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CTM

AUSTRALIA'S THE STAR CASINO QUESTIONED AS ITS MAJOR SHAREHOLDER ALLEGEDLY HAS TIES WITH TRIADS IN HONG KONG AND MACAU, ABC NEWS REPORTED P2

COVID-19: AUTHORITIES NEGOTIATING QUARANTINE FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS, NO QUOTA YET P4

SOME LIKE IT HOT: EATING SPICY IN CHONGQING'S WWII SHELTERS P9



AP PHOTO



Bangladesh Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees marked the fifth anniversary of their exodus from Myanmar to Bangladesh, while the United States, European Union and other Western nations pledged to continue supporting the refugees' pursuit of justice in international courts. In a major development yesterday, the United Kingdom announced a further round of sanctions targeting military-linked businesses in Myanmar.

AP PHOTO



Japan's national police chief said he will resign to take responsibility over shortfalls in security that an investigation by his own agency showed did not adequately safeguard former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from a fatal shooting of at a campaign speech last month. National Police Agency Chief Itaru Nakamura's announcement came as his agency released a report blaming flaws in police protection — from planning to guarding at the scene — that led to Abe's assassination.

AP PHOTO



South Korea has signed a 3 trillion won (\$2.25 billion) deal with a Russian state-run nuclear energy company to provide components for Egypt's first nuclear power plant. The contract between the state-run Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power and ASE requires the South Koreans to provide turbine-related equipment and construction work for the plant that is being built in Dabaa, about 130 kilometers northwest of Cairo on the Mediterranean coast.

More on backpage

STORM QUARANTINE

AP PHOTO



Typhoon Ma-on batters region and puts city partially indoors, no injuries reported P3



DRIVE IN

P14



TASTE OF EDESIA

P15

THE STAR'S TIES WITH CHOW TAI FOOK UNDER QUESTIONS AMID ALLEGED TRIADS LINKS

LYNZY VALLES

AUSTRALIA'S The Star casino has been put into question as it partnered with a major shareholder that allegedly has ties with several notorious gangsters in Hong Kong and Macau, according to an investigation conducted by ABC News, the news arm of Australia's national broadcaster.

Current public hearings are examining how Queensland approved the key partner of The Star Entertainment Group's Queensland casino operations despite being aware of the large Hong Kong-based group.

Chow Tai Fook was endorsed as a fit and proper partner for the casino by authorities in the northeastern state of Queensland in 2015.

The ABC revealed that the family business empire behind Chow Tai Fook had business partners in Macau casinos that were



named by the US government as organised crime figures.

According to the media outlet's investigations, Chow Tai Fook and associated companies have a "long history of association with organised crime figures

and people blacklisted by gambling regulators around the world."

One of these companies is linked with the notorious Macau gangster, Wan Kuok Koi, also known as "Broken Tooth" – who

is sanctioned by the US government.

Meanwhile, Chow Tai Fook, a 25% shareholder in the AUD2.6 billion The Star casino that is being developed at Queen's Wharf in Brisbane, will earn commissions from The Star for every VIP gambler it brings to the casino when it opens next year.

The conglomerate also owns 50% of the surrounding apartment towers, set to be completed next year.

ABC Investigations noted that the late Henry Cheng, owner of the conglomerate, even had corporate vehicles and remained a partner in a Vietnam casino that was founded by former junket mogul Alvin Chau – notwithstanding his arrest on 286 criminal charges in November 2021.

Despite the state's laws that prohibit business associations with anyone of ill repute or

undesirable financial sources, the government seems to have allowed it.

In an inquiry held in April this year, it was heard that The Star is continuing its partnership with the troubled Suncity despite a 2019 Hong Kong report that Alvin Chau had "very unsavory business associations" linked to the drug trade, money laundering and organized crime.

Meanwhile, the company's chequered history includes a role in a failed Australian casino bid with discredited gambling tycoon Stanley Ho as well as interests in his companies, which have been blacklisted in New South Wales, the report stated.

"We have to have clean owners and clean operators if we're going to have clean casinos," Chris Sidoti, a former chairman of the NSW's independent casino regulator, was cited as saying in the report.

EMPLOYMENT

DSAL to hold job-matching session for bank sector

STAFF REPORTER

A job-matching session that will offer 82 types of job with 235 vacancies in the banking sector will be held between August 29 to 30 at MGM Macau.

Co-organized by the Labour Affair Bureau (DSAL), the Macau Association of Banks (ABM), Macao Federation of Trade Unions and 18 local banks, the types of jobs include teller, clerk, account manager, market analyst, IT specialist, finance and credit specialist.

During the two-day session, two lectures will be held per day about the developing position of the Macau finance industry in the Greater Bay Area, and discussing the demand for young people in the Macau bank industry.

In addition to these two lectures, the Macao Federation of Trade Unions will also dispatch



professional staff to introduce two workshops including a skills workshop for job interviews.

Participants are required to make appointments through the DSAL website.

Job vacancies in the Financial Activities sector have increased by 73 year-on-year to 347, with vacancies in the Banking Sector (287) and Insurance (32) rising by 58 and 9, respectively, in the first quarter of the year, according to official data.

The number of full-time employees in Financial Activities

increased by 96 year-on-year to 8,292 during the first quarter of the year.

The general unemployment rate was 3.7% and the unemployment rate of local residents was 4.8%, up by 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points, respectively, from the previous period (March-May 2022).

The figures are reaching record highs amid the pandemic crisis that the city has battled, as well as strict Covid policies that have taken a toll on the city's gaming and tourism sector.

STATS

MICE EXHIBITIONS LOSE MOP810,000 IN Q2

RECEIPTS of exhibition organisers in Q2 dropped by 29.4% year-on-year to MOP6.98 million, of which 80.5% were generated from rental of exhibition booths and 19.0% were financial support from government/organisations.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed expenditure of these exhibitions fell by 33.8% to MOP6.47 million, with the majority being spent on production, installation & decoration (41.1% of total), followed by publicity & public relations (25.6%) and rent paid for the venue (16.3%).

After excluding financial support from government or organisations, these exhibitions recorded a loss of MOP810,000 in the second quarter.

A total of 91 MICE events were held in Macau in the second quarter of 2022, a decrease of 56 year-on-year; the number of participants and attendees dropped by 4.0% to 306,000.

Amid the pandemic and the city's strict border restrictions, the



majority of the MICE events that were held had online elements and therefore reached a bigger crowd.

The figures were far from pre-pandemic levels, when a total of 377 MICE events were held in the first quarter of 2019, including 362 meetings & conferences, 10 exhibitions and five incentives.

In the first half of 2022, a total of 188 MICE events were held, a drop of 27 year-on-year; albeit from a low base. LV

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

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER_Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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FLORA TANG



Gov't: No one injured as Typhoon Ma-on batters region

STAFF REPORTER

THE city was battered by tropical storm Ma-on for 12.5 hours yesterday as the city's observatory hoisted signal No. 8 at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. Strong winds and heavy rain were expected as the typhoon barreled towards southern China.

The signal was replaced by typhoon signal No.3 at 11 a.m. yesterday and was later canceled at 6:30 p.m. last night as the storm moved away from Macau.

During that time, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) expected that the winds would further weaken and still be affected by the rain bands of the storm, with occasional heavy showers.

"During typhoon signal No. 8, all districts of Macau recorded around 10 millimeters of rainfall," the SMG mentioned in a report.

As Ma-on was moving faster than expected, "the period of the highest increase in water level was different from the period of the highest astronomical tide, so the situation of flooding was not as serious as expected, and no impact in the providing of water and electricity in Macau," the observatory explained.

It added that, as a result, the Blue Storm Surge warning was replaced by the Orange one.

Head of Civil Protection Operations Center and Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, summarized their work stating, "no one was injured during the typhoon."

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, the center received a total of 16 requests for help, six reports of accidents, including one request that a building is cleaned, lamp posts or trees removal; four reports of falling concrete, windows, canopies or other hangings; and one report of a sea accident.

While the orange storm surge warning is in effect, police officers were patrolling the Inner Harbor area, urging residents to evacuate from that area.

As a result, a total of 2,514 people were successful in moving out from low-lying areas; over 400 people did not evacuate after evaluations by the authorities considered that their locations are safe.

Wong expressed gratitude to all departments and officers for

their preparatory work, and the understanding and cooperation of all residents during this time of typhoon.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) claimed that it dispatched staff to clean garbage on the street and inspect municipal and green facilities after cancelling typhoon signal No. 8.

A total of seven trees were damaged, including six broken branches and one collapse. Around 700 kilograms of fallen firewood branches have been collected. Also, the cleaning companies added five to 13 garbage trucks to help clean garbage.

The rainwater and sewage pumping stations were not affected during the typhoon.

Some low-lying areas, such as Coloane and the south of the

Inner Harbor, experienced flooding, but there was no flooding in the north of the Inner Harbor, reflecting that the storm water pump in the area plays a significant role in flood discharge, according to the IAM.

After the authorities canceled the typhoon signal No. 8, residents resumed their work immediately, and all government departments also announced resumption of their services.

According to the statistical data, a total of 96 people used emergency services provided by shelter, and all shelters were closed on August 25 by 11 a.m. yesterday.

All health departments announced that they would resume providing all kind of services starting from 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon, including indoor nucleic acid testing (NAT) stations and mobile NAT bus, which resumed providing services from 2 p.m. Outdoor NAT testing stations resumed providing services today. People who were affected by the typhoon and did not carry out the NAT must remake an appointment.

