



OPINIONS SUBMITTED ON THE TALENT ACQUISITION SYSTEM ASKED THE GOV'T TO SET CLEARER CRITERIA FOR ITS INITIATIVE, INCLUDING CHANGING THE NAME

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COVID-19 ENTRY RESTRICTIONS ARE LOSING ATHLETES' INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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PHILIPPINES: BACK TO THE FUTURE

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AP PHOTO



Ukraine Russian troops pounded away at the vital port of Odesa, Ukrainian officials said yesterday, apparently as part of efforts to disrupt the supply lines and weapons shipments that have been critical to Kyiv's defense. With the war now in its 11th week and Kyiv bogging Russian forces down in many places and even staging a counteroffensive in others, Ukraine's officials appeared to suggest that the country could expand its aims beyond merely pushing Russia back to areas it or its allies held on the day of Feb. 24 invasion.

NATO To join or not to join? The NATO question is coming to a head this week in Finland and Sweden where Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shattered the long-held belief that remaining outside the military alliance was the best way to avoid trouble with their giant neighbor. If Finland's president and the governing Social Democrats in both countries come out in favor of accession in the next few days, NATO could soon add two members right on Russia's doorstep.

AP PHOTO



South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative political neophyte, took office yesterday as new president with a vow to pursue a negotiated settlement of North Korea's threatening nuclear program and an offer of "an audacious plan" to improve its economy if it abandons its nuclear weapons. Yoon is starting his single five-year term during one of the most challenging situations of any recent new president, facing a mix of significant security, economic and social problems that are besetting the world's 10th largest economy.

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BLUES' LOST BATTLE

Labor disputes go on and more, but little to no wins for migrants

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AP PHOTO

WEATHER
CLASSES SUSPENDED AHEAD OF EXPECTED HEAVY RAIN

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LABOR DISPUTES GO ON, BUT LITTLE TO NO WINS FOR MIGRANTS

LYNZY VALLES

LABOR disputes reported by non-resident workers have recorded a slight increase in the first quarter of this year compared to last year, despite the decreasing number of migrant workers in the city.

In Macau, thousands of workers have either been laid off or have seen their contracts not be renewed due to the economic fallout caused by the pandemic.

Pre-pandemic, the number of migrant workers totaled 196,538 as at the end of 2019. However, that figure plunged to 171,098 as at the end of 2021, recording a 12% decrease.

Dozens of repatriation flights have been held to accommodate the non-resident workers, as commercial flights out of Macau are still not operating – except for flights to the mainland and to Singapore.

The city's border closures and stringent measures upon arrival – with Macau's borders remaining closed since March 2020 – have prevented non-resident workers from outside mainland China coming to work in Macau.

In response to a query by the Times, data provided by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) shows that, in 2020, a total of 731 labor disputes involving non-resident employees were filed to the desk, 55 of which involved domestic workers.

This means that an average 61 cases are submitted by migrants every month, while those involving domestic workers equate to



about four to five cases a month.

In the first three months of 2022, according to the DSAL, the bureau has received a total of 190 complaints from non-residents, while nine of them involved domestic workers – an average of three cases per month from domestic workers.

This is a slight increase when comparing to the first quarter of last year.

As part of the DSAL's labor dispute handling procedures for employees, the employee may make enquiries about the problems of labor rights and interests one has encountered at work; or if the em-

ployee thinks that labor rights and interests have been infringed.

Upon receiving the complaint, the DSAL will file a case for investigation to verify the labor rights and interests of both employer and employee.

However, in most cases, it is a losing battle for the migrant worker.

The Times is aware of a recent case in which a domestic worker filed a complaint to the DSAL as her employer had been deducting her salary due to alleged missing items such as a stuffed toy of the employer's child, condiments and even detergent soap.

According to the migrant worker, who refused to be identified, her pay is docked whenever an item is missing from the workplace.

Upon seeking assistance at the bureau's desk, the employee told the Times that they had resorted to filing a dispute on the grounds of her salary being reduced – such as in the month of February, as the calendar only had 28 days; therefore, deducting two days of salary.

NO WIN FOR THE MIGRANTS

Labor expert Miguel Quental considers such situations as “nothing new.”

Speaking to the Times, the lawyer argued, “If you're working and you filed a complaint against your employer, the next day, you're fired.”

This statement echoes what had occurred in the case of the domestic worker, as after two days of filing a dispute at the DSAL, police allegedly forcibly entered where she lives at nearly midnight, this time showing her a photo of a missing jewelry.

According to the employee, she was questioned by police authorities for several hours before being let go.

“When the DSAL calls [the employers] asking what happened, they [the employers] will just call the police and present charges. They will use valuables such as watches and gold,” Quental, who has handled several similar cases, explained.

“[The police] then would [search] the house without limits. This is an abuse. This cannot be done, but it's happening,” he added.

Therefore, with limited to no time for explanation, the accused will be sent to the police for further investigation.

One of the factors that could hinder non-resident workers in filing disputes fighting for their labor rights is their potential inability to provide documents needed for due process, as once they are fired, they are only given eight days to stay in the region.

However, due to the pandemic, it is a different situation, as authorities are extending visas of these workers due to the lack of regular flights.

According to Quental, these cases are “nothing new, it's a type of retaliation. Most of the time, the first that goes to the police wins the game.”

PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

87% of voters opt for Marcos Jr.

87% of Filipinos in the Macau SAR have voted for the namesake son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, securing a total of 8,699 votes.

In the Philippines, Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. received more than 31 million votes in the unofficial results, with more than 97% of the votes having been tabulated as of yesterday af-

ternoon.

His nearest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, a champion of human rights, accrued 14.8 million votes in Monday's election. In Macau, Robredo received 770 votes.

Meanwhile, Marcos Jr.'s running mate, Sara Duterte, daughter of the outgoing leader and mayor of southern Davao city, had a formidable

lead in the separate vice-presidential race, garnering 31.5 million votes.

In the SAR, Duterte secured 8,748 votes out of the 9,839 votes counted.

The certified list of voters for the Macau jurisdiction shows over 14,630 Macau-based workers are registered: a surge of nearly 200% compared to the number of voters in the last presidential

election in 2016.

Further, the election winner will take office on June 30 for a single, six-year term as leader of the Southeast Asian nation, which has been hit hard by two years of Covid-19 outbreaks and lockdowns, and long-troubled by crushing poverty, gaping inequalities, Muslim and communist insurgencies and deep political divisions. LV

LOCAL RESULTS As of May 10, 2022 17:02:00

MACAU PCG

No data available yet. Please check again later.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE MACAU PCG RESULTS		VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RACE MACAU PCG RESULTS	
MARCOS, BONGBONG (PFP)	8,699 *	DUTERTE, SARA (LAKAS)	8,748 *
ROBREDO, LENI (IND)	770 *	PANGILINAN, KIKO (LP)	550 *
DOMAGOSO, ISKO MORENO (AKSYON)	250 *	ONG, DOC WILLIE (AKSYON)	325 *
PACQUIAO, MANNY PACMAN (PROMDI)	103 *	SOTTO, VICENTE TITO (NPC)	207 *
LACSON, PING (PDR)	44 *	ATENZA, LITO (PROMDI)	8 *
GONZALES, NORBERTO (POSP)	4 *	DAVID, RIZALITO (DRP)	1 *
ABELLA, ERNIE (ND)	2 *	BELLO, WALDEN (PLM)	0 *
DE GUZMAN, LEODY (PLM)	2 *	LOPEZ, MANNY SD (WPP)	0 *
MONTENAYOR, JOSE JR. (DPP)	1 *	SERAPION, CARLOS (KTPNAN)	0 *
MANGONDATO, FAISAL (KTPNAN)	0 *		

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Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrao, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, Jing Wu, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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Opinions call for clearer talent acquisition criteria

ANTHONY LAM

Some opinions submitted on the Talent Acquisition System have requested that the government set clearer criteria for its talent acquisition initiative, such as changing its name to convey more accurate meaning.

