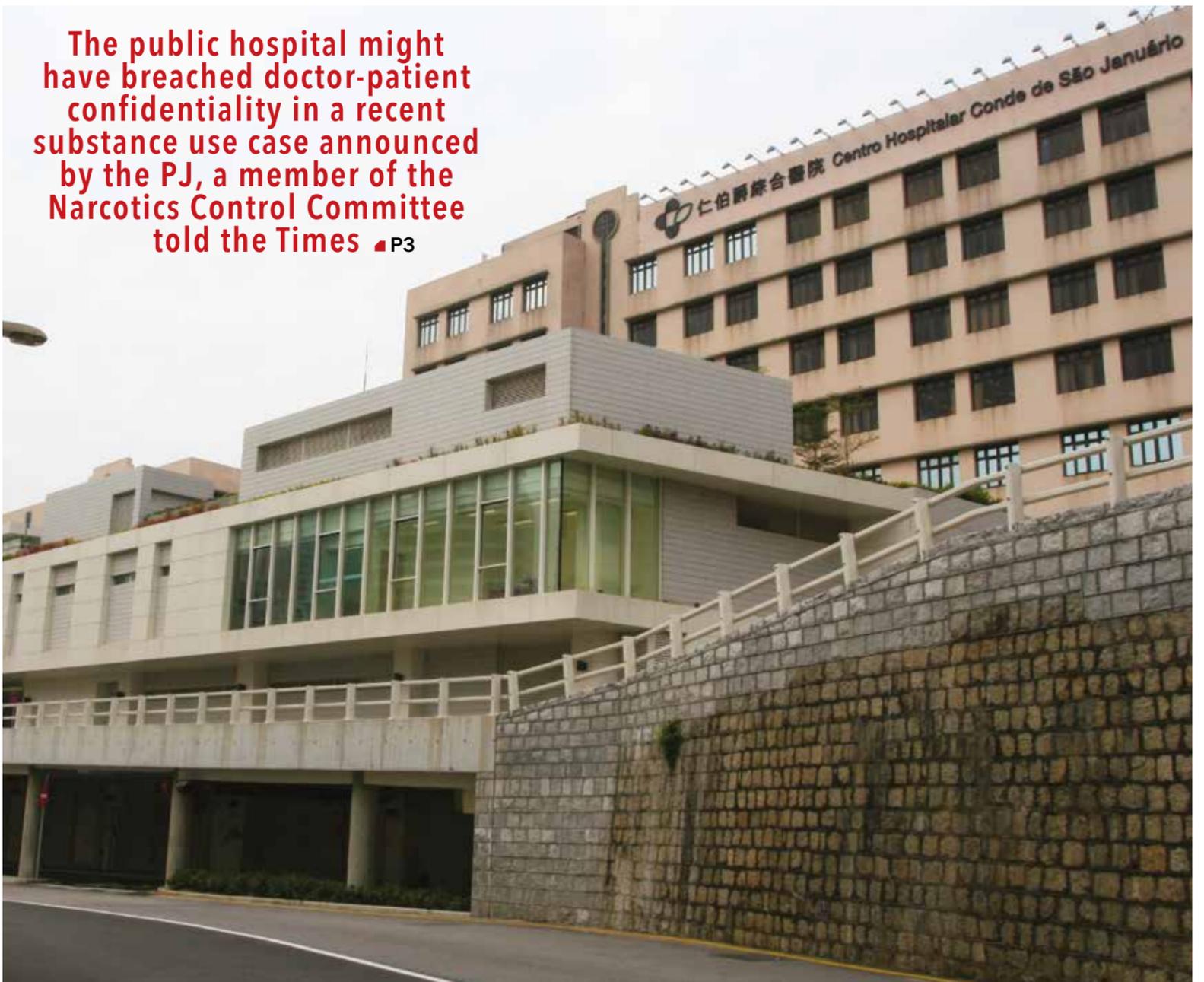
Israel is expected to move forward with thousands of new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank this week, a settlement watchdog group said yesterday. The plan for some 3,000 new settler units in the West Bank has already drawn calls for restraint from the U.S., which on Friday voiced "concern" over the expected approvals.

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DATA BREACHES

The public hospital might have breached doctor-patient confidentiality in a recent substance use case announced by the PJ, a member of the Narcotics Control Committee told the Times

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RENATO MARQUES

IN RUSH FOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS PARENTS BLAME LAST-MINUTE SCHOOL RESUMPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

P4



RENATO MARQUES

CHARLES LEONG WINS FOUR IN FOUR IN PREPARATION FOR MACAU GP

RENATO MARQUES

LAST year's winner of Macau Grand Prix's (GP) first-ever Formula 4 (F4) race, Charles Leong Hon Chio, is set to race once again and repeat last year's accomplishment under the Macau flag.

Aiming to arrive in good form to the local GP, Leong started the delayed season of the FIA F4 China well, winning all four races held over the weekend at Zhuhai's International Circuit.

As the most experienced of the whole paddock in this year's shortened season, Leong didn't face many difficulties in beating the opposition, taking his Mygale-Geely F4 to the checkered flag and the highest step of the podium.

Leong, who took a year's break and is racing for the first time since winning the Macau GP last year, showed dominance right from the practice and qualifying sessions on Friday, and into Saturday's races.

During the first race of the weekend, Ryan Liu Zexuan in car number 6 gave Leong some strong competition. Liu won at the flag but was later demoted to the third position after facing a five-second penalty for a racing-related incident.

Over the weekend, three drivers stood out. Andy Chang Wing Chung, another Macau racer who led the course of the races, joined Leong and



Liu and had a podium finish in all races except Race 2 on Saturday. Li Si Cheng, who also competed in last year's Macau GP, took the second position in front of Chang in Race 2. Liu did not finish that race, as he retired at the start after completing only one lap.

Preparations seemed to go well for Leong and Chang, who came in first and second, respectively, during last year's GP.

Although more racing action from the F4 China championship is expected to happen from November 5 to 7 when the paddock moves to Ningbo, sources familiar with the organization of the event say this round may be postponed to an undisclosed date in December.

This is due to a new Covid-19 outbreak occurring in some of the Mainland's central

and northern provinces.

If the announcement of the race in Ningbo's postponement is made, the drivers will

be out on track for the Macau GP next.

GBA 3X3 BASKETBALL TO MOVE FORWARD TO LATE NOVEMBER

INITIALLY planned to take place in October, the FIBA 3x3 Macao Masters – Wynn Cup Greater Bay Area (GBA) Qualifying Tournament has been postponed until the end of November this year.

The basketball event, one of the major sports events on the local calendar this year, has been postponed from early this month as a result of the Covid-19 cases found in the community which led to the interruption and canceling of many activities and events.

According to information from the Sports Bureau (ID), the event sponsored by Wynn will now take place from November 24 to 28.

The ID also informed that since the tournament's dates have been changed, the organizers will carry out a new draw on the groups on November 1.

On November 5, the updated schedule will be re-

leased on the event's official website: www.macao-3x3basketball.com.

The organizers also informed that registered teams will be allowed to rearrange the team, if necessary, due to the changes that occurred with the event dates. Teams making a change should contact the organizing committee via WeChat.

Planned to be hosted in four different outdoor venues across the city, the number of venues will now be reduced to three due to the cancelation of the venues in the area of the Nam Van Nautical Center and Tap Seac Square. A new venue at the Ruins of Saint Paul's has been added.

