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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

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A UNIVERSITY STUDENT MADE A FRAUDULENT CRIME REPORT TO POLICE TO AVOID BUYING HIS GIRLFRIEND A NEW CELLPHONE FOR HER BIRTHDAY

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

QUARANTINE HOTEL
RESERVATION NOW REQUIRED
BEFORE TRAVELING TO MACAU

THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM
FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE FOR
FIRST TIME AT THE CAPITOL THEATER
FROM DECEMBER 2 TO 9



12 Nov 2021

Hong Kong's swanky new M+ museum — Asia's largest gallery with a billion-dollar collection — is set to open today amid controversy over politics and censorship. M+ boasts 17,000 square meters of exhibition space, 33 galleries and over 6,400 works in its collection that range from modern and contemporary art to architecture and moving images. Designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, M+ aims to put Asia on the global map for art and was built to rival London's Modern Tate and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



South Korean and U.S. diplomats discussed how to restart stalled talks with North Korea yesterday, days after the North conducted artillery firing drills in its latest weapons tests. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink was in Seoul for talks on security issues including North Korea, economic cooperation and other matters.



India At least 14 people have died in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu during days of heavy rains, officials said. Several districts in the state are on high alert, bracing for more torrents as a depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal is set to cross northern Tamil Nadu. The Indian Meteorological Department warned of intense rains in isolated places. Over 14 have been killed over the past few days

More on backpage

THE ESSENCE OF XI



MACAU



Lawmakers not happy with absence of Central

■ ■ MacauDaily 澳門毎日時報。

ANTHONY LAM

ECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong presented next year's budget to the parliament yesterday, but the absence of government investment in the Central Provident Fund sparked concerns.

Pursuant to the law, investments can only be made when the government has achieved a surplus in the previous year. For the last two years, however, the government needed to take funds from its reserves in order to balance the accounts, and could not attain a surplus.

Several lawmakers raised the issue in their questions for the senior official.

Directly-elected lawmaker Leong Sun Iok stated his understanding of the government's stance on spending and saving rigorously, and then moved on to question why investment in the Central Provident Fund is absent.

The MOP7,000 investment made by the government prior to the Covid-19 pandemic was vital to many low-income and low-savings senior residents. The social security system started quite late in Macau, leaving a large group of local working residents without coverage of the fund when they were young.

Not having had sufficient time to make contributions into the fund before they reached retirement age, they had only a small amount



of money in the social security accounts at their disposal. The government investment therefore acted as a life raft for this group of retired residents.

Leong questioned why the MOP3.4 billion allocated to the Macao Foundation, which is left over from the MOP10 billion anti-Covid financial support programs, cannot be used to support the government investment in social security ins-

Leong's colleague and associa-

tion coworker Ella Lei, also directly elected, asked a similar question and made a similar suggestion as Leong.

Directly-elected Becky Song and new face in parliament Ron Lam also raised questions about the absence of the MOP7,000 investment. Lam calculated that the investment would only cost the government MOP532 million in total. "I don't think we're lacking this money, but it will help a lot of those needing it," he said.

José Pereira Coutinho, also directly elected, raised questions on the topic. He said that many senior residents have reached out and urged him to call on the government to resume the policy.

On other topics, indirectly-elected lawmaker Ip Sio Kai, Pereira Coutinho and Song each asked about land auctions. Currently, all land is offered as concessions to developers or users who are in some way understood as renting the plots of land. Ip asked when and where the auctions will take place.

Ip also asked about the issuance of public bonds when the city is facing three years of deficit. Although the city's reserves are still reliable, with several hundred billion available to the city, the issuance of bonds could help raise more income for the government and simultaneously develop the city's ability to operate a securities market.

Pereira Coutinho asked Lei to disclose progress in two areas: government loans to the public as

Capitol Theater to host Int'l Short Film Festival

STAFF REPORTER

HE International Short ■ Film Festival will take place at the Capitol Theater from December 2 to 9 this year.

This is the first time the festival is taking place at the Capitol Theater. On previous occasions, the event has taken place at the Dom Pearo V Theatre.

"We decided to go there this year because of the budget. It will be an adventure in many different ways. Let's see how the public reacts to the festival," festival director Lucia Lemos told Portuguese paper Tribuna de Macau.

The Short Film Festi-

val will be eight days long, screening 132 shorts, with themes ranging from fiction, documentary, animation, and music videos by international and local Macau artists.

There are two competitions under the film festival: "SHORTS", dedicated to short films, and "VOLUME", for music videos. There will be 27 screening sessions for "SHORTS", one viewing session for "VOLUME", and a discussion with Macau directors who were finalists in international competitions. Furthermore, within the scope of the "Expanded Cinema" there will be short films from Spain, China and Macau.

The initiative will also host a series of cinema masterclasses by Elison Lau, an audio engineer and sound composer; João Brochado, professor and coordinator of the Bachelor of Digital Cinema at University of Saint Joseph; Jay Lei, artist and director; and Pak Chau, entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Moti Media.

Last year, the festival showcased 160 short films and nine musical videos between December 2 and 7 at the Dom Pedro V Theater. The festival is co-organized by Creative Macau and the Institute of European Studies of Macau.



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Provident Fund investment

financial support and the government's investments in Guangdong province. He was also not happy that the government had commissioned a large number of research and consultation projects, from which little to none of the results had been released to the public. "Not even we, legislators, had access to the results," Pereira Coutinho said.

He also asked Lei how the government could further cut spending, especially that which is unnecessary.

Song also stated that tax waivers for businesses are unreasonable, because they are earning money from the city but are not required to contribute to public income.

Several lawmakers also called for another round of consumption subsidies next year.

In response to the lawmakers' questions, the senior official first stated that he would not answer policy-oriented questions because the parliamentary session was set to focus on the budget itself.

He then explained that, due to the lack of monetary policy in Macau, the government does not have significant means to boost the economy other than expanding investment. As such, and following its practice in the last couple of years, the government has decided to retain a relatively large scale public investment in construction works.

With regard to the development of the financial sector in Macau, Lei first stressed the potential of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and said that it will bring greater opportunities to the city.

Emphasizing culture and tourism as Macau's basic trade, the senior official explained that the city's financial sector has expanded 19-fold over the past 21 years. He also revealed that the government is drafting a Trust Law which will enable the government to gradually build a trust platform to further develop the city's financial industry.

In answer to the questions about general welfare and that of the elderly, Lei stressed that the budget proposed spending MOP23 billion on general welfare, of which MOP6.4 billion goes to welfare for the elderly.

Lei stressed that the government would never let the elderly down, because they helped to build Macau into what it is right now. "They have made contributions to the city when they were younger, so we must take better care of them," the senior official said.

He then reiterated that it is the law which forbids the investment of the MOP7,000 amount into the Central Provident Fund.

MOP30.34B DEFICIT IN 2022 BUDGET

For the third year in a row, the budget presented by the government forecasts a deficit — this year amounting to MOP30.34 billion.

In his presentation, Lei reiterated that the financial target next year is to reduce spending and retain income, thus achieving a healthy financial constitution.