Last year, the government ran a public consultation on the initiative, officially referred to as the Talent Acquisition System.

The 45-day public consultation period garnered 931 submissions of comments and suggestions. After filtration and categorization, the Talent Development Committee (CDT) considered them as 5,405 submissions of opinion.

In one submission, the opinion-maker named Wu recommended the government change the name of the initiative to better reflect the scope of talent imported to Macau.

Wu suggested the names, "Excellent Talent Acquisition System" or "High-tier Talent Acquisition System" as possible replacements, because Wu considered the current name given by the government to have "too broad a scope."

Meanwhile, another opinion-giver who referred to herself as Ms Leong objected to the proposal of considering Bachelor's degree-holders to be talent. She considered higher education levels crucial to the system.

She added that fields of expertise should also be taken into consideration. During future



applications, applicants' experiences and fields of expertise should play crucial roles in the filtration process. Leong also found the proposed evaluation criteria "too vague and in fact comical."

Leong and another opinion-giver, Wong, suggested the monthly salary threshold for someone to be considered talent be set at MOP200,000.

This may be new to Macau but has precedent in other places. For example, if non-locals want to reside in Taiwan through talent retention programs, they should earn above a specific sum each month in order to retain the validity of their working visas.

Another resident, surnamed Chao, pointed out that many non-local university students considered Macau to be their second home after spending years

in the city. The opinion-giver suggested the government, instead of attracting non-local talents to Macau, allow these university students to reside in the city.

On the contrary, many talented individuals who are originally from Macau have been forced out of the city because they could not make a living with their expertise knowledge. For example, pop singer Terence Choi and Jun Kung, both originally from Macau, saw larger rooms for development in neighboring Hong Kong.

The question of how to attract these talents back home has often been under debate in society.

The opinions were further categorized based on their source. The CDT pointed out that the most entries of opinion came from mass media, reaching 388 submissions, or 41.7% of all en-

tries. Following this category is online opinion, amounting to 289 submissions, or 31%. There were 254 submissions of opinion – 27.3% of all – submitted directly to the Committee through various channels, including website form and email submissions.

CDT's website was popular during this consultation period, as 121 of the 254 submissions of opinion directly provided to the Committee were sent on its website, amounting to 47.6% of all directly supplied opinion submissions.

Among the 289 online submissions, 211 came through Facebook and 70 via WeChat. Instagram and YouTube were used for three submissions each.

The full report on the public consultation result can be downloaded from the Government Portal website.

MOP200,000 RAISED FOR FAMILY OF PASSED FOOD DELIVERER

ANTHONY LAM

THE surviving family of the food deliverer who recently passed away in a car accident has received donations of nearly MOP200,000 raised by the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) on their behalf.

On April 28, a car accident occurred at the roundabout on the northeastern corner of the Venetian resort in Cotai. The driver of a motorcycle collided with a tour bus and succumbed to his severe injuries, including impact to his head.

The group was represented by lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, deputy executive director at FAOM, and Pak Kin Pong, director of the Integrated Service Center of the Gaming Industry Employees Home.

Leong disclosed that the donations came from individuals across all walks of life. In fact, after the accident, the FAOM was contacted by members of various industries, such as transport, service, media, civil service and catering, in the hopes of making donations to help the victim's surviving family.

The victim's wife disclosed to the lawmaker that each month, the household needs to pay HKD20,000 towards its residential mortgage, in addition to other daily costs. She was assured by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) that the application for compensation was still in process.

According to Leong, the late food deliverer was the financial pillar of the household. He had earlier become unemployed as his former employer, a local gambling junket, opted to cease operations.

He hence decided to change careers and work as a food deliverer. His career in the industry had only begun two months before the accident.

Leong added that the victim's surviving wife is also a worker in the casino industry, who had earlier been notified by the employer that her position will be terminated as the company would be ceasing gambling operations next month.

Leong added that during the fundraising period, his office received complaints and suggestions on improving the safety of food delivery.

Classes suspended ahead of expected heavy rain

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEDJ) has announced the suspension of classes at all stages of non-tertiary education today, with higher education institutions advised to follow relevant regulations on implementation. This comes after the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) issued a special warning on intensifying weather conditions forecast for the middle of the week.

According to the bureau, the trough of low

pressure affecting the northern part of Guangdong is moving southwards and is expected to affect the coast of Guangdong during the week.

DSEDJ reminds schools to ensure that the school premises are open and to arrange staff to take care of students who have returned to the school until the situation is suitable for them to return home safely.

"Schools should take various defensive measures in advance, including pre-installing

waterproof gates, inspecting buildings and school facilities, relocating equipment and paying attention to the power system conditions," the bureau said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Transport Bureau calls on all public and private car park management companies to conduct a comprehensive review of the situation in car parks and take preventive measures to prevent flooding. It also calls on car owners and drivers to avoid parking in ne-



gative-level car parks or low-lying areas.

The weather in Macau is expected to become unstable, with heavy showers and thunderstorms from today to Saturday. As the weather

will be unstable for several days, the public is advised to pay close attention to the latest weather information, take precautions against flooding and make travel plans in advance. LV/AL



COVID-19 ENTRY RESTRICTIONS ARE LOSING LOCAL ATHLETES' INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

RENATO MARQUES

THE restrictions imposed since 2020 on local residents' entry and reentry into Macau are contributing to a loss of the international experience previously enjoyed by local athletes and teams, athletes and sports associations, leaders said in a recent report published by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

According to the report, the long quarantine periods, together with the fact that local athletes are not professional and so are unable to dedicate their lives fully to sports as they have other day jobs, are contributing to the non-attendance by local athletes of nearly all international competitions currently taking place.

One of these examples is the triathlete Hoi Long, one of the most successful local athletes in this sport, who is currently missing the Deaflympics in Brazil, an Olympiad-like game dedicated to athletes with a hearing impairment.

Hoi explained her decision to withdraw from the games this year with reference to "Macau's quarantine policy," as well as the risk and logistical complications in traveling to Brazil from Macau currently. Due to her professional duties she is unable to undergo the mandatory medical observation in quarantine on her return to Macau, which calls for a 14-day quarantine in a designated specialized hotel to which another seven days of health self-management at home are subsequently added.

Since Brazil is also classified by local health authorities as an area of "extremely high risk" for Covid-19 infection, Hoi would have also to present three negative tests for Covid-19, carried out in the five days before the return trip.

The 37-year-old athlete is currently undergoing studies for a



Triathlete Hoi Long

Doctoral degree in sports at the Shanghai University of Sport. She is also a civil servant, as is an employee of the Sports Bureau (ID).

"I need ID permission to go to Brazil, either to grant me a leave authorization from work or to participate in the event," she said to Lusa, remarking that since the Covid-19 restrictions started in 2020, she had been missing in between four to six international competitions each year.

Critical of some of the pandemic prevention and control measures being enforced, Hoi said that the closure of sports facilities in Macau on several occasions during the pandemic has harmed young athletes the most.

"Without the significant experience acquired in competitions [namely international level ones], they are losing their focus and motivation," she said, hinting that local sports is following a declining trend.

Also unhappy with the situation is the president of the Macau

Sports Association of the Deaf, George Ao Chi San, who voiced regret over Hoi Long's absence from the Deaflympics, noting, "She would have [had] a good chance of bringing some medals home."