The venues of A-Ma Temple square and the lawn area outside of the Wynn Palace resort in Cotai will remain unchanged. RM

Insiders say Treasure Hotel to be used as a quarantine facility for arrivals from high-risk countries

TREASURE Hotel will be used as a quarantine facility for those arriving from high-risk countries from mid-November, insiders told the Times.

According to sources, these arrivals would only be allowed to stay at the Treasure Hotel and would no longer be able to choose their preferred hotel, as discussed in a "private meeting between

the Macao Government Tourism Office and other hotel senior management."

Currently, the optional medical observation hotels are Sheraton Grand Macao, Lisboa Hotel, Regency Art Hotel and Grand Coloane Resort. Local residents who choose to stay at these optional hotels do so at their own cost and are not able to apply for exemption from

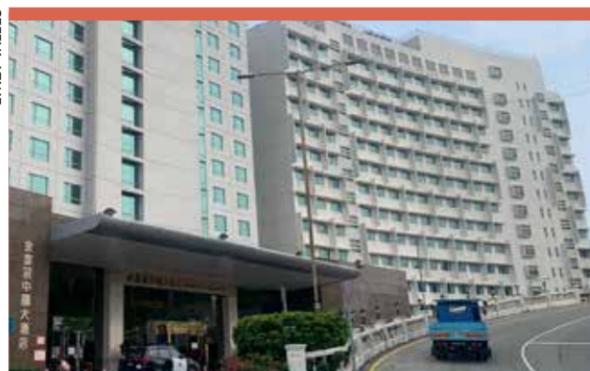
the government.

In late September, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong announced that the government has implemented new arrangements for the assignment of quarantine hotels. Entrants to Macau will be categorized with reference to the origin of their travel.

Quarantine hotels Golden Crown China Hotel

and Treasure Hotel were put under closed management without outside contact after a few employees were found to have been infected with Covid-19. The two quarantine hotels have been closed due to being considered a risk of contagion and guests and staff members have both had to undergo quarantine. LV

LYNZY VALLES



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Drug committee member blames gov't hospital for breaking clinical confidentiality

ANTHONY LAM

THE city's public hospital might have broken doctor-patient confidentiality in a recent substance use case announced by the Judiciary Police (PJ) last week, Erick Cheung, member of the Narcotics Control Committee told the Times.

A 22-year-old teacher was apprehended on October 18 by the PJ following a referral from the Public Security Police Force (PSP), for consuming marijuana. PSP, according to the PJ, was notified by the public Conde de São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), where the patient was seeking medical assistance after feeling discomfort from taking the addictive substance.

Doctors at the public hospital ran a blood test on the patient. The test yielded positive results for marijuana.

However, according to Cheung, in Macau, notifying the police is not the only way to handle such situations. He cited Article 34 of Law No. 17/2009, which, in his opinion, gives medical professionals the option to contact the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) or the Health Bureau (SSM) for medical support instead.

"This is the spirit [in which] the law was made: to provide adequate and scientific intervention for people with addiction issues," Cheung posited, adding that he finds it disturbing for a help-seeker to be arrested at the medical facility.

Furthermore, the fear of getting arrested will discourage substance users from seeking medical assistance.

"These fears might eventually lead to avoidance of seeking help for their addiction, overdose or withdrawal issues, [which] turns out to be harmful to what we are purposing with the laws and the mutual supportive network from the helping institutions," said Cheung.

"If a person is looking for health assistance, then the medical [facility] is obligated to offer those necessary medical services, which has been carried out in the system well in all these years," he added.

When further asked why criminal investigation is not a more preferred option, Cheung explained that providing medical help will retain the individual's aptness to live a life. They can go to work and earn income as usual, so that they can support their own life.

"[It is more so] for mild or moderate users who are yet maintaining functional scope of life," Cheung

CHASE FADE



said. "[Apprehension] just pushes the person away from their well-being and deepens the chance of increased substance use, fitting the label of a criminal, but not a person who is seeking for change, either in terms of health, behavior or choice of life."

He did not understand why the police were notified this time. "Entities between health, social welfare and even sometimes the judicial branches, are cooperating well in these intra-sector referrals to bring appropriate help to the people who need it," he revealed.

When asked by the Times as to under what circumstances the police should be notified by a medical professional during medical consultation, Cheung thinks that the police should be informed when a patient is causing immediate life-threatening harm to themselves or others.

"I would say drug trafficking, human trafficking or [posing] danger to other people, such as driving under the influence of drug or alcohol would be feasibly obligated to be reported," Cheung said.

A psychological counsellor himself, Cheung reiterated that handling substance users in a criminal manner is not the best way. "We should always be reminded about pushing people who use drugs – excluding those who sell them – under criminal charge does not help with their addiction but always likely to ruin the social functioning of the person," he explained.

Cheung argues that the Macau community has built up an effective

and efficient system for years, which involves essential professional referral. It is, according to him, more appropriate between sectors of health and social welfare.

Entities in Macau – both public and private – have been working on the prevention and treatment for individuals who use drugs or substances on a regular basis or with addictive tendency.

As neither of Dr Tai Wa Hou nor Dr Lei Wai Seng, both medical directors of the CHCSJ, were at the regular health press briefing last Thursday, the Times emailed the SSM after office hours the same day for a comment. None was received by press time.

A LAWYER'S VIEW

Despite Cheung's argument, local lawyer Vitor Tang considers the same provision debatable. Speaking on the legal provision in general, the lawyer suggests further clarifications may be needed.

This law only states that the medical team, during the treatment, should not disclose the patient's "particulars."

"Reviewing the Portuguese version, I have the interpretation that the medical staff should not disclose the name of the patient," Tang said. "It doesn't mean that the doctor has no responsibility in notifying any illicit details to the police."

He also referred to the Criminal Procedure Code to support his understanding. "Pursuant to Article 225 of [the Code], certain individuals are obliged to report any illicit deeds found during their

work, with civil servants being one of them."

On the contrary, after reviewing the legislative documents stored with the Legislative Assembly, Tang said that the Code and Law No. 17/2009 (the Law) are somehow conflicting.

"My understanding is that the provision [in Law No. 17/2009] only concerns those with medication reliance, who seek medical assistance in the hopes of treating the said reliance," the lawyer said. "Only then the duty to report any illicit doings is waived by Clause 4, Article 34, Law No. 17/2009."

Referring to the legislative documents, the law, as part of a wider public health policy, aims at encouraging substance users to seek medical assistance against their medication reliance, the lawyer said.

Furthermore, the wordings in the Law are also unclear. "The chapter comprising the provision uses the phrase 'Prevention and Treatment of Medication Reliance', but Clause 1 of the provision has no reference to 'medication reliance,'" Tang pointed out. "Rather, substance users are referred to as 'drug takers.'"

The manner in which the provision was written is also confusing, as Tang described. He said that Clause 1 of the provision seems to provide room for interpretation. It states that confidentiality may kick in when a substance user "approaches medical care", "but it is not clear if, for example, this condition is applicable when the user is getting their flu treated," Tang added.

