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LAWMAKER RON LAM ASKED THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD EMPLOYMENT OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

▲ P4

EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO OFFICIALLY JOIN FORUM MACAU

▲ P4

UKRAINE SEEKS ARMS FROM NATO AS FIGHT LOOMS ON EASTERN FRONT

▲ P8



AP PHOTO



India yesterday said it would ramp up its production of military equipment, including helicopters, tank engines, missiles and airborne early warning systems, to offset any potential shortfall from its main supplier Russia. India depends on Russia for nearly 60% of its defense equipment, and the war in Ukraine has added to doubts about future supplies.

AP PHOTO



Thailand Thousands of refugees from Myanmar now live amid the tall grasses of a riverbank on the Thai border, trapped in limbo between a country that does not want them and a country whose military could kill them. Returning home would place them at risk of death. And yet that is precisely what Thai authorities — wary of jeopardizing their relationship with Myanmar’s ruling military — tell them to do at least once a week. Thailand insists refugees return to their embattled homeland voluntarily.

AP PHOTO



Turkey A court ruled yesterday to suspend the trial in absentia of 26 Saudis accused in the gruesome killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and for the case to be transferred to Saudi Arabia. Khashoggi, a U.S. resident who wrote critically about Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed on Oct. 2, 2018, at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. He had gone into the consulate for an appointment to collect documents to marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. He never emerged from the building.

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SLOW MOTION



Fitch Ratings forecasts Macau's economy will only expand by 19% in 2022, based on less than expected gaming revenue ▲ P3

HEALTH

FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER ENTRANTS POSE RISKS: GOV'T

LYNZZY VALLES



LYNZY VALLES



COVID-19

GOV'T: FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER ENTRANTS POSE POTENTIAL RISKS TO HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

ANTHONY LAM

ALLOWING foreign domestic helpers to enter the city may pose risks to their employees, especially to children and the elderly, public health doctor Leong Iek Hou said at the regular health press briefing yesterday.

Leong is also the division head for prevention and control of infectious diseases at the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

At the occasion, Leong was questioned about the threshold for vaccination rate that will facilitate foreign domestic helpers being permitted to enter Macau, as the middle class are struggling to obtain helpers to handle their household work.

In the past two years, many foreign workers have decided to leave Macau – not because their employers were not willing to renew their contracts, but because they would not be allowed back in if they departed from Macau to visit their family.

Restrictions are still in place on non-Greater China residents entering Macau.

In response to the question raised at the briefing, Leong merely reinforced the position of her superintendent, bureau director

and pulmonologist Alvis Lo, who said that the countries of origin of foreign domestic workers, such as Vietnam and the Philippines, are still seeing high number of new cases each day.

Furthermore, these workers mainly take care of children and the elderly when they work. Lo added that vaccination rates among children and elderly are still low, meaning higher risks for these people.

As Leong did not give a clear response to the question, she was asked once again about the vaccination rate threshold. Currently, the overall vaccination rate in the city is 85%.

In response to the question, the public health doctor admitted that there is no worldwide standard to the vaccination rate considered sufficient. She merely reiterated that the higher the vaccination rate, the more people were protected.

“By referring a vaccination rate as high we mean 90%,” she added. “But we have no clear cut [answer] as to what the optimal vaccination rate is.”

From the development of the vaccine to Macau reaching an 85% general vaccination rate, the government has elevated the acceptable vaccination rate several

times, from about 70% to 90%.

Furthermore, at a previous press conference, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng mentioned that unless Macau reached a vaccination rate of 80%, the government would feel groundless in requesting Beijing to reopen group tours to Macau.

Later at the briefing, the heal-

th official was also asked why the same entry practice is not levied on foreign people who want to enter Macau to work as domestic helpers.

People allowed to enter Macau from outside mainland China are required to undergo 14 days of centralized quarantine at designated hotels. If they are released after the two weeks, they

will need to conduct seven days of health self-monitoring, during which time they will not be legally allowed to enter mainland China.

On this subject, she referred to the overall capacity of the city against a potential outbreak. She said the government will need to make overall assessments before coming to any conclusions.

MACAU FOLLOWS MAINLAND STANDARDS ON COVID-19 POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION

LEONG Iek Hou was also questioned about the mismatching thresholds for positive SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) results between Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China.

In response, the public health doctor emphasized that the machines and systems for NATs in Macau are in full compliance with standards in mainland China. “I mean the capability to detect the lowest counts of virus,” she further explained. “In some cases, our machines and methodologies were more sensitive than those used in [the] mainland, meaning that we can detect even lower counts of virus in samples.”

In many cases it has been recorded that an entrant tested negative when they boarded transportation to Macau only for them to test positive once they entered Macau.

Explaining this, Leong said that results depend on the means of sample collection and the parts of the body from which the sample is collected, in addition to the time the test is done, “whether the

virus is still incubating.”

She was then asked whether the gaps in the threshold between the three jurisdictions will be closed. Some find it very inconvenient for entrants from Hong Kong, for example, because they may test negative when they depart Hong Kong only to be hospitalized upon arriving in Macau.

Reiterating her earlier explanation, she added that it cannot be guaranteed that everybody who arrives in Macau from Hong Kong will obtain negative NAT results upon arrival. “[If it can be guaranteed], we won’t need to administer another NAT on them when they arrive in Macau,” said Leong. “It is impossible to get identical results.”

On the standards enacted in Macau, she said it must meet the lowest standards accepted by mainland China. However, if there is a more accurate method, this is even better. “It will ensure to a greater extent that the virus be contained across our community,” the public health doctor added. **AL**

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ECONOMY

Fitch lowers SARs' economic growth forecast

LYNZY VALLES

FITCH Ratings forecasts Macau's economy will only expand by 19% in 2022, based on the assumption that gaming revenue will recover to about 44% of its pre-pandemic levels, far lower than the initial expectation of 36%.

The credit rating agency expects that gaming tourism recovery will pick up momentum in the second half of this year, underpinned by a gradual resumption of inbound tourism from mainland China.

Recently, Macau's gaming revenue has recorded steep downturns, particularly in March, where it recorded the lowest figures in 18 months at MOP3.67 billion, as a worsening Covid-19 outbreak in China battered tourism in the city.

During the three-day Ching Ming Festival in China, Macau only recorded 48,536 tourist arrivals, a 50% fall compared to the nearly 99,600 arrivals reported last year.

However, Fitch noted that as visitation normalizes further, "We project growth will accelerate to



24% in 2023." The firm made this projection in a statement issued yesterday.