Ao also noted that the withdrawal from international competitions has, in his opinion, had a great impact on the local athletes' goals, as well as on their training programs.

According to World Triathlon, the international governing body of the sport, Hoi Long is currently ranked 170th in the World Triathlon Individual Olympic Qualification and 50th in the Continental ranking for Asia.

NO 'ELITE' IN ADAPTED SPORTS

In the interview with Lusa, Hoi expressed regret that the Deaflympics are not seen as a priority by the local government, noting that there is a very clear distinction in the treatment given to regular sports in comparison to

adapted sports.

"[They say] my goal shouldn't be the Deaflympics. That's not the reason why they [the government] put me in the elite athletes' program, but for me to get prepared for the Asian Games. If the [participation in the] Deaflympics or Paralympics Games in China affects in any way my plans for the triathlon competition [in the Asian Games], I have to prioritize the triathlon," she explained, as she has regularly participated in both regular sports categories and adapted categories of sports.

The athlete also expressed dismay over the lack of knowledge that persists regarding the education and sports training of a child with disabilities, underlining the importance that a medal can represent in adapted sport.

"This represents ... society's view. People think that sports for people with disabilities are not as competitive as regular sports," she concluded.

When questioned on the topic,

ID said that it is paying attention to the matter and has been helping local athletes on their return to Macau after competitions.

In the particular case of Hoi, ID noted that when athletes participated in the National Games for people with disabilities last year, the ID "[excused] her from her job responsibilities during the period of medical observation".

OTHER SPORTS ALSO AFFECTED

Another sport that has been affected by the same restrictions is hockey, the president of the Macau Skating Association (APM) António Aguiar said.

"Local hockey teams have also been quite affected, especially at the level of competition," Aguiar said to Lusa.

During the past two years, local teams have been losing "international references" due to the quarantine policies.

"If there is a quarantine, it's the government itself that will disallow [athletes] from participating [in the competition]," he explained, adding that the development of both roller and inline hockey is closely attached to the competition, especially at an international level.

"From a competitive-level point of view, [local sports teams] are now weaker than they were before the pandemic," Aguiar remarked, adding that if there is no change in the current border restrictions, the development of sports in Macau "will further lag behind in comparison to the other countries and regions."

The APM president hopes that Macau's roller hockey team can resume its international activity by the end of October this year when the World Skate Games will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as the ten-time Asian champion has seen all the international tournaments of 2020 and 2021 getting postponed.

Professional tax refund to start at month-end

THE professional tax refund will start to be received by local taxpayers at the end of this month, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) informed in a statement.

The refund comes earlier than usual this year, in a bid by the government to "alleviate the pressure of life felt by the population during the epidemic situation," the DSF said, noting that the measure comes in conjunction with the cash handouts

distributed to residents last month.

The Professional Tax refund to be issued to local taxpayers late this month is related to taxes paid during the year 2020, as approved by the 2022 Budget Law.

The DSF will refund 60% of the professional tax previously collected, up to the limit of 14,000 patacas, to all taxpayers who were holders of the Macau resident card by December 31, 2020, with further details being

disclosed at a later stage.

In the same statement, the DSF also noted that, last month regarding the cash handouts, some 5 billion patacas have been paid via bank transfer into the accounts of residents, with another 100,000 cheques followed by mail to the residents' addresses. Of these, the DSF says that around 20% have already been processed, hoping that by mid-May the process is concluded. **RM**



COVID-19

Health authorities hope special needs patients can be cared by family

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL health authorities hope that family members of patients with reduced mobility or that need special care can be on the frontline as their caretakers in case these are confirmed to be infected with Covid-19 or need to undergo medical observation due to being a close contact.

Such idea was aired by Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, while presenting the new protocols established by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center for these cases.

For Leong, family members are the most suitable caretakers and should volunteer to help providing care to these patients in case of need as "these patients need to be



in contact with someone they know and that can help to fulfill better their needs."

For such a reason, authorities are recommending that in case people with disabilities, elderlies, children, and others with special needs need to undergo quarantine or isolation

procedures, they should be accompanied by a family member they can trust.

Explaining the new protocols, Leong explained that family members can and should solicit to be these people's caretakers and join them during treatment or medical obser-

vation periods even if they are not listed as close contacts.

She also said that authorities hope that families that have members in such conditions should have three doses of the vaccine done to reduce the risks coming from the potential need to have close contact via caretaking of an infected person.

Leong also said that the health bureau will provide training to family members willing to help in such situations.

Questioned if children could be separated from their parents in situations of quarantine, Leong said that usually, such case does not happen due to the fact that normally families live together and share the same spaces.

Nonetheless, in a situation in which the parents are the ones in need to undergo medical observation or treatment and the children are not listed as close contacts they cannot request to company the parents as the "risk is too high" and they "cannot make such decision," she said. In case something of that kind happens, Leong said that authorities hope that other family members or friends can step forward to help to take care of the children while the parents are not able to do so.

EDUCATION BUREAU TO RIGOROUSLY SAFEGUARD SUBSIDY FUNDS

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) recently reiterated that it will persist in rigorously administering the use of the funds in the Continuing Education Subsidy Scheme, in which each eligible resident is vested with MOP6,000 in funds for training. The bureau reminds participating institutions or companies to comply with the rules on student registrations, attendance and sign-in. Violations of such practices are subject to criminal prosecutions. Residents are also reminded to participate in the courses for which they registered, as forging attendance records is against the law. It disclosed that, so far, a few dozen reports of violations have been received.

GUANGDONG NEWBORN FIGURE TOPS COUNTRY IN 2021

More than 1.18 million newborn babies were born in the neighboring province of Guangdong last year, topping the country-wide table and making it the only province to have a newborn count surpassing one million. The province's natural population growth was 571,900 people. At the end of the year, the province had nearly 127 million habitual residents. In contrast, 10 provinces have recorded decreases in natural population change figures, including some more well-known provinces or municipalities, such as Chongqing, Shanghai and Jiangsu. In the same year, Macau has seen 100 more people in terms of population and 5,026 newborn babies. The number of newborns was down by 519.

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POLITICS

XI PROMOTES COMMUNIST PARTY YOUTH WING AHEAD OF KEY CONGRESS

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday promoted the role of the ruling Communist Party's youth wing ahead of a key party congress later this year that comes amid rising economic and social pressures.

Addressing a meeting marking the centenary of the Communist Youth League of China, Xi said the body should "always be a vanguard force in mobilizing China's youth in continuous endeavor."

Despite strict anti-virus measures in the Chinese capital, the event saw hundreds of masked participants gathered at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

While relying heavily on traditional political formulas, Xi's speech skirted controversial issues, including expectations he will seek a third five-year term as party leader at the congress later this year.

Although the party's rule remains unchallenged among young people, it faces a range of economic and social challenges and has increasingly appealed to extreme nation-

AP PHOTO



nalism to rally support.

This year especially, China's economy has taken a battering linked to lockdowns and other

disruptions brought about by the governments insistence on a hard-line "zero-COVID" policy. That has increased employment

pressures, particularly on the country's 11 million new college graduates, along with the roughly 280 million migrant workers,

many of them young people from the countryside.

The implementation of the policy in China's largest city Shanghai, which included tightening lockdowns even as the number of COVID-19 cases fell, has sparked anger at authorities, leading to rare acts of defiance posted online.

China also faces a demographic crunch blamed largely on the former one-child policy that employed severe measures to drive down the birthrate and left China with about 35 million more men than women. The end of the policy and official encouragement for couples to have additional children have failed to stem the decline, with marriages and births hitting lows not seen in decades.