Despite the waiver of a series of taxes — including business tax, performance ticket stamp tax and tourism tax for restaurants — Lei stressed that a wide array of social welfare programs would be retained.

Two new waivers have been proposed in the budget for next year: an Investment Fund Supervision Fee and a Mainland Floods Donation. The former is proposed to help promote development in wealth management; the latter is to encourage charitable donations, and is only applicable to taxpayers in In-

come Supplementary Tax or Group 2 – Professional Tax.

The retained welfare programs include the cash handout, which will remain at MOP10,000 per eligible permanent resident and MOP6,000 per non-permanent resident. In addition, there will be the health voucher of MOP600 per eligible resident, electricity and water bill subsidies, the life education subsidy, and elderly and physical disadvantage subsidies, among other welfare plans.

Meanwhile, the salary point for civil servants will remain at MOP91.

The budget for next year was passed in general terms yesterday. It will be discussed at a competent parliamentary committee before its clauses are discussed and voted on at the plenary.

OTHER TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

Yesterday, the parliament also discussed the execution of the budget of 2020 and the audit report on the public accounts for 2020. Both bills passed unanimously in general terms with few questions from lawmakers.

A bill that proposes cancellation of the presentation of the vehicle circulation tax certificate, which is the receipt with a circle required to be shown on all vehicles except public buses, as well as the addition of payment of the tax via the government app, was introduced to the parliament yesterday.

Lawmakers Ella Lei and Ron Lam asked if the absence of the receipt would obstruct the work of law enforcement officers in identifying which vehicles' tax has been paid and which has not.

A representative from the Public Security Police Force's Transport Department assured lawmakers that their work will be unaffected if the bill is enacted as law. The proposed date for enactment is January 1, 2022.

Becky Song asked if the government has plans to digitize all documents that must be stored in a vehicle driven on public streets.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong revealed that the government is developing an upgrade to its app. When the upgrade is complete, the digitization of these documents will be included.

Another bill that proposed a change of presentation of the Official Gazette was also presented. When passed, the publication will only appear in a digital format. Physical documents will only be printed when necessary, such as when the printing machine is down on a date of issuance.

Lam questioned whether there is a chance that the government database could be hacked and the Official Gazette altered.

Both bills were passed in general terms by the plenary unanimously.

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GAMING

Wynn: ongoing renewal PROCESS 'TRANSPARENT, PRODUCTIVE'

LYNZY VALLES

WYNN Resorts expressed to confidence in the ongoing gaming concession newal progoing gaming concession renewal process, saying that it has been "open, it's been transparent, it's been productive, and we feel very good about the future of Macau and our position in Macau."

On an earnings call with analysts, Matt Maddox, CEO of Wynn Resorts, remarked that when the government announced the consultation process, "it was very structured, [with a] timeline [...] and everything happened exactly as they had laid out."

Gaming concessions are set to expire in June 2022. Public consultation on the proposed gaming amendments ended recently. It is still unclear whether concessions will be extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We've just been very happy with how open it's been and how constructive it's been. And I think that that is going to continue throughout 2022, as Macau really focuses on the long-term health and stability [...] of the industry and of the region," said Maddox.

"So I can't give any specific dates or timelines, but what I can tell you is we're very confident in the process," the executive added.

With confidence in the renewal of its concession, the operator is keen on catering to the premium mass market.

Ian Coughlan, president of Wynn Macau, said that over



the last three years, the gaming operator has been pivoting luxury assets that were formerly taken up by junket operators.

"We've been opening them up for premium mass, whether it's villas in our towers, high--end fleets, and general gaming spaces. And we are fortunate to have the best assets and best service in market. So the pivot is very, very straightforward for us," he said.

Q3 REVENUES

Operating revenues from Wynn Palace were USD181.3 million for the third quarter of 2021, an increase of USD165.6 million from USD15.7 million in the third quarter of 2020.

VIP table games win as a percentage of turnover was 4.45%, above the property's expected range of 2.7% to 3.0% and above the 1.04% recorded in the third quarter of 2020.

The table games win percentage in mass market operations was 21.8%, slightly below the 22.0% result in the third quarter of 2020.

Meanwhile, operating revenues from Wynn Macau were USD130.7 million for the third quarter of 2021, an increase of USD79.3 million from USD51.4 million in the third quarter of 2020.

VIP table games win as a percentage of turnover was 2.44%, below the property's expected range of 2.7% to 3.0% and below the 3.95% recorded in the third quarter of 2020. The table games win percentage in mass market operations was 19.7%, up from 18.7% in the third quarter of 2020.

MATT MADDOX TO LEAVE WYNN

WYNN Resorts CEO Matt Maddox announced his decision to leave the company in a recent earnings call with analysts. The company's chief financial officer, Craig Billings, will take the helm of the American operator, after Maddox steps down on January 31. "I've been at Wynn for 20 years and been the CEO for the last four," said Maddox The outgoing CEO will remain

on the Macau board to "ensure stability and to assist with the concession renewal process." Praising his appointed successor, Maddox said that Billings "understands culture. He's not a guy that's going to build a big corporate infrastructure. He makes decisions fast and he feels the brand. The company really couldn't be in a better position going forward."

GLOBAL PROJECT TO EXHIBIT PHOTOS AT ARTYZEN GRAND LAPA



Lurdes de Sousa, president of International Association of Philanthropy

THE Associação Internacio-The Associação — nal de Filantropia will launch an exhibition tomorrow at Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau to raise money for Caritas Macau.

Open until November 28, the exhibition will feature 50 photos from "This is My Street," a global photo project undertaken in 2020 and 2021, which features over 7,000 photos.

The association set up a Facebook group for the project, inviting people from all over the world to submit images of themselves enjoying life in their neighborhood.

In total, the collaborative project accumulated more than 7,000 images across 130 countries.

Proceeds from the exhibition will go to the Lar de Nossa Senhora da Penha center, which houses children with serious mental and physical disabilities.

Six ambassadors nominated by "This is My Street" will promote an online auction of six selected photos.

The team at Ambiente Properties is collective ambassador for a photograph by Miguel de Senna Fernandes, one of five photographs selected to have their work auctioned online. The photograph is of the iconic world heritage Senado Square in Macau.

In black and white, it depicts the historic buildings and calçada tiled floor, a well--known features of Macau. On the exhibition's opening day, the person with the highest bid will receive a canvas print of their photo. LV

Man fakes crime to avoid giving girlfriend new phone

ANTHONY LAM

local university student made a Afraudulent crime report to police to avoid buying his girlfriend a new cellphone for her birthday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) announced yesterday.

The man, who is in his 20s, went to an ATM to withdraw MOP7,000 cash on November 7, before riding his motorbike to the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo.

At about 4 p.m. the same day he went to a police station to make the false report, claiming that he had lost the money. He added that he had tried to retrieve the money by retracing the route, but that, since he did not find it, he suspected that somebody found the money and took it.

Following the report, the police viewed surveillance camera footage for clues but did not see the man on the reported route. Under further questioning, the man changed his testimony on various details.

