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9,600 DOSES OF THE MRNA VACCINE FROM BIONTECH SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO YOUNG CHILDREN FINALLY ARRIVED IN MACAU: HEALTH BUREAU

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GAMING: ACCUSATION ON WYNN ONLY TO HYPE UP 'CHINA THREAT' THEORY, BEIJING SAYS

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BIDEN FLIES TO ASIA TO ATTEND QUAD MEETING CHINA CONDEMNS

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AP PHOTO



North Korea yesterday reported 262,270 more suspected COVID-19 cases as its pandemic caseload neared 2 million — a week after the country acknowledged the outbreak and scrambled to slow infections in its unvaccinated population. The country is also trying to prevent its fragile economy from deteriorating further, but the outbreak could be worse than officially reported since the country lacks virus tests and other health care resources and may be underreporting deaths.

AP PHOTO



Covid-19 The number of coronavirus deaths globally dropped by about 21% in the past week while cases rose in most parts of the world, according to the World Health Organization. In its weekly report on the pandemic released yesterday, the U.N. health agency said the number of new COVID-19 cases appears to have stabilized after weeks of decline since late March, with about 3.5 million new cases last week, or a 1% rise. WHO said cases increased in the Americas, Middle East, Africa and the Western Pacific, while falling in Europe and Southeast Asia. Some 9,000 deaths were recorded.

Portugal Lisbon government says Russia is expelling five diplomats from its Moscow embassy, a day after the Kremlin also expelled diplomats from Spain, France and Italy. The Portuguese Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Russia's decision was "unjustified" and merely a tit-for-tat step after Portugal last month expelled Russian diplomats at the Lisbon embassy.

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INDONESIAN HELPERS ON BOARD

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CRIME

PROPERTY AGENCY ACCUSED OF MULTIPLE ILLEGAL ACTS OVER TNR QUOTA

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TASTE OF EDESIA



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GOV'T TO EXTEND DOMESTIC HELPERS ENTRY SCHEME TO INDONESIA

RENATO MARQUES

THE local pilot scheme that allows foreign nationals special entry into Macau to work as domestic helpers is going to be extended to Indonesian nationals from this Monday (May 23), Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced yesterday during the weekly press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

"From Monday (May 23) we will extend the pilot scheme that allows the entry into Macau of foreigner domestic worker from the Philippines to also include workers from Indonesia," Leong said, noting that the process will operate in the same way and with the same conditions as the Filipino workers.

Leong justified the extension of the program by citing the "need to fulfill the demand from society" to be able to choose domestic workers from countries other than the Philippines.

Evaluating the scheme as of the present moment, she said that the government had received a total of 20 applications to hire domestic workers from the Philippines, from which eight were approved and another eight were refused. Four cases are still undergoing a final review before the result is known.



Leong also added that the authorities are considering including people from Vietnam in the future.

When questioned on the topic by the media, the same official explained that, as a pilot scheme, authorities are having a very close look at the scheme to determine whether this type of phased method of allowing foreign workers to enter Macau poses any risk to the region in terms of pandemic prevention and control.

She also explained that, during the first and second phases of the scheme, not many applications were made. Upon inquiring within the community to understand their needs, they received many opinions in favor of the extension

of the program to other countries of origin, namely Indonesia and Vietnam.

Asked to provide comments on the release made on Wednesday by the Philippine Consulate General in Macau listing a series of conditions for Filipinos to be able to come to Macau to work as caregivers, Leong excused herself from making any comments on the matter, saying that workers' conditions and requirements are a matter for the Labour Affairs Bureau and not for the health authorities, whom, she said, "only take care of the matters related to public health."

The conditions listed on Wednesday by the Philippine Consula-

te General in Macau as conditions allowing Filipino workers to travel to Macau as Overseas Foreign Workers included a monthly sa-

lary of the equivalent of almost 10,000 patacas, guarantees of insurance, and roundtrip airfares to be paid by the employers, as well as all necessary nucleic acid tests and quarantine expenses.

SPOUSES NOT INCLUDED

When questioned once again on the possibility of the foreigner workers being allowed to travel with their spouses or family members, Leong reaffirmed once more that the schemes that allow the entry of foreigners in Macau, including domestic workers, teachers, and students, "do not include any spouses of other family members," she said, adding, "The recipients of this policy are the workers, not their families. They are not targeted by these special arrangements as we are only allowing these people in as a matter of public interest."

Claiming that the government has a priorities list and is making decisions accordingly, she justified that, under these special conditions, only those who are strictly needed are allowed to enter.

229 FOREIGNERS GRANTED ENTRY SINCE BORDER RESTRICTIONS STARTED

A total of 229 foreign nationals without a residency status in Macau have been allowed to enter the Special Administrative Region since the entry into force of the measure that bans the entry of all foreigners in Macau, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said to a media inquiry. According to the data cited, of these 229 people, the large majority (201)

were people who were either residents of the mainland or who have been staying on the mainland for a long period. The other 28 people were also foreign nationals who either live or work in the neighboring region of Hong Kong and have also remained in the region for a long period without any record of traveling to other pandemic risk areas.

COVID-19

9,600 doses of mRNA vaccines for children arrive

RENATO MARQUES

THE 9,600 doses of the mRNA vaccine from BioNTech specially dedicated to young children finally arrived in Macau yesterday afternoon, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced yesterday during the weekly press briefing of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the official, the vaccines will be ready to be administered by Tuesday (May 24) with the pre-scheduling of the vaccination to be available from 10 a.m. on Monday.

The vaccines will be available at the same four vaccination posts including the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center, Forum Macau, and the Healthcare Centers of Ilha Verde and Ocean Gardens.

Leong also said that the

authorities believe that these 9,600 doses will be sufficient to vaccinate all the children included in the younger age group as, for the time being, 65.3% of these children have already completed their courses of vaccination.

She also noted that the current vaccination rate of Macau has reached 88.7%, with almost all the population between 20 and 60 years old having been vaccinated.



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COVID-19

Fourth dose only suitable for a restricted group

RENATO MARQUES & ANTHONY LAM

THERE is not enough scientific evidence to support that it should be given to the general population, according to Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, when she was questioned on the possibility of the enforcement of the fourth dose of a vaccine against Covid-19.

"There is not much scientific proof for the time being that justifies that," she said, adding, "A fourth dose of the vaccine is only considered in extreme cases of people with a very weak immune system and who, because of that, cannot retain a high quantity of antibodies [against] the virus."

Nonetheless, she said that as the pandemic progresses and more findings are unveiled, it is possible that in the future this could be considered as soon as



scientific evidence shows that it conferred a great benefit to the population. "If that happens, we will follow accordingly," she concluded.

WHO FINDS NO STRONG EVIDENCE

Several reports have cited the World Health Organization (WHO) saying that it has so far collected insufficient data to support a fourth dose of a Covid-19 vaccine for younger groups.

A group of experts from the WHO have so far found insufficient evidence supporting a four-

th Covid-19 mRNA vaccine dose for people below 60 years of age.

However, the experts said that the fourth jab may bring "extra advantages" to people at higher risk of death or complications from the disease, such as medical staff and people with a compromised immune system.

HIGHER ANTIBODY LEVELS RECORDED

Citing a study from Israel, which commenced administering fourth doses ahead of most countries, CNBC said that agencies in the country conceded "short-li-

ved protection against infection" from the fourth mRNA jab. The media organization added that a fourth dose will provide at least six weeks of protection against serious illness.

The finding is restricted to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, as it is the subject of the study.

CNBC quoted WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan as saying that "there isn't any good evidence at this point of time" for a fourth dose.

The scientist told the media organization that, although higher antibody levels have been recorded in those receiving a fourth Covid-19 vaccine dose, the antibodies wane "quite rapidly."

Swaminathan added that the same process was evident after the third dose of the vaccine as well.