NEW MEASURE FOR PASSENGERS FLYING FROM MAINLAND CHINA

From today, individuals wishing to travel by plane from mainland China to Macau must present a negative nucleic acid test certificate, performed in the last 48 hours from the day of sampling, in accordance with the requirements demanded by the health authorities. The entry of non-resident individuals who do not present the aforementioned certificate may be refused. Until October 27 at 11:59 p.m., holders of a negative nucleic acid test result issued in the last 48 hours can be immediately subjected to free sampling at Macau International Airport to replace the above requirement.

'STAY, DINE AND SEE MACAO' RESUMES

The 'Stay, Dine and See Macao' project resumed local tours operations on Saturday. On the first day back, about 230 people joined the local tour, including residents who chose to explore Macau this way. Many enjoyed local tours teeming with highlights such as visiting the Cotai Strip, the Macau Tower, buffet dinner on a maritime tour, and more. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the 'Stay, Dine and See Macao' project has suspended operations twice. The tours will run until the end of 2021. Macau residents have a one-time discount, while visitors are welcome to join at full price.

APPLICATIONS FOR MACAO CREATIVE PAVILION OPEN

Applications to participate in the Macao Creative Pavilion exhibition in the 14th Xiamen Cultural Industries Fair (CCCIF) are open from today to November 7. The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is coordinating the participation. The CCCIF is a large-scale cultural exhibition showcasing cultural organizations from both sides of the Strait. It will be held at the Xiamen International Conference & Exhibition Center from December 3 to 6. Applicants must only be made by local organizations related to the cultural and creative industries sector. Ten organizations will be selected to partake in the exhibition.

LONG QUEUES OVER THE WEEKEND TO PICK UP WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORMS

RENATO MARQUES

PEOPLE were seen queuing across the city next to stores selling school uniforms over the weekend.

These long queues are due to the need for winter uniforms ahead of classes' resumption today.

Standing in the long queues for long periods, even hours, many were dissatisfied, and blamed the last-minute school resumption announcements made by the government. This was followed by a notice from the schools asking students to be at school wearing the winter uniform.

A mother of two explained briefly to the Times that the announcement from the government on the immediate resumption of schools came on Thursday evening, while most schools only notified parents on the change to the winter uniform on Friday.

"Since most of the stores [that sell school uniforms] are closed on Sunday, we all had to come today [Saturday] to buy them," she said.

Waiting in the same line next to the door of a well-known uniform store in the

RENATO MARQUES



surroundings of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, a domestic helper named Annie told the Times that usually the change for the winter uniform takes place later in the year.

"From my experience of working in Macau for many years, I know that uniform change is in December but this year they asked [for it] early and people have little time [to adjust to the school's decision]," she said.

This reason for the sudden decision by the schools is due to the sudden change in Macau's weather that occurred

late last week. Since Thursday evening and through the weekend, there has been a sudden drop in temperature from around 30 degrees Celsius to around 20 degrees Celsius.

According to a report from Hong Kong's South China Morning Post (SCMP) last week, the change of weather affecting both Hong Kong and Macau is due to a cold front forming over central China that moved south over the weekend, bringing with it cooler temperatures below 20 degrees Celsius for the first time

this autumn, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

In the same report, and quoting a weather expert, the SCMP said "people would not need to dig out winter coats just yet," noting that temperatures will likely rise from mid this week to an average of 25 to 26 degrees Celsius or higher.

A similar forecast can be seen at the local Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau which predicts a maximum temperature of 27 degrees Celsius tomorrow and 28 degree Celsius for the following days until Friday.

Tourist arrivals rebounding after downturn

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU has recorded a steady rebound in visitor arrivals, which have been trending upward for four days in a row, registering 25,252 visitor arrivals on Friday, according to the recent government data.

Friday recorded the highest number of arrivals since the city entered the immediate prevention state and tightened its measures against Covid-19 on September 25 – which was later terminated on October 15.

Since September 25, Macau recorded a total of 13 new Covid-19 cases, causing Zhuhai to also tighten entry and exit requirements temporarily.

During this period, the average daily volume of visitor arrivals stood at about 1,000. Once the pandemic control and prevention measures at the ports of entry between Zhuhai and Macau were relaxed from 12:00 noon on October 19, the number of visitors immediately rebounded to nearly 14,000 in a single day.

Single-day visitor arrivals even exceeded 20,000 on October 20 and have stayed above that number since then.

As the pandemic situation in Macau stabilizes, in parallel with the latest adjustment to the pandemic control and prevention measures implemented at the ports of entry between Zhuhai and Macau, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said that it is promoting the destination. Specifically, it is leveraging various social media such as WeChat, Weibo, Xiaohongshu and Douyin to spotlight Macau as a safe and quality destination among Mainland residents, welcoming visitors to experience the city.

This border restriction has discouraged travelers from the neighboring region to visit Macau, which also made significant impact in the Golden Week arrivals.

Also, the MGTO said that events and community activities will be coming up in November and December, such as the Macao Light Festival and the Light up Macao Drone Gala.

The latter, which was supposed to make its debut on October 1, was postponed due to the fresh Covid-19 outbreak.

Meanwhile, September arrivals soared by 53.7% month-on-month to 629,085, attributable to the easing of entry and exit requirements in Macau which occurred during most of the month. This also represented a growth of 40.1% year-on-year.



COOPERATION ZONE

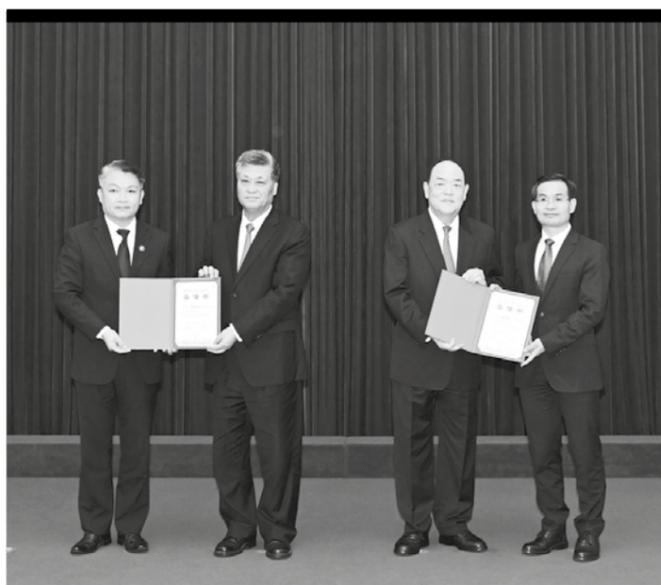
CE PLEDGES TO 'WORK CLOSELY' WITH GUANGDONG

STAFF REPORTER

CHIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng presented four pieces of advice on the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Operation Zone in Guangzhou during its first administrative committee meeting on Friday.

The meeting was co-hosted by Ho and Ma Xingrui, Governor of Guangdong Province. The two sides discussed the planning of the Cooperation Zone's work, and approved a trial version of the rules for the workings of the administrative committee. While in Guangzhou, there was a ceremony to present appointment certificates to the secretaries-general of the administrative committee and leading officials of the executive committee.

The CE delivered a speech



at the meeting, saying that the Macau government would work closely with the Guangdong government in order to advance the development of the Cooperation Zone.

In a bid to realize the goals

outlined in the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Ho called on the newly-inaugurated officials of the Cooperation Zone to work

in line with the requirements outlined by President Xi Jinping.

