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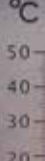
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**A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY A LOCAL ASSOCIATION SHOWS THAT NEARLY 80% OF LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CITY'S VACCINATION PROGRAM** P4

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**CHINA FIGHTS BRUSH FIRES, EXTENDS POWER RATIONING IN DROUGHT** P7 

AP PHOTO



**Singapore's** decision yesterday to decriminalize sex between men is being hailed as a step in the right direction for LGBTQ rights in the Asia-Pacific region, a vast area of nearly 5 billion people with different laws and attitudes. Although many places have decriminalized sexual acts between people of the same sex, only a few allow same-sex marriage, partnerships or unions. Singapore tempered its decision by saying it will amend its constitution to prevent such unions from ever taking place.

AP PHOTO



**Iraq** A landslide collapsed the ceiling of a Shiite shrine in central Iraq over the weekend and killed at least seven people, including a child, officials said yesterday as rescuers continued to search for survivors. The landslide struck Qattarat al-Imam Ali shrine near the holy city of Karbala, about 80 kilometers south of Baghdad, on Saturday.

AP PHOTO



**Israel's** Supreme Court has rejected an appeal to release a Palestinian detainee who has been on a hunger strike for several months to protest his detention without charge. Khalil Awawdeh, 40, is protesting being jailed without charge or trial under what Israel refers to as administrative detention. His family says he has been on a hunger strike for 170 days, subsisting only on water.

More on backpage



**NATIONAL SECURITY**

# MACAU LAW IS 'LOCAL AND TAILORED': GOV'T

 P2-3

**TOURISM**

# SECTOR HOPES FOR REBOUND AMID STAFF SHORTAGE



# TYPHOON MA-ON SMG MAY HOIST T1 TONIGHT

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) expects tropical storm Ma-on, which is over the ocean east of Luzon, to enter within 800 km of Macau tonight. A tropical cyclone signal will be issued then. Ma-on is expected to gradually intensify in the following few days, the bureau warned. It will approach the coast of Guangdong between tonight and tomorrow and is expected to pose "considerable threat to the Pearl River Delta."

Local wind will strengthen with heavy squally showers and thunderstorm. However, its forecast path and intensity, particularly its landfall location, are still uncertain. The impact of storm surge is still being assessed, according to SMG.

The SMG is monitoring the development of the tropical storm, and has requested residents to be alert to the latest weather updates from the bureau.

The National Meteorological Center, meanwhile said the tropical storm is expected to enter the northeastern part of the South China Sea in the early morning of today, and make landfall on the coast of the neighboring province tomorrow.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the tropical storm will move westerly and closer to Hong Kong tomorrow, to within 100 kilometers.

Also, the Hong Kong Observatory expects that the tropical cyclone level tomorrow would be upgraded from "tropical storm" to "severe tropical storm."

RENATO MARQUES



Chang Cheong

## NATIONAL SECURITY

# Macau law is local and tailored, not an imposition like in Hong Kong

RENATO MARQUES

**M**ACAU'S law on national security is a specific law produced locally and takes into account the reality and distinctiveness of the territory, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said yesterday morning during a press conference to launch the Public Consultation on the new regime.

In a reply to a media inquiry, Wong noted that the local law on national security, although it has been inspired by both national and Hong Kong regional legislation, is a different law when compared to those and, contrary to the one in force in the neighboring Special Administrative Region (SAR), is a specific law produced and tailored by the Macau Special Administrative Regions and not a law stipulated by the State.

"The national laws from the country and the HKSAR law [on the matter] were important references but, in Macau, we are fra-

ming our own law and taking into account our particularities as well as our legal framework. There are many differences in several aspects like in the typification of crimes but the most important difference is that this is our law while in Hong Kong the law has been stipulated by the State," Wong said. "Our law is a basic law, the main law [that interlinks all the others legal regimes] and this is also a very significant difference as it is not a detached law," he said

Earlier, an advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Security, Chang Cheong had explained that the government had taken into account five main guiding aspects for the law revision, including the clarification of the importance of this law in the hierarchy of the laws of Macau; perfecting crimes typification; establishing a new and separate procedural system; increasing protection against external interventions; and ensuring the legitimate rights and interests of the population.

Chang reaffirmed that these guidelines aim at implementing the general concept of national security, increasing the constitutional responsibility in defense of the State, preventing and punishing globally crimes against the State, as well as preventing and repressing external interventions to defend the sovereignty, security, and interests of the State and, consequently, the prosperity and stability of Macau.

### AMENDMENTS WITH TAIWAN AND HK IN MIND

The social instability observed in the neighboring region of Hong Kong in the last few years and the recent visit of the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan, was not only mentioned during the press conference by several officials, including the Secretary for Security as "examples of situations to prevent in Macau," but are also well embedded in the spirit of the legal intention of the amendments to be made.

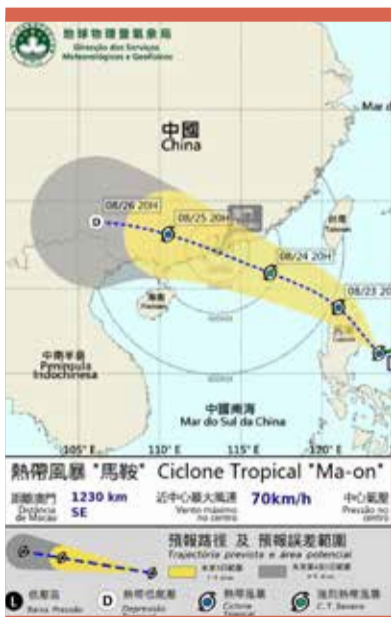
Nonetheless, officials made

clear, citing several examples, that there are many countries in the world and particularly in Europe, possessing similar regulations and legal provisions as the ones the local government wishes to promote.

Among the most highlighted changes are the amendments to several crime definitions to expand their scope.

Changes are proposed for the amendment of the crime of secession that would include not only the use of "violent or illicit methods" but also include all others, even if not violent that aim at the "destruction of State unification."

Almost paraphrasing recent statements from Liu Xianfa, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macau, Wong said, "To exist, the 'one country, two systems' principle, the 'one country' needs to exist first," noting that such principle on unification and the defense of that unification has priority over any other law or rule.



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Wong Sio Chak

Another important change proposed has to do with the crime of subversion, which is proposed in the new text to move from "Subversion against the central popular government" to "Subversion against the political power of the State."

As explained, the goal is to include all the bodies of the central political power. As in the crime of secession, the new definition of the crime of subversion also includes non-violent illicit methods. When questioned on the matter, Chang explained that these can include the instigation of protests as well as other actions that fall under the provisions related to cybersecurity, that is, via the internet.

The same applies to the crime of sedition which is also proposed to include the crime of inciting others to the practice of acts of rebellion.

The violation of State secrets is also a crime with a broader scope, with a proposed aggravation of the crime for the act itself and then for a second crime that relates to the damages potentially caused. On this crime, it is also proposed that the application should not be limited to those revealing confidential information due to their rank and position but to anyone who may potentially become aware of this secret information.

On this topic, the Secretary was also questioned as to how a person could know if a piece of information is a state secret, if the concept of what is a state secret is not defined in the law.

To the question, Wong replied that such a definition will be clarified at a later stage in a future law solely dedicated to "Secrecy."