Later, the man admitted that he faked the crime to avoid giving his girlfriend the promised phone. The phone was worth MOP7,000, but he found the expense to be unaffordable. and he made the report to provide an excuse.

In another case, a local man is suspected of deceiving a man, a friend of 10 years, in a casino chip exchange scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yes-

The 41-year-old suspect, surnamed Lei, reportedly worked in a casino chip exchange business. The male victim is a casino croupier.

In August 2019, Lei set up a fake business and invited his friend to invest. They agreed that Lei would invest HKD400,000 and his friend HKD200,000. They signed an agreement, and the victim transferred the money in three installments.

When the victim made the last installment in June this year, he asked Lei for an update on the business. Lei lied to him, saying that the money had been transferred to the account of a junket. Lei even presented a screen capture of a sham transfer confirmation.

Later, Lei told the friend that due to the economic downturn brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, the investment funds had been invested in crypto currency instead. After his friend put further questions to him, Lei disappeared, which led to the case being reported to

The PJ apprehended Lei on November 8 as he was about to leave Macau through the Border Gate. The suspect has denied the allegations, and the police is still searching for the funds.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

GEG Continues to Help Build a Responsible Gaming Culture in Macau



s the city's first gaming operator to Aestablish a dedicated team focused on promoting responsible gaming in 2008, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) shares the Macau SAR Government's vision for developing the local gaming industry responsibly as the city furthers its development as a World Center of Tourism and Leisure. This year, in support of the Macau SAR Government's annual responsible gaming promotion and emphasis on the "family", GEG continued to work closely with the relevant government departments and other non-governmental organizations in organizing various activities and initiatives to enhance the responsible gaming awareness and knowledge of its team members and the public, particularly the young generation and families.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GEG believes that establishing a widely embraced culture for responsible gaming greatly benefits the sustainable development of the community. Over the years, GEG has been keen on promoting responsible gaming and family harmony through holding different family relationship building and parent-child bonding activities. In this year's Lantern Festival, GEG and the Macau Youth Volunteer Association (AJVM) co-organized a family activity where over 50 parents and children were invited to Broadway Macau



the participants made traditional festive desserts and acquired responsible gaming knowledge through the different games offered at the games booths and solving the lantern riddles for various prizes.

Moreover, to extend its responsible gaming pledge to Macau's young people, GEG collaborated with the Bosco Youth Service Network (BYS) in instilling positive life values in young people by being the first gaming operator to donate to BYS's launch of the "FREEland" service last year so that BYS can extend support to teens with gambling addiction and expand its efforts on gambling addiction prevention and treatment. GEG's commitment was duly recognized for its contribution and became the only gaming operator to be named a "caring partner for teens" by BYS in 2020. This year, GEG continued its cooperation with BYS and organized the city's first responsible gaming-themed room escape activity - "GEG Presents: Responsible Gaming Community Promotion Program - Discover the Mystery". This fresh and appealing activity was well accepted by the youthful participants, who took the opportunity to learn of the harms of gambling addiction and the need to resist impulsive gambling



Furthermore, to encourage the public to stay rational while engaging in the games and related entertainment during the 2020 UEFA European Championship that was held from June to July, in May,

GEG launched the "GEG Presents: Stay Rational When Having Fun" campaign in partnership with the Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home Integrated Services Centre (MGIEH). For nearly two months, various campaigns that consisted of a variety of activities were held online and offline with aims of reaching the wider community. Among the initiatives, GEG supported MGIEH in raising the community's responsible gaming awareness by distributing relevant pamphlets at various sports venues and community recreational areas in Macau. In addition, GEG also posted and shared an easy-to-understand four-frame comic on website and social media platforms to help young people understand the risks and behaviors of gambling addiction, and its related prevention methods.

EMPLOYEE-ORIENTED

Meanwhile, GEG also believes that responsible gaming practices start with its team members. Hence, GEG also organizes a number of team member-oriented activities on a regular basis to instill responsible gaming knowledge to its team members and their families, including trainings, workshops, talks, visits and roadshows, which, to date, have attracted the participation of over 85,000 team members



This year marked the ninth consecutive year that GEG had organized the "Responsible Gaming Awareness Week"

for its team members. Launched earlier this month, the "Say No to Addiction" campaign will run at the back-of-house areas of Galaxy Macau, Broadway Macau, StarWorld Hotel and City Clubs and promoted responsible gaming to GEG's team members through a series of interactive roadshows and workshop. In partnership with AJVM, the roadshows heightened team members' knowledge on the illegality of online gambling in Macau and helped them identify related implicit messages and preventions. Besides, the workshop co-organized with Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office (SKH) further explained to team members the symptoms and process of

To emphasize the importance of gambling rationally to team members, GEG spreads heartfelt messages of support to team members during holiday seasons and major sports events. During this year's "Stay Rational When Having Fun" campaign, GEG hosted a number of roadshows at its back-of-house areas and cooperated with MGIEH on helping team members bust the myths of football betting via the organization of a game that team members were invited to play at the specially designed foosball table. Meanwhile, GEG also co-organized a "Know More About Festive Gambling Myths" with AJVM during the Chinese New Year in January. These roadshows further strengthened team members' knowledge in the principles of responsible gaming.



Furthermore, since 2013, GEG has been hosting a Responsible Gaming Committee Training every year and inviting Professor Davis Fong, Director of the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau and other experienced SKH counselors to provide team members with the latest updates of the city's responsible gambling policies, measures, guidelines, and related facilities. GEG also cares about the well-being of its team members and organizes different activities to help its team members stay away from problematic gambling behaviors and to help relieve stress, including a stress management workshop that GEG co-organized with AJVM and the Macao Catholic Family Advisory Council for female team members, and a board gaming training co-organized with MGIEH for its frontline team members. In the future, GEG will continue to maintain close communication and cooperation with all stakeholders, and work with them to promote responsible gaming.





MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AD



Barrier Gates Installation Schedule for Macau Grand Prix

"The 68th Macau Grand Prix" will be held from 19th to 21st of November. To coordinate with the event arrangement, barrier gates will be installed at the following locations along the circuit progressively starting from 16th November and the roads will be suspended of traffic on the occasion. The below locations will be successively reopened from 21st Nov upon the conclusion of the event till the morning of 22nd Nov. The Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee would like to seek the understanding of motorists and to advise all road users to pay attention to the installation time of the barrier gates and respect the temporary traffic signage and instructions from the Traffic Authorities.

Date	Barrier Gates Installation Time	Road	Location
		Est. de Cacilhas	Depósito de Pólvora (Ramp)
16 th November (Tuesday)	15:00	Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Communications Museum
		Rua dos Pescadores	Entrance and Exit of Macao Water
	10:00	Av. da Amizade	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Jubilee Court Building (Next to petrol station)
		Est. de Cacilhas	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Cheng Pak Kok Building
17 th November		Est. dos Parses	Exit of the garage at the Monetary Authority of Macao
(Wednesday)	15:00	Av. da Amizade	Junction of the crossing point from <i>Rua de</i> Nagasaki to Av. da Amizade (Next to Jardim San On Building)
		Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of Car Workshop (Next to Communications Museum)
18 th November (Thursday)	10:00	Av. da Amizade	Junction of the crossing point from Amizade Bridge to Av. da Amizade



GOV'T TO OPEN SPECIAL QUARANTINE HOTEL

STAFF REPORTER

THE government is set to open a new type of hotel designated for medical observation in December to accommodate arrivals from high-risk foreign countries who are required to undergo a 21-day quarantine.