Ma said the development of the Cooperation Zone was in a new phase of comprehensive and accelerated implementation, and that Macau and Guangdong would work responsibly and with a goal to roll out work for pivotal elements. These included: optimising management systems for the Cooperation Zone; stepping up efforts to attract large-scale enterprises and major projects to set up base in the Cooperation Zone; strengthening communication and coordination mechanisms externally and internally; and speeding up the implementation of major and innovative policies benefiting the Cooperation Zone. These would help develop the Cooperation Zone, while enriching the "One country, two systems" principle, supporting Macau's economic diversification effort, and furthering the Macau SAR's integration into overall national development.

GAMING

LVS remains confident on concession renewal in Macau

LYNZY VALLES

LAS Vegas Sands (LVS) remains confident in the gaming concessionaire renewal process, as it boasts its track record, development, and investment in the city.

In its annual earnings call for the third quarter, chairman and CEO Rob Goldstein was assured that there are no chances of Macau being excluded in operating any casino assets in the near future.

"We have the unparalleled track record," the executive said.

"I think the government has recognized we've been an awfully good licensee and partner and friends with China and Macau, and we're eager to be back there. So no, I don't believe that's a possibility [of a fall out]," Goldstein added.

Gaming concessions are due for re-bidding next year. However, the government has not yet provided guarantees that any

PHOTO ARCHIVE



will be renewed. Many have also called on the government to extend the validity of the concessions, which end in June 2022, due to the adverse effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the industry.

The announcement of the government's changes on the gaming law last month have triggered a sell-off of gaming stocks,

"We've always found the government very reasonable, very thoughtful, and very fair."

ROB GOLDSTEIN
CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF LAS VEGAS SANDS

as stocks plunged to as much as USD18 billion.

This comes after the annou-

ncement that concessionaires will face tighter scrutiny from the government, which will have

a greater authority to verify the background of the staff hired by both the concessionaires and entities who work with them.

Regarding the concession renewals, Goldstein has said that Las Vegas Sands is "prepared for it" amid the current pandemic crisis globally.

"We've always found the government very reasonable, very thoughtful, and very fair. And we're not concerned whether they make that decision next month, the month after, or make it in June. I don't know when they're going to make that decision," he said.

"I'll let them make that decision and tell us. We'll respond accordingly. But we have no trepidation or any fear that there will be an issue of this. We knew this was coming," the CEO added.

Meanwhile, local casino operators are expected to see a slump in profits during the third quarter, predicting an EBITDA of HKD62 million, according to a Bloomberg survey of estimates from eight brokerages.

According to a report issued by Bloomberg, "analysts forecast that the latest quarter would be this year's worst so far, with the industry's profit estimate plunging significantly from the HKD14 million reported by operators in the previous three months."

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CHINA VOWS NO CONCESSIONS ON TAIWAN AFTER BIDEN COMMENTS

CHINA on Friday said there is “no room” for compromise or concessions over the issue of Taiwan, following a comment by U.S. President Joe Biden that the U.S. is committed to defending the island if it is attacked.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reasserted China's longstanding claim that the island is its territory at a daily briefing after Biden made his comment a day before at a forum hosted by CNN.

China has recently upped its threat to bring Taiwan under its control by force if necessary by flying warplanes near the island and rehearsing beach landings.

“When it comes to issues related to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and other core interests, there is no room for China to compromise or make concessions, and no one should underestimate the strong determination, firm will and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Wang said.

“Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair of China that allows no foreign intervention,” Wang said.

Biden's comments on Thursday were viewed as stretching the “strategic ambiguity” Washington has maintained over how it

AP PHOTO



A Chinese PLA J-16 fighter jet flies in an undisclosed location

would respond to an assault on the self-governing island republic.

The U.S. should “be cautious with its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, and not send any wrong signals to the separatist forces of Taiwan independence, so as not to seriously damage China-U.S. relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait,” Wang said.

At the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that Biden's comments about Taiwan weren't meant to signal a change in approach.

“What I can convey to you is that our policy has not changed,” Psaki said. “He was not intending to convey a change in policy, nor has he made a decision to change our policy.”

In his comments, Biden said

the U.S. did not want a new Cold War but expressed concern about whether China was “going to engage in activities that will put them in a position where they may make a serious mistake.”

“I just want to make China understand that we are not going to step back, we are not going to change any of our views.” Biden said. Asked whether the U.S.

would come to Taiwan's defense if it were attacked, he replied: “Yes, we have a commitment to do that.”

Asked Friday whether the U.S. would defend Taiwan if the island were attacked by China, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told a reporter he would not discuss hypothetical situations, but also said, “Nobody wants to see cross-Strait issues come to blows — certainly not President Biden, and there's no reason that it should.” Speaking in Brussels after a NATO defense ministers' meeting, Austin added that Washington remains committed to its longstanding “one China” policy.

In Taipei, a spokesperson for Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen said the U.S. has shown its support for Taiwan through concrete actions and the island's 23 million citizens would not surrender to pressure or act rashly.

“Taiwan will demonstrate our firm determination to defend ourselves and continue to work with countries with similar values to make a positive contribution toward the Taiwan Strait and Indo-Pacific region's peace and stability,” spokesperson Chang Tun-han said.

China and Taiwan split during a civil war in 1949. The U.S. cut formal diplomatic relations with Taipei in 1979 in order to recognize Beijing. The U.S. does not openly contest China's claim to Taiwan, but is committed by law to ensure the island can defend itself and to treat all threats toward it as matters of “grave concern.” **MDT/AP**

US intel warns China could dominate advanced technologies

NOMAAN MERCHANT,
WASHINGTON

U.S. officials issued new warnings Friday about China's ambitions in artificial intelligence and a range of advanced technologies that could eventually give Beijing a decisive military edge and possible dominance over health care and other essential sectors in America.

The warnings include a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries, officials at the National Counterintelligence and Security Center said. While the center does not intend to tell officials to reject Chinese investment, it will encourage efforts to control intellectual property and implement security measures.

National security agen-

AP PHOTO



cies under President Joe Biden's administration are making an aggressive public push against China, which some officials have called the greatest strategic threat to the United States. The Biden administration has simultaneously tried to ease some tensions with Beijing dating to the Trump administration and seek common ground on trade and climate change.

Beijing has repeatedly accused Washington of fear-mongering about its intentions and attacked U.S. intelligence for its assessments of China, including allegations that Chinese leaders have withheld critical information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has stated its goals to create profitable techno-

logies in robotics and other fields in plans known as “Made in China 2025.” The Justice Department in recent years has returned several indictments alleging theft of sensitive U.S. information on behalf of China, including vaccine research and autonomous vehicle technology.

The counterintelligence center's acting director, Michael Orlando, told reporters in a rare briefing Thursday that the U.S. “can't afford to lose” ground to China in several key areas: artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology.

Orlando noted that Chinese businesses and academics are beholden to the Chinese Communist Party and are required to serve the party's interests.

“Although we've been saying this for year after year, people are not digesting this,” he said.

Orlando declined to say whether the U.S. should enact tougher restrictions or outright bans on Chinese investment in certain sectors, saying his role was not to suggest policy.

But the counterintelligence center holds regular briefings with private industry and academia while recognizing that industries and universities may still want to seek students, experts and investors from China, Orlando said. He would not name companies with which the center has met.