It wasn't clear what specific role Xi envisions for the 73 million-member organization in facing such challenges, other than to inculcate loyalty to the ruling party.

In his speech, he called on members to "build up firm beliefs, and boost their courage and skills to carry out struggles," saying they should be "patriotic and innovative, while not being misguided or intimidated by difficulties."

"Unswervingly following the party and striving for the party and the people is the original mission of the Communist Youth League," Xi said. **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

Shanghai re-tightens restrictions, frustrating trapped residents

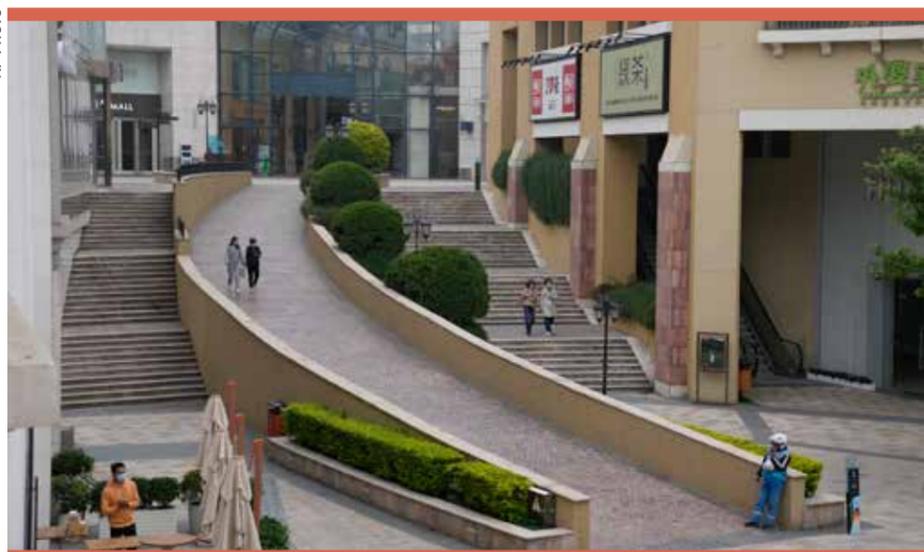
KEN MORITSUGU,
BEIJING

THE city of Shanghai is doubling down on pandemic restrictions after a brief period of loosening up, frustrating residents who were hoping a more than monthlong lockdown was finally easing as the number of new cases falls in China's financial center.

Teams in white protective suits have begun entering the homes of coronavirus-infected people to spray disinfectant, prompting worries among some about damage to clothes and valuables and leaving their keys with a community volunteer when they are taken to quarantine — a new requirement so disinfectant workers can get in.

Shanghai also has ordered people in some areas to stay in their homes again after letting them out for limited shopping in recent weeks. Yesterday, service was suspended on the last two subway lines that were still operating, marking the first time the city's en-

AP PHOTO



tire system has been shut down, according to The Paper, an online media outlet.

China's adherence to a "zero-COVID" strategy, as many other countries loosen restrictions and try to live with the virus, is exacting a growing economic and human cost. Evermore extreme measures have been required to bring outbreaks under control, because the omicron variant spreads so easily. China's ruling Communist Party, with an eye on a major

party congress this fall, is showing no signs of backing off anytime soon.

Escape from Shanghai is all but impossible, but that didn't stop an unofficial how-to guide — detailing how to navigate lockdown controls and nab a seat on the few trains and planes leaving the city — from circulating widely on social media. Many in the city of 25 million people shared their frustration with the renewed restrictions in chat groups.

The daily number of new

cases in Shanghai had fallen to about 3,000 by Monday, down from a peak of 26,000 in mid-April. Six more COVID-19-related deaths were reported, raising the toll from the outbreak to 553.

Beijing began another round of three days of mass testing for millions of its residents in a bid to prevent an outbreak in the nation's capital from growing to Shanghai proportions. The city, which recorded 74 new cases on Monday, has locked down individual

buildings and residential compounds, shut about 60 subway stations and banned dining at restaurants, allowing only takeout and delivery.

The outbreak has not exploded but it also has not stopped spreading. Beijing spokesperson Xu Hejian described the situation yesterday as a "stalemate" and said that the city needs to continue its strict measures.

While traffic is sparse in Beijing, it is almost nonexistent in Shanghai, where the lockdown has been going on longer and is citywide. AP video shot Monday showed a silent and deserted city, with only a very occasional vehicle and a few food delivery drivers on scooters moving down empty roads.

But notices issued in several Shanghai districts in recent days ordered residents to stay home and barred them from receiving nonessential deliveries as part of a "quiet period" lasting until Wednesday or longer. The measures could be extended depending on

the results of mass testing, the notices said. The sudden re-tightening took residents by surprise.

Shanghai official Jin Chen appeared to acknowledge yesterday the complaints about the disinfecting of people's homes, thanking them for their cooperation and saying the government would analyze and fix any problems. He said that residents can inform the teams about any items that need protection.

"Carrying out household disinfection is an important part of the overall epidemic prevention and control," he told a daily virus news conference.

A constitutional law professor, Tong Zhiwei, posted an article recently calling for Shanghai to end what he called "excessive pandemic prevention measures" such as quarantining residents and forcing them to surrender their house keys, saying the requirements contravene the rule of law.

The article has been removed from the internet. **MDT/AP**

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

PHILIPPINES

THE namesake son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos appeared to have been elected Philippine president by a landslide in an astonishing reversal of the 1986 "People Power" pro-democracy revolt that ousted his father.

Marcos Jr. had more than 30.8 million votes in the unofficial results with more than 97% of the votes tabulated as of yesterday afternoon. His nearest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, a champion of human rights, had 14.7 million votes in Monday's election, and boxing great Manny Pacquiao appeared to have the third highest total with 3.5 million.

His running mate, Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing leader and mayor of southern Davao city, had a formidable lead in the separate vice presidential race.

The alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders combined the voting power of their families' political strongholds in the north and south but compounded worries of human rights activists.

Dozens of anti-Marcos protesters rallied at the Commission on Elections, blaming the agency for the breakdown of vote-counting machines and other issues that prevented people from casting their votes. Elections officials said the impact of the malfunctioning machines was minimal.

A group of activists, who suffered under the dictatorship said it was enraged by Marcos's apparent victory and would oppose it.

"A possible win based on a campaign built on blatant lies, historical distortions and mass deception is tantamount to cheating your way to victory," said the group Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law, or CARMMA. "This is not acceptable."

Etta Rosales, a former Commis-

AP PHOTO



Like father, like daughter: Presidential candidate, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son of the late dictator (left) raises arms with running mate Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte

sion on Human Rights chairwoman, who was twice arrested and tortured under martial law in the 1970s, said Marcos Jr.'s apparent victory drove her to tears but would not stop her from continuing efforts to hold the Marcoses to account.

"I'm just one among the many who were tortured; others were killed, I was raped. We suffered under the Marcos regime in the fight for justice and freedom and this happens," Rosales said.

Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte avoided volatile issues during their campaign and steadfastly stuck instead to a battle cry of national unity, even though their fathers' presidencies opened some of the most turbulent divisions in the country's history.

Marcos Jr. has not claimed vic-

tory but thanked his supporters in a late-night "address to the nation" video, where he urged them to stay vigilant until the vote count is completed.

"If we'll be fortunate, I'll expect that your help will not wane, your trust will not wane because we have a lot of things to do in the times ahead," he said.

Robredo has not conceded defeat but acknowledged the massive Marcos Jr. lead in the unofficial count. She told her supporters the fight for reforms and democracy won't end with the elections.