The Treasure Hotel, which is currently undergoing maintenance and renovations, will be the first hotel to open under this new category of specialized hotels for medical observation.

Following the renovations, the property is expected to reopen on December 1.

Currently, the only group of people who will be subject to quarantine in the new specialized hotel category will be those flying in from Singapore, who are now classified as second tier high-risk individuals.

Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, explained that individuals arriving from different countries will be assigned to different medical observation facilities, depending on the high-risk levels of the country.

There are now three types of quarantine hotels: designated hotels, selec-

ted hotels, and the newly added specialized hotels. Different medical observation measures will apply in each type of hotel, including the frequency of nucleic acid tests which will be higher in the specialized hotels as compared to the designated hotels

Designated hotels will be open for reservations from November 15.

Meanwhile, from November 20, those planning to enter Macau will have to present their hotel reservation confirmation for medical observation before boarding their plane or shuttle bus to Macau, announced Liz Lam, head of public relations at the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), at yesterday's press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

This measure applies to both residents and non--residents who are subject to quarantine in Macau.

From December 1, non-residents of Macau arriving from Taiwan will have the option of selecting a hotel to undergo their required medical observation. Currently, these arrivals are required to undergo quarantine at the Grand Coloane Resort.

NO VACCINE CARD FOR THIRD VACCINE DOSES

Health authorities have said that no vaccine card will be issued upon receipt of a third dose. Currently, those who have received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine are issued with a card stating the vaccine type and date administered. A vaccine card was issued because it was universally agreed at the time that two doses were required for complete vaccination. This is not the case for the third vaccine dose, so individuals who receive the third dose will instead be issued a paper certificate. The Health Bureau announced last week that a third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine will be administered in Macau

ITINERARY APP UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The Health Bureau is developing a mobile application for the Macau health code which will record each individual's travel history. In response to a media inquiry about how the current link will work when the new application is ready to use, Dr Leong said that whether the online health code link stays operational will depend on how widely the new health code application is used.

DRONE GALA LAUNCHING IN DECEMBER

The "Light Up Macao Drone Gala" will dazzle the city for the very first time in December, following some postponements. The new event, organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office, will be comprised of ten drone shows at Nam Van Lake every Saturday starting on December 4, with two shows each night. The shows will run for 10-15 minutes, and each evening's show will have a different theme.

CULTURAL CENTRE LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM FOR ARTISTS

A new Local Associated Artist Project organized by the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) is recruiting one candidate and a supporting creative team. This program is designed to broaden the artist's range, promoting and developing the performing arts over the next three years. CCM will provide a budget of up to two million patacas, aiming to encourage local artists to conceive artistic projects featuring a wider range of perspectives. Applications are open until January 4, 2022, with candidates shortlisted by February, and the final selection announced by April.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPEI

OPINION

China Daily

Editorial, China Daily

PARTY RESOLUTION REVIEWS PAST AND SETS PATH FOR THE FUTURE

How has the Communist Party of China succeeded in leading the nation's revolution and development since its founding 100 years ago, and how can it succeed in realizing national rejuvenation in the future?

The resolution adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee offers answers to these questions.

The resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the CPC over the past 100 years has been highly anticipated as it is crucial for the Party to reach a consensus on these questions as the country embarks on the next stage of its journey to realize national rejuvenation.

As Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said in his speech at the ceremony to mark the centenary of the CPC on July 1, looking back over the past 100 years shows how the Party has been able to overcome all the trials and tribulations it has encountered and thus provides guidance on how it can continue to lead the country forward.

And it is particularly necessary for the Party to review its past and look to the future at this point in time, as the world is experiencing profound changes and challenges that are complicating the development environment for the country.

Issued on Thursday, on the conclusion of the four-day session, the document is the third of its kind — the previous two were adopted in 1945 and 1981 respectively.

Reviewing the Party's 100-year history and determining its direction for the next few decades, the resolution serves to reinforce the unity among the Party members and strengthen the authority and leadership of the CPC Central Committee.

As the resolution indicates, the Party's past success originated from, and its future success will continue to hinge on the extent to which the Party does the following:

Upholds the Party's leadership, puts the people first, advances theoretical innovation, stays independent, follows the Chinese path, maintains a global vision, breaks new ground, stands up for the nation, promotes the united front, and remains committed to self-reform.

These are the valuable experiences accumulated through long-term practice and the spiritual wealth gained by the Party and the people. The nation must cherish them, uphold them and enrich them in the new era.

The Party's experience and wisdom, some of which has been gained at great cost, must be heeded and faithfully carried forward to ensure that the Party can act with greater resolve and purpose and stay true to its founding mission.

The history of the Party is, to some extent, a process in which it constantly summarizes its experience, enhances its ability and improves its risk management capabilities. In doing so, it continues to lead the Chinese people in pursuit of a better future.

Chinese leaders issue official history to elevate Xi

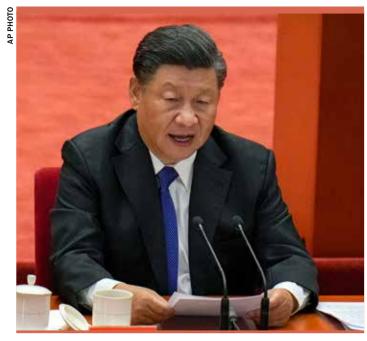
EADERS of China's ruling Communist Party yesterday set the stage for President Xi Jinping to extend his rule next year, praising his role in the country's rise as an economic and strategic power and approving a political history that gives him status alongside the most important party figures.

Central Committee members declared Xi's ideology the "essence of Chinese culture" as they wrapped up a leadership meeting. In unusually effusive language even for a Chinese leader, a party statement said it was "of decisive significance" for "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Xi, who has amassed more personal authority than any leader since at least Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s, has widely been expected to pursue a third five-year term as party general secretary. That would break with a two-decade-old party tradition that would require the 68-year-old leader to step down next year.

The party leadership's resolution on its history is only the third since its founding 100 years ago, following one under Mao Zedong, the first leader of the Communist government, and another under Deng, who launched reforms that turned China into an economic powerhouse. The decision to issue one under Xi symbolically raises him to their status.

The party removed term limits on Xi's post as president in 2018, indicating his inten-



tion to stay in power. Then, officials told reporters Xi might need more time to make sure economic and other reforms were carried out.

Xi, the son of one of Mao's generals, faces no obvious rivals, but a bid to stay in power has the potential to alienate younger party figures who might see their chances for promotion diminished.

The party statement emphasized its successes in overseeing China's emergence as the world's second-biggest economy.