Although the timeline for full normalization of mainland tourism and easing of international border restrictions remains uncertain, and depends on the further development of the pandemic and containment policies, the agency said that the SAR remains well-placed to meet pent-up de-

mand from short-haul mainland Chinese tourists once travel impediments are removed.

However, Fitch forecasts Macau's budget deficit will decline to 7.8% of GDP in 2022 from 14.1% in 2021, due to a partial gaming revenue recovery.

The approved 2022 budget will allow the authorities to draw down up to MOP30.3 billion from the fiscal reserve, or 4.7% of its

end-2021 level, for social welfare, public investment and the economic recovery.

"We project the deficit will further narrow to 0.5% in 2023 as the gaming recovery advances, and in light of Macau's long record of fiscal prudence," it added.

Macau's external finances are among the strongest across Fitch-rated sovereigns.

"We forecast the current ac-

count surplus will widen to 15.6% of GDP in 2022, and 23.4% in 2023, as the gaming sector recovers. We project sovereign net foreign assets (SNFA) at 300% of GDP in 2022, and for the territory to remain a large net external creditor (269% of GDP), both well above the 'AA' median," projected the firm.

Meanwhile, the SAR is expected to have continued integration with mainland China, leading to a stronger role by the central government in policymaking and a gradual convergence of governance and institutional management practices with mainland China.

The group also recalled that fiscal reserves increased by 11% from the end-2019 level to MOP643 billion at end-2021, equivalent to about seven times its projected 2022 budget expenditure.

Therefore, the territory's fiscal buffers are expected to remain considerable over the medium term.

"Macau is the only entity in Fitch's global sovereign portfolio without any outstanding government debt, which puts it well below the 'AA' median of 46.9% of GDP at end-2021," the report concluded.

AD

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DSAT TO ACHIEVE TURNING 50% TRAFFIC LIGHTS SMART BY YEAR END

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) will finish upgrading 50% of local traffic lights to the smart system by the end of this year, Lam Chi Kim, department head for traffic planning and infrastructure of the bureau, recently disclosed. The city has a total of 126 sets of traffic lights. Currently, about 40 of them have been equipped with smart gadgets. Lam spoke highly about the smart traffic light system and referred to the system on Avenida do Coronel Mesquita as an exemplar. He said that since the installation of smart traffic lights, which optimally distribute crossing period for vehicles and pedestrians, vehicular movements have become about 23% smoother.

TDM RECORDS 6% INCREASE IN 2021 INCOME

Public broadcaster TDM's operating income in 2021 stood at MOP 96.11 million, an increase of around 6% on the previous year. Direct costs decreased by around MOP8.09 million, while personnel costs and other operating expenses fell by 5.72% to approximately MOP23.43 million. The operating subsidy granted by the government under the concession contract was MOP287.22 million, which is around 44.26 million less than the previous year. According to TDM Rádio, in 2021 there was an access rate of 71.3%, meaning that more than 420,000 residents watched the station's programs, and more than 180,000 watched TDM's broadcasts.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL PERFORMANCES FOR ARTS FESTIVAL

Additional performances will be offered for the local performances of the upcoming 32nd Macao Arts Festival (MAF) due to popular demand. There will now be a total of two performances for the show Carlos I May 8 and 9, at 7 p.m., one performance for the show The Vanished Figures May 15, at 8 p.m., as well as one performance for the show Grandma's Treasure Box May 26, 8 p.m. Tickets for the additional performances will be on sale simultaneously through the Macao Ticketing Network outlets, telephone and online booking from 10 a.m. tomorrow; an early bird discount of 30% is available until Sunday.

NEW IPIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASSUMES OFFICE

The new executive director of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) Vong Sin Man took office yesterday, the bureau has announced in a statement. Vong joined the government in 1989 and has served as the Chief of the Division of Promotion and Data Dissemination of the Statistics and Census Service, and technical advisor and advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance. Since 2018, he has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Monetary Authority of Macao. Vong will serve as an executive director of IPIM for one year starting from April 6.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO OFFICIALLY JOIN FORUM MACAU

EQUATORIAL Guinea will officially become part of the Forum Macau from April 10, becoming the 10th permanent member of the body, which aims to promote economic and commercial cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The secretary general of the Forum, Ji Xianzheng, said that the transition of Equatorial Guinea to official membership will take place within the scope of the extraordinary meeting of the forum, which will take place online simultaneously in Macau and Beijing, according to a report issued by TDM Radio,

The Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of Forum Macao will be held online Sunday at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex, via video link, as unanimously agreed by those due to take part.

The meeting will be held under the theme: "Cooperate



to fight against the pandemic, Collaborate for common development."

Representatives from the governments of the participating countries of Forum Macao will deliver speeches at the opening ceremony via video link.

The topics will be the strengthening of exchange between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries regarding pandemic-prevention work and the joint promotion of economic recovery in a post-pandemic period. After the

meeting, the ministers will sign a Joint Declaration of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting.

The ministers of the member countries of the forum that oversee matters related to the body will also make interventions on the topic of "reinforcement of the exchange in pandemic prevention" between China and the Portuguese bloc and sign a joint declaration that will reflect a new phase of works in different areas.

According to the Supporting

Office for the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum, the meeting is slated to "meet the initial aspiration of the Forum Macau and establish consensus for the increasingly consistent development of its role as a multilateral cooperation mechanism for common development."

In 2015, the Times reported on Equatorial Guinea's intent to join Forum Macau and that it has "apparently it has China's blessing," a diplomatic source told the Times. According to the Times' sources, "other countries in Africa" are willing to join Forum Macau, even though they are not part of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

The Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), commonly known as Forum Macao, was created in Macau in October 2003, initiated by the Central Government of China. **LV**

Lawmaker calls for securing local employment

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Ron Lam asked the government about its measures to safeguard employment of the local workforce, such as cutting the number of non-resident workers in larger enterprises.

In his recent written inquiry, Lam questioned if the government would encourage larger enterprises, which he believes the most resourceful in hiring local residents, to offer jobs to the local unem-

ployed. Moreover, he suggested that the government operate internship programs that subsidize small and medium enterprises to hire local residents.

So far, despite the government's attempts to stabilize the employment market by means such as the introduction of subsidized training and tax relief, the latest local resident unemployment rate was at 4.3% as of February this year.

Meanwhile, 2,000 people reported being unemployed for more than a year. Another 2,000 have been unemployed for half a year.

Income of local residents has also dropped drastically in these two years. Lam pointed out that the number of full-time employed local residents earning MOP16,000 to MOP40,000 per month plunged to 93,000.

In contrast, the number of those earning MOP16,000 per month rose to 68,000;

while the number of those earning more than MOP40,000 only rose slightly to 4,500.