The center's officer for emerging and disruptive technologies, Edward You, noted the investment of Chinese companies in U.S. and European biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

WuXi Biologics has since 2019 built a vaccine manufacturing facility in Ireland, announced plans for a production facility in Massachusetts and acquired a

Bayer plant in Germany. Officials did not disclose any information linking those acquisitions to Beijing's influence but said they were part of a broader pattern by Chinese medical companies.

Chinese companies have also offered COVID-19 testing kits and genetic testing in the U.S., meeting federal privacy standards and other regulations, You said. But the data collected by companies with ties to China could ultimately end up in the hands of Beijing, You said.

China already has the greatest access to medical data of any country, You said. With its data collection and its advancements in technology, Beijing could one day be dominant in health care and leave the U.S. wholly dependent on China, he said.

“If you're President Xi,” he said, “that's the gift that keeps on giving.” **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



US urges N. Korea to stop missile tests and return to talks

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

A senior U.S. diplomat yesterday urged North Korea to refrain from additional missile tests and resume nuclear diplomacy, days after the North fired off its first underwater-launched ballistic missile in two years.

Sung Kim, the U.S. envoy on North Korea, spoke after meeting with South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's recent missile

tests while nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang remain stalled.

"We call on the DPRK to cease these provocations and other destabilizing activities, and instead, engage in dialogue," Kim told reporters, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We remain ready to meet with the DPRK without preconditions and we have made clear that the United States harbors no hostile

intent towards the DPRK," he said.

Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent weeks.

South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appeared to be in an early stage of development. That marked the North's first underwater-launched test since October 2019, and the most high-profile one since President Joe Biden took office in January.

Missiles fired from submarines are harder to detect in advance and would provide North Korea with a secondary, retaliatory attack capability.

Tuesday's launch violates multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions that ban any activity by North Korea in the area of ballistic missiles. Kim said the test poses a threat to the international community and is "concerning and counterproductive" to efforts to promote peace

on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim's South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, said the two had an "in-depth" discussion on Seoul's push for a symbolic declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring peace. Noh said he and Kim also reaffirmed that North Korea's issues of concern can be discussed once talks are restarted.

The U.S.-led talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program have been largely stalled since early 2019, when a summit between then-President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on the North.

The Biden administration has repeatedly said it's ready to meet North Korea "anywhere and at any time" without preconditions. But North Korea says a return to talks is conditional on the U.S. dropping what it calls hostile policy, an apparent reference to the sanctions and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul.

Before the submarine missile launch, North Korea had also tested several other new weapons systems over a six-week period, including its longest-range cruise missile and a hypersonic missile currently under development.

Those weapons potentially put U.S. allies South Korea and Japan within striking range. Some experts say North Korea may also in coming weeks test a missile that could reach the American homeland in order to maximize its pressure campaign on the United States. **MDT/AP**

Myanmar upset its military leader barred from regional meet

GRANT PECK, BANGKOK

MYANMAR'S military-installed government on Friday sharply challenged a pronouncement by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations barring its leader from attending the regional bloc's summit this week.

Myanmar said the declaration, issued by ASEAN's current chair, Brunei, violated the charter of the group, to which it belongs. A statement issued Friday night by Myanmar's Foreign Ministry detailed why it believed ASEAN had violated its own rules by taking such action.

The 10-member bloc acted after Myanmar refused to allow its special envoy to meet with ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. She has been detained since Myanmar's military seized power from her elected government in February.



In this April 22, 2021, file photo, flags of member countries fly at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASEAN since April has sought to play a mediating role in Myanmar's crisis, as the ruling military's efforts to quash opposition have only triggered increasingly violent and destabilizing resistance.

The row comes ahead of the Oct. 26 start to ASEAN's annual summit, which in-

cludes high-profile talks with world leaders such as U.S. President Joe Biden, as well as the leaders of China and Russia.

The monthslong crisis in Myanmar, the still-raging coronavirus pandemic and security and economic issues are high on the agenda of the meeting, which will

be carried out by video.

Western nations such as the United States have sharply criticized military rule in Myanmar since the takeover and the deadly crackdown on military opponents, which is estimated to have killed about 1,100 civilians.

Some U.N. experts suggest Myanmar is on the verge of civil war, which could destabilize the region.

ASEAN itself, whose members usually refrain from criticizing each other, is also roiled by the crisis in Myanmar.

Such a dispute within ASEAN is virtually unprecedented. Among the bedrock principles breached by the exclusion of Myanmar's leader is an edict prohibiting ASEAN member states from interfering in each other's domestic affairs. The regional bloc also decides by consensus, meaning

just one member state can shoot down any proposal. In dealing with Myanmar this year, the group's chair has used its privilege to act without a formal consensus.

Friday's statement from Myanmar's Foreign Ministry said only a summit of the group could consider whether to bar the attendance of a member nation's leader.

It declared that "Myanmar will endeavor to find a peaceful solution based on ASEAN Spirit and ASEAN Way through consultation and negotiation." But it did not say if another representative from Myanmar would be attending in place of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who heads the government and ruling military council.

Brunei in its capacity as ASEAN chair said the bloc has decided to invite a non-

political representative, instead of Myanmar's military leader.

ASEAN leaders at a special meeting in April issued a statement expressing a "five-point consensus" on Myanmar's crisis. It called for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all concerned parties, mediation by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid through ASEAN channels, and a visit to Myanmar by the special envoy to meet all concerned parties.

Myanmar is widely seen as having done very little to abide by the consensus, though it claims to have helped facilitate humanitarian assistance.

Along with Myanmar, the other ASEAN nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, center, speaks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, left, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel

EU unconvinced by Polish arguments on rule of law changes

RAF CASERT, BRUSSELS

POLISH arguments that fundamental judicial changes the country has made would not undermine the European Union on Friday failed to convince key bloc leaders who said that the withholding of billions in EU recovery funds would likely continue unless Warsaw falls back into line.

At the end of a two-day EU summit dominated by the standoff over core values like judicial independence and the primacy of EU law in member states, a large majority of leaders insisted that preparations for sanctions against Poland needed to continue apace.

"No European country can call itself European if it's judges are not independent," said French President Emmanuel Macron.

And when Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki sowed the seeds of doubt that EU law should take a backseat to national rules, many leaders insisted that the EU's executive arm had no choice but to move against Poland over the rule of law dispute.

"There are no alternatives. The laws are clear," Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said. "The treaty ... the basis of the union, was put into question. It's clear the Commission cannot not go forward."

EU nations have warned for years over what they see as a backsliding of democratic principles in Poland when it comes to an independent judiciary and free media. They said Morawiecki's nationalist government stacked the constitutional court with handpicked judges and then had the same court challenge the supremacy of EU law.

To counter this, Morawiecki claims the EU institutions are so power-hungry that they treat the 27 member nations as mere vassals, grabbing power without a legal base and imposing its values against the wishes of sovereign peoples.

And by threatening sanctions, he said the EU was using plain "blackmail."

Even if many potential sanctions would be months - if not years - away, the EU is holding back 36 billion euros in resilience funds for Poland aimed at helping the nation bounce back from the pandemic. It hasn't released the funds because Poland needs to meet certain conditions that many leaders say necessitate legal changes Morawiecki refuses to make.

"I cannot see a situation if this is still lingering, that the Commission will decide on the resilience plan for Poland," said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. "The general issues around the rule of law have to be addressed. This was very clear," he said,

adding a large majority of leaders felt that way.