The statement affirmed Beijing's handling of Hong Kong, where it is trying to crush pro-democracy activism, and relations with Taiwan. The party claims the island democracy is part of its territory and is trying to intimidate the Taiwanese public by sending growing numbers of fighter jets and bombers to fly near its coast.

The party "firmly implemented 'patriots ruling Hong Kong'" and "resolutely opposed Taiwan separatists," the statement said.

Xi has overseen an assertive foreign policy and expansion of the party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army. It has the world's second-largest military budget after the United States and is developing submarines, stealth aircraft and ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads to extend China's power beyond its shores.

On economic matters, the ruling party under Xi has pursued a sometimes contradictory strategy of promising to give market forces a dominant role while tightening state control over industry. Tech companies are under pressure to invest their own money to promote party development ambitions.

China was the first major

economy to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic but in the longer term faces steadily declining growth and a shrinking workforce at a time when Chinese incomes still are below the world average.

Xi is leading a "Common Prosperity" initiative that calls for narrowing income and wealth gaps between China's billionaire elite and the poor majority. Companies are under pressure to share their wealth with workers and the public by raising wages and paying for rural job creation and other development efforts.

The party has tightened control over society, suppressing independent religious groups and human rights activists

State media associate Xi with national successes including fighting the coronavirus, China's rise as a technology creator and last year's successful lunar mission to bring back moon rocks.

The 1981 assessment under Deng distanced the party from the violent upheaval of the ultra-radical 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Xi has promoted a positive image of the party's early decades in power and called for it to revive its "original mission" as China's leading economic, political and cultural force.

Yesterday's statement cited Xi's ideology initiative, "Xi Jinping Thought for a New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics," by its full name seven times and referred to the "New Era" 21 times. MDT/AP

APEC SUMMI

President Xi warns against 'Cold War' in Asia-Pacific

CHINESE President Xi Jinping warned yesterday against letting tensions in the Asian-Pacific region cause a relapse into a Cold War mentality.

His remarks on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum came weeks after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance in the region which would see Australia build nuclear submarines. China has harshly criticized the deal.

Xi spoke in a pre-recorded video to a CEO Summit at APEC, which is being hosted by New Zealand in a virtual format. Xi is scheduled to participate in an online meeting with other Pacific Rim leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday.

In his speech, Xi said attempts to draw boundaries in the region along ideological or geopolitical lines would fail.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era," Xi said.

Xi also said the region should make sure to keep supply lines functioning and to continue liberalizing trade and investment.

"China will remain firm in advancing reform and opening up so as to add impetus to economic development," he said.

The most pressing task in the region is to make an allout effort to fight the pandemic and to emerge from its shadow as soon as possible, he said.

Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney also spoke at the CEO summit, saying she believed that liberal democracies could improve global human rights by pressuring autocratic nations. She said businesses also needed to play a role. MDT/AP

WORLD







China, US pledge to increase cooperation at UN climate talks

SETH BORENSTEIN, ELLEN KNICKMEYER AND FRANK **JORDANS, GLASGOW**

HE world's top carbon polluters, China and the United States, agreed yesterday [Macau time] to increase their cooperation and speed up action to rein in climate--damaging emissions, signaling a mutual effort on global warming at a time of tension over their other disputes.

In back-to-back news conferences at U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and U.S. counterpart John Kerry said the two countries would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate chan-

"It's beneficial not only to our two countries but the world as a whole that two major powers in the world, China and the U.S., shoulder special international responsibilities and obligations," Xie told reporters. "We need to think big and be responsible."

"The steps we're taking ... can answer questions people have about the pace at which China is going, and help China and us to be able to accelerate our efforts," Kerry said.

China also agreed for the first time to crack down on methane leaks, following the lead of the Biden adminis-

tration's efforts to curb the potent greenhouse gas. Beijing and Washington agreed to share technology to reduce emissions.

Governments agreed in Paris to jointly cut greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep the global temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, with a more stringent target of trying to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius preferred.

Both sides recognize that there is a gap between efforts taken globally to reduce climate pollution and the goals of the Paris deal, Xie said.

"So we will jointly strengthen climate action and cooperation with respect to our respective national situations," he said.

A U.S.-China bilateral agreement in 2014 gave a huge push to the creation of the historic Paris accord the following year, but that cooperation stopped with the Trump administration, which pulled the U.S. out of the pact. The Biden administration brought the U.S. back in to that deal, but has clashed with China on other issues such as cybersecurity, human rights and Chinese territorial claims.

"While this is not a gamechanger in the way the 2014 US-China climate deal was, in many ways it's just as much of a step forward given the geopolitical state of the relationship," said Thom Woodroofe, an expert in U.S.-China climate talks. "It means the intense level of US-China dialogue on climate can now begin to translate into cooperation."

The gesture of goodwill comes just days after President Joe Biden blamed Chinese President Xi Jinping's and Russian President Vladimir Putin's failure to attend talks in person for the lack of more progress in climate negotiations.

The U.S. and China will also revive a working group that will "meet regularly to address the climate crisis and advance the multilateral process, focusing on enhancing concrete actions in this decade," the declaration said.

Both Washington and Beijing intend to update the world on their new national targets for 2035 in 2025 — a move that is particularly significant for China. The declaration also said China will "make best efforts to accelerate" its plans to reduce coal consumption in the second half of this decade.

The announcement came as governments from around the world were negotiating in Glasgow about how to build on the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect vulnerable countries from the impacts of global warming.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the move "an important step in the right direction."

Some experts noted the deal was short on commitments that would significantly reduce heat-trapping gases.

"It's a good sign that the world's two biggest emitters can actually work together to face the biggest crisis of humanity but there's not a lot of meat there after the methane stuff," said Byford Tsang a China policy analyst for the European think tank E3G.

Earlier, a draft of a larger deal being negotiated by almost 200 countries in Glasgow called for accelerating the phasing out of coal the single biggest source of man-made emissions — although it set no timeline.

Setting deadlines for phasing out fossil fuels is highly sensitive to countries that still depend on them for economic growth, including China and India, and to major exporters of coal such as Australia. The future of coal is also a hot-button issue in the U.S., where a spat among Democrats has held up one of President Joe Biden's signature climate bills.

Greenpeace International director Jennifer Morgan, a long-time climate talks observer, said that the call in the draft to phase out coal would be a first in a U.N. climate deal, but the lack of a timeline would limit the pledge's effectiveness.

"This isn't the plan to solve the climate emergency. This won't give the kids on the streets the confidence that they'll need," Morgan

The draft also expresses "alarm and concern" about how much Earth has already warmed and urges countries to cut carbon dioxide emissions by about half by 2030. Pledges so far from governments don't add up to that frequently stated goal.

The draft is likely to change, but it doesn't yet include full agreements on the three major goals that the U.N. set going into the negotiations: for rich nations to give poorer ones \$100 billion a year in climate aid, to ensure that half of that money goes to adapting to worsening global warming, and the pledge to slash global carbon emissions by 2030.