#### RESTRICTION ON LEAVING MACAU FOR A MAXIMUM OF 5 DAYS

Another novelty of the law is the potential application of a restriction measure applying in Macau to anyone who might be considered a

suspect in a case involving national security matters.

As the Secretary explained, the measure is temporary and aims to prevent the suspect from leaving Macau and ensuring that he cooperates with the investigation of evidence collection.

Wong noted that the proposal is that this temporary restriction has a validity of three days that could be extended for another two, to a maximum of five, while noting that other countries and regions have restrictions of the same kind that can extend to over one year.

"This is to prevent a person from leaving before a judge can analyze the case and decide on the preventive measures to apply to this person. Other places use this system, such as Singapore. This is just to give enough time so the police and judiciary authorities can carry out their work," Wong said advancing that in Hong Kong, this restriction could reach a maximum of nine months, while in the UK or Australia it could extend up to one year.

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FROM ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

The new law proposal also provides that by order of the Secretary

for Security, organizations and individual people may have to disclose personal information related to "suspected activities and assets," a provision that, as Chang mentioned, does not apply to those entities that enjoy some privileged status or diplomatic immunity.

Questioned on the topic, the officials explained that once again the measures are in line with international practices, and aim to prevent intervention by external forces.

"Under current law, we also have some provisions on this matter. So, it is not completely new. What we are doing now is to try to clarify this topic a little better," Wong said, adding, "If the entities or people involved do not cooperate, they incur the crime of disobedience or aggravated disobedience."

On the same topic, Chang further explained that it is the Judiciary Police which has the competence to request the information after an order from the Secretary.

Wong also said that such power is held by the Secretary for Security and not a judge, and that in Hong Kong the Security chief has a similar duty; similarly in the USA or Australia the Ministry of Defense has such competence.

## WONG SIO CHAK HOPES NO NEED TO PROSECUTE UNDER THE LAW

**SECRETARY** for Security Wong Sio Chak hopes that there is no need to make use of the provision of the national security law to prosecute anyone in Macau, he replied to media inquiries. Wong said that he hopes that this law will have a "deterrent effect" and that after the approval and enforcement no one will be prosecuted for breaching its provisions, he said. "We have seen that in Hong Kong, after the implementation

of the law, there was a return to stability. This is why we believe that this law is important for progress and not to prevent development," Wong said, adding, "Ideally, we would prefer not to apply [prosecute under] this law but because no illegalities are happening and not due to the non-operationality of the law," he said. He hinted that in the past, there were breaches to the law but it was not possible to prosecute them adequately.

# Public consultation on national security to last 45 days, bill ready by November

RENATO MARQUES

**L**AUNCHED yesterday and with a duration of 45 days from August 22 to October 5, the Public Consultation of the national security law aims to collect opinions from different sectors and the public in general, to gather the consensus of the society, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said in his presentation speech.

The law, which he indicated will become the "most important law of Macau," aims to put an end to the "many threats and new challenges presented" to ensure the stability of the region.

As the Secretary also mentioned, the goal is to promote a thorough review to "Solve all problems of the current detached laws."

Wong also said in reply to media questioning, that after the public consultation closes on October 5, he expects to have the final report and amendments ready in less than one month, so the final version of the proposal can be sent to the Legislative Assembly "tentatively by November this year."

The bill proposes that the law enters into force on the day following its publication, which could potentially happen early next year.

Mentioning explicitly the vi-

sit of the speaker of the United States House of Representatives to Taiwan, an advisor to the Office of Wong, Chang Cheong highlighted that the law aims to tackle threats of "this kind" that can "intensify in the future due to the international environment."

The law aims to put Macau on the same level in matters concerning the defense of the State as the Mainland and Hong Kong, Chang also said.

Opinions can be sent by postal mail to the Judiciary Police (PJ) or submitted online on the web pages of the PJ or the Office of the Secretary for Security.

The Public Consultation on the law also includes five sectorial sessions and three open sessions to take place this month and in September.

During a press conference held yesterday at his Office, the Secretary was questioned on the potential relation between this new law and both the disqualification of some candidates from last year's Legislative Assembly elections and the new Gaming law.

He replied that there is no relation with either, as the first is a matter related to "eligibility" of candidates and, as for the second, the new law already includes provisions regarding compliance with national security regulations.



RENATO MARQUES

# TOURISM SECTOR HOPES FOR REBOUND AMID STAFF SHORTAGE

STAFF REPORTER

WITH the resuming of quarantine-free travel between Macau and Zhuhai, the travel sector is confident that it would see color in visitor arrivals during the next several months.

"Lots of activities and bigger exhibition activities will be held in the second half of the year; we believe the number of visitors will resume gradually with a more stable pandemic," said Wong Fai, president of Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association and Travel Industry Council of Macau.

On Saturday, the number of visitors arriving in Macau was recorded as nearly 17,000, the highest daily visitor record since the resumption of quarantine-free visit to Zhuhai in early August, according to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

Between August 12 and 18, Macau received a total of 81,798 visitors, a daily average of 11,685, representing an increase of 56% compared to the daily average of 7,490 visitors between August 5 and 11, and a further 3,609% higher than the daily average (315) in July, albeit coming from a low base.

However, according to Wong, they have received information that the mainland authorities are "stricter about [issuing] individual tourist visas to Macau," Wong said, as cited in a TDM report.

Back in May, a note from Brokerage Bernstein stated that their "latest channel checks have indi-



cated that frequent gamblers to Macau have seen visa issuance denied by China immigration offices."

Meanwhile, Wong said that travelers hope authorities could resume group travel to Macau and extend the valid period of nucleic acid test (NAT) between Macau and mainland to seven days.

Group visas are currently still halted since the onset of the Co-

vid-19 pandemic in 2020.

However, Macao Tourist Guides Union (MTGU) president Lei Man Hou said that the level of number of visitors in the second half of 2022 will probably not reach the number of visitors in pre-pandemic levels, even if the pandemic is stable.

"Many tourist guides have changed careers to part-time food delivery or other essential jobs, so

the [lack of employees in the sector] is serious," Lei pointed out.

According to Lei, there were around 1,000 tourist guides before the pandemic, of which over 70% were aged 40 years or above. In addition, fewer people are applying for jobs in the travel industry because there have been no visitors traveling to Macau during the pandemic, and no need of foreign language tour guides either.

According to statistics from the second quarter of 2022 published by Statistics and Census Service of Macau (DSEC), the number of visitors arriving in Macau totaled 1,588,260 in the second quarter, representing a decrease of 27.5% year-to-year. The number of visitors joining local tour groups in the second quarter declined by 70.8% year-to-year to 6,393, and the number of local tour visitors fell by 35.8%.

Lei suggests the authorities launch more training courses for tourist guides. It is believed that around 700 to 800 tourist guides will choose to work for the industry again with the resumption of the tourist industry.

Director of the MGTO, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, also proposed that the authorities try using the online program "cloud-travel" to stimulate the local travel industry. This program could include proposals that the authorities encourage the Hong Kong travel industry to promote attractions of Macau.

A local tourist guide, who has worked for the travel industry over 10 years, agreed about the benefits of the online program for the MGTO.

"The direction of the online program is good, but it needs cooperation with relevant training courses and the formation of group teams," said Ding Fang, the local tourist guide.

The guide added that since the age range of local tourist guides is older, there was a possible difficulty for them to try such a web-based training system.