The lawmaker sees this as evidence of local residents earning much less during the two years of the pandemic. In addition, he pointed out that the six gambling licenses hired 18,740 non-resident workers as of September 2021.

In the March job-matching session held by the Labor Affairs Bureau, these six organizations only of-

fered 690 positions to local residents.

He also asked if the government had plans for further targeted supportive measures to help workers, as well as assisting small and medium sized enterprises to survive the current challenging circumstances.

He also asked if the government plans to issue further consumption subsidies, as well as make pilot investments to support future economic diversification.

CRIME

POLICE ARREST FIVE ALLEGEDLY FAKING NON-LOCAL HIRES TO MEET BLUE CARD QUOTAS

FIVE people have been arrested on charges of forging the employment details of 12 non-resident workers (TNRs) in an attempt to meet the business's TNR hiring quotas, the Public Security Police Force has revealed.

The business in ques-

tion is a food establishment on Rua de Nam Keng in Taipa.

According to the police, the case was unearthed when PSP officers conducted regular inspections on TNR employment at the establishment. During which, the officers discovered certain discrepancies in the employment status

of individuals associated with the establishment.

It was found that the food establishment started hiring TNRs in 2020. In these past two years, as per official records, the establishment hired a total of 12 TNRs. However, these 12 people have never worked in the establishment.

At the end of last month, the police intercepted two mainland Chinese believed to be connected to this case. During interrogations, the duo admitted to obtaining a permit to remain in Macau by registering as workers for the establishment.

Instead of working at the establishment, they

told the police that they have worked as the shopkeeper's assistant and caretaker for her children.

Meanwhile, the two owners were also interrogated. An owner denied knowing about the breach, while the other owner admitted to committing the alleged crimes. **AL**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Spirits of the Two Sessions shared at Melco's dedicated forum

Splendors of China learning program promotes national pride among colleagues and community

A special Forum to share the Spirits of the 13th NPC and Fifth Session of the 13th CPPCC, also known as the '2022 Two Sessions', was hosted by Melco Resorts & Entertainment at Studio City last week.

The Forum forms part of Melco's Splendors of China learning program for creating national pride. Launched in 2016, Splendors of China focuses on promoting patriotism and the principle of 'Loving the Country, Loving Macau' through education on the culture, history, modernization and latest development of the Motherland to Melco Colleagues and the wider community.

The Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR was invited as the event's Adviser and delegates of the National People's Congress (NPC) and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), including Mr. Alexandre Ma Iao Lai, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee; Mr. Lok Po, Member of the NPC, Director of Macau Daily News; Ms. Ung Pui Kun, Member of the CPPCC National Committee, Hospital Director of Kiang Wu Hospital; Mr. Kevin Ho King Lun, Member of the NPC, President of the Industry and Commerce Association of Macau; and Mr. Lawrence Ho, Member of the CPPCC National Committee, Chairman & CEO of Melco were invited as guest speakers.

Mr. Sun Yaohua, Director of Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR and Ms. Cheong Man Fai, Head of the Youth Department of the Education and Youth Development Bureau attended as Guests of Honor. Melco senior executives including Dr. Kent Wong, Chief Advisor and Mr. Raymond Lo, Senior Vice President, Property General Manager of Altira Macau & Mocha welcomed guests to the event.

The guest speakers shared the Spirits of the 'Two Sessions', including topics related to Macau,

Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, the development of Hengqin and Macau and major economic policies, as well as those related to the people's livelihood.

The audience comprised Melco management and non-management colleagues and representatives from Macau's educational institutes, including professors, teaching staff and students. The event was also broadcast live to further colleagues in Hong Kong and Macau. To further share the Spirits of the 'Two Sessions', a highlight video will be produced and broadcasted to colleagues at the company's Heart of House areas.

Melco Chairman & CEO Mr. Lawrence Ho said, "Under the leadership of the Central Government and the SAR Government, Macau has firmly safeguarded

National Security since the handover, giving full play to the advantages of the 'One Country, Two Systems' constitutional principle to achieve great economic and social development.

"The country's concern for Macau's economy and people's livelihood was felt strongly during the 'Two Sessions'. The construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area has been mentioned in the government work report for six consecutive years. Group meetings were focused on topics including the development of Hong Kong and Macau, the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone and Macau's diversification. Premier Li Keqiang also emphasized that we must adhere to 'One Country, Two Systems' with 'patriots go-

verning Hong Kong and Macau' to support the development of the economies, improve the people's livelihood, and maintain long-term prosperity and stability.

"We should earnestly understand and convey the Spirit of the 'Two Sessions', to actively cooperate with the implementation of the policies of the Central Government, to fully support the work of the SAR Government, to lead Macau in seizing opportunities in relation to national development, and strive to protect people's livelihood and stabilization of the economy so that citizens can live a better life. It will also allow local enterprises to better integrate into the development of the country and the Greater Bay Area."

To inculcate national pri-

de, Melco continues to deliver its holistic Splendors of China Passport Program to Colleagues. It comprises a series of training initiatives such as mandatory courses on Chinese culture and history; elective courses on cultural aspects of understanding China, including tea culture and calligraphy; visits to exhibitions related to national education and events such as Chinese knowledge competition and Chinese Cultural Youth Talent Show.

The Melco Splendors of China Passport Program has been well received among Melco Colleagues; of 17,335 participants who have completed the courses, 98% felt more proud of China's culture and are interested in learning more about the country's history and culture in the future.



SOUTH CHINA SEA

CHINESE SHIP SHADOWS RESEARCH VESSEL, FILIPINO SCIENTISTS WARY

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

A Chinese coast guard ship last month maneuvered for days near a research vessel deployed by Philippine and Taiwanese scientists to undertake a crucial survey of undersea fault lines west of the northern Philippines, sparking concerns among the scientists on board, officials said yesterday.

The scientists on the R/V Legend, including five Filipinos, proceeded with their research despite the presence of the Chinese coast guard ship in the vicinity of the waters straddling the undersea Manila Trench from March 25 to March 30 off the northwestern Philippine city of Vigan in Ilocos Sur province. The Chinese coast guard's proximity sparked concerns because the research vessel was towing a survey cable in the sea, a Filipino scientist told The Associated Press.

The ongoing offshore survey — a joint project of the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines and the National Central University in Taiwan — aims to help map offshore faults and other geologic features that could set off future earthquakes, tsunamis and other potentially catastrophic hazards in the region. The monthlong research is partly funded by the Philippine Department of Science and Technology and will end on April 13.