The EU's executive arm can start infringement procedures, or activate a mechanism allowing the suspension of other EU payments to a member country breaching the principles of the rule of law.

Such a confrontation though could throw the bloc into another existential crisis which German Chancellor Angela Merkel wants to avoid.

Merkel said that in their meetings with Morawiecki, she and Macron "expressed our great concern that we must get out of this escalating spiral, because the rule of law -- particularly in this context of judicial independence -- is of course a key pillar of European values."

Poland has been perceived lately as trying to undermine the EU with anti-Brussels rhetoric and actions, much like Prime Minister Viktor Orban has done in recent years. It fears that the EU is fraying at the edges and that another exit, like the one from the United Kingdom, might loom.

At a news briefing in Brussels after the summit, Morawiecki argued that Poland has no problem with the rule of law and that those who think it does don't understand the issues Poland has faced with a judiciary that needed radical refor-

ms, and still needs more reforms. He also argued that there need to be limits to EU power, saying it's not a "super state."

"Nobody agreed to this in Europe," he said.

Morawiecki argued that there are areas that the EU does not have responsibility over, citing sports, health, public safety and border security as examples.

Even though Morawiecki openly professed his attachment to the union and its guiding principles before meeting the leaders in the two-day summit, he did not do his EU credentials a favor by meeting with France's far right politicians Marine Le Pen on the sidelines.

Le Pen was long arguing for France to leave the bloc but reverted recently to argue that the EU should be changed from within to give sovereign nations more powers at the expense of Brussels.

Le Pen posted two photos from their meeting on Twitter, saying she and Morawiecki agree on the need to defend the sovereignty of nation states and discussed "the unacceptable blackmail exercised by the European Commission."

Morawiecki said he met Le Pen at her request and that it was normal for him to meet with all the major French presidential candidates.

The meeting shocked many in Poland since the ruling party has so far resisted cooperation with the French far right due to its Kremlin ties. Opposition leader Donald Tusk, a former EU leader, commented on Twitter that as EU leaders "try to solve dilemma of how to keep Poland in EU, defend rule of law & unblock funds, PM Morawiecki meets with pro-Putin & Eurosceptic Marine Le Pen." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1983 US TROOPS INVADE GRENADA



United States marines and army rangers have invaded the Caribbean island of Grenada, seized the country's two airports and taken Cuban and Soviet prisoners.

The action, which has shocked the world, was ordered by President Ronald Reagan following a bloody coup by Cuban-trained military who executed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and at least 13 of his associates.

Backed by helicopter gunships, 1,900 US troops were airlifted to Pearls airport in the north of the island at dawn. They were followed a few hours later by 300 soldiers from six other Caribbean countries.

The invasion of this former British colony has angered British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who spoke with President Reagan last night to try to dissuade him from military action.

But the Pentagon has expressed a "sense of outrage" that she refused to participate in the invasion despite America's support during the Falklands conflict last year.

The US Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger, said three US soldiers were killed as they fought members of a Cuban work force building a runway at Point Salinas Airport.

Other US officials said 30 Soviet advisers and 600 Cubans had been arrested. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corp owned by the Barbados government reported four Cubans dead.

President Reagan announced the attack at a news conference in the White House four hours after his troops had landed.

At his side was the prime minister of Dominica, Eugenia Charles, who is also chair of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The president said the US had taken military action after an appeal by the OECS, Jamaica and Barbados who were worried about the security of the region following last week's coup.

He also wanted to ensure the safety of a thousand Americans living in Grenada, including about 600 students and teachers at St George's University medical school.

Grenada gained its independence in 1974 and five years later there was a popular revolution led by the New Jewel Movement which brought the charismatic Marxist leader, Maurice Bishop, to power.

The coup leaders - Hudson Austin and Bernard Coard, Mr Bishop's former deputy - objected to the prime minister's policy of developing closer ties with the United States.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Hundreds more troops were sent in over the next few days. Heavy fighting continued but as the invasion force grew to more than 7,000 the defenders either surrendered or fled into the mountains.

The US Government puts the total death toll at 45 Grenadians, 24 Cubans and 19 Americans.

World leaders were outraged by America's action. On 28 October the United Nations failed to get a motion passed deploring the invasion - because it was vetoed by the United States.

Bernard Coard and 13 others were sentenced to death for Maurice Bishop's murder but these sentences were commuted to life imprisonment in 1991.

An Interim Advisory Council reinstated the 1974 constitution. Elections were held in 1984 and the centre-left New National Party won and Herbert A Blaize became Grenada's new prime minister.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. The knowledge you have will enhance your reputation. Depression may be likely if you're away from home.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope. Opportunities to pamper yourself may unfold. Passion is inevitable and commitments can be made during the heat of the night.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Discord may arise with someone you're close to. Sudden changes regarding your circle of friends could prove interesting and stimulating. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who don't deserve it.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Your boss won't be too thrilled if you leave things unfinished. Entertain in your home and make aesthetic enhancements that will please those who reside with you.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You will have excellent ideas for changing or renovating your home. Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. You will be looking for creative ways to make a little extra cash.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner. Educational pursuits can bring interesting, helpful people. Your reputation will be affected.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You could have a need to make some changes today. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. Don't let children hold you back from doing things you enjoy. Don't take advantage of your expense account.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. The experience will be good. Deep discussions may only lead to friction.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Jealousy may be a contributing factor to your emotional ups and downs. Romance will develop through work. Your mate will enjoy helping out.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Organize social events or family gatherings. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	14	rain
Harbin	5	14	cloudy
Tianjin	19	31	cloudy
Urumqi	17	20	rain
Xi'an	22	29	overcast
Lhasa	11	15	rain
Chengdu	24	32	cloudy
Chongqing	24	35	fine
Kunming	27	36	cloudy
Nanjing	19	29	fine
Shanghai	25	30	thunderstorms
Wuhan	22	31	rain
Hangzhou	4	14	cloudy
Taipei	20	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	8	13	rain
Hong Kong	12	15	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	11	overcast
Frankfurt	8	13	rain
Paris	11	16	overcast
London	10	14	rain
New York	16	21	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Liquid measure; 5- Longings; 9- Toronto paper; 13- Of sedate character; 15- Facilitate; 16- Dynamic beginning; 17- Monastery; 18- PDQ; 19- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 20- French possessive; 21- Treehouse used by birds; 23- Riding; 25- Tar; 26- Oily; 27- Russian revolutionary; 30- Thole insert; 31- Serf; 32- Textile fabric; 37- Model married to David Bowie; 38- Jacket material; 40- Excited about; 41- Long story writer; 43- Sail extender; 44- Lyric poem; 45- Proof of purchase; 47- Hockey player, e.g.; 50- Kind of collar; 51- On the line; 52- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 53- That, in Tijuana; 56- Wanting; 57- Concerning; 59- Wagons; 61- Bald eagle's relative; 62- James of "The Godfather"; 63- Capital of Vietnam; 64- Bird feed; 65- Held on to; 66- Venomous snakes;