"The voice of the people is getting clearer and clearer," she said. "In the name of the Philippines, which I know you also love so dearly, we should hear this voice because in the end, we only have this one nation to share."

She asked her supporters to continue to stand up: "Press for the truth. It took long for the structure of lies to be erected. We have the time and opportunity now to fight and dismantle this."

The election winner will take office on June 30 for a single, six-year term as leader of a Southeast Asian nation hit hard by two years of COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns and long-troubled by crushing poverty, gaping inequalities, Muslim and communist insurgencies and deep political divisions.

The next president will also likely face demands to prosecute outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte for thousands of killings during his anti-drug crackdown — deaths already under investigation by the Internatio-

nal Criminal Court.

Amnesty International said it was deeply concerned by Marcos Jr.' and Sara Duterte's avoidance of discussing human rights violations, past and present, in the Philippines. "If confirmed, the Marcos Jr administration will face a wide array of urgent human rights challenges," the rights group said in a statement yesterday.

Human Rights Watch also called for Marcos Jr., if he takes office, to improve the human rights situation in the Philippines.

"He should declare an end to the 'war on drugs' that has resulted in the extrajudicial killing of thousands of Filipinos, and order the impartial investigation and appropriate prosecution of officials responsible for these unlawful killings," said Phil Robertson, the group's deputy director for Asia.

Marcos Jr., a 64-year-old former provincial governor, congressman and senator, has defended the legacy of his father and steadfastly refused to acknowledge and apologize for the massive human rights violations and plunder under his father's strongman rule.

After his ouster by the largely peaceful 1986 uprising, the elder Marcos died in 1989 while in exile in Hawaii without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he, his family and cronies amassed an estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion while he was in power. A Hawaii court later found him liable for human rights violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

His widow, Imelda Marcos, and their children were allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991 and worked on a stunning political comeback, helped by a well-funded social media campaign to refurbish the family name. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

Sailors seize USD82M of cocaine floating off port

SAILORS deployed to secure travel during the Eid al-Fitr holiday made Indonesia's biggest cocaine seizure after finding plastic packages of the drugs floating at sea, the navy said.

Indonesia is a major hub for drug trafficking in Southeast Asia and has strict drug laws, with convicted smugglers sometimes executed by firing squad.

The four black packages containing 179 kilograms of cocaine worth 1.2 trillion rupiah (\$82.6 million) were found floating near Merak port on

Java island on Sunday, the navy's deputy chief of staff said at a news conference this week.

Smuggling drugs by throwing packages and a buoy into the sea is a common tactic, Vice Adm. Ahmadi Heri Purwono said. Smugglers likely put the drugs in the water near a port for them to be moved by a speedboat and were monitoring the packages when they were seized by the navy, he said.

"This is a spectacular seizure of cocaine, considering its huge value and

the impact on the people as a result of the illicit drugs," Purwono said. No one has been arrested, and authorities are still investigating, he said.

The officers who spotted the package were among 5,000 navy personnel deployed to secure Eid al-Fitr homecomings. Millions of Indonesians celebrate the holiday at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan by traveling to see their families across the vast archipelago.

The U.N. drug office says Indonesia is a major

smuggling hub in part because international drug syndicates target its young population. Indonesia's National Narcotics Agency estimates there are 5.6 million drug users in the country of 270 million people.

Most of the more than 150 people on Indonesia's death row were convicted of drug crimes. About one-third of them are foreigners. Its last executions were in 2016, when an Indonesian and three foreigners were shot by a firing squad. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



COVID-19

For widows in Africa, virus stole husbands, homes, future

KRISTA LARSON &
CHINEDU ASADU,
UMUIDA

AS Anayo Mbah went into labor with her sixth child, her husband battled COVID-19 in another hospital across town. Jonas, a young motorcycle taxi driver, had been placed on oxygen after he started coughing up blood.

Jonas would never meet his daughter, Chinaza. Hours after the birth, Mbah's sister-in-law called to say he was gone. Staff at the hospital in Nigeria soon asked Mbah and her newborn to leave. No one had come to pay her bill.

Anayo began the rites of widowhood at the home where she lived with her in-laws: Her head was shaved, and she was dressed in white clothing. But just weeks into the mourning period that traditionally lasts six months, her late husband's relatives stopped providing food, then confronted her directly.

"They told me that it was better for me to find my own way," Mbah, now 29, said. "They said even if I have to go and remarry, that I should do so. That the earlier I leave the house, the better for me and my children."

She left on foot for her mother's home with only a plastic bag of belongings for Chinaza and her other children.

Across Africa, widowhood has long befallen great numbers of women — particularly in the continent's least developed countries where medical facilities are scarce. Many widows are young, having married men decades older. And in some countries, men frequently have more than one wife, leaving several widows behind when they die.

Now, the pandemic has created an even larger population of widows on the continent, with African men more likely to die of the virus than women, and it has exacerbated the issues they face. Women such as Mbah say the pandemic has taken more than their husbands: In their widowhood, it's cost them their extended families, their homes and their futures.

Once widowed, women



Anayo Mbah, 29, holds her child in her home in Umuida, Nigeria

are often mistreated and disinherited. Laws prohibit many from acquiring land or give them only a fraction of their spouse's wealth. In-laws can claim custody of children. Other in-laws disown the children and refuse to help, even if they're the family's only source of money and food. And young widows have no adult children to support them in impoverished communities with few jobs.

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, some 70 percent of confirmed COVID-19 deaths have been men, according to data tracked by the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project. Similarly, more than 70 percent of deaths in Chad, Malawi, Somalia and Congo have been men, according to figures from the project. Other countries likely show similar trends but lack the resources to gather detailed figures.

Experts say some of the widows left behind have nothing while others are pressured to remarry brothers-in-law or be cut off. Widows can start experiencing mistreatment by their in-laws before their husbands are even buried.

"Some are treated as outcasts, accused of being responsible for the death of their husband," said Egodi Blessing Igwe, of WomenAid Collective, which has aided thousands of widows with legal services and family mediation.

In Congo, Vanessa Emedy Kamana had known her husband for a decade before he proposed marriage. She worked for the scholar as a personal assistant. By the

time their friendship turned romantic, Godefroid Kamana was in his late 60s; she, a single mother in her late 20s.

When he died, relatives came to the family home where Kamana had just begun her period of mourning. Generally, widows are required to stay in their homes and can receive visitors. Mourning lengths vary by religion and ethnic group. Kamana, whose family is Muslim, was supposed to stay home for four months and 10 days. But her husband's relatives didn't wait that long to force her and her young son out on the street, showing up the night of his burial.

She feared her husband's family would seek custody of her son, Jamel, whom Kamana had adopted and given his surname. Ultimately the relatives did not, because the boy — now 6 — wasn't his biological child. They did, however, move swiftly to amass financial assets.

She and her son now live in a smaller home her mother kept as a rental property. Kamana sells secondhand clothing at a market. She initially received 40% of her late husband's salary, those funds will soon stop entirely.

It's painful, Kamana said, when her late husband's relatives insist they've lost more than she did: "No one will be able to replace him."

In West Africa, widowhood is particularly fraught in the large swaths where many marriages are polygamous. The first wife or her children usually lay claim to the family home and financial assets.

Saliou Diallo, 35, said she'd have been left with nothing

after a decade of marriage had her husband not thought to put her home under her name instead of his. Under Guinean law, a man's multiple wives share a small percentage of his estate, with nearly all of it — 87.5 percent — going to his children.

Diallo's husband, El Hadj, 74, had been building the home just for her and their 4-year-old daughter when he fell ill.