The Chinese coast guard ship maneuvered about 2 to 3 nautical miles (3 to 5 kilometers) from the R/V Legend for several days, according to Carla Dimalanta of the



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a Chinese Coast Guard ship sails near a Philippine Coast Guard vessel during its patrol at Bajo de Masinloc, 124 nautical miles west of Zambales province, northwestern Philippines on March 2

National Institute of Geological Sciences.

"Its proximity to the research vessel was cause for concern especially when the research vessel was towing a streamer cable for the scientific measurements that were being done," Dimalanta told The AP in an emailed reply to questions about the incident.

The Philippine coast guard said it deployed a patrol ship, the BRP Capones, on Monday to keep watch on the research vessel.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have been locked in an increasingly tense territorial standoff in the busy waterway for decades.

The Manila Trench, which runs off the western coast of the main northern Philippine island of Luzon in the fringes of the South China Sea has long been an area of concern because of the potential disaster it could unleash if a major earthquake and tsunami were generated in the busy waterway that borders several countries, including China, Taiwan and the Philippines.

It was not immediately known if the Philippine government has raised its concern over the Chinese coast guard's movement near the scientific research vessel. Two Filipino officers told The AP without elaborating that the

Philippine military was aware of the incident. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese Embassy officials in Manila.

Late last month, the Philippine coast guard said that Chinese coast guard ships maneuvered dangerously close to its patrol ships at least four times in the vicinity of the disputed Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines over the past year. The movement of the Chinese coast guard ships increased the risk of collision and violated in-

ternational safety regulations, the Philippine coast guard said then.

In one of those dangerous movements, a Chinese coast guard ship moved just 21 yards (63 feet) from a Philippine coast guard patrol vessel and restricted its maneuvering space in the vicinity of the Scarborough Shoal in a "clear violation" of a 1972 international safety regulation that aims to prevent sea collisions, said the Philippine coast guard, which reported the incidents to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

China's seizure of Scarborough Shoal prompted the Philippines to bring the disputes to international arbitration. In 2016, a U.N.-backed tribunal invalidated most of China's claims and said it has violated the rights of Filipinos to fish at the shoal.

China dismissed the ruling as a sham and continues to defy it but has allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the shoal under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who nurtured closer ties with Beijing after taking office in 2016. Despite cozier relations, however, sporadic territorial spats have persisted.

Two weeks ago, U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. John C. Aquilino told The AP on board a U.S. Navy reconnaissance aircraft that China has fully militarized three of the seven islands it built in the disputed Spratlys archipelago in the South China Sea, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment and military aircraft in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating in the disputed waters.

China responded by saying that its deployment of "necessary national defense facilities on its own territory is a right entitled to every sovereign country and is in line with international law, which is beyond reproach." **MDT/AP**

BUSINESS

JD.com founder Richard Liu leaves CEO post

CHINESE e-commerce company JD.com said yesterday that its founder Richard Liu has left his position as CEO, the latest Chinese billionaire founder to step aside amid increased government scrutiny of the country's technology industry.

Liu will hand over the reins to JD.com's president Xu Lei, according to a company statement. Liu will remain as the chairman of the board and continue to focus on JD.com's "long-term strategies, mentoring younger management, and contributing to the revitalization of rural areas,"



the statement said.

"I'll devote more of my time to JD's long-term strategies and future drivers

as we continue to work on the most challenging yet

valuable things," Liu said.

Liu is the latest in a string of Chinese technology company founders who have stepped down from leadership positions in recent years. Last year, e-commerce firm Pinduoduo's founder Colin Huang resigned as chairman and Bytedance founder Zhang Yiming also left his position as chairman of the firm.

The departures came as Beijing cracked down on the country's once-freewheeling technology industry over antitrust concerns and fears that China's technology giants

were wielding too much influence over society.

JD.com's stock price has plunged 27% over the past year. Its New York-listed stock closed down 3% to \$59.07 on the Nasdaq ahead of the announcement yesterday.

Like many Chinese technology companies, JD.com's finances have suffered over the past year. The company reported a net loss of 5.2 billion yuan (\$817 million) for the fourth quarter of 2021, compared to a net income of 24.3 billion yuan (\$3.8 billion) in the previous year, even as revenue grew 23%.

E-commerce firms like JD.com and rival Alibaba have been suffering from economic headwinds and a slowdown in consumption, as well as increased competition from other players such as short-video companies like Kuaishou that have begun incorporating e-commerce functions into their platforms.

In 2018, Liu was arrested in Minnesota in the U.S. after a Chinese university student accused him of raping her in her apartment after they both attended a dinner party. Liu was exonerated after prosecutors found there was not enough evidence to press charges. The student later sued Liu in a civil lawsuit, seeking more than \$50,000 in damages. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA

Authorities search for three Europeans lost on dive; one rescued

MALAYSIAN authorities rescued a Norwegian dive instructor and were searching yesterday for three other Europeans, including two teenagers, who disappeared while diving off a southern island.

Kristine Grodem, a 35-year-old registered diving instructor, was rescued by a tugboat early yesterday about 22 nautical miles from the dive site and airlifted to a hospital, according to Johor state maritime authorities.

The missing divers are Alexia Alexandra Molina, 18, of France; Adrian Peter Chesters, 46, of Britain; and his Dutch son, Nathen Renze Chesters, 14.

They were diving together Wednesday afternoon in water about 15 meters deep at an island off the town of Mersing in southern Johor state.

First Admiral Nurul Hizam Zakaria, Johor director of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, said Grodem was found safe with full diving gear and was



One of four Europeans who disappeared during diving training, in a helicopter after being rescued, on the way to Mersing, Johor state of Malaysia, yesterday

in stable condition without any serious injuries.

He said she was providing dive training for the other three, who

were seeking to obtain advanced diving licenses, and that a report was made after the group did not surface about an hour after the dive.

The agency began a search Wednesday afternoon before suspending it for the night due to poor visibility. The search resu-

med yesterday with two planes, 18 boats and about 90 personnel, including rescue divers.

District police chief Cyril Edward Nuing said Grodem told investigators that the group surfaced after around 40 minutes but the boat skipper didn't see them, possibly due to rough water conditions. She was then separated from the others due to strong currents, she said.

"Based on her account, the three others managed to surface. With their equipment, their full gear and their experience, we believe there is a strong chance of finding them alive," he said.

Johor police chief Kamarul Zaman Mamat said the boat skipper tested positive for drugs and has been detained for further investigation.

"We will investigate in terms of their diving equipment, the dive center and so on. A forensic team will be arriving. If there is misconduct and so on, we will investigate as well," he was quoted as saying by the national Bernama news agency.