It acknowledges "with regret" that rich nations have failed to live up to the climate finance pledge. Currently they are providing around \$80 billion a year, which poorer nations that need financial help both in developing green energy systems and adapting to the worst of climate change say isn't enough. MDT/AP

this day in history



1984 Quid NOTES OUT -**POUND COINS IN**



The English pound note is to disappear after more

News of the familiar green £1 note's withdrawal came when Chancellor Nigel Lawson made his autumn statement in parliament on Monday.

Mr Lawson said the note - popularly known as a "quid" - would be phased out and replaced by coins which were introduced last April.

It was widely expected that £1 notes would rapidly be withdrawn

Their reprieve was credited largely to the intervention of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Speaking in parliament last December, Mrs Thatcher told MPs the pound coin was "not very popular" and she believed the pound note would be retained

Ironically, £1 notes were greeted with public outrage when they were first put into widespread use as an emergency measure to replace gold sovereigns during World War I.

Despite general misgivings the new pound coin has been welcomed by some groups such as blind people because it is easy to distinguish.

It has also found favour among makers of ticket and vending machines.

Announcing the notes' withdrawal Chancellor Nigel Lawson told MPs that coins were slightly more expensive to produce but would last up to 50 times

He said the Bank of England would stop issuing pound notes at the end of the year but they wou-Id continue to be legal tender until the end of next

The £1 notes used in Scotland and Northern Ireland are not being withdrawn.

The wider use of the largest denominator of coin in England is to be balanced by the withdrawal of the smallest - the half penny ceases to be legal tender from the end of this year.

It was introduced only relatively recently in 1971 as part of the decimalisation of British currency.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In 1986 the first £2 coin was introduced to commemorate the 13th Commonwealth Games which were held in Scotland in that year. Six further commemorative coins were issued until in 1997 a design was released for the first £2 coin to enter general circulation but due to technical difficulties it was not released to the banks until mid-1998. The replacement of the pound note reflected a growing trend worldwide to phase out smaller denomination paper money

However, in the US the \$1 bill had survived an attempt in the 1970s to replace it with a coin. Americans were resistant to giving up their beloved "areenbacks"

The US authorities did not try again until 2000, when a \$1 coin was again introduced, this time to be used in tandem with the bill

page 9



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19



Friday's cosmic landscape acts as a soothing balm after a tough week, Aries. The illuminating sun locks into a supportive connection with blissed-out Neptune, creating an ethereal haze around the day.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's an ideal day to create new projects and concepts concerning your field, but it's better to refrain from practical concerns that require a sober



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Let yourself drift into a deep headspace today, Leo. The cosmos is pushing for you to relax and seek out some renewal, so it doesn't hurt to put the brakes on your need to be productive.



LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Friday's cosmic landscape makes it easy to drift, Libra. Let yourself slip off into an inspired dream world as the illuminating sun forms a sweet connection with reality-bending Neptune.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This gentle, magical pairing casts a dreamy haze over the day - one that has you diving deep into your feelings and seeking out creative outlets that help you get your point across.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Fridav's skies beckon vou into a world of non-reality, Aquarius. The illuminating sun forms a gentle link with dreamy Neptune today, imbuing you with imagination, sleepiness, and a desire to escape the mundane.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Friday's skies feature the dreamy connection of the self-focused sun with realitydissolving Neptune, which casts a harmless, inspired fog over your sense of clarity.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Friday's skies find you dancing through a dream world, Cancer. The energizing sun reaches out to form a sweet connection with realitydissolving Neptune.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You may feel like you're buzzing with energy today, Virgo. Your ruling planet, expressive Mercury, finds itself locked into an uncomfortable opposition with change-demanding Uranus.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You can't sidestep the truth emerging in your relationship narrative today, Scorpio. Messenger Mercury finds itself tangled up in an explosive opposition with wildcard Uranus today.



CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Surrender to the flow today, Fridav's Capricorn. cosmic landscape has you slipping off into an ethereal dream world that encourages poetic and creative thinking over hard and fast rationale.

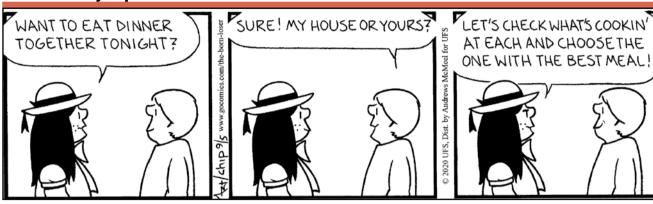


PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20

As a Pisces, vou're well versed in the art of non-reality. Friday's skies should act as a soothing balm for you as the energizing sun forms a supportive connection with blissed-out Neptune.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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HARD

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	0	14	fine
Harbin	-12	-2	fine
Tianjin	10	20	cloudy
Urumqi	6	16	cloudy
Xi'an	9	13	cloudy
Lhasa	5	10	fine
Chengdu	13	21	cloudy
Chongqing	15	19	cloudy
Kunming	7	10	overcast
Nanjing	19	25	cloudy
Shanghai	9	17	fine
Wuhan	-9	-3	fine
Hangzhou	4	16	cloudy
Taipei	-7	4	fine
Guangzhou	13	23	fine
Hong Kong	18	22	overcast
WORLD -			
Moscow	2	5	snow
Frankfurt	1	7	overcast
Paris	9	13	overcast
London	11	15	rain

19

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Swiftly; 6- Patriot Nathan; 10- Seed of a legume; 13- French composer Erik; 14- Cupid; 15- Auditorium; 16- Fork; 17- Pocket bread; 18- Environmental sci.; 19- Cosecant's reciprocal; 20- Splash; 22- Medium setting?; 24- Flowery; 28- Attractive route; 31- Stair part; 32- Squelched; 34- Urban scourge; 36- Slippery ___ eel; 37- Strike; 38- Stapes; 41- Linguistic suffix; 42- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 44- Wind dir.; 45- Specialty; 47- Composer Ned; 49- Hercule's creator; 51- "I, Robot" author; 53- Oracle site; 56- Left out; 59-Singer Turner; 61- Burrow; 64- Trade; 65- Traitor; 66- Walkman maker; 67-Slant; 68- Peace goddess; 69- Nth: Abbr.; 70- Matures; 71- Attack on all sides;

DOWN: 1- Serpents; 2- Seine spot; 3- Compensate; 4- Filmic; 5- Hosp. readout; 6- Come to pass; 7- What ___ mind reader?; 8- Trent of the Senate; 9- Sister of Calliope; 10- Lobbying org.; 11- "Hold On Tight" band; 12- Competitor

of Tide and Cheer; 15- Rupture; 20-Perfumes; 21- Sin; 23- Sgts., e.g.; 25-It's a plus; 26- Mock, annoy; 27- Sea eagle; 29- Like some vbs.; 30- Teen's desire; 32- Grain stores; 33- Maker of Pong; 35- ____ titmouse; 37- Jealous wife of myth; 39- This stickup! 40- Science fiction writer Frederik; 43- Recollection; 46- Ecstasy; 48- May honoree; 50- Experts; 52- Prospect; 54- Conceals: 55- Absurd: 57- Nest component; 58- Story; 60- I'd hate to break up ___; 61- Baton Rouge sch.; 62-"You've got mail" co.; 63- CD earnings; 65- Forward sail;



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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

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DRIVE IN

CHILDHOOD IN A TURBULENT TIME IN NOSTALGIC 'BELFAST'

LINDSEY BAHR, MDT/AP FILM WRITER

F you didn't know Kenneth Bra-**L**nagh's new film "Belfast " was based (somewhat) on his own childhood, you probably wouldn't know it by the end either. That's a good thing.