Diallo already knew the burden of losing a spouse: At 13, she became a second wife, only to be widowed in her early 20s. Then, El Hadj already had had several wives but wanted to marry Diallo and raise her three kids as his own.

They'd spent a decade together before the virus hit El Hadj. In his final conversations with his wife, he lamented that her home didn't have windows yet. That he hadn't lived long enough to build a well so she wouldn't have to carry water on her head. That other relatives would try to chase her off once he was gone.

Family asked Diallo for the papers of the house El Hadj had built for her. She provided photocopies but secretly kept the originals.

Her extended family ultimately helped raise money to put windows on her house. Still, she feels her husband's absence. There's electricity, but no light fixtures. She has just a few plastic chairs as furniture in her unpainted living room.

"I am sure God is saving a surprise for me. I surrender to him," she said. "I keep my faith." **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1971 BRITAIN'S OLDEST TABLOID CLOSES



The Daily Sketch newspaper which was founded in 1909 has been published for the last time.

Enclosed in today's souvenir issue was a copy of its sister paper the Daily Mail to which owners Harmsworth Publications hope former Sketch readers will now switch.

However, production of the last copies of the Sketch was held up by an industrial dispute over manning of the printing presses.

At its peak the Daily Sketch achieved a circulation of 1.3 million copies a day but in recent years readership of the paper has been in decline.

The Sketch's fate was sealed two months ago when Harmsworth Publications announced plans to shut down the paper, although the exact date was a closely-guarded secret until recently.

The closure has resulted in more than 800 people being made redundant - they are among 1,700 being laid off by Associated Newspapers, Harmsworth's parent company.

But the former editor of the Sketch, David English, remains with the company. He was appointed editor of the Daily Mail after the Sketch's closure was announced.

Associated Newspapers is now pinning its hopes on the revamped Daily Mail capturing the Sketch's market.

Earlier this month the Mail was transformed from a broadsheet into a tabloid and has taken on many of the Sketch's features such as the Peanuts cartoon strip.

The new Mail's success is even more crucial for Harmsworth's survival given that it also publishes the loss-making Evening News.

The Mail's main competitor for the Sketch's readers is widely regarded to be the Daily Express.

The Express' new editor, Ian McColl, is expected to take the paper further to the right and thus encroach on ground traditionally occupied by the Mail.

The latest developments are another twist in the on-going battle of the tabloids which began when Rupert Murdoch took over the Sun two years ago.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Under David English the new Daily Mail soared in popularity especially among the middle classes.

In 1992 after 20 years at the Mail, David English became editor-in-chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers. He died in 1998.

Rivalry in the tabloid market intensified in 1984 when Robert Maxwell took over the Mirror Group.

In February 1987 he launched the London Daily News - in direct competition with Associated Newspaper's Evening Standard.

However, after fierce resistance from Associated Newspapers the London Daily News closed in July 1987 with losses in the region of £50m.

In 1986 a new tabloid entered the market when Eddy Shah launched Today - the first national newspaper to be printed in colour.

But in 1995 Today became the first national paper to close since the Daily Sketch.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Travel may be confusing. You could come into extra cash. Beware of colleagues who don't have your best interests in mind. You could be emotional if you didn't take care of problems with loved ones.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Confronting a situation will only result in indignation and misunderstandings. You may not see your situation clearly. You'll find love and you'll get into tiptop shape at the same time.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You will upset your partner if you have spent money on things that aren't necessary. You may not get your facts correct today; double-check before making any statements.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. You can make professional changes and direct your energy into making all the right moves. Go after your goals.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. You may have difficulties with someone close to you. Don't lend or borrow. Keep tabs on your spending.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. Don't try to get even without having all the facts. Think before you act if you wish to avoid friction.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your devotion will be persuasive. Don't blame everything on your mate. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Expect to experience a sudden reversal of fortune. Strengthen your position among your peers.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Do a little investigating if there is someone at work you don't trust. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. Depression may result if you don't get to do things your own way.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. You can pick up additional responsibility that will lead to higher wages and a better position.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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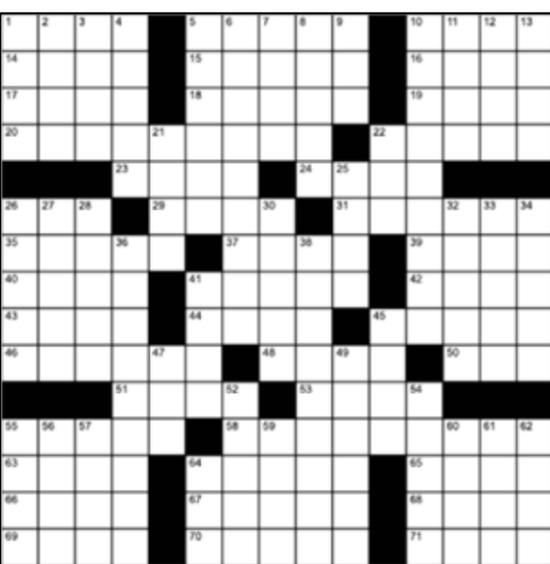
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	22	cloudy
Changchun	9	17	cloudy
Chengdu	17	24	showers
Chongqing	19	25	rain
Fuzhou	19	25	rain
Guangzhou	23	25	rain
Guiyang	15	19	showers
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	17	25	rain
Harbin	8	15	showers
Hefei	15	21	rain
Nanjing	15	24	cloudy
Shanghai	17	24	overcast
Taipei	22	25	rain
Wuhan	14	23	overcast
Hong Kong	25	27	storm
WORLD			
Moscow	8	18	overcast
Frankfurt	16	26	overcast
Paris	12	22	overcast
London	9	18	rain
New York	13	22	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- A Baldwin brother; 5- Staggering; 10- Asian sea; 14- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 15- Big; 16- "A Doll's House" heroine; 17- Undecided; 18- Catches; 19- "Is it?"; 20- Intrinsically; 22- Food and water; 23- Individually; 24- Christmas; 26- Euro forerunner; 29- Oboe, e.g.; 31- Novice; 35- Sticky stuff; 37- Big brass; 39- Early video game; 40- Manitoba native; 41- War horse; 42- Romain de Tirtoff, familiarly; 43- Literary work; 44- Blab; 45- Former Russian rulers; 46- Walk stealthily; 48- Knock off; 50- Wee one; 51- Upper limbs, weapons; 53- Kinds; 55- Of first importance; 58- Stormy; 63- Hard to find; 64- Cream-filled cookies; 65- Sewing case; 66- Richard of "A Summer Place"; 67- "Siddhartha" author; 68- Env. notation; 69- Fourth-down option; 70- Start; 71- Subterfuge;

DOWN 1- Broadway opening; 2- Coil; 3- Goes wrong; 4- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 5- French wine region; 6- Small farm; 7- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 8- Incite; 9- French article; 10- Hollow-horned ruminants; 11- Architect Mies van der ___; 12- Desertlike; 13- Miss; 21- Payment for travel; 22- Classical starter; 25- Toward the mouth; 26- Center of Florida; 27- Wrist bones; 28- Deplete; 30- Affairs of honor; 32- Thai breed of cat; 33- Opening; 34- Discharge; 36- Will; 38- Aggressively hostile; 41- Arise (from); 45- Small child; 47- Bauxite, e.g.; 49- Good to go; 52- Seductively beautiful woman; 54- Campaign tactic; 55- Type of school or cook; 56- Prego competitor; 57- Teheran's country; 59- Capone foe; 60- Famous last words; 61- Kernels; 62- Fork feature; 64- What have we here?!