DOWN 1- H.S. exam; 2- Let ___; 3- Collars; 4- Bind; 5- Like bread dough; 6- 3:00; 7- Code-breaking org.; 8- Divide; 9- Mead subject; 10- Rips; 11- Highfalutin; 12- Routine; 14- Potentate; 22- Wild bugler; 24- Roll call response; 25- Rock; 26- Incite; 27- Lean; 28- San ___ Italy; 29- Norwegian saint; 32- Fulfilled; 33- Grow to maturity; 34- Cross inscription; 35- Take ___ from me; 36- Trent of the Senate; 38- Close friend; 39- Consumer; 42- A great deal; 43- Parch with heat; 45- Take offense at; 46- LAX info; 47- Put away; 48- Basic monetary unit of Denmark; 49- Ventilated; 51- Gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans; 52- Two-wheeled carriage, golf bunker; 53- Sea eagles; 54- Discontinue; 55- Medical suffix; 58- Dundee denial; 60- Car club;

Friday's solution

P	E	D	U	P	S	L	A	P	H	I	S	S	
A	R	O	M	A	H	E	I	R	O	L	I	O	
M	O	L	A	R	A	E	R	O	L	I	N	D	
E	S	C	S	T	I	K	Y	K	L	A	S	A	
F	E	E	L	E	C	T	W	O	O	D	S		
N	O	V	I	C	E	P	S	H	A	W			
A	V	I	A										
M	E	T	R	O	P	O	L	I	T	A	N	I	Z
E	R	A											
T	O	N	I	A									
R	O	T	C										
U	S	I	T										
S	E	E	S										

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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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Property of the Week

FOR SALE



Chun U Villa
HKD 12,380,000 1,386 ft² 4 3

This home was renovated years ago with a luxurious style throughout. From the open-concept office and living space to the large ensuite masters with a walk-in wardrobe, there is plenty of room for the whole family to enjoy. This north-east facing apartment also comes with a spacious balcony and large windows that provide ample of natural light.

Situated in a popular neighbourhood, this home has easy access to supermarkets and many eateries nearby. It offers a beautiful and open landscape of Taipa looking right across at Macau Anglican College (MAC) and Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT).

Viewings can be arranged by appointment.
Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



Ref: 2104 6001

Property Hotlist

FOR SALE



Lakeview Tower
HKD 11,680,000

1,120 ft²
3
2



Ref: 1912 6001

FOR RENT



One Central
HKD 16,500/mth

1,292 ft²
2
2



Ref: 2106 1001

FOR RENT



Va Fat
HKD 10,900/mth

740 ft²
1
1



Ref: 1910 1006

More Listings

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- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 980 ft² **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Chun Fok 2 2 868 ft² **HKD 7,988,000** Ref: 2106 6002
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Nova Taipa 1 3 2 1,880 ft² **HKD 15,000,000** Ref: 2103 6004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft² **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

For Rent

- [Taipa] Jardim Lamerias 2 2 747 ft² **HKD 10,800/mth** Ref: 2106 1003
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 2 1,112 ft² **HKD 13,900/mth** Ref: 2102 1004
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2005 1002
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,158 ft² **HKD 20,000/mth** Ref: 2105 1002
- [Cotai] One Oasis 3 2 2,100 ft² **HKD 28,000/mth** Ref: 2011 1002

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FOR SALE



Hellene Gardens
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1



Ref: 2109 6001

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F1

Verstappen takes pole over Hamilton to start US Grand Prix

LAP by lap, Formula One's best championship duel in years takes one dramatic turn after another.

The U.S Grand Prix has played a role in this tense title battle between Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton with the championship rivals nipping at each other all weekend.

Points leader Verstappen will lead his Red Bull at the start. He'll be alongside seven-time champion Hamilton driving for a Mercedes team that has dominated this Texas course.

The two have gone back-and-forth since Friday practice when Verstappen flipped his middle finger at Hamilton in practice and called the five-time COTA winner a "stupid idiot." Then Verstappen nipped Hamilton on Saturday's last lap of qualifying by a whisper .209 seconds to snatch the pole.

So it will be the 24-year-old Dutchman out front at the start at a track where Hamilton has dominated practically since the day it opened.

This race is important in the

AP PHOTO



title fight because Mercedes has historically done so well. So Verstappen and Red Bull need to capitalize in Texas because Verstappen holds just a six-point lead in the standings with six races remaining.

The lead has seesawed several times this season as Verstappen tries to hang on in his chase of his first F1 championship. Hamilton is seeking a record eighth title, but this is his toughest challenge in years.

It sets up a potentially explosi-

ve start in front a massive sold-out crowd that should be among the largest for a U.S. sporting event since the start of the pandemic.

"We've had a lot of good races this season," Verstappen said, downplaying the nip-and-tuck nature of the season and the simmering tension in the title fight. "We're all looking for another one."

Verstappen will start in front, but Hamilton will have the inside line to the first turn, an 130-foot, uphill lefthanded switchback

that sends the cars shooting back down hill. It may be one of the most treacherous first corners in the F1 season.

And given their history of race-changing collisions already this season — they've wrecked twice during a race and on Friday in practice Verstappen was openly aggravated by Hamilton - the fight for the lead should be fierce.

"I don't see why you always have to bring this up," Verstappen said of the previous wrecks. "Everyone has touched in this

sport. These things happen.

"We are on the front row again. We just want to have a really good race."

Hamilton acknowledged the trickiness of the first corner. Since the track opened in 2012, the winner has come from the front row every time.

"I hope to make it through turn one and get a good race," Hamilton said. "I don't think it's all decided on turn one."

Hamilton has won the U.S. Grand Prix in Austin five times and the Mercedes team was supposed to have the edge over Red Bull at this event. But it was Verstappen and fan favorite Sergio Perez who dominated qualifying and the Red Bulls flanked Hamilton headed into Sunday's race.

"Bit by bit, they got faster," over practice and qualifying," Hamilton said. "I don't know if we got slower."

Perez even briefly held pole position and drew the biggest cheers from the crowd of more than 100,000. He seemed disappointed to lose out on the front row.

"I thought it might be my day," Perez said.

"This is one of the best races of the year, and it's simply because of that city and crowd that we get here, the Americans and Mexicans that come over, you get that crazy buzz," Hamilton said. "I hope we can give them a good race." MDT/AP

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OPINION

World Views

Brad Bushman, The Ohio State University
 MDT/THE CONVERSATION

HOLLYWOOD'S LOVE OF GUNS INCREASES THE RISK OF SHOOTINGS - BOTH ON AND OFF THE SET

In what appears to be a tragic accident, actor Alec Baldwin shot dead a cinematographer on Oct 21, 2021, while discharging a prop gun on set in New Mexico.

It is too early to speculate what went wrong during the filming of the Western movie "Rust." But the incident, in which the film's director was also injured, highlights a simple fact: Guns are commonplace in Hollywood films.

As scholars of mass communication and risk behavior, we have studied the growing prevalence of firearms on screen and believe that the more guns there are in movies, the more likely it is that a shooting will occur - both in the "reel" world and in the "real" world.

Gun violence in Hollywood movies has increased dramatically over time, especially in movies accessible to teens. Indeed, our research shows that acts of gun violence in PG-13 movies nearly tripled over the 30 years between 1985 (the year after the rating was introduced) and 2015. Similar trends have been observed in popular TV dramas, with the rate of gun violence depicted in prime time dramas doubling between 2000 and 2018.

Of course, depictions of violence in the entertainment industry are nothing new. The use of guns in Hollywood films has a long tradition going back to the gangster movies of the 1930s. Guns were also featured heavily in the Western TV shows of the 1950s.