Malaysia reopened its borders to foreigners on April 1 after being closed for more than two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. The immigration department said more than 55,000 foreigners entered Malaysia in the first four days after the border was reopened. **MDT/AP**

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PUTIN'S WAR

Ukraine seeks arms from NATO as fight looms on eastern front

ADAM SCHRECK, KYIV

UKRAINE told residents of its industrial heartland to leave while they still can and urged Western nations to send "weapons, weapons, weapons" yesterday after Russian forces withdrew from the shattered outskirts of Kyiv to regroup for an offensive in the country's east.

Russia's six-week-old invasion failed to take Ukraine's capital quickly and achieve what Western countries say was President Vladimir Putin's initial aim to oust the Ukrainian government. Russia's focus is now on the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking region in eastern Ukraine.

In Brussels, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged NATO to provide more weapons for his war-torn country to help prevent further atrocities like those reported in Kyiv's northern suburbs. Ukrainian authorities are working to identify hundreds of bodies they say were found in Bucha and other towns after Russian troops withdrew and to document what they say were war crimes.

"My agenda is very simple... it's weapons, weapons and weapons," Kuleba said as he arrived at NATO headquarters for talks with the military organization's foreign ministers about Ukraine's fight to defend itself.

"The more weapons we get and the sooner they arrive in Ukraine, the more human lives will be saved," he said.

Some NATO nations worry they may be Russia's next target, but the alliance is striving to avoid actions that might pull any of its 30 members directly into the war. Still, he NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged member nations to send Ukraine more weapons, and not just defensive arms.

"Ukraine is fighting a defensive war, so this distinction between offensive and defensive weapons doesn't actually have any real meaning," he said.

Western countries have provided Ukraine with portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, but they have been reluctant to supply aircraft or tanks plus any equipment that Ukrainian troops would have to be trained to use.



A Ukrainian soldier stands against the background of an apartment house ruined in the Russian shelling in Borodyanka

Asked what more his country was seeking, Kuleba listed planes, land-based missiles, armored vehicles and air defense systems.

A U.S. defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said Russia had pulled all of its estimated 24,000 or more troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv areas in the north, sending them into Belarus or Russia to resupply, reorganize and likely prepare to return to fight in the east.

Growing numbers of Putin's troops, along with mercenaries, have been reported moving into the Donbas, where Russia-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for eight years and control two areas.

Ahead of its Feb. 24 invasion, Moscow recognized the Luhansk and Donetsk areas as independent states. Military analysts have said Putin also could be seeking to expand into government-controlled parts of the Donbas.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said at least five civilians were killed and another eight were wounded by Russian shelling on Wednesday. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk urged civilians to evacuate to safer regions before it was too late.

"Later, people will come under fire, and we won't be able to do anything to help them," Vereshchuk said.

Another Western official, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence estimates, said it may take Russia's battle-damaged forces as much as a month to regroup for a major push on eastern Ukraine.

Oleksandr Shputun,

spokesman for the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, reported yesterday that near Donbas, Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, remained blockaded. He said Russian forces also were carrying out "brutal measures" in the southern Kherson region, which they hold.

In his nightly address to the nation late Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine, too, was preparing for battle.

"We will fight and we will not retreat," he said. "We will seek all possible options to defend ourselves until Russia begins to seriously seek peace. This is our land. This is our future. And we won't give them up."

In areas north of the capital, Ukrainian officials gathered evidence of Russian atrocities amid signs Moscow's troops killed people indiscriminately before retreating.

Ukrainian authorities said the bodies of at least 410 civilians were found in towns around Kyiv, victims of what Zelenskyy has portrayed as a Russian campaign of murder, rape, dismemberment and torture. Some victims had apparently been shot at close range. Some were found with their hands bound.

Western officials warned that similar atrocities were likely to have taken place in other areas occupied by Russian troops. Zelenskyy accused Russian forces of trying to cover up war crimes in areas still under their control, "afraid that the global anger over what was seen in Bucha would be repeated."

"We have information that the Russian troops have changed tactics and are trying to

remove the dead people, the dead Ukrainians, from the streets and cellars of territory they occupied," he said in a nighttime video address. "This is only an attempt to hide the evidence and nothing more."

Switching from speaking Ukrainian to Russian, Zelenskyy urged ordinary Russians "to somehow confront the Russian repressive machine" instead of being "equated with the Nazis for the rest of your life."

He called on Russians to demand an end to the war, "if you have even a little shame about what the Russian military is doing in Ukraine."

In reaction to the alleged atrocities outside Kyiv, the U.S. announced sanctions against Putin's two adult daughters and said it is toughening penalties against Russian banks. Britain banned investment in Russia and pledged to end its dependence on Russian coal and oil by the end of the year.

The U.S. Senate planned to take up legislation to end normal trade relations with Russia, paving the way for higher tariffs on some imports, and to codify President Joe Biden's executive action banning imports of Russian oil.

The European Union is also expected to take additional punitive measures, including an embargo on coal.

The Kremlin has insisted its troops have committed no war crimes and alleged the images out of Bucha were staged by the Ukrainians.

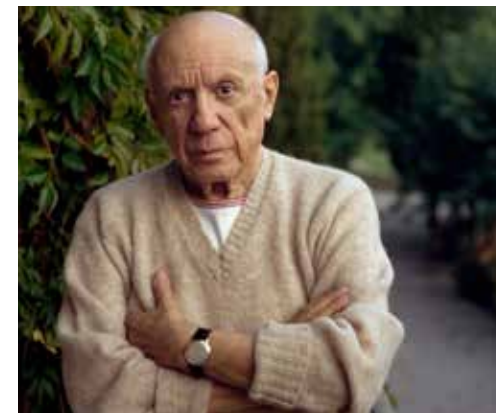
Bodies were still being collected in the city. On Wednesday, The Associated Press saw two in a house in a silent neighborhood. From time to time, the muffled boom of workers clearing the town of mines and other unexploded ordnance interrupted the silence.

Workers at a cemetery began to load more than 60 bodies into a grocery shipping truck for transport to a facility for further investigation.

Police said they found at least 20 bodies in the Makariv area west of Kyiv. In the village of Andriivka, residents said the Russians arrived in early March, taking locals' phones and detaining and then releasing some people. Others met unknown fates. Some described sheltering for weeks in cellars normally used for storing vegetables. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1973 ART MASTER PICASSO DIES



The artist Pablo Picasso has died of a heart attack at his chateau near Cannes on the French Riviera.

He suffered the fatal seizure at approximately 1100 local time (1000GMT).

His wife, Jacqueline, and son, Paolo, were with him when he died.