Paul Goepfert, a professor of medicine at the University of Alabama, did not see much impact of a fourth dose and hence any necessity for general administration, but Ashley St. John, associate professor at Duke-NUS Medical School, focused on the boosting effect of the fourth jab being at its peak right after administration.

White House chief medical advisor Anthony Fauci, speaking in January on NBC News, raised the possibility of annual or biennial booster shots.

ALVIN CHAU NO LONGER SHAREHOLDER OF COMPANIES

The former chairman of Suncity Group Alvin Chau has disposed of his shares in the group and in the gaming operator Summit Ascent. As cited in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Chau and his business partner Cheng Ting Kong transferred the shares and convertible bonds to the group's current executive director, Andrew Low. The combined shares in Suncity Group totaled 74.85%. Following his arrest in November amid the junket crackdown, Chau resigned from his executive positions at Suncity Group and Summit Ascent, effective from 1 December 2021. This led to a major plunge in the companies' respective shareprices. Suncity closed all its gaming-related operations on December 1.

MAN PASSES WITH H5N6 AVIAN FLU IN GUANGXI

The Health Bureau (SSM) has recently publicized a notification from its mainland counterparts that a man who developed symptoms of H5N6 avian flu on April 16 was hospitalized April 18 and succumbed to the disease on April 24. The late patient had recorded exposures to wet market settings. SSM reminded those in Macau not to touch birds' secretions or excrement. They should only eat completely cooked bird meat or related products. If they develop respiratory symptoms, they should visit a doctor right away.

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CONSTRUCTION OF INNER HARBOUR PUMP STATION AND PIPES EXPECTED IN Q4

ANTHONY LAM

The construction of a rainwater pump station and related drainage system is expected to start during the fourth quarter of 2022, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) recently announced.

The project is operated in the hopes of combating regular flooding in the area. Due to its low-lying geographical nature, the Inner Harbour District inevitably becomes a water collection site in the event of heavy rain.

To achieve this, the DSOP hopes that the construction of underground rainwater vaults, pumps and upgraded drainage pipes will help handle rainwater that cannot be discharged to the sea because of geographical challenges.

Officially known as the Inner Harbour Rainwater



Pump Station and Drainage Project – Phase 1, the tender for the development work is opening for bids.

Expecting construction to commence before the end of this year, the DSOP has set the maximum delivery period at 510 working days.

In the hopes of ending or easing regular flooding in

the District, the government has compiled plans to build similar facilities along the western coast of the Macau Peninsula. The first, second and the third phases of the project will focus on Rua do Dr. Lourenco Pereira Marques, Rua das Lorchas and Rua do Almirante Sergio, in no particular order.



MUST GRADUATION EXHIBITION FEATURES 400 ARTWORKS

A graduation art exhibition, officially referred to as MUST-net 2022 by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), will run until May 27 at the institution.

This exhibition, the eleventh of its kind, has recently been launched at the Block R (Academic Complex) of the MUST.

The graduation exhibition showcases more than 400 artworks from more than 300 members of the graduating class of 2022.

As described by the university, this exhibition features more exhibitors and artworks than before, showing artworks of more diversified styles. To enhance the exhibition experience of the current students, the Faculty of Humanities and Arts has arranged presentation sessions. Through face-to-face communications, exhibitors are able to interact with the audience and explain their inspiration and thoughts to them.

Joseph Hun-wei Lee, president

of MUST, highlighted in his speech, stating, "Economic globalization and the rapid development of technology have contributed to a more diverse lifestyle. Today, our students have attempted various creations throughout the years to advance their professional qualities and design skills and create high-quality works. We hope our students can embark on their design career and make contributions to the society."

On behalf of the teaching staff, Assistant Professor Kong Ling Qi said, "The graduation exhibition theme connects with our concerns for Macau throughout the years. Key themes of this graduation exhibition include 'sustainability', 'circular economy', 'experience economy', 'artificial intelligence', 'cultural heritage', etc."

Student representative Shao Zichun expressed her gratitude, saying, "With the support of MUST teachers, we have successfully secured offers from local and overseas renowned institutions." AL

AD

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Real estate agency accused of multiple crimes over TNR quota

RENATO MARQUES

TWO staff members and the owner of a Real estate agency are being accused of the crimes of document forgery as well as misappropriation and unlawful use of personal data of a 60-year-old man to illegally obtain a quota for a non-resident worker (TNR) from the mainland.

The case was reported to the Judiciary Police (PJ) by the victim after he realized that his personal information had been collected and used without authorization by the agency in order to list him as a worker.

The man was said to have become aware that something was wrong in December last year after receiving a phone call from a former co-worker asking for his collaboration in the process of permanently closing the agency where he worked.

Since the victim never had any relation with this company, he said he had found the request very strange and

RENATO MARQUES



started an investigation, discovering that a copy of his Macau Identification Card (BIR) had been used to list him as a worker for several years.

He then reported the case to the PJ, which began investigating the company, discovering that the copy of the victim's BIR was handed to the company's owner by a 70-year-old man who had been his former co-worker at another company.

The PJ also realized that the reason for this unlawful act was to grant the company

a quota to import a TNR from the mainland to work in the company.

After the document was handed to the company owner, a 50-year-old woman from

Macau, said woman asked the TNR to make a declaration with the victim's data stating that he was a worker in the company.

During the thorough search of the company, the PJ investigators also found another person, a 30-year-old man working as a deliveryman, who was also falsely listed as a worker in the same company.

In this case, he said that he was aware of that listing and that he had accepted such a deal to have contributions paid to the Social Security Fund.

The PJ has listed all four people as suspects who are being charged with accusations of different crimes. The agency owner, the employee, and the deliveryman are being accused of document forgery and making false declarations, while the first suspect is being accused of unlawful use of documents of a third person.

MAN ACCUSED OF INDECENTLY ASSAULTING WOMAN ON THE BUS

A 55-year-old man from the mainland working in Macau as a cook is being accused of sexually harassing a local woman in her thirties on a bus traveling between Taipa and Macau, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported yesterday.

According to the victim report, on May 12 at around 9 a.m., while the alleged victim was traveling on bus route 33 between Taipa and Macau, she felt someone touching her buttocks on two different occasions. She turned and saw the suspect and immediately confronted him.

She later decided to report the case to the police.

During the investigation, the PSP said it had reviewed surveillance footage from the bus showing that the man did intentionally touch the woman's buttocks. After identifying the suspect, the police finally found him a few days later around the Ponte 16 area. The suspect admitted to the crime upon questioning, having been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office to be charged with the crime of sexual harassment.

GAMING

BEIJING: DOJ ACCUSATION ON WYNN ONLY TO HYPE UP 'CHINA THREAT' THEORY

LYNZY VALLES

THE United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) move to sue longtime Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn to compel him to register as a foreign agent is based on "nothing but hearsay to deliberately hype up the 'China threat' theory," China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said following revelations of the incident.

This is due to allegations that he allegedly lobbied members of the then-Trump administration at the behest of the Chinese government.

The department said it had advised Wynn repeatedly over the last four years to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA, and is now suing because Wynn refused to do so. Although the Justice Department has ramped up efforts to criminally prosecute people who fail to register as foreign agents, officials described this case as the first lawsuit of its kind in more than three decades.

However, the Chinese diplomat rejected the allega-



tions in a press conference. "China always develops relations with other countries based on principles such as mutual respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. We hope the US will discard the Cold War and zero-sum mentality and stop making an issue of China at every turn," said Wang.

The complaint alleges that Wynn lobbied then-President Donald Trump and members of his administration for several months in 2017 to remove a Chinese national who had been

charged with corruption in China from the United States and who was seeking political asylum in America. The efforts to have the man removed from the U.S. were ultimately unsuccessful.

The lawsuit says the lobbying effort was done on behalf of senior Chinese government officials, including Sun Lijun, the then-vice minister of the Ministry of Public Security who sought Wynn's help in trying to have the Chinese national's new visa application denied, according to the complaint.