The upsurge in the depiction of guns in movies and TV shows is likely related to the realization that violence draws audiences and guns are an easy way to dramatize violence. And here filmmakers have a willing accomplice in the gun industry.

Media outlets are averse to allowing gun advertising on TV or mass-circulated magazines. But guns are amply displayed in top-grossing movies and popular TV dramas.

We know that the gun industry pays production companies to place its products in their movies. They are rewarded with frequent appearances on screen, so much so that in 2010 the firearm company Glock won a "lifetime achievement award for product placement," with a citation noting that Glocks appeared in 22 box office No. 1 films during that year.

The payoff for gun companies can be great - prominent placement in high-profile films can result in a significant bump in sales for gun models.

But the potential harm caused by guns in Hollywood goes far beyond the occasional tragic accident on set. Studies show that simply seeing a gun can increase aggression in the viewer through what is called the "weapons effect."

Violent movies and TV programs, which often contain guns, can likewise increase aggression and make viewers numb to the pain and suffering of others, numerous studies show.

And children might be especially vulnerable - which makes it all the more notable that the prevalence of guns in PG-13 movies has increased over the decades.

Younger viewers will often identify movie characters as being "cool" and want to imitate their behavior.

This was seen with smoking on screen: Children who see movie characters smoke cigarettes are more likely to smoke themselves. A similar effect was observed with children who watched movie characters drink alcohol.

The United States is the most heavily armed society in the world. Although consisting of about 4% of the world's population, U.S. citizens possess almost half of the world's guns.

In featuring guns so heavily, there is a danger that Hollywood is not merely reflecting society - it is encouraging firearm sales.

While incidents of actors and film production staff being injured or killed through accidental shootings are thankfully rare, the likelihood of fatal shootings - accidental or otherwise - in the real world goes up with every sale of the kinds of guns featured by Hollywood.

[Abridged]

Five men robbed a bank in Yangon on Friday, in at least the third major bank heist in Myanmar's largest city in just over three months, the military-installed government said.

The government blamed the previous robberies on opposition groups opposed to military rule, though none is known to have claimed responsibility.

Friday's robbery, in which 313,910,000 kyats (about USD157,000) was reported stolen, took place at a KBZ Bank branch in a shopping mall in Yangon's Botahtaung neighborhood,

the government's information team said in a statement posted on the Facebook page of People Media, an online news site.

KBZ, also known as Kanbawza Bank, is a private commercial bank and has the largest number of branches in the country.

There is widespread opposition to the military's ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February. Opponents initially staged peaceful protests but confrontations have escalated after authorities used deadly force to quell the demonstrations.

COVID-19

AFRICAN EFFORT TO REPLICATE MRNA VACCINE TARGETS DISPARITIES

LORI HINNANT, MARIA CHENG & ANDREW MELDRUM, CAPE TOWN

In a pair of Cape Town warehouses converted into a maze of airlocked sterile rooms, young scientists are assembling and calibrating the equipment needed to reverse engineer a coronavirus vaccine that has yet to reach South Africa and most of the world's poorest people.

The energy in the gleaming labs matches the urgency of their mission to narrow vaccine disparities. By working to replicate Moderna's COVID-19 shot, the scientists are effectively making an end run around an industry that has vastly prioritized rich countries over poor in both sales and manufacturing.

And they are doing it with unusual backing from the World Health Organization, which is coordinating a vaccine research, training and production hub in South Africa along with a related supply chain for critical raw materials. It's a last resort effort to make doses for people going without, and the intellectual property implications are still murky.

"We are doing this for Africa at this moment, and that drives us," said Emile Hendricks, a 22-year-old biotechnologist for Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines, the company trying to reproduce the Moderna jab. "We can no longer rely on these big superpowers to come in and save us."

Some experts see reverse engineering - recreating vaccines from fragments of publicly available information - as one of the few remaining ways to redress the power imbalances of the pandemic. Only 0.7% of vaccines have gone to low-income countries so far, while nearly half have gone to wealthy countries, according to an analysis by the People's Vaccine Alliance.

That WHO, which relies upon the goodwill of wealthy countries and the pharmaceutical industry for its



continued existence, is leading the attempt to reproduce a proprietary vaccine demonstrates the depths of the supply disparities.

The U.N.-backed effort to even out global vaccine distribution, known as COVAX, has failed to alleviate dire shortages in poor countries. Donated doses are coming in at a fraction of what is needed to fill the gap. Meanwhile, pressure for drug companies to share, including Biden administration demands on Moderna, has led nowhere.

Until now, WHO has never directly taken part in replicating a novel vaccine for current global use over the objections of the original developers. The Cape Town hub is intended to expand access to the novel messenger RNA technology that Moderna, as well as Pfizer and German partner BioNTech, used in their vaccines.

"This is the first time we're doing it to this level, because of the urgency and also because of the novelty of this technology," said Martin Friede, a WHO vaccine research coordinator who is helping direct the hub.

Dr. Tom Frieden, the former head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has described the world as "being held hostage" by Moderna and Pfizer, whose vaccines are considered the most effective against COVID-19.

Moderna has pledged to

build a vaccine factory in Africa at some point in the future. But after pleading with drugmakers to share their recipes, raw materials and technological know-how, some poorer countries are done waiting.

Afrigen Managing Director Petro Terblanche said the Cape Town company is aiming to have a version of the Moderna vaccine ready for testing in people within a year and scaled up for commercial production not long after.

"We have a lot of competition coming from Big Pharma. They don't want to see us succeed," Terblanche said. "They are already starting to say that we don't have the capability to do this. We are going to show them."

If the team in South Africa succeeds in making a version of Moderna's vaccine, the information will be publicly released for use by others, Terblanche said. Such sharing is closer to an approach U.S. President Joe Biden championed in the spring and the pharmaceutical industry strongly opposes.

Commercial production is the point at which intellectual property could become an issue. Moderna has said it would not pursue legal action against a company for infringing on its vaccine rights, but neither has it offered to help companies that have volunteered to make its mRNA shot.

MDT/AP

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest oil producers announced Saturday it aims to reach "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2060, joining more than 100 countries in a global effort to try and curb man-made climate change. Although the kingdom will aim to reduce emissions within its own borders, there is no indication Saudi Arabia will slow down investments in oil and gas or relinquish sway over energy markets by moving away from the production of fossil fuels.



Germany Accepting a prestigious prize yesterday in honor of her work, Zimbabwean writer and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga called for a "new Enlightenment," saying a fundamental shift is needed to overcome the structures of racial hierarchy that have led to violence in her home country and across the world. Dangarembga is the first Black woman to win the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, which is endowed with 25,000 euros and has been awarded since 1950.

Austria Unvaccinated people could face new lockdown restrictions if coronavirus case numbers continue to rise, Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg said. The news came after a Friday evening meeting between Schallenberg and state-level leaders to discuss their response to rapidly increasing case numbers. "The pandemic is not yet in the rearview mirror," Schallenberg said. "We are about to stumble into a pandemic of the unvaccinated."



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday that he had ordered 10 foreign ambassadors who called for the release of a jailed philanthropist to be declared persona non grata. The envoys, including the U.S., French and German representatives in Ankara, issued a statement earlier this week calling for a resolution to the case of Osman Kavala, a businessman and philanthropist held in prison since 2017 despite not having been convicted of a crime.