This isn't a portrait of the artist as a young man. We see a love for theater and cinema, but no nascent Shakespeare affinities or even performative tendencies. In "Belfast," set in 1969, Buddy (Jude Hill) is just a normal kid living in the Northern Island city with his ma (Caitríona Balfe), pa (Jamie Dornan), brother (Lewis McAskie) and grandparents (Judi Dench, Ciarán Hinds) during "the Troubles."

It's a child's-eye perspective of a complex time, when neighborhood streets turned into war zones, and kids were left wondering how they were supposed to tell whether someone was Catholic or Protestant or remember where the no-go zones were.

Yet "Belfast" is no gritty drama. The Troubles are merely a backdrop to this nostalgic crowd-plea-



Jude Hill, center, appears in a scene from "Belfast"

ser, filmed lovingly in crisp, clear black and white (by cinematographer Haris Zambarloukos) and set to upbeat Van Morrison music. And it's going to be catnip for some audiences and infuriating to others, who may equate the glossiness with superficiality.

The Van Morrison soundtrack is a case in point. His songs are famously overused in films to the point where they've become cliché. But there is thought behind

this choice, too — they are contextually appropriate, being from the era and the place where the film is set despite some convenient squishiness on years. It's Branagh's memory, though, and a film, not a historical document.

Besides, "Belfast" is about the authentic feeling of family rather than the particulars. In this way, the movie lives or dies by the actors bringing that to life. Thankfully, Branagh's cast hits it out of

the park. Balfe and Dornan may be a bit romanticized as the most attractive parents in the world, but they make their relationship — the good and the bad — come alive through Buddy's loving eyes. Hinds, too, is perfect as the tinkering grandfather who is always ready with advice and wisdom for young Buddy. And then there's Buddy himself. Newcomer Jude Hill is so natural and true that you almost forget that you're watching a performance. It's not an understatement to say that his brilliance makes "Belfast" sing.

"Belfast" will get dinged for its sentiment, for its earnestness, for its broadness, for its sometimes witty and sometimes grating folksiness and for it being a movie to take your mother to that she'll probably enjoy. But mostly "Belfast" will be fated to divide because after winning the Toronto International Film Festival audience award, it is an assumed best picture frontrunner, putting it in the company of possible company of "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech," "12 Years a Slave," "Nomadland," and, infamously, "Green Book." It's why the only real option is to see it and decide for yourself.

So many films are described as love letters — to places, to time, to people, to even the idea of cinema – that the phrase has almost been rendered meaningless. But "Belfast" really is the quintessential cinematic love letter. This is a movie that you can imagine Branagh's family would be proud of, which regardless of what happens on Oscar night, is the only review that matters.

"Belfast," a Focus Features release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong language and some violence." Running time: 97 minutes.

AD 👞



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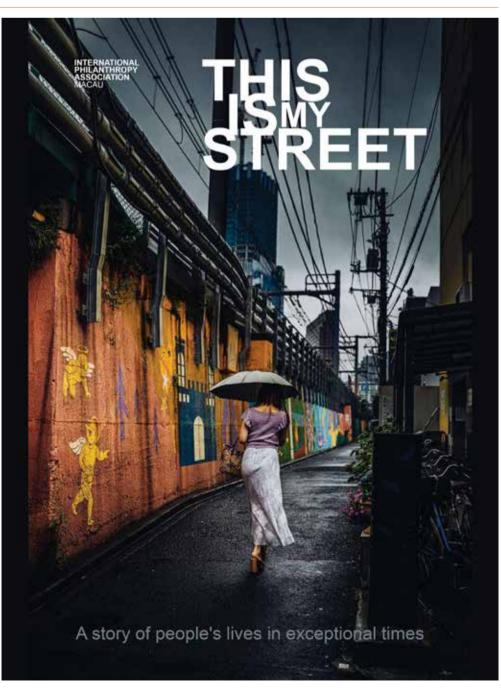
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F&B

CLASSIC BEAUTY

THIS November, House of Krug presents Les Créaf L tions de 2008, two different expressions of nature in 2008 - Krug 2008 is the story of the year, captured by Krug and Krug Grande Cuvée 164 ème Édition is the most generous expression of champagne, composed around the harvest of 2008.

For Krug, the year 2008 gave birth to a great classic balancing structured freshness and diverse flavours. Krug 2008 exhibits both power and elegance with a textured and intense mouthfeel very characteristic of the year's wines, which uniquely reconciled intensity and quality. To tell the story of 2008, a selection of Pinot Noir plots' wines constitutes more than half of the blend (53%) coming primarily from Krug's emblematic plots of the Montagne de Reims Sud, including Aÿ, Mareuil, Bouzy and Ambonnay. Meunier plots' wines (25%) bring tension and citrus, while aromatic Chardonnay plots' wines (22%) imbue the blend with fruit.

The extraordinary profile of Krug 2008 comes after 12 years in the cellars, gaining in expression, harmony, and finesse. At first sight, an intense and brilliant golden hue. Krug 2008's nose is expressive and very complete with round aromas of honey, liquorice, menthol, orange peel and grapefruit. On the palate, notes of quince, candied fruits and citrus, yellow kiwi, star fruit, honey, apple tart, butter cookies, orange peel, peony and fennel, with floral and menthol undertones. It has a long, balanced and precise finish with astounding structure.





TASTE OF EDESIA

White Diamonds

IRENE SAM, MDT

THITE truffles are best during autumn and winter. In Italy, during the frosty winter, truffle hunters and their trusted dogs set out to gather the most elusive and delicious of all fresh truffles, also known as the "King of Truffles." Its intoxicating scent and luxurious flavour inspires Chef Nicholas at Wynn Macau's Il Teatro to create a seasonal menu.

Highlights in his new truffle menu include Chilled langoustine, crustacean gelée, and Kristal caviar. The langoustine, also known as Norway lobster from the pristine marine environment of the Faroe Islands, lives on the

dark ocean floor, far below the surface. With a sweet, mild taste, the meat is firm and white. Chef Nicholas utilises the shells of langoustine for consommé making, topping with Kristal caviar, bringing out complex flavours, at the same time achieving the concept of "zero wastage" of ingredients. For comfort in cold weather, Chestnut cream, Alba white truffle, and seared goose liver delivers comfort. Poured on the bed of goose liver from France, the smooth and creamy chestnut soup is made with produce from Ibaraki, Japan, garnished with white truffle from Alba Italy.

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

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

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THE ECONOMY WE STILL HAVE

Made at the beginning of the year, my gaming income forecasts for 2021 pointed to 93.8 billion patacas, a figure more accurate than those presented either by the Government or by the main gaming analysts.