The tourist guide, who requested anonymity, also suggests the government subsidize tourist guides joining the training.

# Survey: Nearly 80% 'hold positive attitude' to city's vaccination program

STAFF REPORTER

A survey conducted by a local association shows that nearly 80% of local residents have a positive attitude towards the city's vaccination program.

The Macao Health Promotion Association held a "questionnaire on knowledge, attitudes and behavior of Macau residents towards receiving Covid-19 vaccine" from April 27 to May 6, with a total of 1,158 respondents.

According to the survey results disclosed in a press conference, 76.17% respondents maintain a positive attitude to receiving vaccination, and 90.93% respondents have had the first

dose of vaccination already.

The main reason for people to accept vaccination is an appeal or encouragement from the government and employers, while 40.46% respondents have a sense of responsibility to protect themselves, families or people around them.

Among those who have not been vaccinated (over 20% of the total sample), 93.33% respondents say they "do not understand the [effects of] vaccination," while 78.10% respondents are worried about the safety, side effects, sequelae or death due to the vaccination.

However, the majority of the respondents have also

not allowed the vaccination of their children.

According to the association, an awareness of self-protection for residents still need to be strengthened.

For the association, the questionnaire suggests for the government to strictly supervise and maintain the authenticity and legitimacy of the information and communication environment, to prevent the spread of false information making a bigger impact on the public. Another proposal was to make good use of the new coronavirus vaccine information page, so the public can receive the most authentic and up to date in-

formation.

Gaming operators have formerly launched measures to encourage employees to receive vaccination, and thereby increase the vaccination rate in Macau.

These include the application for special leave and accompanying leave for employees' children to receive vaccinations.

Meanwhile, the association also hopes that the government and all sectors of society continue to optimize pre-vaccination health assessment services and psychological counseling services, provide more leisure and entertainment spaces for the public to release stress, and hold more



themed activities.

Currently, the city's vaccination rate is around 90%.

Earlier this month, a second booster shot was made available by the government.

The second booster jab is recommended for the elderly (60 years old and above) and those who have

a compromised immune system due to chronic medical conditions or other diseases.

Authorities have appealed to these groups and in particular those living in aged care facilities to get vaccinated to prevent severe complications or death from the disease.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## THE VENETIAN MACAO TURNS 15



# WORLD-CLASS MICE AND ENTERTAINMENT

## PART 2: MAKING MACAU A REGIONAL HOTSPOT FOR BUSINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

For 15 years now, **The Venetian Macao** has been reaching ever-higher levels of excellence as a member of the Macau community. In this five-part series, Sands China gives us a closer look at what this leader in integrated resorts has been doing in the areas of **talent development, economic diversification, tourism, local procurement, and corporate social responsibility.**

As the founder of Sands China, Sheldon Adelson's contributions to Macau's tourism industry are well known, beginning with **Sands Macao** in 2004 and **The Venetian Macao** in 2007 – both game-changing and the latter instantly becoming an iconic Macau landmark, paving the way for Cotai's other integrated resorts and the development of Macau into a world center of tourism and leisure. Soon after came the opening of the Four Seasons and The Plaza Macao, which was followed by Sands Cotai Central (now The Londoner Macao), and The Parisian Macao.

### A MICE JUGGERNAUT

The Venetian Macao's **Cotai Expo** revolutionized Macau's small-scale MICE industry, transforming it into today's powerhouse conventions and exhibitions destination – one of the largest facilities in Asia. Together with its sister Cotai Strip resorts – The Parisian Macao and The Londoner Macao – Sands China offers 1.7 million sq ft of MICE space, nearly 12 times the 2005 figure and representing 85% of the combined MICE space of all six integrated resort operators in Macau.

We have hosted conferences of over 10,000 participants for major multinationals like Herbalife, Jeunesse, and Tupperware. MICE attendees in Macao have shot up from 38,000 in 2002 to 2 million in 2019, a 53-fold increase.

In 2022, we launched Macau's first hybrid broadcast space, the **Smart Stage**, at The Londoner Macao, in preparation for the return of regional and international MICE events to the city. The sophisticated "extended reality" (XR) studio offers professional broadcast quality live-streaming capability and hologram functionality, allowing presenters to interact with real-time visual markers to deliver a more authentic experience.

### WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

For superstar music and sports performances and more, the six theatres and arenas of various sizes under Sands China – comprising more than 26,000 seats – have held over 610 events, attracting an audience of more than 4.6 million since 2007.

The Venetian Macao is home to Sands China's flagship entertainment venue, the 15,000-seat **Cotai Arena** – one of the most popular exhibition venues in South China region. It has played host to shows by some of the world's most famous stars since its opening in 2007. Headliners have included the Rolling Stones, Eason Chan, Lady Gaga, Jacky Cheung, and many others. The venue has also hosted a number of high-profile sporting events, such as boxing matches featuring the world-famous Manny Pacquiao and Zou Shiming, and tennis and basketball exhibition matches and clinics featuring legends of the game.

### SPORTS TOURISM

Since 2007, Sands China has been supporting the development of local sports and promoting the

integration of sports and tourism by introducing various large-scale international sports events to Macau by hosting or sponsoring diverse sporting events. We have held outreach activities such as training camps and community activities for the community to maximize these events' positive social influence.

Most recently, Sands China contributed MOP 8 million for the title sponsorship of the 2021 Sands China Macao International 10K jointly organized by the Sports Bureau and the General Association of Athletics of Macau. The first of its kind in the city, the event aimed at promoting the recovery and development of local tourism and economy while also encouraging the public to engage in sports.

### TOURISM + ART

Sands China has brought a wide spectrum of art and cultural events to the city, in order to provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, nurture local art talent, and to let locals and visitors enjoy a true diversity of integrated resort experiences. The company has been a dynamic supporter of the Inter-

national Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA Awards), the Asian Film Awards, and the Huading Awards, among others.

Sands China is glad to share its resources with the Macau community. As one of the initiatives supporting local art and cultural development, our company has offered an array of free-of-charge venues and technical support to different types of performance troupes and to the Cultural Affairs Bureau for events such as the Macao International Music Festival and the Macao Arts Festival.

The company's new **Sands Gallery** opened in February this year as a permanent art space on the 6th floor of The Grand Suites at Four Seasons, where it provides an opportunity for guests to explore an ever-changing variety of art exhibitions. The gallery was born out of Sands China's desire to help cultivate an environment that nurtures creativity and art appreciation in Macau. It also aims to support the development of art and culture and to bring a greater diversity of experiences to the city, while promoting and encouraging professional artists in Macau and across the region.

From Sands Macao and The Venetian Macao to The Parisian Macao and The Londoner Macao – Sands China's success and the success of Macau have gone hand-in-hand. For more than a decade, Sands China has invested in helping the integrated resort industry thrive and grow, contributing to the development of local enterprises along the way.

In celebrating 15 years of The Venetian Macao, we look forward to continuing our tradition of providing excellence in all areas, from community support to entertainment, accommodation, shopping and more.

**Be sure to check back in next Wednesday when we examine what The Venetian Macao has been doing to help it excel in the area of retail, dining, and family-friendly offerings.**



Alan Ho

"Sands China, as the largest operator of convention and exhibition venues in Macau, plays an important role in promoting the internationalization, specialization and branding of Macau's convention and exhibition industry. I still remember when the professional team at Sands China responded quickly when a Typhoon Signal No. 8 was raised during the 2016 MIF, and the event was held successfully."