Tropical storm makes landfall in southern China

TROPICAL Storm Ma-on made landfall in southern China's Guangdong province yesterday after bringing rain and stiff winds to Macau and Hong Kong, where the stock market was closed for the morning session due to the storm.

Residents of coastal areas around the city of Maoming were urged to stay away from the shore yesterday morning as the typhoon arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Ma-on was packing sustained winds of 118 kilometers per hour and moving slowly northwest at about 25 kilometers per hour, the Guangdong Meteorological Public Service Center said. It noted the storm made landfall as a typhoon but was steadily weakening.

The storm was estimated to be about 380 kilometers west of Hong Kong as of 2:00 p.m., according to the Hong Kong Observatory.

Ma-on is expected to weaken as it moves inland toward the Guangxi region, Yunnan province and northern Vietnam.

The Hong Kong government said that one person had been injured and reports of flooding and a fallen tree had been received. About 140 people had sought refuge in temporary shelters set up in the city, a government news release said. Schools were closed for at least the morning.

On Thursday morning, the Hong Kong Observatory lowered its No. 8 typhoon warning signal to a No. 3 signal, warning of strong winds between 41 and 62 kph.

Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd., the operator of the city's stock exchange, said in a statement that it delayed the trading of stocks and derivatives during the morning session. Trading resumed at 1 p.m.

In Guangdong, se-

veral cities suspended high-speed rail and ferry service and evacuated workers on offshore projects. The airport in Shenzhen, a Chinese tech center that borders Hong Kong, canceled all flights from 3 a.m. to 2 p.m. yesterday.

Authorities in the Philippines reported at least three deaths and four injured, mostly after being hit by falling trees, after the storm swept across the northern part of

the country earlier this week.

More than 10,000 people were displaced, and public schools and government offices were closed for two days in Manila and several outlying provinces because of gusty wind and heavy rain.

Ma-on, which means horse saddle in Chinese, is hitting China as many areas face severe drought brought on by record-breaking temperatures that have withered crops and reduced electricity and drinking water supplies. **MDT/AGENCIES**

COMPOSITE RATES FOR MOP SLIGHTLY UP BY 0.56%

The funding costs for the local banking sector generally increased in the second quarter of 2022, according to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macao. At end-June 2022, the composite interest rates for MOP and HKD rose 6 basis points and 18 basis points, from 0.50% and 0.87% at end-March 2022 to 0.56% and 1.05%, respectively.

APPLICATIONS FOR TAP SEAC MARKET STALLS AND WORKSHOPS OPEN

The Cultural Affairs Bureau is calling for stall operators and creative handicraft workshops for the upcoming Tap Seac Craft Market to be held from November 17 to 20 and November 24 to 27. The deadline for applications is September 14. There will be 133 handicraft and creative gastronomy stalls at this upcoming market. All products presented for sale in the proposal must be original designs, with a minimum of 10 models available for sale.

ELDERLY WOMAN DIES FROM FALL

A 67-year-old woman was found dead after falling from a height, according to a statement issued by the Judiciary Police (PJ). According to the police, the discovery came after a resident found the elderly woman lying on the floor and immediately reported the matter to the PJ. No suicide note was found at the scene. The case has temporarily been classified as a body discovery case.

SAR ORGANIZES SESSION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

The "Macao Urban Transformation and Development Dialogue" is set to be held on August 30, with both online and offline elements. Organized by the SAR and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the aim of the event is to facilitate Macau's integration into the "overall development of the country," and to improve the appropriate diversification of Macau's economy, according to a statement. The dialogue will feature speakers from abroad such as Dubai, Luxembourg, Seoul and Tokyo, as well as representatives from mainland China and Macau.

COVID-19

NO WORKERS SHOULD BEAR MANDATORY NAT EXPENSES, AUTHORITIES REAFFIRM

RENATO MARQUES

No workers included in the so-called professional key groups should bear the expenses related to the nucleic acid tests (NAT) that are mandatory due to their professional risk, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday during the regular weekly briefing on Covid-19 in Macau.

In response to a media inquiry on the topic, Leong explained that all the workers who must undergo NATs due to their professional risk are included in the key groups, while the frequency of these NATs differs according to different professions and risk exposure.

She also reaffirmed information provided previously, which stated, "there are only two types of NAT: the first, for the high-risk workers, for which [...] the government [...] cover[s] the costs and cannot be used to cross the border; and the second type paid by the companies and that can be used for border crossing."

"Either way, it is never the worker who shoulders the expense," Leong reiterated noting, "this is a guideline that we are following and that comes [as a] direct instruction from the State Council of the People's Republic of China. If there are companies who are unclear about the application of this rule, they should communicate with the government for clarifi-



cation. We have already issued these guidelines for companies to follow and they are very clear."

Leong also clarified the false information aired by the media representative during the inquiry which suggested that the NAT performed on the mainland for border crossing would not be suitable for work in Macau and border-crossers would need to do a second test locally.

"The NAT from the mainland can be used in Macau, and as long as the negative result is recorded in the health code and transferred to the Macau health code system it can be used for work. There is no need to do another NAT. Besides, we have also already mentioned on several occasions that workers do not [need] to do [a] NAT as a pre-requisite to go to work. Ins-

tead, they should [take the test] according to the necessary frequency, as part of their work duties," Leong remarked, explaining

VISITOR NUMBERS INCREASE BY OVER 40% THIS WEEK

ACCORDING to information provided by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) representative to the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, Ma Chio Hong, the general number of visitors over the past seven days increased by 43.2% when compared to the previous week. According to the figures presented by Ma, there was a slight increase over last weekend (August 20 and 21), with the number of

entries and exits reaching 31,100 and 31,000 people respectively, but after the weekend the number remained steady with last Monday recording 30,600 border crossings of visitors, as well as 30,700 on Tuesday and 30,400 on Wednesday. This influx of visitors also contributed to a 15.5% increase to the total figure of weekly border crossings, including local residents and non-resident workers.

COVID-19

Authorities negotiating quarantine for Hong Kong students, no number yet

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL authorities are still in negotiations with their counterparts in the neighboring region of Hong Kong about the possibility of Macau accepting quarantine applications from students from Hong Kong, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday in response to media inquiries.

According to Leong, the matter is in the hands of the Education and Youth

Development Bureau and local authorities do not yet have a clear idea of the number of people it might involve.

Nonetheless, Leong explained that there will not be any type of preferential treatment or conditions applied to their students, noting that all people arriving in Macau from medium and high-risk areas need to adhere to the 7+3 quarantine rule in force in Macau.

The same official also explained, regarding the reduction of quarantine

period, that a reduction from the current seven days to five days would represent an increase in the risk of a potential outbreak in the community by about 20%.

In response to the question of whether there are enough rooms available in the quarantine hotels to accept the students, the representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Lau Fong Chi, said that the MGTO will only know once they learn how many students might be interested in coming to Macau.



THE VENETIAN MACAO TURNS 15



PRIORITIZING LOCAL SME PROCUREMENT

PART 4: SUPPORTING LOCAL SMES FOR MUTUAL PROSPERITY

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 a company rooted in Macau for nearly 20 years, Sands China is committed to supporting the growth of local SMEs, whom we view as our strategic partners. With thousands of SME partnerships over the years, we believe that we should prosper together, hand-in-hand, to build a better future for Macau. Our vision is in line with the Macau government's policy of supporting the sustainable development of local business and SMEs.

LOCAL SMALL, MEDIUM AND MICRO SUPPLIERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

In 2015, we became the first integrated resort operator in

Macau to co-launch a Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Program with the Macao Chamber of Commerce (MCC). It focuses on three categories of local businesses: small and micro companies, "Made-in-Macau" companies, and Macau young entrepreneurs. This aligns with the Macau government's initiative to "buy local" and demonstrates our commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of our corporate social responsibility efforts.

Fred Ma, President of MCC, said: "Sands China has always been our close partner, committed to fulfilling its corporate social responsibility. They've spared no effort in supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, and their contribution to the Macau business community is very obvious."

Since its launch, the program has introduced a variety of SME-support initiatives that include open days, invitational matching sessions, SME roadshows at the company's back-of-house areas, and the Sands Procurement Academy, among others.

E.I.T. PROGRAM

Under Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Program, we launched our E.I.T. program in 2017, tailor-made for local Macau SME suppliers to offer Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development.

SANDS PROCUREMENT ACADEMY

Under the program's Training and Development pillar, the Sands Procurement Academy seeks to continually increase and strengthen procurement between Sands China and local SME suppliers by enhancing their capabilities. Co-organized with the Macao Chamber of Commerce and the Macau Productivity and Technology Centre (CPTTM), it is a first-of-its-kind industry training program customized for local small, medium and micro suppliers.

Participating suppliers learn through tailor-made practical training modules presented by lecturers with diverse areas of expertise, covering topics ranging from logistics management to procurement process. Suppliers who graduate benefit from pre-

ferential procurement opportunities with Sands China under otherwise equal circumstances.

The extremely successful and in-demand academy has delivered over 6,300 training hours since its 2017 launch. Over 400 local SME suppliers have enrolled and over 380 have graduated. The program welcomed its 11th cohort of suppliers this year, and graduates of the academy have consistently given positive feedback about the ways the program has benefited their businesses.

In the seven years since the Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Program launched, the proportion of local enterprises in Sands China's total procurement spend increased from 77% to 91% and the ratio of procurement spend from SME suppliers increased from 14% to 20%.