TOURISM

VISITOR SPENDING TOTALED MOP6.6B IN Q1

LYNZY VALLES

THE total expenditure by visitors (excluding gaming expenses) rose by 6.7% year-on-year to MOP6.59 billion in the first quarter of 2022, despite the consecutive downturn in visitor arrivals from January to March.

Despite the casino sector being on the brink of revenue downturn, Macau's total expenditure by same-day visitors (MOP1.26 billion) leapt by 114.5% year-on-year while that of overnight visitors (MOP5.33 billion) dropped by 4.7%.

Per-capita spending of visitors in the first three months, however, fell by 1.2% year-on-year to MOP3,514, mainly due to the growth in the number of same-day visitors with relatively low spending, according to a statement issued by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Per-capita spending of overnight visitors (MOP7,833) and same-day visitors (MOP1,056) showed a respective rise of 28.7% and 46.9%.

Visitors from mainland China spent MOP3,582 on average, down by 1.8% year-on-year; while per-capita spending of those traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme

(MOP7,173) edged up by 0.6%.

January saw a series of new outbreaks in the neighboring region, causing local authorities to impose strict border entry measures to deter the spread of new Covid-19 variants.

In January, visitor arrivals stood at 694,430, representing a decrease of 15.4% in arrivals month-on-month due to the tightening of border-control measures between Zhuhai and Macau.

The arrivals further decreased in February with 655,505 recorded, while March plummeted to 526,912, owing to the resurgence of the pandemic in the neighboring regions.

As regards the source of visitors, the number of visitors from mainland China declined 31.9% year-on-year to 468,995, with 91,099 of these traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme.

In the first quarter of 2022, the number of visitor arrivals increased by 8.0% year-on-year to 1,876,847.

Further, as regards to the type of expense, visitors spent over 70% of their spending on shopping (70.1%) in the first quarter, followed by food & beverage (13.9%) and accommodation (12.7%).

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AMY TAXIN & JULIE WATSON,
ALISO VIEJO (CALIF.)

JOHN CHENG

DOCTOR WHO FOUGHT TAIWANESE CHURCH GUNMAN REMEMBERED AS KIND PROTECTOR

HE was known by all as simply Dr. John, the quiet, calm physician who mentored kids in kung fu, finding time between patient appointments to encourage people to learn self-defense. So it was no surprise to friends and colleagues that John Cheng spent his final moments saving others by rushing a gunman who fired on a Southern California church luncheon of mostly older Taiwanese people, including Cheng's recently widowed mother.

The 52-year-old father of two often looked for ways to protect people. He was concerned enough about the growing number of mass shootings that he had taken safety courses to prepare himself for a situation like the one that cost him his life Sunday.

"It was characteristic of Dr. Cheng to charge forward at that gunman," said Erica Triplett, Cheng's office manager. "It does not surprise any of us. Dr. Cheng exemplified what he was built for — his heroism that saved so many people not only at that church, but throughout his career."

The family and sports medicine physician was like family to the staff and he encouraged them to learn kung fu, telling them about the importance of knowing self-defense techniques. He also learned how to handle a gun for that same reason.

That preparedness combined with Cheng's serene disposition likely gave him a proclivity for acting heroically, according to active shooter experts. Most people in those situations freeze.

"People don't rise to the level of the occasion; they fall to the level of training that they have,"

AP PHOTO



Dr Cheng has been my physician since I moved here almost a decade ago. As I who has suffered many old injuries over years, Dr Cheng was the best Doctor I've had. He always took the time to answer my questions, and to make sure I fully understood everything that was going on. He never ran out of the room. He truly listened to patients, never being dismissive. Despite being one of countless patients, he always seemed to know every relevant bit of my medical personal history. Dr Cheng dedicated his life to helping others. He was unfathomably kind. I will miss him greatly as a Doctor, a friend, and at the end, a Hero.

-A patient

said active shooter expert Chris Grollnek, who believes such trainings should be as common as fire drills. "This man obviously

ly as a doctor was inoculated (to deal) with bad things from a bone sticking out of somebody's arm to a tragic event like what happened

inside the church in Orange County."

Authorities credit Cheng's quick action with saving perhaps do-

zens of lives at a celebratory luncheon for congregants and their former pastor at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, which worships at Geneva Presbyterian Church in the Orange County community of Laguna Woods.

Prosecutors say the gunman, David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas, was motivated by hatred of Taiwan, where he was born and grew up after his family was forced from mainland China when Communists took control. He had no connection to the church but it afforded him access to a large group of Taiwanese to target, authorities said.

Chou spent about an hour with attendees at the luncheon, apparently to gain their trust so he could execute his plot, authorities said. He chained doors shut and glued locks. He had two 9 mm handguns and three bags, containing four Molotov-cocktail-type incendiary devices and ammunition.

When Chou began shooting, Cheng charged him and was shot. He died at the scene but his quick action disrupted the shooter, who was then hit by a chair thrown by the church's former pastor, Billy Chang, and jumped on by three members of the con-

ALLEGED GUNMAN SENT DIARY TO NEWSPAPER BEFORE CHURCH ATTACK

THE man accused of opening fire on a Southern California church congregation because of his political hatred for Taiwan dubbed himself a "destroying angel" in a seven-volume diary sent to a newspaper before the attack, the paper said.

David Chou, 68, spent \$16.10 to mail seven thick photocopied volumes of handwritten Chinese text and a flash drive to the World Journal office in the Los Angeles suburb of Monterey Park, according to photos published in the Chinese-language paper.

The pages bore the title: "Diary of an Angel Destroying Independence" in an apparent reference to Taiwan's self-government. The Chinese Communist Party continues to demand Taiwan reunify with China.

The diary pages were received Monday, one day after Chou allegedly opened fire at a lunch gathering of elderly parishioners at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in the community of Laguna Woods.

The newspaper didn't report the contents of the diaries and nobody there apparently read through them before sending them to the

police through the paper's attorney, said an employee who declined to be named because they weren't authorized to speak openly.

Investigators were aware of the reports that the journals were sent to the newspaper, according to Orange County sheriff's spokesperson Carrie Braun. She did not know if the sheriff's department or FBI had taken possession of them as yesterday [Macau time].

Chou could face life in prison or the death penalty if convicted of murder and attempted murder. He has not yet entered a plea and remained jailed without bail in Orange County pending a June 10 arraignment.

The shooting shook Southern California's Taiwanese community.

"I am starting to worry about our people," Dr. Simon Lin, a leader at the Taiwan Center Foundation of Los Angeles, said at a news conference. "The Taiwan Center is very friendly. It's open to the public. We never check your background."

The small community center lacks the budget to hire full-time security, he added.

Louis M. Huang, director general of the Tai-

AP PHOTO



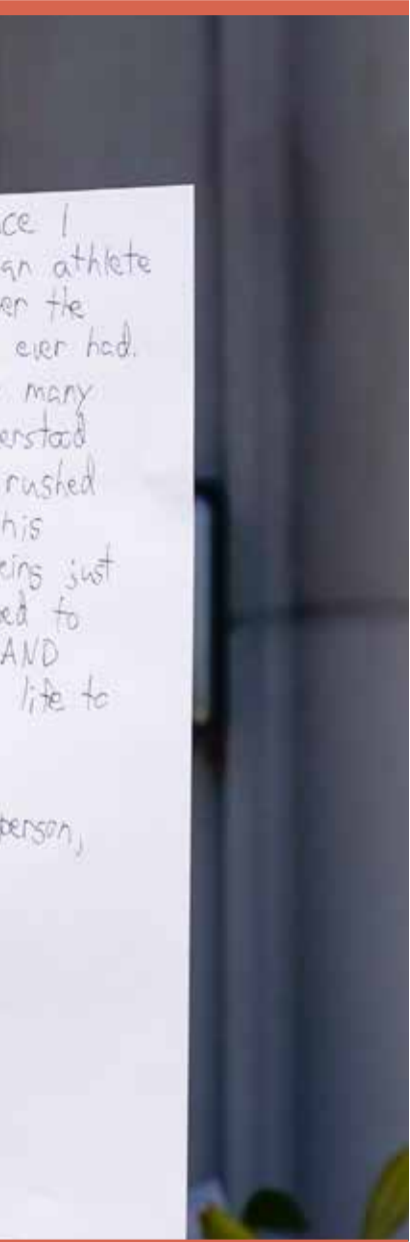
pei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles, said he has confidence in U.S. law enforcement to carry out the investigation and that justice would be served.