President of Macao Association of Convention, Exhibition & Tourism Sectors



Irwin Poon

"The Venetian Macao took Macau's convention and exhibition industry to a new level. The opening of Cotai Expo attracted a number of large-scale international convention and exhibition events, which helped enhance the international reputation of Macau's convention and exhibition industry. It has also provided the industry with advanced and large-capacity conference and exhibition space and one-stop services."

President of Macau Convention and Exhibition Association



Caroline Kat

"The opening of The Venetian Macao has driven the vigorous development of the entertainment industry in Macau. No matter whether an Asian or international superstar, if the world tour has a Macau stop, the Cotai Arena will inevitably be chosen as the performance venue. The Venetian Macao has rewritten the history of Macau's entertainment market."

Director of Business Development, Entertainment, Sands China Ltd.



Paulina Che

"Fifteen years ago, Macau's convention and exhibition industry was still in its infancy and not in line with international standards. Generally, only small conferences and trade fairs were held. But since the opening of Cotai Expo, with its professional exhibition facilities and personnel, I've witnessed the company take Macau's convention and exhibition industry to a new level."

Vice President of Conventions and Exhibitions, Sands China Ltd.

GAMING

# MGM CHINA TO INJECT USD594M FOR LOCAL UNIT AHEAD OF LICENSE BID

LYNZY VALLES

MGM China is set to pump USD594 million into its Macau casino operator as the company prepares to bid for a new license amid the law overhaul.

In the city's biggest gaming reform, the amended law requires a share capital of MOP5 billion "in order to ensure sufficient financial capacity."

The injection, therefore, set the stage for a rebidding process for licenses as gaming concessions are slated to expire at the end of December, following a six-month extension after all six operators paid at least MOP47 million.

In a Hong Kong stock exchange filing Sunday, it noted that if MGM Grand Paradise gets its new license, Pansy Ho will serve as managing director of the unit for the entire term of the license with an annual salary of USD8 million.

The daughter of late casino tycoon Stanley Ho will also be entitled to incentive payments of up to USD95 million over the



AP PHOTO

license term, based on MGM Grand Paradise's earnings.

MGM China also said it would

transfer 730,000 Class B shares to Pansy Ho to meet the new capital requirement.

The revised law requires executive directors who are Macau permanent residents to hold at

least 15% of the share capital of the license holder, up from 10%.

MGM China, along with the other five operators, have been bleeding millions of dollars of cash each day as the city continues to face tourism and economic turmoil.

Public health policies remain in a commercial headwind in the region as arrivals into Macau have been severely limited.

During the first half of 2022, the gaming operator recorded a total revenue of approximately HKD3.2 billion, compared to HKD4.7 billion in the same period a year ago.

Since January, the city's big six have racked up losses as high as USD2 billion as the city adheres to a zero-Covid strategy which requires the border to remain closed to foreign arrivals.

All gaming operators have expressed intent to submit their proposals for the license bid amid revenue losses of up to 50% in the second quarter.

For the gaming operator, the idea of a significant investment would have to be something they understand and consider, noting that the government wants bids to include corporate social responsibility, employment and job opportunities.

MGM China has also expressed that "sports and entertainment is a big push."

AD

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CLIMATE CHANGE

# China fights brush fires, extends power rationing in drought

**B**rush fires have forced the evacuation of more than 1,500 people in southwest China and power rationing for factories has reportedly been extended as weeks of record heat and drought batter the region.

Some shopping malls in the megacity of Chongqing have been ordered closed for most of the day to reduce electricity demand, state broadcaster CCTV said, limiting opening hours to 4 to 9 p.m.

The drought and heat have wilted crops and caused rivers including the giant Yangtze to shrink, disrupting cargo traffic and reducing power supply from hydroelectric dams at a time of soaring demand for air conditioning. State media say the government will try to protect the autumn grain harvest, which is 75% of China's annual total, by shooting chemicals into clouds to try to generate rain.

There was no public announcement of the extension of power rationing in Sichuan province into a second week, but it was detailed in a company statement and a government notice to companies that was reported by Chinese news outlets.

The "tense situation" of power supplies in Sichuan province "has



A man stands in shallow water near the dry riverbed of the Yangtze River in southwestern China's Chongqing Municipality

further intensified," Tencent News said yesterday in a report that included a photo of the government notice.

LIER Chemical Co. said in an announcement through the stock exchange in the southern city of Shenzhen that its facilities in the cities of Jinyang and Guang'an

in Sichuan received an order extending power rationing through Thursday.

Factories in Sichuan that make processor chips, solar panels, auto components and other industrial goods were required to shut down or reduce activity last week to conserve power for ho-

mes as air conditioning demand surged in temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). Air conditioning, elevators and lights were shut off in offices and shopping malls.

In Shanghai, a factory and shipping hub on China's east coast, Tesla Ltd. and a major state-ow-

ned automaker suspended production last week due to disruption in supplies of components from Sichuan, the Shanghai city government said.

Sichuan, with 94 million people, is especially hard-hit because it gets 80% of its power from hydroelectric dams. Other provinces rely more on coal-fired power, which isn't affected.

Economists say if Sichuan reopens relatively soon, the national impact should be limited because the province accounts for only 4% of China's industrial output.

The Chinese government says this summer is China's hottest and driest since it began keeping temperature and rainfall records in 1961. Temperatures have exceeded 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the past week and longer.

Brush fires in outlying areas of Chongqing, which borders Sichuan, are the latest scourge resulting from the heat and drought.

More than 1,500 residents had been moved to shelters, while around 5,000 civilian and military personnel had been mobilized to put out the blazes, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Helicopters have been sent to drop water on the fires, supporting crews on the ground who have in the past been left to their own resources.

In 2019, a wildfire in the mountains of Sichuan province killed 30 firefighters and volunteers.

No deaths have yet been reported as a result of the heat wave, Xinhua said, although that could not be independently verified.

MDT/AGENCIES

TAIWAN

# Indiana governor in Taipei following high-profile US visits

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

**I**NDIANA'S Republican governor met with Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen yesterday morning, following two recent high-profile visits by U.S. politicians that drew China's ire and Chinese military drills that included firing missiles over the island.

Gov. Eric Holcomb arrived Sunday evening in Taiwan for a four-day visit that will focus on economic exchange, particularly semiconductors, according to a statement from his office.

His visit is coming at a tense moment for Taiwan, China and the U.S. after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan earlier this month. China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and views exchanges



U.S. Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb speaks in Taipei

with foreign governments as an infringement on its claims.

Tsai acknowledged the tensions in her opening remarks ahead of their meeting and welcomed further

exchanges.

"In the midst of this, Taiwan has been confronted by military threats from China, in and around the Taiwan Strait. At this moment, democratic allies

must stand together and boost cooperation in all areas," Tsai said. "Building on our existing foundation of collaboration, I look forward to our supporting one another, and advan-

cing hand in hand, forging closer relations and creating even deeper cooperation."

In response to Pelosi's visit, China's military held several days of exercises that included warplanes flying toward the island and warships sailing across the midline of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial buffer between the island and mainland.

China also imposed visa bans and other sanctions on several Taiwanese political figures, though it's unclear what effect the sanctions would have.