The artist who had lived in seclusion for some years is reported to have suffered from influenza during the winter but continued to paint.

He was making plans for more than 200 pieces of his work to be shown at an art museum in Avignon next month.

Last year to mark his 90th birthday the Louvre Museum in Paris staged a Picasso retrospective - the first time the work of a living artist had been exhibited.

Tributes for Picasso have been pouring in.

The sculptor Henry Moore said that Picasso was probably one of the most "naturally gifted" artists since Raphael.

France's culture minister, Maurice Druou, said Picasso "filled his century with his colours".

Born in 1881 in Spain, the son of an art teacher, Picasso exhibited his first paintings in Barcelona at the age of 12.

During his lifetime he is said to have produced approximately 20,000 paintings, sculptures and drawings.

Arguably his best known painting was Guernica, inspired by his outrage at the destruction of a small Basque town during the Spanish civil war and exhibited at the Paris World Fair in 1937.

Picasso, a lifelong Communist, supported the republican government defeated by General Franco's forces and never returned to his homeland after Franco's victory.

His fortune has been estimated at \$50m - his legal heirs are his wife, Jacqueline, and Paolo, his son from his first marriage to a Russian ballerina.

Picasso also had at least three illegitimate children who are expected to make a claim on his estate.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Pablo Picasso was buried in the grounds of his chateau in France.

His left his art collection including works by Cézanne, Braque and Matisse to the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Family divisions were brought into the open by Picasso's death - after a long legal battle Picasso's wealth was shared jointly among his wife and all his children and grandchildren.

His daughter, Paloma, later became an internationally-known designer of jewellery and fabrics. After his death Picasso attracted an even greater following - in 1980 more than one million people visited the Museum of Modern Art in New York to view an exhibition of his work.

In 1981 his famous painting Guernica was sent to Spain from New York and now takes pride of place in Madrid's Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Travel in pursuit of pleasure and knowledge.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Your relationship appears to be stressed out and depleted. You can make successful moves.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. Take time to make physical improvements that will enhance your appearance. Put your energy into learning new skills or picking up valuable information.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Heart to heart talks will clear up vague issues. Work quietly behind the scenes for best results. You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford. Do not make rash decisions about your personal life. If you have to deal with large institutions, be careful not to make waves.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Educational pursuits should help you develop your hobbies. New relationships could evolve through group activities. This is a great day to mingle with people you would like to impress.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. Don't exaggerate. Do not expect too much from others.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Do your own research and be prepared. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may find yourself in a heated dispute with a friend if you try to change your mind. You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers. Your good sense will help more than you think.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. It might be best to spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined. Get rich quick schemes will not be successful. You will have good ideas for home improvement projects.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. Don't push your luck with authority figures.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	9	27	fine
Changchun	1	22	overcast
Chengdu	14	24	cloudy
Chongqing	12	30	overcast
Fuzhou	13	25	fine
Guangzhou	16	31	fine
Guiyang	11	23	cloudy
Haikou	18	27	cloudy
Hangzhou	13	27	fine
Harbin	0	18	cloudy
Hefei	12	29	fine
Nanjing	14	29	cloudy
Shanghai	13	25	overcast
Taipei	18	24	cloudy
Wuhan	14	29	fine
Hong Kong	18	13	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	5	16	overcast
Frankfurt	3	9	rain
Paris	3	10	rain
London	2	12	cloudy
New York	8	17	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Barbecue leftovers?; 6- Common person of ancient Rome; 11- NFL scores; 14- Long; 15- Devoured; 16- Long fish; 17- ___ nous; 18- Night vision?; 19- 6, on a phone; 20- Mild oath; 22- Easy ___; 24- Pure; 28- Habitual practice; 30- Entertained; 31- Pass into disuse; 32- Gave a measured amount; 33- Courier; 37- Nettle; 38- Devoutness; 39- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 40- Home; 43- Cut off; 45- Circumference; 46- Cooking devices; 47- Thickset; 49- Go before; 50- Vigilant; 51- Red-bearded god; 52- Music style performed by Dr Dre and Eminem; 53- Olds model; 56- Snare; 61- Hydrocarbon ending; 62- Mortise insert; 63- Needing nourishment; 64- Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze; 65- D. ebenum, a tropical tree; 66- Secret organization;

DOWN 1- Affirmative vote; 2- Capitol Hill abbr.; 3- Covering for the head; 4- Be mistaken; 5- Scoffed; 6- Bicycle part; 7- Hog fat; 8- Hot time in Paris; 9- Actress Arthur; 10- All together; 11- Beat; 12- Fabric of jeans; 13- Blackthorn fruit; 21- Wander; 23- Anna of "Nana"; 24- Rock bottom; 25- Love, Italian-style; 26- Elephant parts; 27- Application; 28- Class of Indian society; 29- ___-daisy; 31- Parasite; 33- Like some gum; 34- Orchard; 35- Having auricular protuberances; 36- Washer cycle; 38- Enliven; 41- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 42- Prescribe; 43- Breastbone; 44- Ad follower; 46- Hit sign; 47- Jargon; 48- Native American tent; 49- Fake; 50- Scope; 51- 1982 Disney film; 54- Isr. neighbor; 55- Ambient music pioneer; 57- ___ roll; 58- Not quite right; 59- Cinque follower; 60- Writer LeShan;

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JOCELYN NOVECK, MDT/AP

DRIVE IN 'COW' NEEDS NO WORDS TO CONVEY ONE ANIMAL'S LIFE

The human voice, a necessity in virtually any film, is barely existent and wholly secondary in "COW." We hear only random bits of conversation, muffled and unimportant, from people we don't know and don't need to.

The only character that counts in Andrea Arnold's deeply moving documentary about the life cycle of one dairy cow is Luma, the cow. Thanks to her expressive sounds and soulful eyes — which we both see, and see through — we sense what it must feel like to be her, a creature whose only purpose is to provide milk, mate and procreate. In Arnold's careful, unhurried hands, it is a sobering lesson, though one without a clear agenda. Arnold simply seems interested in telling us Luma's story. And that is enough.

It should be noted that the humans in "COW," workers on a British dairy farm, hardly seem evil. They are, in fact, amiable and fairly humane as they spend their days milking the cows with mechanized nozzles, guiding them into and out of endless metal cages and contraptions, stapling tags on their ears, making sure they mate, supervising their births. It is the entire enterprise that's examined here. We all knew it existed. Most of us just hadn't sat down and watched it play out for

AP PHOTO



Luma, the cow, in a scene from the documentary "Cow"

94 minutes.