He called on Taiwanese Americans to respect differences in opinion but said no one has a right to infringe on other people's rights or to take someone's life.

He urged community members to report to the police if they see something that concerns them.

"Don't keep silent," he said. MDT/AP

RCH TOR



"He was unfathomably kind," read a note left by a patient taped to the door of his office, where people left flowers to pay homage.

In a video posted online, Cheng said he was inspired to get involved in medicine after seeing the care his father provided as a physician in their small community in East Texas, where the family had moved to from Taiwan when Cheng was a baby.

"It's those small-town values that were ingrained in me when I was younger that really helped create this sense of community," said Cheng, who graduated from Texas Tech University School of Medicine and did his residency in California. "And in this modern society, in these modern times, we miss a lot of that."

He called the patient-doctor relationship special "so you get to know a lot about the patient, their family, the community that they live in. And what's beautiful is that I live in the same community."

Cheng's pastor and close friend, Ira Angustain, took a class with him to learn how to handle a gun safely.

"We talked about how people were losing their minds and going around shooting people for no reason," said Angustain, pastor of Kingdom Covenant Church in the nearby community of Lake Forest. "He didn't want to feel helpless."

On Sunday morning, Cheng texted Angustain to let him know he wouldn't be coming to service because he was taking his mother to her church.

She had stopped going since her husband passed away a couple of months ago, still grieving his death. But Chang, the church's former pastor who had written to her expressing his condolences, was visiting from Taiwan and the church had invited her to a service and luncheon to see him.

Cheng volunteered to drive his mother, but in a horrible twist of fate, instead of the outing giving her peace, she would end up witnessing his death that day.

"My heart is aching," the visiting pastor wrote in a statement.

Shortly before the shooting, Angustain replied to Cheng's text, telling him to say hello to his mother.

"You're such a good son," Angustain texted to Cheng.

"I can always be better," Cheng replied.

Less than 15 minutes later, Cheng didn't hesitate to charge the gunman.

"Evil didn't take Dr. John out," Angustain said. "Dr. John chose to lay down his life for others so they could live."

MDT/AP

COVID-19

Shanghai to reopen subways in easing of restrictions

THE locked-down Chinese metropolis of Shanghai will reopen four of its 20 subway lines Sunday as it slowly eases pandemic restrictions that have kept most residents in their housing complexes for more than six weeks.

The city will also restart 273 bus lines connecting major urban centers, airports, train stations and hospitals as it resumes cross-district public transit, Yu Fulin, director of the Shanghai Transport Commission, said at a daily pandemic briefing yesterday.

It wasn't immediately clear how frequent the service would be. Bus service resumed on a trial basis within three outlying districts this week, with buses running every 30 to 90 minutes during daylight hours.

The lockdown of China's largest city has dealt a blow to the economy and frustrated residents, particularly as many countries elsewhere in the world move away from such harsh measures as they try to live with the virus. But officials have stuck to a 'zero-COVID' approach, saying that lifting restrictions could strain the public health system and lead to more deaths, particularly among the not fully vaccinated elderly.

The outbreak in Shanghai has taken 580 lives, according to official statistics, making it the deadliest one since the initial outbreak in the city of Wuhan in early 2020.

Even as the number of new cases plummets, authorities are relaxing restrictions in a slow and deliberate manner as they try to ensu-

re that the virus no longer spreads anywhere outside of quarantine facilities and areas with known infections.

The city of 25 million people recorded about 700 new cases on Wednesday, accounting for most of the about 1,000 cases nationwide.

Authorities in Beijing, which reported 55 new cases, closed some subway stations and bus lines, banned dining in restaurants and strongly encouraged residents to work from home as they try to prevent a Shanghai-scale outbreak in the Chinese capital.

Elsewhere in China, the city of Guang'an in in China's southwestern Sichuan province was locked down on Wednesday. The province recorded about 150 new cases.

MDT/AP

DIPLOMACY

China blasts US, Japan rhetoric ahead of Quad summit

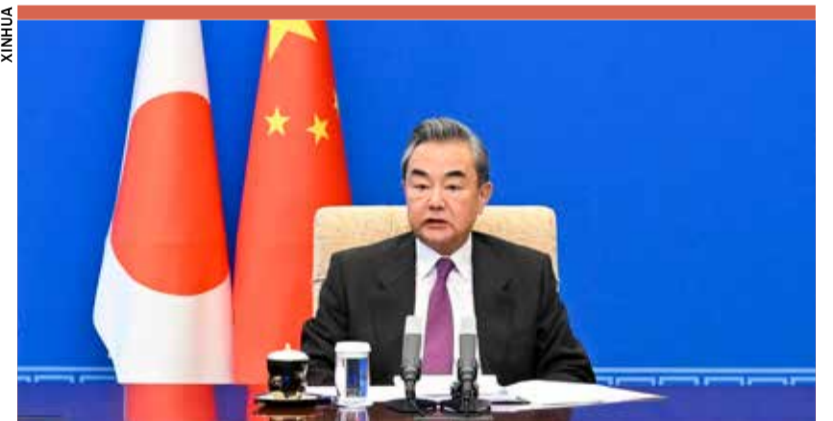
CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi Wednesday criticized what he called negative moves by Washington and Tokyo against Beijing ahead of a meeting in Tokyo next week of the leaders of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India.

"What arouses attention and vigilance is the fact that, even before the American leader has set out for the meeting, the so-called joint Japan-U.S. anti-China rhetoric is already kicking up dust," Wang told Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi in a video call, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will host U.S. President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the winner of weekend elections in Australia at a meeting of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad.

China sees the Quad as an attempt to contain its economic growth and influence, while Biden has sought to build ties with other democracies to confront the rise of an authoritarian global power.

Hayashi told Wang that China should play a responsible role in maintaining international peace and security, noting that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law. China has not publicly criticized the invasion.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi (unseen) via video link from Beijing

Japan worries that Russia's actions could embolden China and escalate tensions in the Asia Pacific region, and quickly joined the United States and Europe in imposing sanctions against Moscow.

Hayashi expressed "serious concern over the situation" in the East and South China seas, referring to increasingly assertive Chinese military actions there, as well as in Hong Kong and China's Xinjiang region, and stressed the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Tokyo is particularly worried about increased activity by Chinese coast guard and naval ships around Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands which Beijing also claims, and is promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific with the United States, Australia and

other democracies as a counter to China's rise in the region.

A statement from the Japanese Foreign Ministry included no reference to the Quad meeting or China's criticism of it. It also did not mention the United States or other countries.

Wang said Japan-U.S. cooperation should not provoke confrontation between camps or harm China's sovereignty, security and development interests, a Chinese statement said.

Referring to Japan's invasion of China last century, Wang said, "Our hope is that Japan will learn history's lessons, focus on regional peace and stability, proceed with caution, not pull others' chestnuts out of the fire and not be led astray by advantaging oneself at the expense of one's neighbor." MDT/AP

gregation who used an extension cord to tie him up until police arrived.

Cheng was the only one killed. Five others were wounded, including four men ages 66 to 92 and an 86-year-old woman.

Sheriff Don Barnes called Cheng's heroism "a meeting of good versus evil."

"Dr. Cheng's selfless love for others stopped a hate-filled act from claiming more lives beyond his own," Barnes said in a tweet.

DOCTOR SELFLESSNESS

Those who knew Cheng said that selflessness defined his life.