Victoria Kuan, Director General of CPTTM, said: "Sands China's training enables SMEs to adopt effective methods to solve quality and other related problems and helps them lay the foundation for further improving their management systems and obtaining international certification. This helps SMEs progress, but it also

allows them to become valuable partners with Sands China, creating a win-win situation."

EXPEDITED PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SMES

Upholding the business philosophy of supporting local SMEs, Sands China relaunched its popular Expedited Payment Program for Local SMEs – something it had first introduced following the aftermath of Typhoon Hato back in 2017. It was reintroduced in 2021 as a pandemic relief effort, and involved MOP 350 million in assistance, after having provided MOP 200 million in assistance in 2017. Through this program, we aim to ease our partners' cash flow pressures and help support the stable and healthy development of local SMEs.

SANDS SHOPPING CARNIVAL

In 2021, we proudly hosted the Sands Shopping Carnival, the largest shopping event of its kind in Macau, for the second consecutive year, and this year's event is coming up soon in September. The popular event puts into practice Sands China's commitment to support local SMEs and Sands retailers by providing them with a free business platform amid the difficulties of the pandemic – meanwhile providing a weekend summer hotspot for Macau's residents and visitors. The annual event has attracted a total of more than 210,000 local shoppers and tourists, giving the economy a strong boost to help revive the community during the pandemic.

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 Monday when we examine what The Venetian Macao has been doing to help it excel in the area of corporate social responsibility.



Si Tou Chin Pang

"During our 18 years of cooperation with Sands China, our relationship has grown closer. Since 2004, we've been providing 24/7 transportation and trucking services, and we are thankful to Sands China for providing such precious cooperation opportunities for local SMEs, enabling us to become bigger and stronger."

General Manager, Chi Kei Fo Van



Ivan Ao leong

"During the epidemic, Sands China was even more attentive to its support for local SMEs, like a 'timely rain.' They took the initiative to care about the financial problems of SMEs, and launched their Expedited Payment Program to solve the urgent needs of SMEs. It was a strong show of backing of local businesses."

Managing Director, On Kei Frozen Meat Food



Victor leong

"Through our cooperation with Sands China, our company has learned about the requirements for working with international corporations, and our business volume and scale have continued to increase. We even expanded to Singapore this year. I'm very grateful to Sands China for providing opportunities for SMEs and allowing local enterprises to expand further."

General Manager, VastCom Technology Limited



Luis Miguel Silva

"Strict quality control is the key to long-term cooperation with Sands China, and through more than 10 years of working together, we have cultivated efficient organizational skills on our team. I believe that Sands China provides opportunities for local SMEs, allowing them room for development and effectively promoting their growth."

Owner, Serene Garden

CRIME

THREE SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR FINANCIAL SCAMS AND DRUG ACTIVITIES

STAFF REPORTER

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) reported two cases in the joint press briefing of the police forces, including a financial scam case involving the loss of MOP144,200, along with a drug case.

In the financial scam case, the victim met the female suspect through the introduction of a friend in May. The suspect, surnamed Fang, is a 47-year-old unemployed mainland resident.

Fang told the victim that they could provide a money exchange service.

From March to April, using the services provided by Fang, the exchanged money twice to an overall total of HKD68,000.

After this, the victim continued to contact Fang and transfer money for the purpose of currency exchange many times.

Despite the attempts at contact, Fang did not respond to the victim.

After the victim reported the incident to the police, the PJ arrested Fang on August 22 at Qingmao Port.

Fang claimed that she defrauded the victim because her mainland



company had funding and loan problems that she did not have enough money to resolve.

All money scammed from the victim was used for loan repayments.

The PJ referred the suspect to the Public Prosecutions Office on the charge of fraud on August 23.

DRUG CASE INVOLVING MOP4,700 UNCOVERED

Two suspects have been arrested with a total of MOP4,700 found on their person.

The two suspects, a 31-year-old and a 22-year-old respectively, share the same last name of Nguyen. The suspects are

unemployed Vietnamese male residents.

The PJ discovered that the two suspects were dealing drugs to addicts.

After investigating, the PJ arrested the first suspect near his home on the afternoon of August 22, but no drugs were found on

his person.

Then, the PJ followed the first suspect back to his residential unit where they arrested the second suspect.

Meanwhile, two packs of ice (methamphetamine), weighing approximately 1.06 grams, and six "ecstasy" pills (MDMA) were found. These substances and quantities have a street value of approximately MOP1,000 and HKD1,000 respectively. Tools used for drugs consumption, packaging and disassembling were also found.

During the inspection, two suspects admitted to a drug habit, but refused to disclose the source of the seized drugs and the tools.

In this case, a total of MOP4,700 cash was found.

The PJ believed that the suspects had been engaged in drug activities for over three months, and transferred suspects to the Public Prosecutions Office on the morning of August 23 on charges of illicit trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, illicit consumption of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and inappropriate possession of tools or equipment.

AD

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馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
趙魯 Zhao Lu °•
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

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梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:
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陳健雄 Eurico Chan
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戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
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WHOLE PERSON DEVELOPMENT

Melco Back to School Program promotes lifelong learning for colleagues

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment's Back to School Program provides colleagues who left school prematurely with the opportunity to gain their High School Diploma in-house by undertaking formal education alongside their employment. The Company was the first local integrated resort operator to launch its in-house Back to School program in collaboration with Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes back in 2010 as part of its Whole Person Development program. It has since inspired other companies to adopt similar programs.

A dedicated Back to School graduation ceremony was recently hosted for 20 colleagues who have been studying for their High School Diplomas during full time employment at Melco. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Lawrence Ho, Chairman & CEO of Melco, Ms. Jeong Weng Si, Vice Principal of Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes and Professor Davis Fong, Director of Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau.

Special awards were also presented during the graduation ceremony, with 8 graduates receiving Outstanding Academic Awards for the achievement of 85 points or above; 9 graduates receiving Outstanding Academic Awards for the achievement of 80 points or above; 1 graduate receiving Li Bai Award for the year's the top result in Chinese Language; 2 graduates receiving Lotus Award for overall highest achievement for Junior High School; and 1 graduate receiving Lotus Award and Macau Foundation Award for Art Education for Senior High School.

Ms. Jeong Weng Si, Vice Principal of Escola Secundária Luso-



"Congratulations to the latest group of program graduates who have spent the past 3-4 years studying for their High School Diploma during full time employment, showing incredible perseverance."

MR. LAWRENCE HO
CHAIRMAN & CEO OF MELCO

-Chinese de Luís Gonzaga Gomes, said, "We are grateful for Melco's long-term collaboration with Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes which has been supporting students with lifelong learning opportunities. This year's graduates have shown immense determination and perseverance during their three years of study, extending beyond their

comfort zones and simultaneously balancing work, family and study obligations. Congratulations to the graduates who I hope will continue to practice lifelong learning to achieve further prosperity and success in life."

Graduate recipient of the Lotus Award and Macau Foundation Award for Art Education for Senior High School, Ms. Xie Doushan,

"We are grateful for Melco's long-term collaboration with Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes which has been supporting students with lifelong learning opportunities."

IEONG WENG SI
VICE PRINCIPAL OF ESCOLA SECUNDÁRIA LUSO-CHINESA

said, "Thinking back to when school first started, I was worried that I would not be able to keep up. With the help of teachers and classmates and my continued efforts, I gradually discovered the joy of learning. I am thankful to the company for establishing such a positive learning environment for us. I also thank my teachers for their attentive coaching and the

hard work of the colleagues at Melco's Learning Academy. Of course, I must also thank my family for their encouragement and support throughout the way."

Fellow Back to School Program graduate and Lotus Award recipient, Ms. Qiu Xuexia, added, "Three years have flown by. When class schedules were impacted by the pandemic, our teachers kindly began teaching online, so I thank them for their dedication and consideration. It was a great honor for me to be awarded on the day of the school opening. I wish to thank all those who have supported me in my life as I thank myself as well for persevering."

Senior High School graduate Mr. Ng Chi Hou said, "Arriving at today has not been easy, especially with the juggling of work, family and study. If not for some quite significant resolve, I could have easily given up, so I am thrilled to finally achieve these results after putting in all the hard work. Melco's Back to School program hosted by the Learning Academy really empowers colleagues with Melco's vision 'The Future is Ours'. Thank you once again to the company for enabling me with this invaluable self-development opportunity."

At the event, Mr. Lawrence Ho said, "The program's success is built upon the wholehearted support of our business unit leaders who assist our colleagues through their years of learning while working, and of course, the sheer commitment and dedication of our colleague participants and their families. Congratulations to the latest group of program graduates who have spent the past 3-4 years studying for their High School Diploma during full time employment, showing incredible perseverance. We continue to encourage all colleagues to pursue lifelong learning for personal and professional development."



Back to School graduate colleagues



Mr. Raymond Lo, Senior Vice President, General Manager of Altira Macau & Mocha photographed with graduate Ms. Wu Qionghua.



Ms. Xie Doushan (left) achieved Lotus Award and Macau Foundation Award for Art Education for Senior High School and Mr. Chang Wun Choi (right) received Lotus Award.

AP PHOTO



Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN RIGHTS CHIEF HINTS REPORT ON XINJIANG MAY MISS DEADLINE

JAMEY KEATEN, GENEVA

THE outgoing U.N. human rights chief suggested yesterday that her office may not make good on her promise to release its long-awaited report on China's Xinjiang region by the end of her term next week.