Holcomb emphasized the economic nature of his visit, mentioning that the state is among the top in the U.S. for direct foreign investment and was home to 10 Taiwanese companies.

"We both seek to deepen and enhance our already excellent cooperation that we've established over the years," he said.

Holcomb will also meet representatives of the semiconductor industry, and is expected to promote academic and tech cooperation between Taiwan and the state of Indiana. The delegation is meeting with National Yang-Ming University and National Cheng Kung University as part of the exchange.

He is traveling with officials from the state's economic development council, as well as the dean of engineering at Purdue University, an institution which has just established a semiconductors degree program. He will visit South Korea next. MDT/AP

USA

# Trump's turbulent White House years culminate in Fla. search

JILL COLVIN & MICHAEL BALSAMO, NEW YORK

**M**OUNDS of paper piled on his desk. Framed magazine covers and keepsakes lining the walls. One of Shaquille O'Neal's giant sneakers displayed alongside football helmets, boxing belts and other sports memorabilia, crowding his Trump Tower office and limiting table space.

Well before he entered politics, former President Donald Trump had a penchant for collecting. And that lifelong habit — combined with his flip disregard for the rules of government record keeping, his careless handling of classified information, and a chaotic transition born from his refusal to accept defeat in 2020 — have all culminated in a federal investigation that poses extraordinary legal and political challenges.

The search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club earlier this month to retrieve documents from his White House years was an unprecedented law enforcement action against a former president who is widely expected to run for office once again. Officials have not revealed exactly what was contained in the boxes, but the FBI has said it recovered 11 sets of classified records, including some marked "sensitive compartmented information," a special category meant to protect secrets that could cause "exceptionally grave" damage to U.S. interests if revealed publicly.

Why Trump refused to turn over the seized documents despite repeated requests remains unclear. But Trump's flouting of the Presidential Records Act, which outlines how materials should be preserved, was well documented throughout his time in office.

He routinely tore up official papers that later had to be taped back together. Official items that would traditionally be turned over to the National Archives became intermingled with his personal belongings in the White House residence. Classified information was



Then-Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is photographed during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at Trump Tower in New York (May 2016)

tweeted, shared with reporters and adversaries — even found in a White House complex bathroom.

John Bolton, who served as Trump's third national security adviser, said that, before he arrived, he'd heard "there was a concern in the air about how he handled information. And as my time went on, I could certainly see why."

Others in the Trump administration took more care with sensitive documents. Asked directly if he kept any classified information upon leaving office, former Vice President Mike Pence told The Associated Press on Friday, "No, not to my knowledge."

The decision to keep classified documents at Mar-a-Lago — a property frequented by paying members, their guests and anyone attending the weddings, political fundraisers, charity dinners and other events held on site — was part of a long pattern of disregard for national security secrets. Former aides described a "cavalier" attitude toward classified information that played out in public view.

There was the dinner with then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Mar-a-Lago's patio, where fellow diners watched and snapped cellphone photos as the two men reviewed details of a North Korean missile test.

There was the time Trump

revealed highly classified information allegedly from Israeli sources about Islamic State militants to Russian officials. And there was the time he tweeted a high-resolution satellite image of an apparent explosion at an Iranian space center, which intelligence officials had warned was highly sensitive. Trump insisted he had "the absolute right" to share it.

Former White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Trump was "careless" with sensitive and classified information and "seemed never to bother with why that was bad."

She recalled one incident involving Conan, a U.S. military dog hailed as a hero for his role in the raid that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. She said that before the dog's arrival at the White House, staff had received a briefing in which they were told the dog could not be photographed because the images could put his handlers in danger. But when the dog arrived, Trump decided he wanted to show it off to the press.

"Because he wanted the publicity, out went Conan," she said. "It's an example of him not caring if he put lives in danger. ... It was like its his own shiny toy he's showing off to his friends to impress them."

Bolton said that, during his time working for Trump, he and others often tried to

explain the stakes and the risks of exposing sources and methods.

"I don't think any of it sank in. He didn't seem to appreciate just how sensitive it was, how dangerous it was for some of our people and the risks that they could be exposed to," he said. "What looks like an innocuous picture to a private citizen can be a goldmine to a foreign intelligence" entity.

"I would say over and over again, 'This is really sensitive, really sensitive.' And he'd say, 'I know' and then go and do it anyway."

Bolton said that top intelligence officials would gather before briefings to discuss how best to handle sensitive subjects, strategizing about how much needed to be shared. Briefers quickly learned that Trump often tried to hang onto sensitive documents, and would take steps to make sure documents didn't go missing, including using iPads to show them to him.

"Sometimes he would ask to keep it and they'd say, 'It's really sensitive.' Sometime he just wouldn't give it back."

Trump's refusal to accept his election loss also contributed to the chaos that engulfed his final days in office. The General Services Administration was slow to acknowledge President Joe Biden's win, delaying the transition process and leaving little time to pack. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1985 WEST GERMAN SPY CHIEF DEFECTS TO EAST



The head of West German counter-intelligence has been unmasked as an East German spy.

Hans-Joachim Tiedge's treachery became known after he defected to East Germany yesterday.

The spy chief's defection was made public by the East German authorities earlier today.

They also revealed that in the past 18 months they had arrested nearly 170 West German agents in East Germany after acting on intelligence from Mr Tiedge.

When security officials searched Mr Tiedge's home in Cologne they found many top-secret documents.

The West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has described the former spy chief's defection as "catastrophic".

In what is rapidly turning into the biggest spy scandal in recent West Germany history, three other key government staff have also disappeared.

A link to Mr Tiedge's defection appears likely.

Questions are now being raised about the recently-appointed head of the Federal Information Service, Herbert Hellenbroich, who until last month was Mr Tiedge's boss.

Mr Hellenbroich repeatedly resisted efforts to get Mr Tiedge removed from his post in spite the potential risk caused by a serious drink problem.

Recruiting Hans-Joachim Tiedge is the latest coup for the Russian-born head of East Germany's spy service, Markus Wolff.

A few years ago an East German defector put the number of eastern spies operating in West Germany at 3,000 - including a large number of women.

Many of them are believed to be so-called "secretary-spies" recruited under an initiative of Mr Wolff's which targeted single women working in the West German administrative capital, Bonn.

They were supplied with "suitors" - East German agents - who persuaded them to spy on their ministerial bosses.

One such agent was, Leonore Suetterlin, a foreign ministry worker wooed for months by a "photographer".

She subsequently married him and joined the KGB's payroll.

She committed suicide after being uncovered.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

At least six people were suspected of involvement in Hans-Joachim's Tiedge's spy ring. A number of Bonn secretaries also came under scrutiny. One of them - Herta-Astrid Willner - worked in Chancellor Kohl's office. Shortly afterwards she and her husband defected to the East.