He started his practice by knocking on doors to introduce himself as the new family doctor in the area, said Johnna Gherardini, executive director of South Coast Medical Group. Cheng gave physicals to student athletes and then donated the money he was paid to Aliso Niguel High School.

Gherardini took kung fu with her daughter at Cheng's urging.

"He's always taught us how to protect ourselves," she said.

His patients remembered him as a concerned listener.

DIPLOMACY

Biden has an eye on China as he heads to South Korea, Japan

AAMER MADHANI
& JOSH BOAK, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden departs on a six-day trip to South Korea and Japan aiming to build rapport with the two nations' leaders while also sending an unmistakable message to China: Russia's faltering invasion of Ukraine should give Beijing pause about its "own saber-rattling in the Pacific."

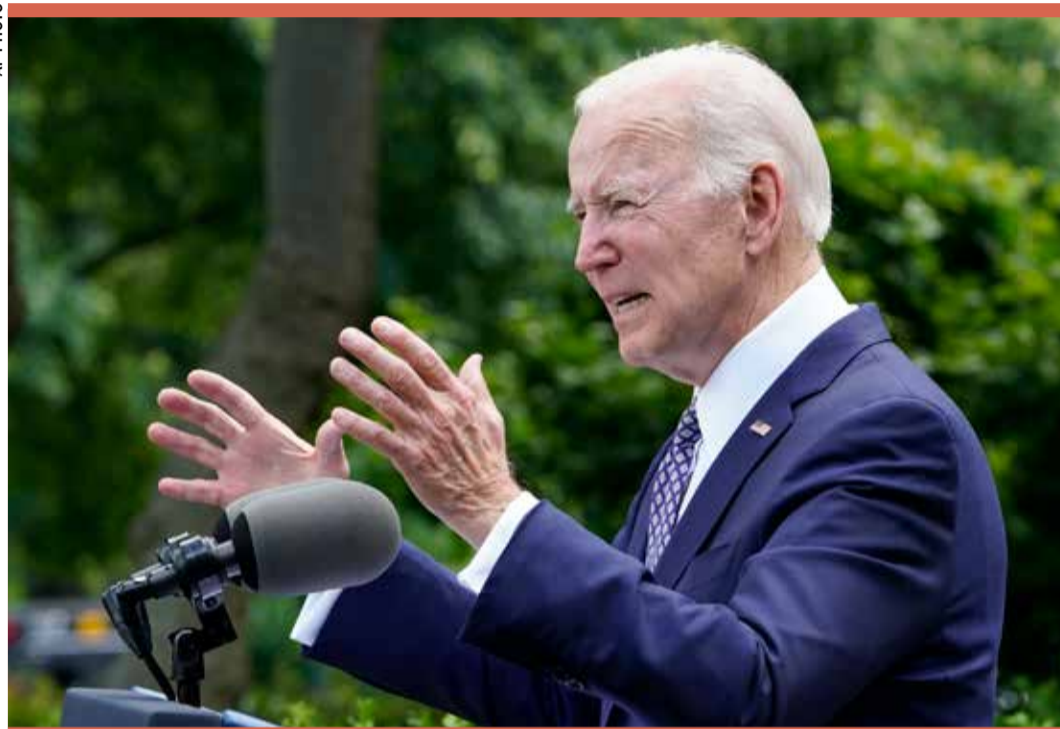
Biden departs today [Macau time] and is set to meet newly elected South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Their talks will touch on trade, increasing resilience in the global supply chain, growing concerns about North Korea's nuclear program and the explosive spread of COVID-19 in that country.

While in Japan, Biden will also meet with fellow leaders of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad, a group that includes Australia, India and Japan.

The U.S. under Biden has forged a united front with democratic allies that has combined their economic heft to make Russia pay a price for its invasion of Ukraine. That alliance includes South Korea and Japan. But even as Biden is to be feted by Yoon at a state dinner and hold intimate conversations with Kishida, the U.S. president knows those relationships need to be deepened if they're to serve as a counterweight to China's ambitions.

"We think this trip is going to put on full display President Biden's Indo-Pacific strategy and then it will show in living color, the United States can at once lead the free world in responding to Russia's war in Ukraine, and that at the same time chart a course for effective, principled American leadership and engagement in a region that will define much of the future of the 21st century," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

The war in eastern Europe has created a sense of urgency about China among major U.S. allies in the Pacific. Many have come to see the moment as their own existential crisis — one in which it's critical to show China it should not try to seize contested territory



through military action.

Biden's overseas travel comes as he faces strong domestic headwinds: an infant formula shortage, budget-busting inflation, a rising number of COVID-19 infections, and increasing impatience among a Democratic base bracing for a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that is likely to result in a roll back of abortion rights.

The conundrums Biden faces in Asia are no less daunting.

China's military assertiveness has grown over the course of Biden's presidency, with its provocative actions frequently putting the region on edge.

Last month, China held military drills around Taiwan after a group of U.S. lawmakers arrived for talks on the self-governed island. Late last year China stepped up sorties into Taiwan's air space. Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, but Beijing views Taiwan as a breakaway province and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve unification.

Japan has reported frequent intrusions by China's military vessels into Japanese territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. The uninhabited islets are controlled by Japan but claimed by China, which calls them Diaoyu.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday criticized what he called negative moves by Washington and Tokyo against Beijing during a video call with Japanese Foreign Minister

Yoshimasa Hayashi.

Meanwhile, South Korea could tilt closer to the U.S. under Yoon, who took office last week. The new South Korean president has criticized his predecessor as "subservient" to China by seeking to balance the relationships with Washington and Beijing. To neutralize North Korea's nuclear threats, Yoon has pledged to seek a stronger U.S. security commitment.

The Biden administration has warned China against assisting Russia in its war with Ukraine. In March, the U.S. informed Asian and European allies that American intelligence determined that China had signaled to Russia a willingness to provide military support and financial backing to reduce the blow of severe sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its allies.

Biden administration officials say that the Russian invasion has been a clarifying moment for some of the bigger powers in Asia as financial sanctions and export bans have been put in place to check Russia.

U.S. Ambassador Rahm Emanuel, Biden's top envoy to Japan, said the Japanese have stood out by rallying eight of 10 members of Association of Southeast Nations to back a U.N. vote against the Russian invasion.

"Japan has been a pacesetter that has picked up and set the pace for South Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and others here in the Indo Pacific area," Emanuel said of Tokyo's support of

Ukraine following the Russian invasion.

Biden, who is making his first presidential trip to Asia, met Kishida briefly on the sidelines of a U.N. climate conference last year shortly after the Japanese prime minister took office. He has yet to meet with Yoon face-to-face. The South Korean leader, a former prosecutor who came to office without political or foreign policy experience, was elected in a closely fought election.

Biden arrives in the midst of an unfolding crisis in North Korea, where a mass COVID-19 outbreak is spreading through its unvaccinated population. North Korea acknowledged domestic COVID-19 infections for the first time last week, ending a widely doubted claim it had been virus-free.

In recent months, North Korea has test-launched a spate of missiles in what experts see as an attempt to modernize its weapons and pressure its rivals to accept the country as a nuclear state and relax their sanctions.

Sullivan said U.S. intelligence officials have determined there's a "genuine possibility" that North Korea will conduct another ballistic missile test or nuclear test around the time of Biden's visit to Asia.

To be certain, China will also be carefully watching for "cracks in the relationship" during Biden's trip, said Scott Kennedy, a China economic analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1973 ROYAL NAVY MOVES TO PROTECT TRAWLERS



Britain has sent in Royal Navy ships to protect trawlers in the disputed Icelandic 50-mile zone as the so-called "cod war" escalates.

Three frigates - the Cleopatra, the Plymouth and the Lincoln - are sailing alongside the British trawlers now fishing in box formation.

The skippers had said they would not return to the seas without naval protection against Icelandic gunboats. They have been cruising the area since Iceland extended its fishing from three to 50 miles eight months ago.