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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3

SALE RENT

BEACH Vibes

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AMAZING APARTMENTS IN HELLENE GARDENS FOR SALE
from HKD 7,380,000 up

- LUXURY BEACH FRONT HKD 13,500,000
- LARGE WITH SEA VIEWS HKD 14,980,000
- SEA & MOUNTAIN VIEWS HKD 9,900,000
- GREAT PROJECT HOME HKD 7,000,000
- QUIET APARTMENT HKD 7,380,000
- GREAT FAMILY HOME HKD 9,588,000
- LOVELY APARTMENT HKD 7,680,000

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BAD FOR BUSINESS

BODIES FOUND IN LAKE MEAD RENEW INTEREST IN VEGAS MOB LORE

KEN RITTER, LAS VEGAS

LAS Vegas is being flooded with lore about organized crime after a second set of human remains emerged within a week from the depths of a drought-stricken Colorado River reservoir just a 30-minute drive from the notoriously mob-founded Strip.

"There's no telling what we'll find in Lake Mead," former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said Monday. "It's not a bad place to dump a body."

Goodman, as a lawyer, represented mob figures including the ill-fated Anthony "Tony the Ant" Spilotro before serving three terms as a martini-toting mayor making public appearances with a showgirl on each arm.

He declined to name names about who might turn up in the vast reservoir formed by Hoover Dam between Nevada and Arizona.

"I'm relatively sure it was not Jimmy Hoffa," he laughed. But he added that a lot of his former clients seemed interested in "climate control" — mob speak for keeping the lake level up and bodies down in their watery graves.

Instead, the world now has climate change, and the surface of Lake Mead has dropped more than 170 feet since 1983.

The lake that slakes the thirst of 40 million people in cities, farms and tribes across seven Southwestern states is down to about 30% of capacity.

"If the lake goes down much farther, it's very possible we're going to have some very interesting things surface," observed Michael Green, a University of Ne-

AP PHOTO



Lake Mead National Recreation Area, near Boulder City, Nevada

vada, Las Vegas history professor whose father dealt blackjack for decades at casinos including the Stardust and the Showboat.

"I wouldn't bet the mortgage that we're going to solve who killed Bugsy Siegel," Green said, referring to the infamous gangster who opened the Flamingo in 1946 on what would become the Strip. Siegel was shot dead in 1947 in Beverly Hills, California. His assassin has never been identified.

"But I would be willing to bet there are going to be a few more bodies," Green said.

First, the dropping lake level exposed Las Vegas' uppermost drinking water intake on April 25, forcing the regional water authority to switch to a deep-lake intake it completed in 2020 to continue to supply casinos, suburbs and 2.4 million residents and 40 million tourists per year.

The following weekend, boaters spotted the decomposed

body of a man in a rusted barrel stuck in the mud of newly exposed shoreline.

The corpse has not been identified, but Las Vegas police say he had been shot, probably between the mid-1970s and the early 1980s, according to the shoes found with him. The death is being investigated as a homicide.

A few days later, a second barrel was found by a KLAS-TV news crew, not far from the first. It was empty.

On Saturday, two sisters from suburban Henderson who were paddle boarding on the lake near a former marina resort noticed bones on a newly surfaced sand bar more than 9 miles from the barrels.

Lindsey Melvin, who took photos of their find, said they thought at first it was the skeleton of a bighorn sheep native to the region. A closer look revealed a human jaw with teeth. They called park

rangers, and the National Park Service confirmed in a statement that the bones were human.

There was no immediate evidence of foul play, Las Vegas police said Monday, and they are not investigating. A homicide probe would be opened if the Clark County coroner determines the death was suspicious, the department said in a statement.

More bodies will be discovered, predicted Geoff Schumacher, vice president of The Mob Museum, a renovated historic downtown Las Vegas post office and federal building that opened in 2012 as The National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement.

"I think a lot of these individuals will likely have been drowning victims," Schumacher said, referring to boaters and swimmers who've never been found. "But a barrel has a signature of a mob hit. Stuffing a body in a barrel. Sometimes they would dump it in the water."

He and Green both cited the death of John "Handsome Johnny" Roselli, a mid-1950s Las Vegas mobster who disappeared in 1976 a few days before his body was found in a 55-gallon steel drum floating off the coast of Miami.

David Kohlmeier, a former police officer who now co-hosts a Las Vegas podcast and fledgling TV show called "The Problem Solver Show," said Monday that after offering a \$5,000 reward last week for qualified divers to find barrels in the lake, he heard from people in San Diego and Florida willing to try.

But National Park Service officials said that's not allowed, and that there are hundreds of barrels in the depths — some dating to the construction of Hoover Dam in the 1930s.

Kohlmeier said he also heard from families of missing people and about cases like a man suspected of killing his mother and brother in 1987, a hotel employee who disappeared in 1992, and a father from Utah who vanished in the 1980s.

"You'll probably find remains all throughout Lake Mead," Kohlmeier said, including Native Americans who were the area's earliest inhabitants.

Green said the discoveries have people talking not only about mob hits, but about bringing relief and closure to grieving families. Not to mention the ever-growing white mineral markings on steep lake walls showing where water used to be.

"People will talk about this for the right reasons and the wrong reasons," the professor said. "They're going to think we're going to solve every mob murder. In fact, we may see some."

"But it's also worth remembering that the mob did not like murders to take place in the Las Vegas area, because they did not like bad publicity going out under the Las Vegas dateline." **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

SJM launches program promoting Macau brands



SJM Resorts has recently unveiled the "SJM SME Cooperation Programme," an initiative that promotes Macau's home-grown brands.

This month, the group launched the "Made in Macau,"

a shopping area located at Grand Lisboa Palace, with the aim of becoming a "launchpad for local SMEs to tap into the city's tourism economy."

Daisy Ho, chairman of the

Board of Directors of SJM, remarked, "Rooted in Macau, SJM is the epitome of a 'Made in Macau' brand. Therefore, it is near and dear to us, that we go the distance beyond civic duties to champion for fellow local enterprises."

SJM has also partnered with Fuhong Society of Macau to create the "Happy Gift" pop up in the "Made in Macau" shopping area — a creative platform for artisans with disabilities.

All proceeds from product sales will be donated to Fuhong Society of Macau and go toward funding art and cultural projects for the disabled.

Sands China launches new post-maternity benefits



Sands China Ltd. recently launched a new set of post-maternity benefits for team members, as part of the company's commitment to an equitable workplace that safeguards the rights of women.

Effective May 8, postpar-

tum mothers can work one less hour per shift and enjoy regular work shifts without rotation; the benefits are available during the first 30 days after resuming work post-maternity. In addition, team members will receive a special gift from the com-

pany for their newborns.

"Sands China is proud to be the first integrated resort operator in Macau to pioneer these new benefits and to launch them on Mother's Day in honour of our postpartum mothers," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "These measures will allow them to enjoy extra time with their families by arriving to work an hour later or leaving an hour earlier, giving them more time to take care of themselves and their newborns. This is part of our commitment to care for our team members, whom we value and cherish, and to support their work-life balance."

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FOOTBALL

Eight rounds in expanded Champions League first stage: insiders

ROB HARRIS, VIENNA

REVISIONS for the expanded Champions League format have been agreed on by UEFA officials, clubs and leagues with a scaled-back first phase and a curb on how past performances can earn qualification.

The reformatted group stage would still grow from 32 to 36 teams starting in 2024 but the number of rounds will only jump from six to eight per team rather than 10, people with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the contents of the private meetings.

The UEFA club competitions committee has agreed



to the format tweaks. The plan will now be voted on at the executive committee meeting.