Speaking to reporters, Michelle Bachelet said her office is "trying" to meet the deadline that she herself set in June, shortly after announcing that she would not seek a new four-year term after the current one ends on Aug. 31.

"Try harder!" tweeted John Fisher, the Geneva director for Human Rights Watch, after hearing her news conference.

The final months of Bachelet's term have been overshadowed by extended delays in releasing the report about Xinjiang, which many Geneva diplomats believed to be nearly completed a year ago.

"We are working on the report," she said. "I had fully intended for it to be released before the end of my mandate, and we are trying."

Bachelet said her office — as is common practice when the U.N. rights office reports on countries — has informed China about its "findings" and officials have come back with a "substantial" number of comments. She said her office was focusing only on possible factual errors now.

Independent human rights

groups have denounced what Beijing has called vocational centers for ethnic Uyghurs and other minority groups as detention centers, while some countries including the United States have accused Beijing of "committing genocide" in Xinjiang.

Bachelet insisted she had raised concerns with Chinese authorities, which included a virtual meeting with President Xi Jinping, about the detention conditions and "ill-treatment" of the people inside, when she visited to China and Xinjiang in May — a visit long in the making.

She said her office had received "huge numbers" of letters, starting more than a year ago, re-

questing the publication of the report on Xinjiang — and in recent months she received a letter from about 40 countries including China "asking for non-publication" of the report.

"I have been under tremendous pressure to publish, or not to publish, but I will not publish or withhold publication due to any such pressure," she said.

Bachelet has said she is not seeking a new term for personal reasons and a desire to return home to Chile, where she served two terms as president.

The office of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has not indicated who Bachelet's successor might be. The choice would

need to be approved by the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Often such appointments are done by acclamation at the assembly, which could be a tall order in the current times of growing polarization in the world — notably between China, Russia and their allies on one side, and the U.S. and other Western and allied countries on the other.

Bachelet has often faced criticism for being too cozy with or understanding of governments, particularly that of rising powerhouse China, and many saw her appointment in 2018 as a sign of a new tack by Guterres to work more with, not against, leaders on the issue of human rights.

After her trip to China, Bachelet touted an agreement to foster more communication between her office and Chinese authorities, but it remains unclear how much her office can keep that up after she leaves the job.

Overall, she has garnered plaudits for pressing to get U.N. human rights monitors into Venezuela, which she visited and spoke out strongly about rights violations and abuses under President Nicolas Maduro's government; and voicing strong concerns about racial discrimination and police violence in the wake of the death of George Floyd, a Black man, under the knee of a police officer in the United States in May 2020.

Bachelet lamented that the COVID-19 pandemic had curtailed her ability to travel to meet with governments, victims and advocacy groups around the world. While noting progress on some issues like the death penalty, which a growing number of countries banned during her term, she expressed frustration that governments had not always prioritized human rights as they should.

"Sometimes you feel that the world is not getting any better," she said. **MDT/AP**

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Panda twins born in China as species struggles for survival

TWIN giant pandas have been born at a breeding center in southwestern China, a sign of progress for the country's unofficial national mascot as it struggles for survival amid climate change and loss of habitat.

The male and female cubs, born Tuesday at the Qinling Panda Research Center in Shaanxi province, are the second pair of twins born to their mother, Qin Qin. Another panda, Yong Yong, gave birth to twins at the center earlier this month.

Qin Qin was also born at the center and previously

gave birth to twin females in 2020.

State media gave no word on the father, but Chinese veterinarians for years have been using artificial insemination to boost the population of the animals, which reproduce rarely in the wild and rely on a diet of bamboo in the mountains of western China.

The efforts have paid off, with some captive-bred pandas being released into the wild. The population of wild pandas has ticked up gradually, reaching an estimated 1,800. About 500 others live in captivity in

zoos and reserves, the majority in the mountainous, heavily forested province of Sichuan.

Encroachment on their land by farmers and industry has reduced the pandas' space while cutting them off from other populations with which to breed.

Like much of central and western China, Sichuan has been hit by soaring summer temperatures and drought this year that have sparked forest fires and the withering of crops and forests, generally attributed to global climate change. **MDT/AP**



Newly born twin Panda cubs (male at left and female at right) at the center in Xi'an

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Assists with Smooth Operation of NAT Stations in Macao

In support of the city's multiple rounds of nucleic-acid testing (NAT) starting from June 19 for Macao residents and key groups initiated by the Macao SAR government, Sands China volunteers donned personal protective gear to take on a total of over 24,000 shifts to assist the operation of the NAT stations, contributing over 110,000 service hours in the community's fight against COVID-19.

Sands China took the lead to offer Cotai Expo Halls A, B and C at The Venetian Macao as a testing venue, and its volunteers helped ensure smooth operations at the station by taking different positions at The Venetian Macao. Additionally, they helped at other NAT stations outside the company's properties, such as the Sino-Portuguese Technical Professional School and Sheng Kung Hui Taipa Youth and Family Integrated Service Centre. Not only did they assist with crowd control, registration, materials distribution and enquiry handling, but they also provided support to those needing special assistance, such as seniors, pregnant women, those with children and infants, and people with disabilities, so that they could finish their tests smoothly.

Paulina Pereira Che, a management team member at The Venetian Macao testing station, said: "One of the biggest challenges was to assemble our testing station within a very tight timeline. Compared to the first community-wide NAT drive in 2021, our setup time decreased from 12 hours to 5 hours, which allowed us to offer support to the community more swiftly."

Nala Cheong, another Sands China volunteer, said: "During our service, everyone had different positions but we were all united as one. I felt touched when I received sincere support and encouragement from residents."

With roots in Macao for nearly 20 years now, Sands China will continue to support the Macao government's COVID-19 control measures and will stand together with the community to minimize the risk of infection during COVID-19 outbreaks.



AP PHOTO



SOME LIKE IT HOT

Eating spicy in Chongqing's WWII shelters

THE city of Chongqing, dubbed one of China's four "furnace" cities, is known for both soaring temperatures and spicy cuisine — notably its hotpot, a peppery bubbling tabletop broth into which diners dunk bite-size pieces of food to cook and eat.

The inland metropolis on the Yangtze River has the perfect escape to enjoy hotpot, even in what has been a summer of unusually stifling heat: World War II-era air raid shelters, converted into restaurants, where the temperature is naturally cooler.

Locals call it "cave hotpot."

Chongqing was the temporary capital of China during World War II, as a Japanese invasion drove the government out of the then-capital, Nanjing, and occupied eastern China. Leader Chiang Kai-shek, the military, foreign diplomats and others set up in what was then a remote city in the southwest.

At the sound of air raid sirens, residents crowded into the often dark shelters dug into the hilly cityscape to protect people and military weapons. Thousands died in the Japanese aerial bombing attacks.

Today, the stone arch doorways of the former shelters still dot the city. Some have become cafes and mahjong parlors and others, restaurants.

Red Chinese characters hang over one entrance, its stonework half-hidden by a refrigerated drinks display case and stacked up plastic chairs. The characters read: "Cave Pavilion Hotpot. Founded 1989."

Inside, tables and chairs line

two long and narrow tunnels connected by a corridor. A starry night sky has been painted on the semi-circular roof to reinforce a feeling of coolness. A painting of a World War II fighter plane hangs on the wall.

Diners drop beef tripe, meat, fish and vegetables into a bubbling broth filled with floating red chili peppers and lip-numbing Sichuan peppercorns. A non-spicy broth is also available — in a smaller container.

"We stay away from the summer heat in these air raid shelters," said Tang Ronggang, as wisps of steam rose in front of his face from the hotpot on his table. "It's cool in here, a good place to stay in summer."

Particularly this summer, which has seen what meteorologists are calling China's strongest heat wave since the government began recording rainfall and temperature 61 years ago. High temperatures have persisted for more than two months, topping 40 degrees Celsius in many places.

Shopping malls have closed in Chongqing for most of the daytime to conserve power. Wide swaths of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers, which meet in the city, have dried up, drawing people to the exposed riverbed. The extended heat and drought is blamed on a high-pressure system parked over western Russia that is also causing this summer's heatwaves in Europe.

Some date the city's hotpot tradition to the 16th century. The dish moved into abandoned air raid shelters in the 1970s, giving birth to a new tradition, the cave hotpot. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Pyongyang citizens pay tribute to the statues of their late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of Kim Jong Il's first field guidance for the revolutionary armed forces in Pyongyang, yesterday

N. KOREA SEES SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES AFTER VICTORY CLAIM

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

NORTH Korea yesterday said it found four new fever cases in its border region with China that may have been caused by coronavirus infections, two weeks after leader Kim Jong Un declared a widely disputed victory over COVID-19.

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said health workers were conducting genetic tests on the samples taken from four people in Ryanggang province who exhibited fevers to confirm whether they were caused by the "malignant epidemic." North Korea often uses that term, along with "malignant virus," to describe COVID-19 and the coronavirus.

Authorities immediately locked down the areas where the fever cases emerged and plan to maintain tight restrictions and quarantines until health workers determine the cause of the illness.

KCNA said health authorities were giving extra attention to the cases because none of the four patients had a history of coronavirus infections.

The country's emergency anti-virus headquarters dispatched "talented epidemiological, virology and test experts to the area" and is taking steps to "trace all persons ... connected with the suspect cases, and persons going to and from the relevant area and keep them under strict medical observation," KCNA said.

North Korea said there have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in any part of the country since Aug. 10 when Kim declared victory over the virus, just three months after the country acknowledged an outbreak.