He said the frigates, armed with light guns and rocket missiles, would take "appropriate action" if necessary.

The decision to send in the Navy was made three days ago by the Cabinet Defence and Overseas Policy Committee with the Prime Minister Edward Heath present.

The trawler owners and the skippers had disagreed over whether or not to accept naval assistance.

The trawler owners feared that the Royal Navy's presence would restrict fishing as happened some 13 years ago during the first cod war.

But they have since agreed to let the frigates accompany the fishing boats because three tugs - the Statesman, the Irishman and the Lloydsman - would also be present and allow the trawlers to fish more freely.

The Icelandic ambassador in London, Niel Sigurdsson, said last night he was "surprised and disappointed" by the move.

Last week, the British ambassador, Sir Ian MacKenzie, failed to get assurances from Iceland's prime minister, Olafur Johannesson, that its ships would stop threatening British trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Iceland has extended its territorial waters three times since the end of the 1950s to protect its fishermen and their main catch of Atlantic cod from foreign fleets.

On each occasion, Icelandic patrol boats trying to enforce the new limits clashed on the high seas with British trawlers and naval vessels.

This second cod war ended after the intervention of NATO with a two-year agreement limiting British trawlers to certain areas within the 50-mile limit.

Britain also agreed that its vessels would not catch more than 130,000 tonnes of fish a year. This agreement expired on 13 November 1975, when Iceland again extended its fishing to 200 miles (332km) and the third cod war began. Nato again helped negotiate an end to the dispute on 6 June 1976.

Britain was limited to using 24 trawlers within a 200-mile zone at any one time for an annual catch of up to 50,000 tonnes.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play hard to get. You can make some favorable changes to your looks.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. Someone left a real mess for you to sift through.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Don't get involved in other people's private doings. Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Entertain those who can provide you with valuable information and knowledge. Don't let your emotional partner upset you today. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You may get upset with peers or relatives. Friendships will be ruined if you let too many people get involved in any disputes. It's time you let your true feelings out.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your confidence will stabilize your position. Travel and family gatherings should be in order. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Don't get involved in joint ventures.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you address those in a position to grant you favors you should get the support you require. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing. Don't jump the gun; you may find yourself getting angry at the wrong person.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. Your ability to see other people's points of view will allow you to come to reasonable agreements.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Elders may need your help. Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. Take a look at yourself and prepare to make those changes you've been contemplating.

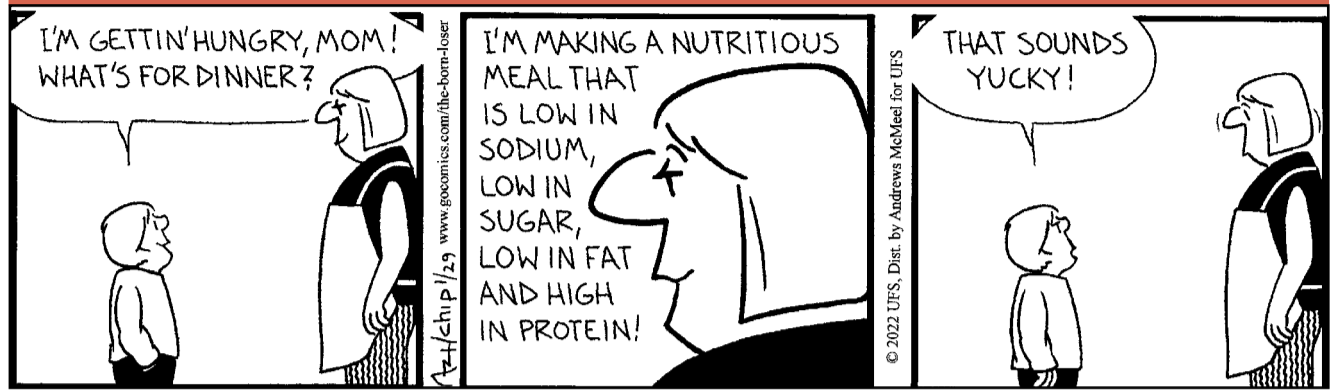


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Try to put your money away for a rainy day. You will be able to make financial gains. You are apt to meet someone special on your journey.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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			4					5
3	1	6						
7							4	
		2						
4					1		7	
5			8					
						2	3	

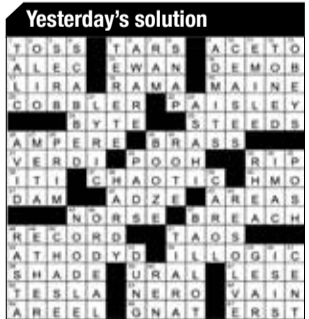
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	17	30	cloudy
Changchun	13	27	cloudy
Chengdu	15	23	overcast
Chongqing	17	24	overcast
Fuzhou	18	25	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	29	cloudy
Guiyang	14	18	showers
Haikou	21	29	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	22	overcast
Harbin	11	25	thunderstorms
Hefei	16	22	overcast
Nanjing	18	24	rain
Shanghai	17	23	overcast
Taipei	22	26	rain
Wuhan	17	19	rain
Hong Kong	22	26	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	3	13	rain
Frankfurt	11	31	showers
Paris	11	24	thunderstorm
London	11	18	rain
New York	18	24	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- OPEC member; 5- Lion sounds; 10- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 14- Fill to surfeit; 15- Mature; 16- Dodge model; 17- Not pro; 18- Washer cycle; 19- Emilia's husband; 20- Salve; 22- Fishes; 24- Golfer Sutton; 25- Mosque leader; 26- Drowsy; 29- Acted; 33- Eye drops; 34- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 36- Altar words; 37- High school subj.; 38- Unties; 39- Crosses (out); 40- Feel unwell; 41- Spare; 42- Topic; 44- Rollerblader's protector; 47- Places of contest; 48- Canceled; 49- D.C. VIP; 50- Saws; 53- Reservoir for sewage; 58- Stand; 59- Actress Berry; 61- French 101 verb; 62- Indigo; 63- Adored ones; 64- ___ Nostra; 65- Low in pitch; 66- For ___ sake!; 67- Greek island in the Aegean;

DOWN 1- Golfer Aoki; 2- Wife of a rajah; 3- Env. notation; 4- Nor's partner; 5- Seldom; 6- Thor's father; 7- Em, e.g.; 8- Literary monogram; 9- Soft-shell clams; 10- Riddle; 11- Actual; 12- Expensive seating area; 13- Slaughter of baseball; 21- Charts; 23- Slang negative; 25- Norwegian dramatist; 26- Meat; 27- Russian revolutionary leader; 28- Specimen of genus Aquila; 30- Female fox; 31- Accumulation of fluids; 32- Prescribed amounts; 34- Hives; 35- Neptune's domain; 38- Main vessel of a shipping line; 42- Very, in Versailles; 43- Domineer a husband; 45- Marx collaborator; 46- "The Bells" poet; 47- Evaluate; 50- Graceful horse; 51- Actress Merrill; 52- Garage sale sign; 53- Thicken; 54- Fashion mag; 55- Oklahoma Native; 56- Estimator's phrase; 57- Grazing sites; 60- Summer drink;



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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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

A LANDMARK NYC POLICE STANDOFF IN 'HOLD YOUR FIRE'

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

WHEN there are so many fictional, burly varieties of heroes so regularly on movie screens, it's jarring to see that the genuine article can be a humble, gaunt former traffic cop who believed in the power of talking.

Harvey Schlossberg, who had a doctorate in psychology, is one of the faces of Stefan Forbes' gripping and illuminating documentary "Hold Your Fire," which chronicles a 1973 robbery of a Brooklyn sporting goods store that turned into a hostage standoff that lasted 47 hours with throngs of observers and protesters huddled nearby beneath the elevated subway.