The previous year a secretary in the West German president's office was revealed to have been an East German spy for at least 15 years. The artificial border erected in 1961 which divided the German nation into East and West meant that it was relatively easy for agents to operate for years without causing suspicion.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 You should be in business for yourself. Don't be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally. Too much talk might lead to hassles.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 You are best to stick to yourself today. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse. Travel may change your attitudes with regard to your philosophy.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 You may attract attention if you get out socially. Don't put your professional reputation on the line. You are best not to discuss your personal life with others.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Stick to travel or do things in conjunction with groups. You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. You should be on the road.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. You need a job with more responsibility and a higher wage. Your outgoing charm and obvious talent will be admired.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague's job unexpectedly. You are best to get out of the house today. The distance may make you both appreciate each other more.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Don't be taken advantage of by any fast talking salesperson trying to part you from your cash. Put in some extra hours and finish those careful jobs before you move on to some fun and games.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 You can become obsessed with detail and must be sure to divide your time appropriately. Change will be required to make your life more harmonious. Your ability to help others will win you points.

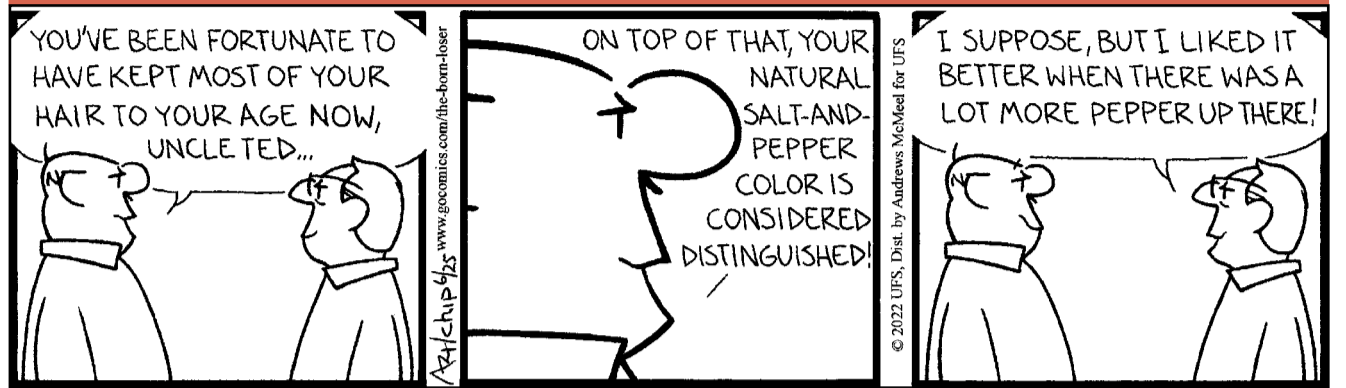
**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Reevaluate your motives. Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. Limitations with females could lead to unfortunate circumstances.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. You will be appreciated for the competence you exhibit.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Stretch the truth, and you may get blamed for something you didn't do.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. Old friends may not like your choices. Problems with female members of your family may play on your emotions.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

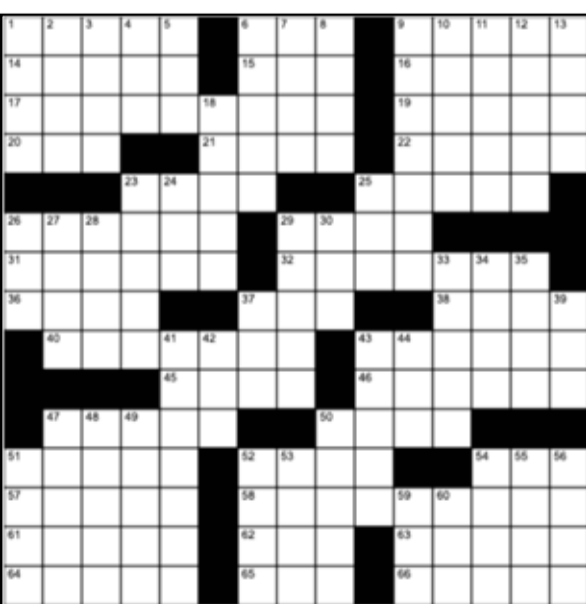
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	28	cloudy
Changchun	29	40	fine
Chengdu	28	38	cloudy
Chongqing	33	42	fine
Fuzhou	29	39	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Guiyang	20	32	cloudy
Haikou	25	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	29	40	fine
Harbin	13	23	showers
Hefei	27	33	thunderstorms
Nanjing	29	35	rain
Shanghai	30	39	rain
Taipei	26	33	cloudy
Wuhan	29	38	fine
Hong Kong	29	33	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	32	overcast
Frankfurt	16	31	overcast
Paris	19	29	overcast
London	18	24	overcast
New York	22	30	rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS 1-** Thin glutinous mud; 6- Unit of corn; 9- Gaiety; 14- Clueless; 15- "Citizen Kane" studio; 16- Depart; 17- In the meantime; 19- John of England; 20- Queue after Q; 21- \_\_\_ Lisa; 22- Similar; 23- Hideout; 25- Combined; 26- Confront boldly; 29- Unites; 31- South African animal rug; 32- Declares positively; 36- Up and \_\_\_; 37- Home of the Trojans; 38- Diving sea birds; 40- Mosaic piece; 43- Evening party; 45- Tease; 46- Arabian Sea vessel; 47- Cross the goal line; 50- Watchful; 51- Ornamental coronet; 52- Cover; 54- German article; 57- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 58- Underestimate; 61- Arm bones; 62- Shoe width; 63- Make one; 64- Sows; 65- Georgia, once; 66- Basic;

**DOWN 1-** Coal-rich region; 2- Old Fords; 3- \_\_\_ soup yet?; 4- Guys; 5- Devour; 6- Diamond flaw?; 7- Related by blood; 8- Actress Downey; 9- Make pure; 10- Greeting; 11- Kind of kitchen; 12- Bring to mind; 13- Actor Auberjonois; 18- Gives off; 23- Weaving machines; 24- Donkey; 25- Bartender's requests; 26- Police blotter abbr.; 27- Suffragist Carrie; 28- Canadian tribe; 29- Attended; 30- Corner key; 33- Coming down; 34- Istanbul resident; 35- \_\_\_-Ball; 37- "Mentalist" Geller; 39- Sun, talk; 41- Austrian composer; 42- Ram's mate; 43- Ohio, e.g.; 44- Boat propeller; 47- Move sideways; 48- Queeg's command; 49- Echo, for one; 50- Stork, e.g.; 51- Greek T's; 52- Billiard implements; 53- Change for a five; 54- Raised platform; 55- Blues singer James; 56- Rod's partner; 59- Chafe; 60- Genetic material;



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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HELLENE G.   3 BEDS	HKD 12,500
NAM LONG   1 BED	HKD 8,500
COLOANE V.   1 BED	HKD 9,300
COLOANE V.   2 BEDS	HKD 10,500
COLOANE V.   2 BEDS	HKD 10,000

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NOVA TAIPA   4 BEDS	HKD 12,880,000
BAI YUEN GRD.   3 BEDS	HKD 12,800,000
MANHATTAN   3 BEDS	HKD 12,980,000
HELLENE G.   4 BEDS	HKD 9,588,000
NAM LONG   1 BED	HKD 3,780,000
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AP PHOTO



## MANUFACTURING

# WANTED: 7,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FOR INTEL CHIP PLANTS

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS,  
JOHNSTOWN (OHIO)

**O**HIO'S largest-ever economic development project comes with a big employment challenge: how to find 7,000 construction workers in an already booming building environment when there's also a national shortage of people working in the trades.

At hand is the \$20 billion semiconductor manufacturing operation near the state's capital, announced by Intel earlier this year. When the two factories, known as fabs, open in 2025, the facility will employ 3,000 people with an average salary of around \$135,000.