Even as he ordered preventive measures eased, Kim called for vigilance and the maintaining of tight border controls to prevent the virus from reentering the country. Ryanggang province is one of the border areas where North Korean officials for years struggled to clamp down smuggling activities with China.

An official from South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said Seoul isn't ruling out the possibility that the virus could reemerge

in the North.

"North Korea may additionally report on the situation, including whether the fevers were confirmed as COVID-19, and we would need to wait for that before making judgements," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing.

While Kim claimed that the country's success against the virus would be recognized as a global health miracle, experts believe the North has manipulated disclosures on its outbreak to help him maintain absolute control. The victory statement signals Kim's aim to move to other priorities, including a possible nuclear test, experts say.

After admitting to an omicron

outbreak of the virus in May, North Korea reported about 4.8 million "fever cases" across its mostly unvaccinated population of 26 million but only identified a fraction of them as COVID-19. It claimed just 74 people have died, which experts see as an abnormally small number considering the country's lack of public health tools.

Kim's declaration of victory over COVID-19 during a national meeting in Pyongyang was followed by a combative speech from his powerful sister, who said Kim had suffered a fever himself while steering the anti-virus campaign and laid dubious blame against South Korea while vowing deadly retaliation.

North Korea claims that its initial infections were caused by anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other items carried across the border by balloons launched by South Korean activists, a claim the South has described as "ridiculous" and unscientific.

Outside experts believe it's more likely that the virus spread when the North briefly reopened its border with China to freight traffic in January and surged further following a military parade and other large-scale events in its capital, Pyongyang, in April.

There are concerns that the threats by Kim's sister portend a provocation, possibly a nuclear or missile test or even border skirmishes.

Some experts say the North may try to stir up tensions as South Korea and the United States hold their biggest combined military training in years to counter the growing North Korean nuclear threat. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, which involves aircraft, tanks and warships, continues in South Korea through Sept. 1.

Diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang to defuse the nuclear standoff has stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging crippling U.S.-led sanctions against the North for the North's denuclearization steps.

MDT/AP

PHILIPPINES

Inmates protest on prison roof over food, warden

ABOUT 100 inmates in an overcrowded jail climbed atop the roof of a prison building in the central Philippines and noisily protested with raised fists and placards, saying they were not being fed well and demanding the removal of the jail warden, who was immediately suspended, jail officials said yesterday.

The inmates peacefully dispersed after the Wednesday

morning protest and were brought back to their cells in the provincial district jail compound in Pototan town in Iloilo province, and they will face an investigation and possible disciplinary action, officials said.

Pictures of the rare protest by inmates, who massed on the roof of a building facing a jail gate, where some journalists later gathered, were posted on Fa-

cebook and quickly drew attention in a country with some of the world's most congested prisons. One of their placards read: "We're hungry, warden get out."

"They really got attention," Bureau of Jail Management and Penology spokesman Xavier Solda told The Associated Press, adding that the inmates, who included suspected communist guerrillas and

drug offenders, sneaked out of morning prayers and physical exercise under the sun and used a ledge to climb up onto the roof in a secretly planned protest action.

A handwritten note thrown by the inmates accused jail authorities of serving them inadequate meals and of seizing food brought by relatives to force them to buy meals at a jail

food outlet. Glass shards were found in rice rations at one point and rotten fish was served at another time, the note said. But jail officials denied the allegations that appeared in local news reports, saying the inmates were served three proper meals a day and no complaints were aired until the prison protest.

Solda said a standard budget of 70 pesos (\$1.25) is

allotted for the daily meals of each of the more than 1,100 inmates in the Iloilo jail, including the costs of cooking gas, and added that officials were always looking for ways to improve conditions in nearly 500 jails across the country.

"We will not dismiss their concerns just because they're PDLs," Solda said, using the acronym for "persons deprived of liberty" to refer to the inmates. "If their concern is food, then definitely we will look into this and if there's a problem, we will look for solutions."

MDT/AP

PUTIN'S WAR

Death toll from train station attack in Ukraine rises to 25

INNA VARENYTSIA, POKROVSK

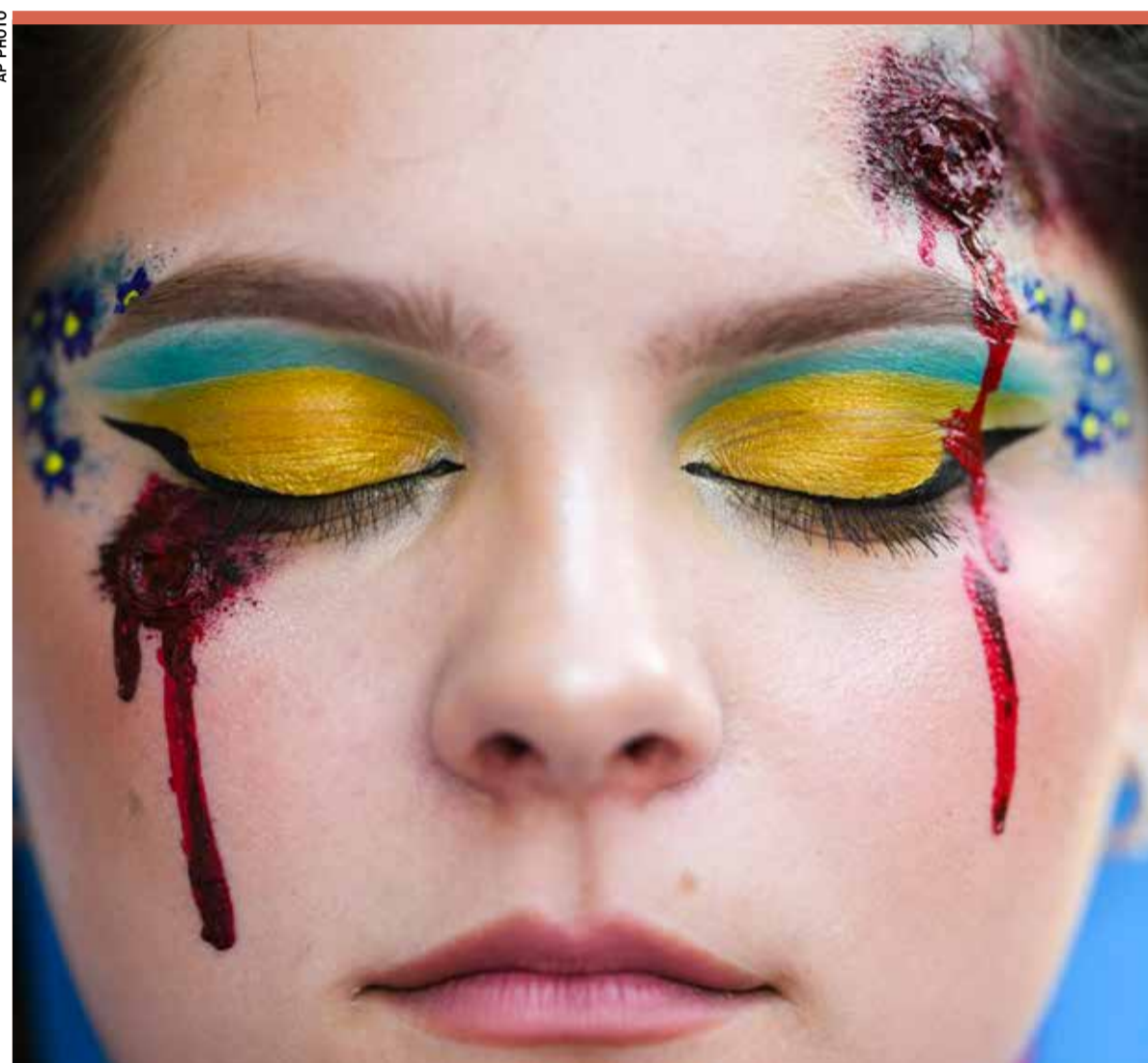
THE death toll from a Russian rocket attack as Ukraine observed its Independence Day has risen to 25, including an 11-year-old boy found under the rubble of a house and a 6-year-old killed in a car fire near a train station that was the target, a Ukrainian official said yesterday.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces used an Iskander missile to strike a military train that was carrying Ukrainian troops and equipment to the front line in eastern Ukraine. The ministry claimed more than 200 reservists "were destroyed on their way to the combat zone."

The deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, did not say if the 25 victims he reported from Wednesday's attack all were civilians. A total of 31 people sustained injuries, he said.

The lethal strike in Chaplyne, a town of about 3,500 residents in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, nonetheless served as a brutally painful reminder that Russia's military force is causing civilians to suffer and testing Ukraine's resilience after six months of a grinding war.

In Geneva yesterday, the U.N.'s human rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, decried the time since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into the neighboring



country as "unimaginably horrifying." She called on Putin "to halt armed attacks against Ukraine."

The train station strike took place after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned

that Moscow might attempt "something particularly cruel" this week as Ukraine marked both its 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and the six-month point of Russia's invasion on Wednesday.

Tetyana Kvitnytska, deputy head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional health department, said the people wounded in the attack suffered a range of injuries.

"There are craniocerebral injuries, limb fractures, many pa-

tients with explosive and shrapnel injuries, burns," she said. "People were in a difficult condition, both physically and psychologically."

"Now our efforts are focused on the children who suffered. We work with four children. Three children out of four are in serious condition. In addition to severe stress, they have blast and shrapnel injuries, burns, and fractures," Kvitnytska said. "The children are in serious condition."