The scene is classically New York, with masses of police on the brink of a siege and a city simmering with tension and anger. If it sounds like something out of "Dog Day Afternoon," it was. The Brooklyn bank robbery that inspired Sidney Lumet's 1975 film had taken place the year before. All of this was in the aftermath of the Attica prison riots and other violent

AP PHOTO



A scene from "Hold Your Fire"

hostage standoffs like at the Munich Olympics.

By then, Schlossberg's belief that there was a better way to deescalate such high-pressure situations had hardened. Police officers, he realized, were trigger happy, ready to take out suspects if they had a shot. He wanted to change a culture that refused to negotiate with killers.

"But I don't think it works that

easy," Schlossberg says in the film. "That's a Hollywood thing."

"Hold Your Fire," which IFC Films opens in select theaters and via digital rental Friday, burrows into the real roots of an oft-replayed movie scenario with insight and care. The film, featuring both archive footage and present-day interviews, convincingly suggests that the 1973 standoff was a birthplace of hostage negotiation.

Given that peaceful resolution in police encounters remains such a contemporary issue, too, "Hold Your Fire" has the feeling a key battle revisited in a tragically long, ongoing conflict.

The incident started when four young African American men — Shuaib Raheem, Salih Abdullah, Dawud Rahman, and Yusef Al-mussidig — attempted to steal guns from John and Al's Sporting

Goods store in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Before they could flee, they were cornered by the NYPD and instead stayed put, taking hostages with them. In the shooting that followed, police officer Stephen Gilroy was shot and killed.

Police descended en masse around the sporting goods store.

"Hold Your Fire" is more than a tribute to Schlossberg, who died last year. Forbes cuts between interviews with both the robbers (all of whom were jailed for decades) and members of the police, creating not just a "Rashomon" of events but highlighting the tragic disconnect between the two sides. How much racism is at play is up for debate, but what isn't is that the overwhelmingly white police force has little understanding of the largely Black community it is policing.

As "Hold Your Fire" moves along, you can feel that all the talking in the film, too, has helped bring out everyone's shared humanity. There's one scene where a police officer watches a clip of one of the criminals speaking regretfully in an interview, and he seems to come away with a deeper empathy for him. "Hold Your Fire" is, itself, a testament to Schlossberg's gospel.

"Hold Your Fire," an IFC release, is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. Running time: 95 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

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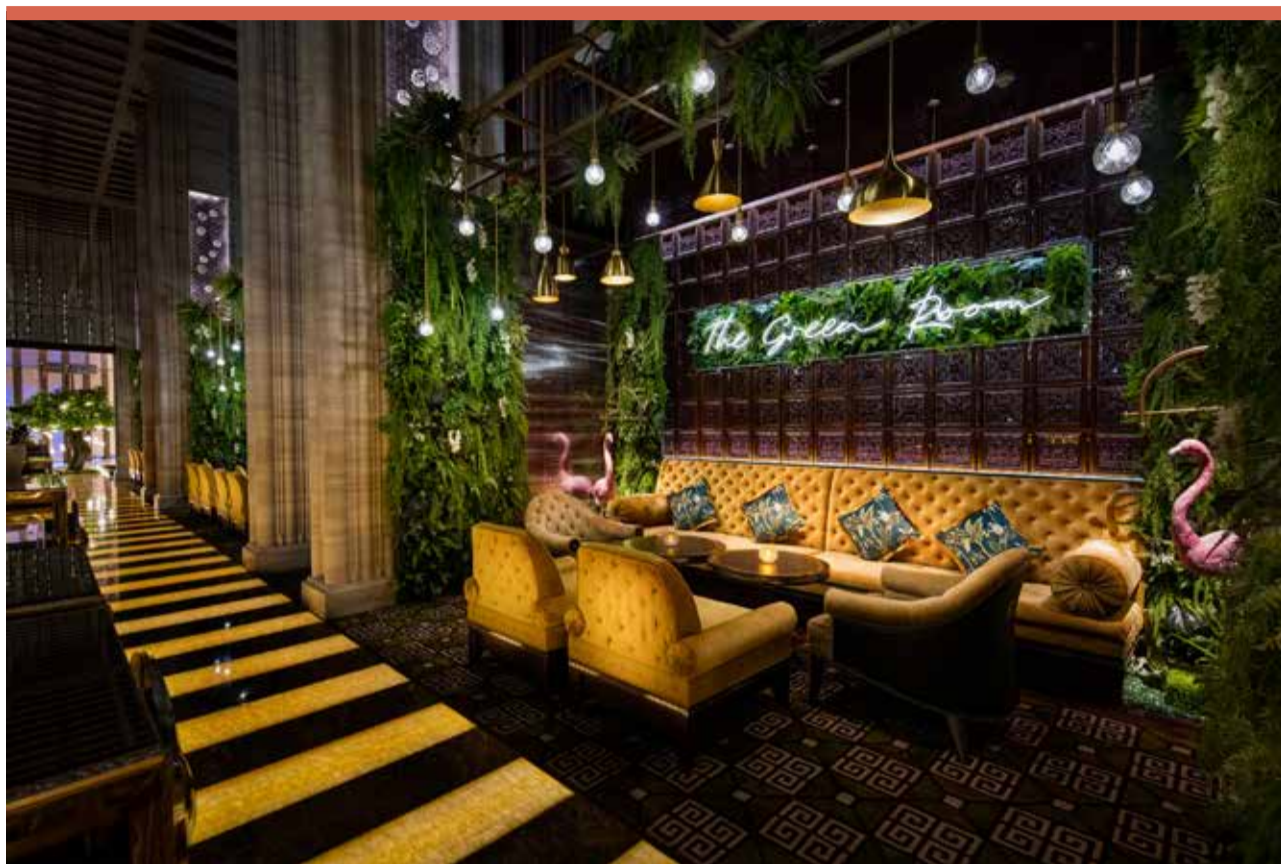
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TASTE OF EDESIA

Relax and go green

IRENE SAM, MDT

TO provide joy and a place to escape, **The Green Room at Vida Rica Bar, Mandarin Oriental, Macau** now has flamingos, peacocks and swans to keep guests company. A spring and summer 2022 pop-up concept, the room enables one to experience hand-crafted cocktails while savouring delectable dishes that are rich in flavours, yet simplistic by nature.

Explore the taste of M.E.C – Macau Fried Cauliflower, uniquely fried cauliflower popcorn served with yuzu, chili and lime, Meatballs made with chickpea mushrooms and the Green Room pizza topped with crispy kale, black olives, celeriac puree and butternut squash. For the seafood aficionados, relish in Tanga Clams, cooked in white wine sauce and parsley, Giant Crab Cake made with coriander and served with pineapple salsa and lastly, the Uni Spring Roll, a fried roll topped with gold leaves and salmon caviar.

Meanwhile, Executive Pastry Chef Sebastien Bernis and his team showcase four distinctive desserts on the menu highlighting the White Swans made with bourbon vanilla cream puff, The Stone Garden with elderflower mousse and strawberry marmalade, Roses are Red prettily presented in a bowl with rosewater cream and raspberry coulis and Flower Garden, an edible vase, petals and flower made out of chocolates.

During the weekend, the bar transforms into a garden where friends and family can get together. The Garden Tea Experience set is an interactive garden tea set filled with flowers and vegetables. Guests are encouraged to plant and harvest.

Head mixologist DC Liu invites everyone to enjoy handcrafted cocktails and mocktails. The Peacock, shaken with gin, rosemary, thyme, sage and tonic is the perfect refreshing cocktail to order while the Swan, a cocktail infused with gin, dill, bergamot, rhubarb and lime is light and tasty. For someone who prefers a sweeter cocktail, the Flamingo is made with vodka, lime, kaffir, orange blossom, sea salt and topped with whipped cream. Mocktails such as the Grass is Greener and Green Tonic are also available.