We begin with what would seem, initially, a heartwarming scene: the birth of a calf. The newborn is pulled from Luma in extreme closeup (and total silence), glistening in afterbirth. Gently, Luma licks her baby clean.

It's a thrilling sight — and a deceptive one. The two are almost immediately separated, the calf taken to a different part of

the farm. Luma seems later to be looking for her. The baby is fed through a plastic contraption. Mother's milk? That's for our coffee.

Arnold goes on to depict a life of endless mud and metal and machinery. We watch as one contraption raises the cow in the air sideways so the hooves can be trimmed. We also witness a mating session, which provides Arnold with a chance to inject a note

of humor, via pop music — "All night give me mad love," go the lyrics of "Mad Love" by Mabel — and a shot of fireworks at the conclusion.

But short of this, neither humor nor wit plays a role here. Seen from Luma's perspective, it's an unending slog of milking and breeding, since dairy cows must always be lactating. A visit from the doctor who checks out her re-

productive organs and says she's "doing pretty well!" seems more sinister in this context. Soon she can mate and give birth again to a calf that will be taken, again.

Arnold's editing choices make for a disorienting experience at times, and surely this is intentional. We imagine Luma must often wonder where she is going and why she is being moved, and so we wonder, too.

"This film is an endeavor to consider cows," Arnold says in a statement accompanying her film. "To move us closer to them ... not in a romantic way but in a real way. It's a film about one dairy cow's reality and acknowledging her great service to us."

In other words, the film aims less to condemn than to educate, and even more to appreciate. Never is that message more profoundly than at the film's stunningly abrupt ending, which we will not describe here.

"When I look at Luma, our cow, I see the whole world in her," Arnold says. Her vision comes through, poignantly, in a simple but sobering film that may stay with you for a long time. However you may feel about that cow's milk in your coffee.

"COW," an IFC Films release, is unrated by the Motion Picture Association of America. Running time: 94 minutes. ★★★★★

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TASTE OF EDESIA

Delicious delights

IRENE SAM, MDT

THIS April The Lounge at JW Marriott Hotel Macau has prepared new cocktails, small plates and other culinary creations to offer in an elegant space and a casual atmosphere. Carved from antique cream stone and embellished with raindrop-inspired glass chandeliers, the interior embodies an understated luxury and the setting enables guests to savour crowd-pleasing treats from across the globe, including new signature dishes such as

Marinated Flank Steak Fajitas, Prawn and Avocado Tostada, Beef Tenderloin Rendang and Grilled Spicy Thai Pork Collar. The eclectic food menu is designed to cater to every palate and occasion. In addition, every Friday and Saturday night, live performances from local DJs and a cocktail trolley fitted with a mixing table will transform the venue into an exuberant space of social mingling, where patrons rub shoulders with one another in the company of lively music and drinks customised to their individual preferences.

Apart from a variety of light tapas and sharing plates, those looking for the full experience can try the Signature Tasting Menu, which comes in two options. The two-person set showcases five of the venue's most popular dishes and different drink pairing choices; while the four-person set comprises seven courses, plus wine or cocktails—based on tailored recommendations from our mixologists. The establishment will present a quartet of brand new JW Marriott Mixologist cocktails, developed in partner-

ship with Tippling Bros. under the guidance of celebrated nutritionist Keri Glassman. Aptly dubbed “Cocktails with a Purpose,” the four drinks are crafted with sustainability and wellness principles in mind. The Bluegrass Smash, in particular, featuring a bright, revitalising combination of citrus, herbs and bourbon, will satisfy those seeking a sense of invigoration. The Lounge has also created three Macau-inspired concoctions named the Three Lamps, after the eponymous local district beloved for its lively vibes. The trio, consisting of three margaritas with different flavors—Original, Spicy Mango and Frozen Blue, promises to get you in the summer mood with their refreshing, tropical tastes.



PUMPKIN SOUP INGREDIENTS

Whole pumpkin
Pinch of Cinnamon
Pinch of salt & Pepper
Chili Flakes
Cream



KNOW HOW

Bring water to boil
Add cubed pumpkin to water
Boil until soft
Remove excess water and set aside
Use immersion blender to blend
Blend until smooth
Drizzle with cream



LIFESTYLE LEGENDARY SPIRIT

LAST week, Swiss watchmaker Longines staged a launch event for its Longines Spirit — Macau Edition at its flagship store in the Largo do São Domingos, Macau. 23 years have passed, Longines once again launched an exclusive edition for Macau. Based on its contemporary collection Longines Spirit, the limited edition is endowed with a unique green-sunray dial plate that symbolizes Macau, as well as a back case engraved with “MACAU EDITION – ONE OF 888”, for sale only in exclusive Longines stores in Macau. The Longines Spirit Collection was created to pay tribute to legendary pioneers who conquer air, land and sea. These pio-



neers showed great courage in breaking new records and made extraordinary achievements in their fields, writing glorious pages in history and encouraging the younger generation to continue to surpass themselves. The Macau Edition is bringing all Longines fans to discover the pioneering spirits of Macau by

introducing three path-breakers including young entrepreneur Joe Liu, renowned conductor Lio Kuokman, and CEO of a listed enterprise Harry Lai. The three gentlemen from the fields of economy, music, and architecture industry shared their unique insights in time, elegance, and being a pioneer.

RECIPES

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BY ALEX TORRÃO
MDT

OPINION

China Daily
 Kang Bing, China Daily



NEED TO MAKE TCM MORE EFFECTIVE, AND ACCEPTABLE TO YOUTHS

When I visited my community clinic recently for some medicines, I saw a new face in the consultation room. "Yes, traditional Chinese medicine has been added to our service and I am here to help you," the new face welcomed me. Together with her assistants, the TCM practitioner not only prescribes medicines but also offers acupuncture and massage services, which the elderly patients seem to welcome.

The newly added service is part of the central government's efforts to help develop TCM. According to a recent document, preferential policies will be issued to support the development of TCM, and all hospitals and township clinics will offer TCM services by the end of 2025.

Whenever the government has taken supportive measures to help a sector, we know that the sector is new but strategically important but facing trouble. TCM apparently belongs to the latter category.

Since its introduction in China in the early 20th century, Western medicine has gained ground at the cost of TCM, whose history is as long as that of China. In fact, by the end of 2020, only about 7 percent of the more than 1 million medical institutions in China were still providing TCM services.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, governments at all levels have been making efforts to help develop TCM in fact, TCM development has been written into the country's Constitution. And dozens of TCM colleges and universities, and hundreds of TCM hospitals have been established.

But the results of these efforts have not been satisfactory. While many Western medicine hospitals are crowded, TCM hospitals, with a few exceptions, are largely deserted.