The Russian government has repeatedly claimed following attacks in which civilians died that its forces only aimed at legitimate military targets. Hours before the train station attack, Russia insisted it was doing its best to spare civilians, even at a cost of slowing down its offensive in Ukraine.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, speaking Wednesday at a meeting of his counterpart from a security organization dominated by Russia and China, said Russia was carrying out strikes with precision weapons against Ukrainian military targets, and "everything is done to avoid civilian casualties."

"Undoubtedly, it slows down the pace of the offensive, but we do it deliberately," he said.

It was the second time Shoigu has made such a claim; he said the same thing in late May.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, three people were killed in the eastern region of Donetsk on Wednesday and one more was wounded, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Telegram.

Nikopol, a city across the river from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, came under more Russian shelling overnight, Valentyn Reznichenko, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, said. **MDT/AP**

AUSTRALIA

US envoy says Russian invasion speeds shift to clean energy

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine will accelerate the world's shift to renewable energy because of price shocks in oil and gas, a U.S. climate envoy said yesterday.

U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Rick Duke was speaking at an Australian National University forum after meetings with Australian government officials on bilateral cooperation in transitioning to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050.

Duke described the Russian invasion that began six months ago as "one of the biggest geopolitical drivers at the moment" for a global shift toward renewable energy.



Rick Duke speaks at an Australian National University forum, in Canberra, yesterday

"What has sometimes been lost in people's understanding of the rever-

berations on that front is that when you look at what countries are actually doing

in response, it's going to accelerate the energy transition," Duke said.

"The European Union has tripled down on its efforts to deploy renewables and heat pumps and to electrify its vehicle fleet and otherwise respond to this crisis," he added. "That's going to take time ... but the pace is quickening because of the conflict."

Meanwhile, Australia plans to reduce its heavy reliance on solar panels manufactured in China, a Russian ally, by diversifying its trading partners as the Australian government scales up its transition to renewables.

Kushla Munro, who heads the government's International Climate Division, said Australia was focusing on India in develo-

ping an international collaboration on the production of solar panels and green hydrogen.

Australia had also prioritized green energy technology partnerships with Japan, South Korea and the United States to avoid the supply chain constraints that have arisen through the pandemic, Munro said.

The Australian government elected in May has increased Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target to 42% from the previous administration's goal of 26% to 28% below 2005 levels.

The United States is aiming for a 50% to 52% reduction by the end of the decade. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



As Boris Johnson departs, UK takes stock of his messy legacy

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

THE moving vans have already started arriving at Downing Street as Britain's Conservative Party prepares to evict Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The debate over what mark he left on his party, his country and the world will linger long after he departs in September — if, indeed, he really is gone for good.

Johnson led Britain out of the European Union and won a landslide election victory before his government collapsed in a heap of ethics scandals. During his final appearance in Parliament as prime minister in July, he summed up his three years in office as: "Mission largely accomplished."

Many political historians take a harsher view.

"Winston Churchill said that 'History will be kind to me for I intend to write it,'" said Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. "I'm pretty sure Johnson does too, but I doubt he'll find it's as kind to him as it was to his hero."

Johnson cultivated a buffoonish public image, but he has had a serious impact on his country. He bears much of the credit, or blame, for Britain's departure from the EU, a momentous decision whose consequences will play out for years.

"The one certain thing you can say is that his legacy is Brexit," said Steven Fielding, professor of political history at the University of Nottingham. "You can't take that away from him — it's just

a question of whether it's a good thing or a bad thing."

Johnson's backing for the "leave" campaign in Britain's 2016 referendum on EU membership was vital to its victory. He had a popular appeal that no other campaigner could match. When wrangling in Parliament over the departure terms brought down Prime Minister Theresa May three years later, Johnson succeeded her with a vow to "get Brexit done."

He led the Conservatives to a huge election victory in 2019 and took Britain out of the EU the following year. But the long divorce feels far from "done." Relations with the EU have soured amid unresolved disputes over trade rules for Northern Ireland.

New customs and regulatory barriers are also hindering trade between Britain and the 27 EU nations. The benefits of Brexit touted by Johnson and other supporters — a chance to rip up onerous EU rules and create a more dynamic economy — have not yet materialized.

Johnson's promises to redistribute investment and opportunity to neglected regions of Britain also remain unfulfilled. His successor — either Foreign Secretary Liz Truss or former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak, who are competing in a Conservative Party leadership contest whose outcome will be announced Sept. 5 — inherits a deflating economy and a cost-of-living crisis sparked by such factors as Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Margaret MacMillan, emeritus professor of international history at Oxford Univer-

sity, said Johnson has left the United Kingdom weakened both economically and constitutionally.

"The Union is weaker, the status and future of Northern Ireland in question, and relations with the EU, which is still Britain's major trading partner, (are) no better, if not worse, than when he became prime minister," she said.

The other defining event of his premiership was COVID-19, which landed Johnson in intensive care in April 2020 and has left more than 180,000 people in Britain dead.

Johnson hesitated before imposing a nationwide lockdown in March 2020; experts later said acting a week earlier would have saved thousands of lives. Britain went on to have three long lockdowns, a deep economic slump and one of the highest death tolls in Europe. But the U.K.'s vaccine program, led by a task force of scientists and businesspeople, is widely regarded as a major success.

Victoria Honeyman, associate professor of British politics at the University of Leeds, said the verdict on Johnson's pandemic record is in the eye of the beholder.

"His supporters would argue that his actions were beneficial and justified," she said, "while his critics would argue that the actions were the bare minimum."

Apart from Brexit, Johnson's main international cause has been Ukraine. He has been one of the most prominent allies of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Britain has backed up the rhetoric

with billions in military and humanitarian aid to help the country resist Russia's invasion. The support has made Johnson a popular figure in Ukraine, though critics say any other British leader would have followed the same policy.

Johnson's domestic policy achievements were few. His administration was chaotic, wracked by factionalism and constantly in crisis mode, as a lifelong record of bending and breaking rules finally caught up with him.

He brazened out public anger at lockdown-breaching parties in Downing Street during the pandemic, for which he was fined by police. But his appointment to a key job of a politician who had been accused of sexual misconduct proved a scandal too far for Conservative lawmakers, who forced him out.

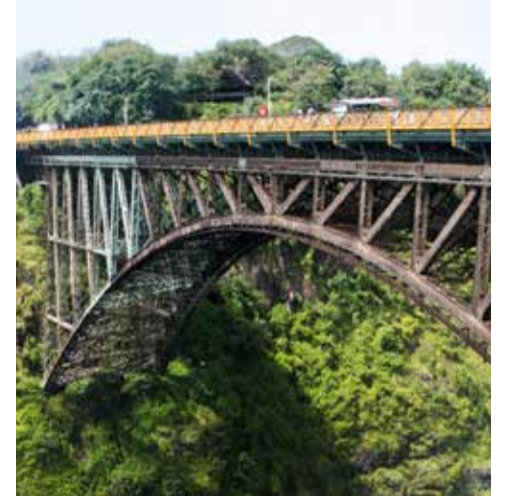
Critics said it was a long-overdue comeuppance for a politician who debased British politics with his populist disregard for ethics and the truth.

"The tragedy is that whoever replaces Johnson will inevitably be someone who tolerated his mendacity, corruption and incompetence for years," Cambridge University history professor Richard Evans wrote in the *New Statesman*. "The mess Boris Johnson has left behind will take a long time to clear up."

But another Cambridge historian, Robert Tombs, said Johnson might one day be seen as "a much underrated politician" -- especially if he publishes his own account of his time in office. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1975 RHODESIA PEACE TALKS FAIL



Talks between the Rhodesian Government and the African National Council (ANC) have collapsed acrimoniously.

Negotiations to bring about a cease fire in the civil war broke up after Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith refused to grant immunity to African nationalist leaders attending the talks.

"It would involve people who are well-known terrorist leaders who bear responsibility for the murders and other atrocities which have been perpetrated in this country," Mr Smith said.

The ANC leader, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, said any hope of achieving a settlement depended on Mr Smith being prepared to compromise.

"If Mr Smith cannot go with us on very small things like this (diplomatic immunity), we think he cannot be serious," Bishop Muzorewa said.

The talks were held in a railway carriage on the Victoria Falls Bridge midway between Rhodesia and Zambia.

The presidents of South Africa and Zambia, the principal allies of Rhodesia and the ANC respectively, acted as mediators at the talks.

But after nine-and-a-half hours of discussions they were unable to find a compromise to save the negotiations.

Mr Smith is now expected to employ tough new military measures against the guerrillas.

The guerrillas, mainly members of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), are said to have been training several thousand men in Zambia and Mozambique.

Mr Smith will also try to win support among "moderate" African leaders for a phased transition to black rule.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In 1976 Ian Smith accepted a US plan to introduce black majority rule to the country within two years.

However, civil war continued until all-party talks in London in 1979 resulted in a peace agreement.

In 1980 Robert Mugabe and his Zanu party were elected to lead the country which was re-named Zimbabwe and internationally-recognised on 18 April 1980.

The year 2000 saw the start of a violent campaign supported by President Mugabe to seize white-owned farms and hand them over to black farmers.