The latter continue to be maintained to date, but I don't think it's possible, given the surrounding circumstances, that gaming income could exceed 83 billion patacas in 2021. These values should be very close to the 2022 values that I predict to be 80 billion.

The Government, again showing lack of common sense and little experience in budgetary matters, is once more forecasting 130 billion in gaming income for 2022, which taking into consideration the taxation of 39 percent, means that they expect to collect 50.7 billion patacas.

As the 2022 budget is 100.1 billion patacas and as the Government expects to use the financial reserve of around 33.3 billion, it is easy to conclude that they will have to generate the remaining 66.8 billion. It this possible?

No, it will not be possible in a closed economy, which is more hostile to the only defacto local industry, and with no light at the end of the tunnel of zero Covid-cases policy.

If gaming income is what I foresee for 2022, the Government will generate for the public coffers only 31.2 billion in gaming taxes, which means that it will have to find 68.9 billion to balance the accounts. Now, as the normal income from other taxes and fees should not be far from 14 billion, this means that the Government, instead of having to dig into the financial reserves for just 33.3 billion, it will have to fetch 54.9 billion to balance the books.

The fiscal year is an exercise in prudence. Prudence is not just about the avoidance of wasting public resources, but also about making economic policy based on credible forecasts. By not doing so, there is an increased reliance upon using public reserves as the only solution.

But has the Government considered that it may resort to the financial system instead of necessarily having to use the public coffers?

This would be an incentive to financial activity, eventually creating new jobs, at a time when there is so much talk about diversification through the financial system.

But the government may have to find even more funding if the economy sinks further. And this brings with it the need for even more policies to support consumption and SMEs, in turn necessitating increased deficit financing.

When there is a dangerous cycle of economic contraction, and deflation or very close to it, the government must give a positive signal to the business community, by investing in or launching policies to support operators and the community.

Contracting the public budget is sending the message that the future will be worse. The news that the levels of professional tax refunds will drop to MOP 14,000 and companies will no longer have a tax deduction (tax forgiveness) of MOP300,000 is not very positive.

For 2021, my forecasts point to deflation up to November, with a slight inflation of almost 0.1 percent to perhaps end the year.

But if everything continues like this, we could be somewhere in 2022 in a situation of stagflation (inflation with economic stagnation), which is more complicated to manage because the incentives for economic activity may accelerate inflation.

There is still time for a more positive economic policy. Has the Government considered presenting a forecast of GDP growth and inflation for 2022, to show the community that it is not walking in the dark?

CREW MEMBER SUES ALEC BALDWIN, OTHERS OVER 'RUST' SHOOTING

The head of lighting on the film "Rust" filed a lawsuit over Alec Baldwin's fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the New Mexico set of the Western, alleging negligence that caused him "severe emotional distress" that will haunt him forever.

Serge Svetnoy said in the suit that the bullet that killed his close friend Hutchins, narrowly missed him, and he held her head as she died.

"They should never, ever, have had live rounds on this set,"

Svetnoy's attorney Gary A. Dordick said at a news conference.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court names nearly two dozen defendants associated with the film including Baldwin, who was both star and a producer; David Halls, the assistant director who handed Baldwin the gun; and Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who

was in charge of weapons on the set.

It is the first known lawsuit of what could be many stemming from the Oct. 21 shooting, which also injured "Rust" director Joel Souza.



GERMANY MULLS NEW COVID-19 MEASURES AS INFECTIONS SPIKE

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER, BERLIN

GERMANY reported a record-high number of more than 50,000 daily coronavirus cases yesterday as lawmakers mulled legislation that would pave the way for new coronavirus measures.

The Robert Koch Institute, Germany's national disease control center, registered 50,196 new cases, up from 33,949 daily cases a week earlier. Infections have multiplied so quickly

in recent days that hospitals in the hardest-hit regions canceled scheduled surgeries to allow medical personnel to focus on CO-VID-19 patients.

The institute also reported 237 daily COVID-19 deaths, bringing Germany's pandemic death toll to 97,198. One of the country's top virologists, Christian Drosten, warned that another 100,000 people could die in the coming months if the country's vaccination rate didn't accelerate quickly.

Unlike some other European countries, Germany has balked at making vaccinations mandatory for certain categories of workers and has struggled to persuade more people to voluntarily get shots.

At least 67% of the population of 83 million is fully vaccinated, according to official figures.

"In Germany, I must say, unfortunately, that our vaccination rate isn't high enough to prevent the fast spread of the virus," Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz who is likely to take over as chancellor echoed Merkel, telling lawmakers that everything must be done to get more people vaccinated.

67% of the population of 83 million is fully vaccinated, according to official figures

"The virus is still among us and threatening our health," said Scholz. "We must make sure that vaccinations are conducted and that they are conducted at high speed."

A caretaker national government has governed Germany since a September parliamentary election. The three parties that are expected to form the new government are looking to replace a March, 2020 "national epidemic" declaration at the end of the month with new legislation for enac-

ting COVID-19 measures.

Scholz announced that the three parties - his own Social Democrats, the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats - plan to to re-open vaccination centers across the country so that people can receive booster shots swiftly.

Other virus measures include free tests, daily or frequent testing at nursing homes and schools and tougher enforcement of measures.

Germany has had a pa-

tchwork of regional rules throughout the pandemic. Most places permit access to many indoor facilities and events only

to those people who have been vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 or had a recent negative test.

Scholz said both he and Merkel agreed that the federal government and all 16 states need to meet again next week to find common solutions on how to counter the infection spike.

"That is what we need now: for the country to stick together and pull in one direction so that we can get through this winter," said Scholz. MDT/AP **Cambodia** yesterday dismissed as "politically motivated" sanctions imposed by the United States on two senior defense officials over allegations of graft, accompanied by a broader warning of systemic corruption in the Southeast Asian nation. Government spokesman Phay Siphan said Cambodia had not been told in advance about the sanctions, which are related to construction financing at the Ream Naval Base — a project that has raised U.S. concerns over China's involvement.

Palestinian Foreign Ministry yesterday said it had detected spyware developed by the Israeli hacker-for-hire company NSO Group on the phones of three senior officials and accused Israel of using the military-grade Pegasus software to eavesdrop on them. The Palestinian accusations against NSO came as the embattled Israeli firm acknowledged that it had called off the appointment of its incoming chief executive in the wake of U.S. accusations that its spyware has been used by repressive governments around the world.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is "on life support" with climate talks in Glasgow so far not reaching any of the U.N.'s three goals, but he added that "until the last moment, hope should be maintained. "The worst thing would be to reach an agreement at all costs by a minimum common denominator that would not respond to the huge challenges we face," Guterres said.



Russia sent two nuclearcapable strategic bombers on a training mission over Belarus for a second straight day yesterday in a strong show of Moscow's support for its ally amid a dispute over migration at the Polish border. The Belarusian Defense Ministry said two Russian Tu-160 strategic bombers practiced bombing runs at the Ruzany firing range, located in Belarus about 60 kilometers east of the border with Poland.