Two additional places in the expanded format would be awarded to the two coun-

tries with the highest UEFA ranking based on their teams' results in European competitions the previous season, the people with knowledge of the talks said.

If the system was already in place, it would mean the fifth-place team in England would qualify for the Champions League along with the team finishing third in the Netherlands.

The original plan that sparked backlash, particularly among middle-class clubs, would have awarded the two places to teams with the strongest five-season record in Europe who failed to qualify through their domestic leagues.

The distribution of the other two expansion places will see an additional team qualify from the fifth-ranked country in Europe — regularly France — and a fifth slot for domestic champions who don't qualify automatically.

The first main stage to the new-look Champions League will see teams placed in a single standings rather than having eight groups. Only eight teams will qualify automatically for the round of 16. But finishing up to 24th out of the 36 teams will secure entry into the 16-team playoff round.

There would be 10 weeks set aside for European games from 2024 but two weeks are set to be reserved for the Europa League and Europa Conference League. MDT/AP

'WAGATHA CHRISTIE' SOCCER SPOUSES' LIBEL BATTLE OPENS IN UK

A high-profile libel court battle between two soccer spouses, in which one publicly called out the other for allegedly leaking made-up stories to the tabloid press, opened yesterday in London.

Coleen Rooney accused Rebekah Vardy of leaking fake stories she had posted on her Instagram account to The Sun newspaper in October 2019. Vardy denies the claims and brought the libel suit.

Both women are married to famous footballers — Rooney to former Manchester United and England star Wayne Rooney, Vardy to Leicester City and England striker Jamie Vardy.

Rooney posted the fake tales on purpose over several months, and said she blocked everyone apart from an account belonging to Vardy from seeing her Instagram stories. The stories then appeared in The Sun, and Rooney announced to her followers that Vardy was responsible.

The showdown has fascinated many in Britain and has been dubbed the "Wagatha Christie" trial — a play on the slang term "WAG" for the wives and girlfriends of soccer stars — for Rooney's detective work. MDT/AP

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

HISTORICAL MISSION FOR YOUNGER GENERATION TO REALIZE THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL REJUVENATION

The future of the world is in the hands of the younger generation. A nation can be full of hope that it will enjoy a bright future when its younger generations have ideals, ability and a strong sense of responsibility. And a nation that maintains its youthful vigor will prosper.

This was the essence of the important speech President Xi Jinping delivered at a grand gathering to mark the 100th anniversary of the Communist Youth League of China on Tuesday morning. And it should inspire its members to inherit the Youth League's historical legacy and spare no efforts in making their due contributions to national rejuvenation.

Over the past 100 years, since it was established on May 5, 1922, the League has made important contributions to the achievements of the Chinese revolution and national development with its vitality, knowledge, courage and patriotism. And in the new era, the 81.25 million members of the League, who are aged between 14 and 28, continue to make key contributions to the efforts to realize the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

Like a relay race, that great cause of the Party and the Chinese people has entailed the endeavors of generations of young people. And Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, urged the Youth League members to build up firm beliefs, and boost their courage and skills to better carry on the historical responsibility of the League in the face of the complex situation today.

Speaking at a ceremony held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, he called on the League to act as a strong bond between the Party and Chinese youth, helping them to understand socialism with Chinese characteristics and communism in practice at an early age, and cultivating trust in the Party, confidence in socialism with Chinese characteristics and belief in Marxism, so that they uphold the banner of patriotism and socialism.

Saying that over the past century, the firm beliefs and convictions demonstrated by the members of the Communist Youth League of China have served as the most fundamental and long-lasting source of cohesiveness, Xi urged the League to pursue self-reform and explore new models for its grassroots organizations in light of the profound changes in how young people today live and work, so as to consolidate and expand the patriotic united front of youth.

Young people are like saplings that thrive on the earth, and with the care of the Communist Youth League of China, the Party and the nation, the Chinese youth of today will grow into towering trees in the future. And with the country's youth mobilized to make new and greater contributions to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the country can face the future with confidence.

The U.N.'s top human rights body will hold a special session this week following a request from Ukraine to discuss the worsening human rights situation in the country "stemming from the Russian aggression."

The 47-member Human Rights Council said more than one-third of member states, the required minimum, backed the call that will pave the way for Thursday's session at the U.N.'s Euro-

pean headquarters in Geneva.

Supporters included many Western countries, as well as Gambia, Marshall Islands and Mexico. A total of 55 countries, including observer states, backed the call, but the list could grow.

The council also held an "urgent dialogue" during its last session to discuss Ukraine just days after the Feb. 24 invasion by Russian forces.



Lee Ming-che (left) and his wife Lee Ching-yu attend a press conference in Taipei

TAIWAN ACTIVIST RELEASED FROM CHINA SAYS GLOBAL HELP WORKED

A Taiwanese human rights activist who served five years in jail in China said that international pressure and the tireless advocacy by his wife worked to ensure his safe return to Taiwan.

"I know that my life's safety and security was defended by many people, thanks to everyone, I have never felt abandoned or alone," Lee Ming-che said at a press conference yesterday in his first public appearance since being released from prison.

Lee Ming-che was arrested by Chinese authorities in 2017 and charged with subversion of state power. His arrest was China's first criminal prosecution of a nonprofit worker since Beijing passed a law tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organiza-

tions in 2016.

Lee had given online lectures on Taiwan's democratization and managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China that some friends had set up.

"I did what I could do, using my credit card to buy some books," he said, which he would send to friends in China. He would also give donations to the families of political prisoners. "This is not to interfere with the country's internal affairs. All of this was simply a way of humanitarian caring."

Lee is the son of parents who were both born in China and had come to Taiwan with the ruling Nationalist Party. He had always thought of himself as a Chinese person growing up.

"Real revolution, as evi-

denced by history, must come from the land itself," Lee said. "I know that how China democratizes and comes to value human rights, that's the Chinese people's responsibility and work."

While Lee was able to come home, another prisoner, Lee Meng-chu, remains trapped in China. Lee Meng-chu has been accused of being a spy by Chinese authorities and is now serving the two years as part of his sentence which deprived him of "political rights."

Meng-chu had been in Hong Kong in 2019, during the massive anti-government protests that rocked the city, according to the semi-official Central News Agency. He disappeared after crossing the border into Shenzhen. MDT/AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Bullit Marquez



Cara Delevingne attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "In America: An Anthology of Fashion" exhibition in New York.



USA With anti-immigrant rhetoric bubbling over in the leadup to this year's critical midterm elections, about 1 in 3 U.S. adults believes an effort is underway to replace U.S.-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains. About 3 in 10 also worry that more immigration is causing U.S.-born Americans to lose their economic, political and cultural influence, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to fear a loss of influence because of immigration, 36% to 27%.



USA The Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize in public service journalism for its coverage of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, an attack on democracy that was a shocking start to a tumultuous year that also saw the end of the United States' longest war, in Afghanistan. The Post's extensive reporting found numerous problems and failures in political systems and security before, during and after the Jan. 6, 2021 riot in the newspaper's own backyard.



Britain's Conservative government made sweeping promises to cut crime, improve health care and revive the U.K.'s pandemic-scarred economy as it laid out its plans for the next year in a tradition-steeped ceremony in Parliament — but without Queen Elizabeth II, who was absent for the first time in six decades. The 96-year-old monarch pulled out of reading the Queen's Speech at the ceremonial opening of Parliament because of what Buckingham Palace calls "episodic mobility issues." Her son and heir, Prince Charles, stood in, rattling through a short speech laying out 38 bills the government plans to pass.