Before that happens, the 1,000-acre site must be leveled and the semiconductor factories built.

"This project reverberated nationwide," said Michael Engbert, an Ohio-based official with the Laborers' International Union of North America.

"We don't field calls every day from members hundreds or thousands of miles away asking about transferring into Columbus, Ohio," he said. "It's because they know Intel is coming."

To win the project, Ohio offered Intel roughly \$2 billion in incentives, including a 30-year tax break. Intel has outlined \$150 million in educational funding aimed at growing the semiconductor industry regionally and nationally.

Construction is expected to

accelerate following Congress' approval last month of a package boosting the semiconductor industry and scientific research in a bid to create more high-tech jobs in the United States and help it better compete with international rivals. It includes more than \$52 billion in grants and other incentives for the semiconductor industry as well as a 25% tax credit for those companies that invest in chip plants in the U.S.

For the central Ohio project, all 7,000 workers aren't required right away. They're also only a portion of what will be needed as the Intel project transforms hundreds of largely rural acres about 30 minutes east of Columbus.

Just six months after Intel revealed the Ohio operation, for example, Missouri-based VanTrust Real Estate announced it was building a 500-acre (200-hectares) business park next door to house Intel suppliers. The site's 5 million square feet (464,515 square meters) is equivalent to nearly nine football fields. Other projects for additional suppliers are expected.

California-based Intel will rely on lessons learned in building previous semiconductor sites nationally and globally to ensure enough construction workers, the company said in a statement.

"One of Intel's top reasons for choosing Ohio is access to the region's robust workforce," the

company said. "It will not be without its challenges, but we are confident there is enough demand that these jobs will be filled."

Labor leaders and state officials acknowledge there's not currently a pool of 7,000 extra workers in central Ohio, where other current projects include a 28-story Hilton near downtown Columbus, a \$2 billion addition to The Ohio State University's medical center, and a \$365 million Amgen biomanufacturing plant not far from the Intel plant.

**When the two factories open in 2025, the facility will employ 3,000 people with an average salary of around \$135,000**

And that's not counting at least three new Google and Amazon data centers, plans for a new \$200 million municipal courthouse south of downtown Columbus and solar array projects that could require nearly 6,000 construction jobs by themselves.

Federal data shows about 45,000 home and commercial construction workers in central Ohio. That number increased by 1,800 from May 2021 to May 2022, meaning a future deficit given current and future demands.

(asterisk)I don't know of a single commercial construction company that's not hiring," said Mary Tebeau, executive director of the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, a construction industry trade association.

Offsetting the imbalance are training programs, a push to encourage more high school students to enter the trades, and pure economics. Including overtime, pay for skilled tradespeople could hit \$125,000 annually, said Dorsey Hager, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbus Building Trades Council.

Or as Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, the state's economic development point person, puts it, the Intel project is so big and lucrative it will create opportunities for people who didn't see construction jobs in their future.

"When you're willing to pay people more to do something, you will find the talent," he said.

In addition to new and out-of-state workers, some will likely be pulled from the residential construction industry, thinning out an already short supply of homebuilders, said Ed Brady, CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based Home Builders Institute.

That creates a housing shortage risk that could slow the very type of economic development that Intel is sparking, said Ed Dietz of the National Association

of Home Builders.

"How do you attract those business investments if you can't also provide additional housing available for the growth in the labor force?" he said.

Central Ohio is expected to reach 3 million residents by 2050, a rate that would require 11,000 to 14,000 housing units a year. That was before Intel was announced, said Jennifer Noll, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's associate director for community development. Meanwhile, the closest the region came to hitting that goal was in 2020 with 11,000 units.

"We know we've got some work to do as a region," Noll said.

Shortage or not, work is underway at and near the Intel site, where parades of trucks rumbled down country roads on a recent August morning as the beeping of multiple construction vehicles sounded in the distance.

It was just another day for pipe layer Taylor Purdy, who made his regular 30-minute drive from Bangs, Ohio, to his construction job helping widen a road running alongside the Intel plant.

Purdy, 28, spends his days in trenches helping position storm and sanitary sewers and waterlines. Overtime is plentiful as deadlines approach. The Intel construction work is in its earliest phases as earthmovers reshape the 1,000 acres (400 hectares) of former farm and residential land being transformed into an industrial site.

Purdy said he likes the job security of being involved on such a big project. He's also noticed that, unlike other jobs he has worked, he does not need to explain to people what he is up to.

"They all know what I'm talking about," he said. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

# Springboks recall de Klerk, give Gelant start on wing

**S**CRUMHALF Faf de Klerk returned for the Springboks and Warrick Gelant was given a start on the wing in two team changes yesterday for the first of two Rugby Championship tests in Australia.

De Klerk is available again after missing the second test against New Zealand in South Africa with a concussion and is in for Jaden Hendrikse, who dropped to the bench. Gelant replaced Jesse Kriel, who left early in that second game against the All Blacks with a head injury.

South Africa made two other changes on the bench, with veteran utility back Frans Steyn back from injury and flyhalf Elton Jantjies earning a recall.

The Springboks also abandoned the 6-2 split for the bench, preferring



South Africa's players celebrate at the end of the Rugby Championship test between South Africa and New Zealand at Mbombela Stadium earlier this month

a more traditional 5-3 mix of forwards and backs after Kriel's early injury caused complications in the backline in the 35-23 loss to New Zealand on Aug. 13.

Coach Jacques Nienaber kept faith with prop Ox Nche, hooker Joseph Dweba and No. 8 Duane Ver-

meulen to start against the Wallabies after they were all replaced early in that loss to New Zealand.

South Africa will play back-to-back tests against Australia in Adelaide on Saturday and Sydney the following weekend.

Argentina is the surprise

leader of the Rugby Championship standings after two rounds and is ahead of Australia on points difference. All four teams have won once and lost once but Argentina and Australia have taken a bonus point from their first two games. MDT/AP

MOTORSPORT

# EX-FORMULA ONE BOSS DENIES FRAUD CHARGE

**F**ORMER Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone yesterday denied a fraud charge over his alleged failure to declare millions of pounds (dollars) in overseas assets.

Ecclestone, 91, entered a not guilty plea as he appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London for a brief hearing.

Prosecutors issued a charge of fraud by false representation between July 2013 and October 2016 after British tax officials carried out a worldwide investigation into Ecclestone's finances.

Prosecutor Robert Simpson told the court that Ecclestone did not declare a trust in Singapore with a bank account containing about \$650 million when he was asked about any trusts abroad that he was involved in.

The business magnate, dressed in a three-piece



Bernie Ecclestone

suit, was escorted into the court building's exit by security guards and his legal team. He was granted unconditional bail ahead of his next appearance at Southwark Crown Court on Sept. 19.

Ecclestone headed Formula One racing and controlled the sport for four decades from the 1970s to 2017, when he stepped down as chief executive and Liberty Media took over the series.

He was arrested in Brazil in May for carrying a gun in his luggage while boarding a plane. MDT/AP

AD

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**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**SMART POWER WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS**

In terms of hard power, China has, first of all, the size of its economy and the strength of its domestic market. In addition, the competitiveness of goods and services from Chinese companies has allowed them to project themselves beyond their borders with great efficiency, as well as to access raw materials and other international resources. Without concern for conditioning their economic cooperation with respect for human rights, and bringing in matching financing, Chinese banks and companies have also permeated almost all developing countries.