LIFESTYLE HENNESSY X NBA POP-UP

HENNESSY has partnered with Galaxy Macau to launch the Hennessy x NBA Pop-up, a basketball court and multiple characteristic themed area offering a variety of immersive experiences. Inspired by the spirit of the NBA, Hennessy has created a series of themed cocktails, combining fresh fruits with cognac. The Jumpshot Ginger delivers a unique and delicious ginger spice and The Slam Dunk infuses a kick of freshness into sweet and tropical notes. Apart from the pop-up, Hennessy and NBA also created an exciting dining experience. Whisky Bar at StarWorld Hotel, The Macallan Whisky Bar and Lounge, Surf Bar, and The Ritz-Carlton Bar and Lounge at Galaxy Macau will be offering a total of 9 special cocktails celebrating “the Spirit of the NBA.” Pak Loh Chiu Chow Restaurant and Feng Wei House will be launching special menus that pair signature dishes with Hennessy X.O and V.S.O.P, combining dining experiences with Hennessy’s smooth and sophisticated notes.



OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

SHAME ON SMEARERS OF DYNAMIC CLEARING POLICY

That the world has recovered from previous pandemics is by no means a reason that people should do nothing and simply wait for the current pandemic to run its course. It should not be forgotten that people did what they could to save lives during previous pandemics despite their lack of medical know-how and the means. So why are so many countries today throwing in the towel when they still can fight against the novel coronavirus that is killing thousands of people a day?

In many Western countries, where the disease is portrayed as a one-week self-healable sickness, it is the limitations inherent in their systems that fundamentally serve the interests of the rich that have prompted governments to quit the fight in defeat, since it is the poor and other vulnerable groups that pay the price for surrender to the virus.

These governments have brainwashed the poor and vulnerable into believing that death due to COVID-19 is a lottery governed by nature's survival-of-the-fittest law.

While the pandemic's death toll in countries such as the United States continues to tick higher, one life after another, the wealth of the rich has increased exponentially.

The rich don't want any constraints on their wealth streams no matter the cost in lives.

The pandemic should have provided the Western politicians with an opportunity to demonstrate the social fairness and justice that they take pride in boasting of by tilting more resources from the rich to take care of the poor. But instead it has done the opposite.

Statistics show that among the top 20 countries that have the highest COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population 14 are Western countries that are the most developed and richest in the world. This is not coincidental. The pandemic has revealed how polarized these developed countries have become following the rich-take-all rule.

To whitewash this, some Western politicians have been pooling their efforts to denigrate China's effective life-saving dynamic clearing policy as authoritarian and inhuman.

If China had a pandemic mortality rate in line even with the average of the other four BRICS countries — Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa — which are at a similar development stage, the novel coronavirus would have claimed 2.7 million lives on the Chinese mainland so far. Instead, the figure is about 5,200, as of the middle of this month. With nearly one-fifth of the world's population, it only accounts for 0.08 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths, and its COVID-19 mortality rate ranks third last among all countries and regions.

It is China's virus prevention and control policy that truly puts people's well-being first, not the richer-get-richer pandemic policies of the West.

WHO CLEARS CHINA'S CANSINO COVID VACCINE FOR EMERGENCY USE

THE BUZZ

The World Health Organization said last night that it has granted an emergency use authorization for the coronavirus vaccine made by China's CanSino Biologics, the 11th such shot to receive the green light.

The U.N. health agency said the single-dose CanSino vaccine was found to be about 92% effective against severe COVID-19 and 64% effective in preventing people from getting symptoms of the disease. WHO's expert vaccine group recommended the vaccine for everyone age 18 and over.

The CanSino vaccine uses a harmless virus called an adenovirus to

deliver the spike protein of the coronavirus into the body, which then prompts an immune response. The technology is similar to vaccines made by Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca, which use different adenoviruses.

WHO's authorization of CanSino means that the U.N.-backed COVAX effort to distribute vaccines to poor countries can now purchase and deliver vaccines made by the Chinese company. Last year, COVAX signed a deal to buy more than half a billion Chinese vaccines made by Sinopharm and Sinovac.



The President of the Bundesbank, Joachim Nagel (left) and German Finance Minister Christian Lindner (right) welcome the Finance Minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR IMPACT DRAWS FOCUS OF G7 FINANCE LEADERS

FATIMA HUSSEIN & FRANK JORDANS, KOENIGSWINTER

FINANCE ministers for the Group of Seven leading economies on Thursday will deal with the immediate effects of Russia's war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic, overtaking their more ambitious plans to reform the global economy.

A refugee crisis, high inflation, food insecurity exacerbated by the war and climate change, and the ramifications of a multiyear pandemic are just a few issues drawing leaders' attention.

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, the meeting's host, said he's hopeful the world's leading democracies can agree on further funding for Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia.

Lindner told reporters ahead of the G-7 finance ministers meeting in Koenigswinter, Germany, that Ukraine will likely need "a number of double-digit billion euros" over the coming months.

"I'm quite optimistic that we will be able at this G-7 meeting to raise the funding, which allows Ukraine to defend itself over the next mon-

ths," he said.

Food insecurity has been a major topic of discussion even before the meeting began. Yesterday [Macau time], the U.S. and other officials rolled out a multibillion-dollar plan to address that danger facing an increasingly fragile world economy. The U.S., several global development banks and other groups collaborated on the effort.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has produced a sharp increase in food and energy prices that is contributing to a slowdown in growth and threatening global stagflation — when inflation and unemployment are high and economic output is low.

The two countries are huge exporters of wheat, barley and sunflower oil, with interrupted food and fertilizer supplies raising already high prices and threatening food insecurity in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that "the economic outlook globally is challenging and uncertain," and that "higher food and energy prices are having stagflationary effects, namely

depressing output and spending and raising inflation all around the world."

The State Department says as many as 40 million are projected to be pushed into poverty and food insecurity by the end of the year.

Yellen said the U.S. is committed to holding Russia accountable and called for implementation of an international tax plan signed by more than 130 countries last October. Congressional gridlock in the U.S. will render that ambition difficult to achieve for Yellen, at least domestically.

Finance ministers also plan to talk about efforts to get China to ease debt pressure on poor countries it has loaned money to.

"The situation of the low-income states poses a risk for global food security and the stability of the international financial system," Lindner said.

"I remind China of its responsibility for this security situation," he added. "We need more transparency when it comes to global debt issues and for sure, this is a topic of this meeting too." **MDT/AP**

Turkey's president emphasized his opposition to Sweden and Finland joining NATO, stating Ankara would say "no" to their bid. Speaking to a group of Turkish youth, Erdogan accused the two countries — and especially Sweden — of being "a focus of terror, home to terror." The video of their conversation was released yesterday. Erdogan's objection to Sweden and Finland stems from Turkey's grievances with Stockholm's — and to a lesser degree with Helsinki's — perceived support to the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party.

USA The Department of Homeland Security paused a new and controversial board's work on disinformation and accepted the resignation of its leader, capping weeks of concerns about impinging on free speech rights and frenzied conspiracy theories about the board itself. Former Disinformation Governance Board director Nina Jankowicz said that the wave of attacks and violent threats she's fielded since the board's launch will not stop her from speaking out about disinformation campaigns pulsing through the social media feeds of Americans. [More on macaudailytimes.com](https://www.macaudailytimes.com)

USA Prosecutors are widening their case over alleged schemes to stalk and harass Chinese dissidents in the United States, including seeking to derail the election bid of a little-known congressional candidate. An indictment in New York announced yesterday named four new defendants in the probe, all described as agents for China's Ministry of State Security. All are presumed to be in China. The document also formally charged Shujun Wang, 73, a U.S. citizen and New York City resident.



Czechia Prague's zoo has introduced a pair of critically endangered Chinese pangolins to the public. It is only the second animal park on the European continent to have the animals. The arrival of the rare acquisition from Taiwan follows a political fallout with China that prevented the expected arrival of a pair of giant pandas. Guo Bao, the male pangolin, and Run Hou Tang, the female, came from the Taipei zoo, the leading breeder of the mammals that are hunted heavily for their scales and meat.