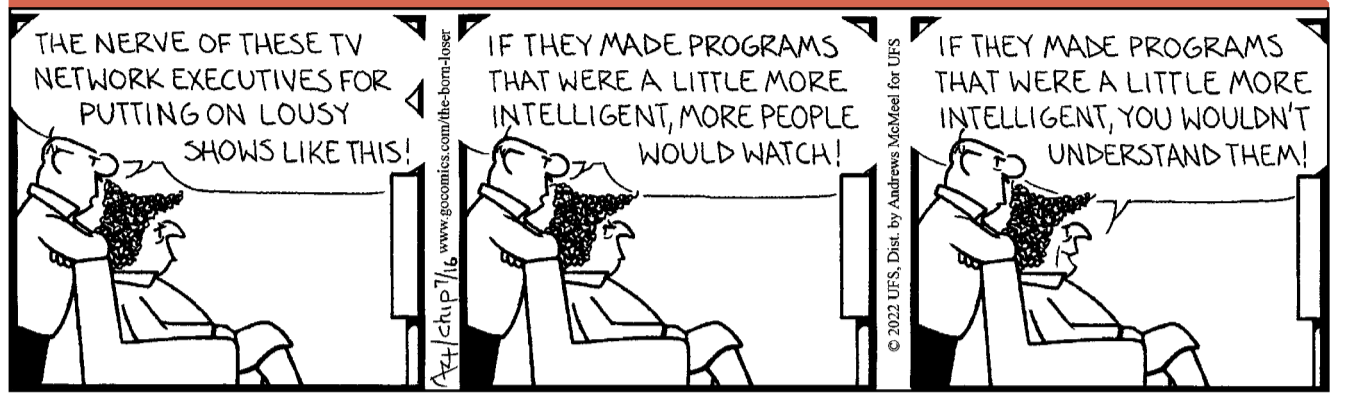
In 2002 the European Union imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe and it was suspended from the Commonwealth.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>If you take on too much, you will find yourself in martyrdom. You should make special plans for you and your lover. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down.</p>	<p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>Don't be too hard on yourself. You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought.</p>
<p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Go on business trips if at all possible. Although upsetting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable.</p>	<p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>It's time to reconnect with some of the people you used to know. Try to enlist the help of those you trust in order to fulfill the demands being made of you. It's time to reevaluate your motives.</p>
<p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Use your added discipline to get what you want. Your reputation will be affected. Set your goals and stick to your guns. Don't hesitate to find out what your mate's intentions are.</p>	<p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>Don't count your chickens before they hatch. Try to get out and socialize. Romance may be likely if you travel. Don't trust a deal that looks too good, or a lover who appears to have it all.</p>
<p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. Someone you care about may not be too well. Depression may put a damper on your day.</p>	<p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Traffic will be busier than you anticipated, so try to get a head start if you have made plans to travel. You'll find it easy to talk about your feeling today.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>Sign up for courses that will bring you more skills. You need activity. Friends may not understand your situation. Think twice before you speak.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Invite people home to discuss your plans for group fundraising events and outings. Problems with large corporations or institutions are apparent.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Try to keep an open mind. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. Rid yourself of that which is old and no longer of use.</p>	<p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>You need adventure and excitement in your life. Risks will not be profitable. You are best to keep your money tied up in a safe and secure place.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	30	fine
Changchun	14	22	thunderstorms
Chengdu	26	32	showers
Chongqing	33	42	cloudy
Fuzhou	28	37	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	31	rain
Guiyang	21	31	cloudy
Haikou	25	30	rain
Hangzhou	26	36	fine
Harbin	14	22	showers
Hefei	24	33	overcast
Nanjing	24	32	overcast
Shanghai	28	34	overcast
Taipei	27	32	rain
Wuhan	26	36	fine
Hong Kong	28	31	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	17	33	overcast
Frankfurt	18	31	rain
Paris	16	27	overcast
London	14	23	overcast
New York	22	31	showers

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Discontinue; 5- Tacit assent; 8- Dos cubed; 12- Maritime; 14- Planetary revolution; 15- Amoeba-like alien; The ____; 16- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 17- Nick and Nora's pooch; 18- Able was ____; 19- Casern; 21- Insecure; 23- Student's conveyance; 24- Vietnam's ____ Dinh Diem; 25- In medias ____; 26- Bicycle seat; 30- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 32- Without ____ in the world; 33- Two weeks; 37- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 38- Languishes with longing; 39- ____ Abby; 40- Capital of Iowa; 42- Blackbird; 43- Chipped in; 44- Cylindrical; 45- It's not PC; 48- Helping hand; 49- Father; 50- Arboreal lizard; 52- Person who hijacks; 57- Over-50 org.; 58- Bingo call; 60- France's longest river; 61- Japanese soup; 62- Old Italian money; 63- Cleft; 64- Supermodel Sastre; 65- End for Siam; 66- Tops;

DOWN 1- Stuffed shirt; 2- Parting word; 3- Above, finished; 4- Henry VIII's sixth; 5- Capone's nemesis; 6- Bit of grain; 7- Game of checkers; 8- Off-Broadway theater award; 9- Lucid; 10- Stallion, e.g.; 11- Follows orders; 13- Legally responsible; 14- Tibetan beasts; 20- Stage signal; 22- Midday; 24- Nostrils; 26- Stated; 27- Farm measure; 28- Beaver creations; 29- Stage play; 30- In shape; 31- Duck with soft down; 33- Penalized; 34- Richard of "Chicago"; 35- Sentry's shout; 36- It transforms carbon dioxide into oxygen; 38- Lamentable; 41- Son of Judah; 42- Military decorations; 44- ____ Mahal; 45- Heat home; 46- One more time; 47- Swearword; 49- Actress Merrill; 51- Mil. addresses; 52- Roll call response; 53- Nightclub of song; 54- Thousand; prefix; 55- The Emerald Isle; 56- Network of nerves; 59- ____ the season...;

Wednesday's solution

R	A	T	E	R	H	E	A		A	N	S
A	G	A	R		E	A	R	L	S	O	L
K	I	L	N	A	D	M	I	T	I	O	N
S	O	C	I	A	L		A	V	O	T	I
N	A	N		L	I	A		S	O	N	S
E	N	A		U	Z	I	S		D	E	H
G	E	N	A		V	E	S	A	S		O
G	E	N	A		S	L	A	N	G		S
T	R	A	S	E		F	R	E	T		T
V	R	A	S	S	A	L					
O	V	E	R	H	A	U	L				
S	E	C	T								
L	E	T	S								
O	R										

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	

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COLOANE V. 1 BED	HKD 9,300
COLOANE V. 2 BEDS	HKD 10,500
COLOANE V. 2 BEDS	HKD 10,000

FOR SALE

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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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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS' FINAL FILM ROLE IN 'BREAKING'

BREAKING," Abi Damaris Corbin's lean and heartfelt first feature, is a lackluster bank-robbery thriller with noble intentions enlivened by an impassioned performance by John Boyega and an elegiac final appearance by the late Michael K. Williams.

It's not until well into "Breaking" that Williams, as a police negotiator, turns up. But the actor, who died last year, immediately reorients and deepens the film. As a sensitive ear to Boyega's former Marine, who's holed up inside an Atlanta-area Wells Fargo bank, Williams and his soulful, melancholy eyes bring a rush of empathy to the film, the white hair on his beard one last reminder of all the wise older characters the "Wire" actor might have gone on to play.

"Breaking," which opens in theaters Friday, may go down primarily as a footnote in Williams' career but it's also a showcase for Boyega, an actor who, like Williams, has a powerful voice both on and off screen. He plays Brian Brown-Easley, who nervously and with little apparent plan walks into the bank and quietly informs the teller that he has a bomb.

Flashbacks fill in the tale, which comes from a true story from 2017. Disjointed scenes capture

AP PHOTO



John Boyega in a scene from "Breaking"

Brian's long hours on the phone trying to get his disability check from the Department of Veteran Affairs. When he goes down to their offices and tells them he soon won't be able to feed himself, he's handed a pamphlet and

told to take a number. It's not until dozens of police are outside with snipers' rifles aimed through the windows that we learn what Brian is owed: \$892.34.

"Your life is worth more than that," Williams' police officer te-

lls him.

"Breaking" is about how a feeling of worthlessness can push a person to the brink. Brian is only after what's owed to him; he declines to take the bank's money. He's courteous to the two hos-

tages, played by Nicole Beharie and Selenis Leyva. And, more than anything, he just wants to be heard, to not have his voice drowned out by VA bureaucracy and society's disinterest. Inside the bank, Brian spends most of his time pleading for a negotiator to be assigned or imploring a local reporter (Connie Britton) for coverage. "Tell them about what's happening!" he screams. As in Sidney Lumet's "Dog Day Afternoon," Brian's gambit is more protest than heist.

But "Breaking," penned by Corbin with the British playwright Kwame Kwei-Armah, struggles to mix elements on the ground with a character study into Brian's life. Scenes over the phone with his estranged wife (Olivia Washington) and daughter (London Covington) are flat. And by the time "Breaking" creeps to its bloody climax, the movie has only made a thin sketch of its protagonist despite Boyega's obvious dedication. Everything driving Corbin's film is to be lauded, yet "Breaking" feels oddly lacking in drive. Brian, who clutches broken glasses throughout the film, never quite comes into focus.

"Breaking," a Bleeker Street release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for some violent content, and strong language. Running time: 103 minutes. ★★☆☆

AD

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TASTE OF EDESIA

Sustainable object of desire

IRENE SAM, MDT

VEUVE Clicquot has left its mark on the world for the past 250 years. Its culture of design and innovation began with Madame Clicquot, who was known as “La Grande Dame de la Champagne.” Creative and daring, Madame Clicquot revolutionised the world of champagne by inventing the first vintage in 1810, the first riddling table in 1816, and the first known blended rosé champagne in history, in 1818. She was convinced that the look was as important as the taste, saying: “Our wines must flatter both the palate and the eye.”