In military terms, its armed forces have greatly developed and now possess sophisticated military equipment, in tandem with the country's growing technological capacity. Its navy is now a force to be reckoned with in the Western Pacific and should soon project its presence into other areas of the Pacific and Indian Ocean.

In terms of soft power, China has, right from the start, the influence of its multi-millennial civilization - which includes some of the most important schools of thought seeking harmony between man and nature, some of the most sophisticated art ever produced, a great esteem for writing, literature and historical records, traditional Chinese medicine, refined gastronomic schools; and the international projection of its culture, admired and studied in various parts of the world.

On the other hand, the fact that it has long been a developing country, an early member of the Non-Aligned Movement, with a non-confrontationist stance and without a history of colonialism or imperialism, has historically allowed China to have close relations with many developing countries. An efficient and proactive diplomacy and the relevance of the Chinese Diaspora - especially in Southeast Asia - are other aspects of Chinese soft power. These also include an extraordinary capacity for innovation and technological advancement, typical of China in the last 20 years.

In 2007, [former Chinese President] Hu Jintao addressed the 17th Communist Party of China Congress, saying, "If your hard power is increasing, you are likely to scare your neighbors, but if you increase your soft power at the same time, they are less likely to form alliances against you. In that sense, the goal is a smart power policy."

When the US adopted a smart power strategy, it was already a superpower in terms of hard power and already with enormous soft power on a planetary scale. However, the same is not true of China.

Geography gave the U.S. unimpeded and unrivaled maritime borders in two oceans; and when they intervened in several countries in the Caribbean, it was at a time when there was no global public opinion or television cameras to witness their exercise of hard power. In China's case, on the other hand, geography has not been so benevolent; on its maritime border stand several rival countries or rivals' allies. The projection of its navy and the manner and grounds for claiming the entire South China Sea alarmed several of its neighbors and caused a decrease in China's soft power.

The U.S. strategy of containing China by military means puts the focus on hard power; the reaction of the Chinese government, nationalistic and with low strategic restraint, catalyzes the erosion of China's soft power.

Russia's top counterintelligence agency yesterday blamed Ukrainian spy services for organizing the killing of the daughter of a leading Russian nationalist ideologue in a car bombing just outside Moscow.

Daria Dugina, the 29-year-old daughter of Alexander Dugin, a philosopher, writer and political theorist whom some in the West described as "Putin's brain," died when an explosive planted in her SUV exploded as she was driving Saturday night.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, said that Dugina's killing had been "prepared and perpetrated by the Ukrainian special services."

On Sunday, Ukraine's presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak denied any Ukrainian involvement in the killing.

In Monday's statement, the FSB accused a Ukrainian citizen, Natalya Vovk, of perpetrating the killing and then fleeing from Russia to Estonia.

The FSB said that the suspect, Natalya Vovk, arrived in Russia in July with her 12-year-old daughter and rented an apartment in the building where Dugina lived to shadow her. It said that Vovk and her daughter were at a nationalist festival, which Alexander Dugin and his daughter attended just before the killing.

**PHILIPPINE KIDS BACK IN SCHOOL AFTER TWO YEARS LOST TO VIRUS**

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

**M**ILLIONS of students wearing face masks streamed back to primary and secondary schools across the Philippines yesterday for their first in-person classes after two years of coronavirus lockdowns that are feared to have worsened alarming illiteracy rates among children.

Officials grappled with daunting problems, including classroom shortages, lingering COVID-19 fears, an approaching storm and quake-damaged school buildings in the country's north, to welcome back nearly 28 million students who enrolled for the school year.

In a grade school in San Juan city in the capital region, teachers checked the temperatures of students and sprayed alcohol on their hands before letting them into classrooms.

Renaline Pemapelis, 27, excitedly gave last-minute instructions to her son, who was going to school for the first time. "I have mixed feelings, worried and excited," she told The Associated Press.

Only about 24,000 of the nation's public schools, or about 46%, were able to begin in-person classes five times a week starting yesterday, while the rest will resort to a mix of in-person and online classes until Nov. 2, when all public and private schools are required to bring all students back to classrooms, education officials said.

But about 1,000 schools will be unable to shift entirely to face-to-face classes during the transition period for various reasons, including damage to school building wrought by a powerful earthquake last month in the north, officials said.

The Department of Education said some schools will have to split classes into up to three shifts a day due to class-



AP PHOTO

room shortages, a longstanding problem, and to avoid overcrowding that could turn schools into new centers of coronavirus outbreaks.

"We always say that our goal is a maximum of two shifts only but there will be areas that would have to resort to three shifts because they're really overcrowded," Education Department spokesperson Michael Poa said on Friday. Despite many concerns, education officials gave assurances that it's "all-systems go" for the resumption of classes, he said.

Sen. Joel Villanueva, however, said such assurances have to be matched by real improvements on the ground.

"The era of missing classrooms, sharing tables and chairs and holding classes under the shade of trees must no longer happen," said Villanueva, who filed two bills calling for additional grocery, transportation and medical allowances for public school teachers.

Among the worst-hit by the pandemic in Southeast Asia, the Philippines under then-President Rodrigo Duterte enforced one of the world's longest

coronavirus lockdowns and school closures. Duterte, whose six-year term ended June 30, rejected calls for a resumption of in-person classes due to fears it might ignite new outbreaks.

The prolonged school closures sparked fears that literacy rates among Filipino children — already at alarming levels before the pandemic — could worsen.

A World Bank study last year showed that about nine out of 10 children in the Philippines were suffering from "learning poverty," or the inability of children by age 10 to read and understand a simple story.

"Prolonged school closures, poor health risk mitigation, and household-income shocks had the biggest impact on learning poverty, resulting in many children in the Philippines failing to read and understand a simple text by age 10," UNICEF Philippines said in a statement.

"Vulnerable children such as children with disabilities, children living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and children living in disaster and conflict zones fare far worse," the U.N. agency for children said. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

Serbia's president called on NATO on Sunday to "do their job" in Kosovo or he says Serbia itself will move to protect its minority in the breakaway province. The fiery televised address to his nation by President Aleksandar Vucic (pictured) followed the collapse of political talks between Serbian and Kosovo leaders earlier this week mediated by the European Union in Brussels.



AP PHOTO

UK Cineworld Group PLC, one of the world's largest movie theater chains, said Monday that it is considering filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the U.S. and similar actions elsewhere. The British company, which owns Regal Cinemas in the United States and operates in 10 countries, said bankruptcy is one option it is weighing to help preserve a business that has struggled to rebound from the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

USA Three Arkansas law enforcement officers have been suspended and a state police investigation launched after a video posted on social media showed a suspect being held down on the ground and beaten by police. Arkansas State Police said yesterday [Macau time] that it would investigate the use of force by the officers earlier in the day outside a convenience store in Mulberry, about 140 miles northwest of Little Rock.



AP PHOTO

Kenya's losing presidential candidate Raila Odinga (pictured, center) has filed a Supreme Court challenge to last week's election result, asserting that the process was marked by criminal subversion and seeking that the outcome be nullified and a new vote be ordered. Odinga arrived to cheers yesterday and helped to hoist boxes of material for the petition into place, starting the 14-day period in which the court must rule.