To ensure the new efforts to develop TCM do not end in vain, the status of TCM should be ascertained. And some experts have given the following proposals to improve the development of TCM:

First, TCM and Western medicine have different medical theories, with the former appearing complicated to most of the patients. As such, more studies should be conducted to make the theories easier to understand to make it acceptable to the people, especially the younger generations and foreigners.

Second, the training process for medical students should be adjusted to include the distinct characteristics of TCM, which lays stress on clinical follow-ups and use of ancient prescriptions, and the traditional master-apprentice arrangement should be followed because it is best suited to train a new generation of TCM masters.

Third, TCM doctors should receive education and training in such a way that they are able to diagnose diseases using traditional methods looking at, listening to and questioning the patient, and feeling his or her pulse. I was once introduced to a TCM master, who, after looking at me and feeling my pulse for a few seconds, told me my health problems, some of which I had suffered two decades ago. How can one not trust such a doctor?

But if you consult a TCM practitioner for a mild cold or cough today, you will likely be asked to get a blood test, an X-ray and possibly other pathology tests done before being prescribed medicines.

No wonder many Chinese families have a box full of TCMs at home including liquids, tablets, pills, granules and herbs all leftovers from the doses prescribed by TCM practitioners. That TCMs are made of herbs and have little side-effects encourages doctors to prescribe more than the necessary doses, which the patients have to buy from the hospital pharmacy, which helps the hospitals and doctors make added profits.

Each year, I have to sort my medicine box to dispose pounds of expired medicines which had cost me hundreds of yuan. While feeling guilty for the waste, I can't help but ask: Is there anything wrong with TCM?

[Abridged]

Three young male dolphins simultaneously break the water's surface to breathe — first exhaling, then inhaling — before slipping back under the waves of the Chesapeake Bay.

"A perfect sync," said Janet Mann, a dolphin researcher watching from a small skiff.

Synchronized breathing is something dolphins often do with close pals, like these males, or that mothers and calves do together, said Mann. It's a way of affirming the relationships that are so important to these highly intelligent and social mammals, like a handshake or a hug among humans.

"It says, 'We're together,'" said Mann, who is based at Georgetown University.

While such close contact is essential to dolphin social bonds, sharing space and air can also quickly spread disease.

Scientists are trying to understand how a highly contagious and lethal disease called cetacean morbillivirus — related to measles in humans and first detected in Virginia and Maryland waters — can spread rapidly among dolphins along the Atlantic Coast.

Read full story on macaudailytimes.com



AP PHOTO

World Press Photo Of The Year award by Amber Bracken for The New York Times

HAUNTING CANADA BOARDING SCHOOL SHOT WINS WORLD PRESS PHOTO

MIKE CORDER, THE HAGUE

A haunting image of red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside, with a rainbow in the background, commemorating children who died at a residential school created to assimilate Indigenous children in Canada won the prestigious World Press Photo award yesterday.

The image was one of a series of the Kamloops Residential School shot by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken for The New York Times.

"It is a kind of image that sears itself into your memory. It inspires a kind of sensory reaction," Global jury chair Rena Effendi said in a statement. "I could almost hear the quietness in this photograph, a quiet moment of global reckoning for the history of colonization, not only in Canada but around the world."

It was not the first recognition for Bracken's work in the Amsterdam-based competition. She won first prize in the contest's Contemporary Issues category in 2017 for images of protesters at the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

Her latest win came less than a week after Pope Francis made a historic

apology to Indigenous peoples for the "deplorable" abuses they suffered in Canada's Catholic-run residential schools and begged for forgiveness.

Last May, the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Nation announced the discovery of 215 gravesites near Kamloops, British Columbia. It was Canada's largest Indigenous residential school and the discovery of the graves was the first of numerous, similar grim sites across the country.

"So we started to have, I suppose, a personification of some of the children that didn't come home," Bracken said in comments released by contest organizers. "There's also these little crosses by the highway. And I knew right away that I wanted to photograph the line of these these crosses with these little children's clothes hanging on them to commemorate and to honor those kids and to make them visible in a way that they hadn't been for a long time."

Indigenous peoples elsewhere in the world featured in two other of the annual competition's top prizes. The winners were chosen out of 64,823 photographs and open format entries by 4,066 photogra-

phers from 130 countries.

"Together the global winners pay tribute to the past, while inhabiting the present and looking towards the future," Effendi said.

Australian photographer Matthew Abbott won the Photo Story of the Year prize for a series of images for National Geographic/Panos Pictures that document how the Nawar-deken people of West Arnhem Land in northern Australia fight fire with fire by deliberately burning off undergrowth to remove fuel that could spark far larger wildfires.

The Long-Term Project award went to Lalo de Almeida of Brazil for a series of photos for Folha de São Paulo/Panos Pictures called "Amazonian Dystopia" that charts the effects of the exploitation of the Amazon region, particularly on Indigenous communities forced to deal with environmental degradation.

In regional awards announced previously, Bram Janssen of The Associated Press won the Stories category in Asia with a series of photos from a Kabul cinema and AP photographer Dar Yasin earned an honorable mention for photos from Kashmir titled "Endless War." MDT/AP

Ukraine Rising food prices as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are increasing the risk of malnutrition of millions of children in the Middle East and North Africa, the U.N. children's agency warned yesterday. UNICEF added that families are struggling to put food on the table during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when observant Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset.

Israel A lawmaker quit Israel's ruling coalition after a dispute over religious observance during the Passover holiday, throwing the fragile alliance into disarray without a majority in parliament and raising the prospect of a new round of elections. Backbencher Idit Silman had recently objected to the government allowing bread to be brought into public hospitals, counter to the Jewish religious practice of refraining from bread and other leavened foods during Passover. Hospitals cater to patients of all religions.



Morocco Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is set to meet with Moroccan King Mohammed VI today (Macau time) during a two-day visit to Rabat that seeks to mark an easing of diplomatic tensions centered on a disputed region of Western Sahara. The King will invite Sánchez and his family to share in the Iftar meal to break the day's fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, according to a Spanish government official not authorized to be named in media reports.



Burkina Faso Ten gunmen kidnapped an 83-year-old American nun from her bed in the west African nation of Burkina Faso and destroyed almost everything in the house where she lived, but left four other women unhurt, a Louisiana official for the order said. Sister Suellen Tennyson (pictured, left) was taken Monday "from her room in her pajamas — no shoes, no glasses, no phone, no medicine," Sister Ann Lacour, U.S. congregational leader for the Marianites of Holy Cross in Covington, Louisiana, told AP.