Contributing to the design of the champagne bottle as we know it today, Madame Clicquot was driven by a desire to combine aesthetics and functionality. The House has preserved this cultural heritage and remains a pioneer in the design of exceptional objects and giftboxes.

In celebration of this heritage, Veuve Clicquot unveils “THE ICONS,” a series of the House’s most emblematic objects, each of which tells a part of Veuve Clicquot’s story.

Based on the House belief that highly functional packaging can be transformed into a unique, desirable object as an integral part of our art de vivre, these new products pay tribute to the House’s love for beautiful and functional objects., re-edited with sustainability in mind.

Launched in 2004, the “Ice Jacket” embodied the perfect balance between design, innovation, and haute couture. Inspired by diver’s wetsuits, it is a functional and fashionable pouch that keeps your champagne chilled, wherever, whenever.

The new version has now been redesigned to maintain its isotherm dimension, without any use of Neoprene material, and is now composed of 100% recycled plastic.

Keeping champagne chilled for up to 60 minutes, this new Ice Jacket has been designed to last and be reused. It is circular but also recyclable as a textile. The Veuve Clicquot Fridge is an audacious chill box inspired by the refrigerators of the 1950s. In Veuve Clicquot’s iconic, so-laire yellow, it embodies the House’s creative spirit and its ability to reinvent everyday objects, transforming them into objects of desire.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



MR. LI BAOZHU CHARITY RACE 1800M TURF 2022-08-28|Sun|17:00

TRAINER W. Smith has done lots of work on **Breeze ‘N’ Luna** in the morning, obviously he wish to get him fit and ready for this Sunday’s 1800M turf winnable race before the season end. W. Smith know his horses well and with his experience in the saddle he sure knows when his horses are ready to rock and roll. In his last race he ran into the quinella, this Sunday he sure will go one better . 1800M is within his reach and he also drawn gate one which is a big plus , you going to see his connection waiting to lead him into the winning enclosure .

Race 3 Horse no. 3 Breeze ‘N’ Luna Win and Place play



AD

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OPINION

China Daily

Liu Fei, China Daily

THE CHARM OF MONGKOK'S STREET BILLBOARDS

On the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, I visited the city I have been longing to see for a long time with a lot of anticipation and a little nervousness. After the 7-day quarantine period at home, I came to Mongkok, one of the greatest tourist attractions in the world, for the first time. Its streets and crowds were as busy as I imagined.

Mongkok is a very welcoming place. Once I arrived, I found there were no scenes like in the TVB dramas where the streets were filled with sword fights or cars went on wild chases. Walking along Nathan Road in Mongkok, there were a lot of special street billboards which showed me the charm of this street. My friend and I walked around Mongkok all afternoon; I found these street billboards informed me of the historical atmosphere and great regional characteristics of Hong Kong.

As a student majoring in advertising, I am always attracted by unique street billboards because I think these things are an important component of the urban space; they not only convey a great deal of commercial information but also serve as a good guide for the public and visitors.

The buildings in Mongkok are not very tall. If I considered the streets as the first boundary of urban space and the external outline of the buildings as the second boundary, then the street billboards of the shop buildings which create the vertical profile of the street space could form the third boundary. In other words, a large number of street billboards conceal the façade of the buildings and become an extension of the buildings, becoming important components and striking characters of the street space. They even allow us to learn about the culture and art of Hong Kong when we walk along the street.

The shops in Mongkok were a little crowded, so these various street billboards could help us know the characteristics of the different shops directly when we walked on the street. I thought these street billboards demonstrated a very distinctive mode of business competition, and they made me admire the wisdom of the former Hong Kong people. We all know that Hong Kong has limited land with a large number of residents, so they used this method to maximize the use of the space to promote Hong Kong's social and economic development. This wisdom is fully demonstrated by the layout of these billboards.

Most of the street billboards in Mongkok are presented in Cantonese or Mandarin, just foreign businesses use English advertising boards. So, even if we are students from the Chinese Mainland, these street billboards can also be a good guide for us and makes it convenient for us to shop in Mongkok. Even though there were a lot of crossroads in the road, we did not need to worry that we would get lost, it made us feel as if we were still in the Chinese mainland.

I always think that the billboards along the streets show the unique charm of a city, so in my eyes, the billboards in Mongkok are beautiful sights on the streets. They showed me the unique style of modern Hong Kong, especially on the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return; I could even see some signs which are affixed to the street billboards to celebrate this event, which made me feel very happy.

The street billboards of Mongkok made me pleasantly surprised, and I am looking forward to experiencing more interesting culture in Hong Kong.

MEMO SHEDS LIGHT ON DECISION TO CLEAR TRUMP IN RUSSIA PROBE

THE BUZZ

Justice Department officials who evaluated then-President Donald Trump's actions during the Russia investigation concluded that nothing he did, including firing the FBI director, rose to the level of obstruction of justice and that there was no precedent for a prosecution, according to a memo released yesterday [Macau time].

The nine-page memo, prepared for then-Attorney General William Barr by a pair of senior Justice Department officials, offered a legal analysis on whether Trump had criminally obstructed the investigation into potential ties between Russia and his 2016 presidential campaign.

Barr agreed with the conclusions of the March 24, 2019, memo and announced that same day that he had concluded that Trump's conduct did not break the law.

Though the decision to clear Trump of obstruction has been well-documented, the newly disclosed memo offers additional details about how two of the department's senior-most leaders arrived at that conclusion. The department's decision was notable because special counsel Robert Mueller, who led the Russia investigation, declined in his 448-page report to decide whether Trump had obstructed justice but pointedly did not absolve him either.



AP PHOTO

MPLA LEADS WITH 52%

ANGOLA ANXIOUSLY WATCHES VOTE COUNTING IN NATIONAL ELECTION

FERNANDO LIMA, LUANDA

ANGOLANS are anxiously watching the vote counting in their election race between the ruling MPLA party and the opposition UNITA.

With 86% of votes counted, the MPLA has the lead with 52% of the votes and UNITA has 43%, according to preliminary results announced yesterday by the National Electoral Commission. Smaller parties have received the remaining votes.

This is the opposition party's best showing in 30 years. But many supporters of UNITA — the Union for the Total Independence of Angola — assert that their party should be in the lead and charge that the official results are not accurate.

According to many experts, the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, known by its Portuguese acronym MPLA and in power for 47 years, holds an unfair advantage as it controls virtually all aspects of the election process.

The mood is calm but

anxious in Luanda, the seaside capital on the Atlantic Ocean, where many voters openly say they voted for the opposition. Angola is Africa's second-largest producer of oil and has rich diamond deposits, but the majority of the southern African country's 34 million people remain in poverty, according to the U.N. With unemployment above 30%, many people say they want to see change.

"I voted early and I voted for a change," said Gelmo Santos, 49, who works as a driver and held up his finger stained with violet ink as proof that he cast his ballot.

Benedito dos Santos, 29, said he also decided to vote for change.

"This is the right time to show which direction the youngsters want for this country," said dos Santos, a fish seller in Luanda.

Such vocal support for the opposition is unusual in Angola, which for many years was a one-party state ruled by the MPLA. Since 1992 the southern African country has been a multi-party democracy and many voters, especially

those under 30, say they want to see change.

Both parties are former rebel movements that fought Portuguese colonial rule. The MPLA won power with backing from the Soviet Union and established Marxist rule when Angola became independent in 1975. UNITA fought a bitter civil war against the MPLA, with support from the U.S. and apartheid-ruled South Africa.

In a negotiated truce, the MPLA agreed to multiparty elections held in 1992. UNITA furiously rejected the MPLA's win and the country was plunged back into civil war that only ended in 2002.

Since then, UNITA has transformed itself from a rebel group into a political party, particularly under the new leadership of Adalberto Costa Junior, who didn't fight in the civil war. Costa Junior has succeeded in gaining support from other opposition politicians and intellectuals.

UNITA legally challenged its loss in the 2017 election but the courts ruled in favor of the MPLA. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

Russian president has ordered the Russian military to increase the size of the country's armed forces by 137,000 amid Moscow's military action in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin's decree signed yesterday didn't explain whether the military will beef up its ranks by drafting a bigger number of conscripts, increasing the number of volunteer soldiers or using a combination of both.



AP PHOTO

USA Aiming to turn months of legislative accomplishments into political energy, President Joe Biden will hold a kickoff rally today (Macau time) to boost Democrats' fortunes 75 days out from the midterm elections. The event, in the safely Democratic Washington suburb of Rockville, Maryland, is meant to ease Biden into what White House aides say will be an aggressive season of championing his policy victories and aiding his party's candidates. It comes as Democrats have seen their political hopes rebound in recent months amid a legacy-defining burst of action by Biden and Congress.



AP PHOTO

USA The Uvalde, Texas, school district has fired police chief Pete Arredondo under mounting pressure in the grieving Texas town to punish officers over the law enforcement response to the deadly elementary school massacre in which a man armed with an AR-15-style rifle remained in a fourth-grade classroom for more than an hour, killing 19 children and two teachers. In a unanimous vote, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District's board of trustees fired Arredondo during a meeting also attended by parents and survivors of the May 24 massacre.