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THREE SUSPECTS IN THE ARMED FIGHT AT AN EATERY IN AREIA PRETA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, THE JUDICIARY POLICE SAID IN A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

CHINA ANNOUNCES VISA SCHEMES FOR FOREIGNERS IN MACAU TO ENTER HENGQIN

COVID-19 MILLIONS IN NEW LOCKDOWN AS CHINA KEEPS STRICT POLICY



AP PHOTO



Australia An Australian man was convicted yesterday of murdering his wife 40 years ago after a renewed police investigation that was triggered by a popular podcast. Christopher Dawson, 74 (pictured), faces a possible life sentence. He opted for a trial by judge instead of a jury in the New South Wales state Supreme Court due to his notoriety from “The Teacher’s Pet” podcast, which 60 million people have listened to since 2018. The podcast set out a circumstantial case that Dawson had murdered his wife, Lynette.

Philippines Suspected Muslim rebels killed a police chief and his driver in a southern Philippine town and wounded at least three other officers as they were traveling yesterday to arrest a suspect, officials said. About 10 men opened fire on a police vehicle carrying Ampatuan town police chief Lt. Reynaldo Samson, who died instantly along with his driver in the midmorning attack on a rural road in the town in Maguindanao province, regional police commander Brig. Gen. John Gano Guyguyon said. Three other officers riding in the vehicle were wounded.

AP PHOTO



Pakistan and the United Nations are set to appeal for \$160 million in emergency funding for nearly a half million displaced victims of record-breaking floods that have killed more than 1,150 people since mid-June, officials said. Pakistani authorities backed by the military, rescuers and volunteers have been battling the aftermath of the floods that have affected more than 33 million people, or one in seven Pakistanis.

More on backpage

DOWN THE BORDER



Macau reopens borders to 41 countries, excludes migrants' nationalities

BOBO WANG



WILFRED WONG EXCLUSIVE

SANDS WILL STAY IN MACAU ‘FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS’

PAULO COUTINHO/MDT



from other operators we're seeing a change in the branding of Macau; it is truly [becoming] a tourism center; a destination known for retail, gastronomy, MICE exhibition, entertainment. That all helps to change the direction of Macau toward a tourist attraction. With the recent cleaning up of gaming, we will develop more healthily and in the long-term improve the attractiveness of Macau as a tourist destination for the world. Obviously the government wanted us to try to promote Macau overseas, so that there are more tourists from outside of mainland China. We will do that, and I think that in time this is going to help diversify the sources of tourists. Before that, we will have to get our staff prepared. Language ability is one issue - if you want to receive guests from Southeast Asia, from Japan, from Korea... How many of our dealers can command those languages? We will have to include in our plans more language training.

MDT – Surely, with the borders closed, that is a challenge.

WW – We can only plan on the assumption that the border will open one day.

MDT – Do you agree that zero-Covid policy, two and a half years into the pandemic, is the right path?

WW – Macau can only adopt the same policy as the mainland China. Because we all know that 70% of the tourists used to come from China, and that percentage may decrease in the long run. In the meantime, we're still very dependent on them. 20% used to come from Hong Kong, which is closed. So, for a long time to come we have to cater for visitors from the Chinese mainland. But these visitors may be different from those in the past because the demographics have changed; we are seeing younger tourists attracted by the good food, the good shopping, the good entertainment, and the many photo opportunities in the city.

In a survey in 2019, apart from the St Paul's Cathedral, the most sought-after destination was The Venetian and The Parisian, because there you have many photo opportunities, and of course now there's The Londoner. We, as an operator, have to look at the trend, have to improve our hardware and software in line with the trend, and that's why we're investing so much. We've already invested something like MOP120 billion in Macau to make our properties attractive.

but believes that it will happen "in the long-term."

In an exclusive interview in his office in Cotai, as The Venetian celebrates its 15th anniversary, Wong stressed the importance of linguistic abilities and of a strong English press in the city, if "we are fully committed to being an international center of tourism."

Macau Daily Times – The Venetian opened 15 years ago as the biggest casino on earth. It was the corner stone of Cotai Strip. Do you foresee, in some way, a return to those golden days?

Wilfred Wong – We're in the middle of Macau changing its branding, because 15 years ago apart from gaming and some heritage, there's not enough attraction as a tourism center and with the development of integrated resorts, such as The Venetian, The Parisian, The Londoner and [those]

Q&A WILFRED WONG
SANDS CHINA PRESIDENT

'Dream goes on'

PAULO COUTINHO

WEEKS before the deadline to submit a bid for the gaming tender (September 14), Wilfred Wong is optimistic about Sands China Limited (SCL) being able to continue to execute "the vision and the dream" the late Sheldon Adelson had for Macau and operating here another ten years, the duration cap imposed by the new gaming law.

Sands China president's confidence stems mostly from the fact

that the company "has already been developing its operations" in the direction defined by the government in the current tender, namely the investment in non-gaming ventures like events, entertainment and gastronomy as well as market diversification – "but we can do more."

Moreover, he pointed out the contribution made by SCL to the community these two and a half years into the pandemic and during the concomitant economic crisis. "We put our hotels, our staff volunteers, and our facilities at the

service of the government and the community."

In round numbers, "our volunteers put in a total of 7.4 million working-hours over 27,000 shifts for NAT tests alone," Wong highlighted, as an example of his company's commitment to the well-being of the community. "We are team players."

As to the hard-ball game, Wong considers that the new gaming law lays out a "clear direction" for concessionaires. However, he does not foresee big changes in the near future for the industry

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MDT – Gaming has been the major contributor to the GDP, something like 70-80% in the past. How is it possible to return to that when the government is saying that gaming should be not more than roughly 25% of GDP? Do you see any alternative to replace the riches of gaming?

WW – This will take time, because the percentage of any industry depends on the growth of that industry and the other industries relative to each other. So, hopefully in future years, gaming will continue to develop healthily, whereas the other industries will grow faster. That's likely the long-term objective. But to say that this will happen immediately or in the near future may be a bit too optimistic.

MDT – In the meantime we have the new gaming law. Do you see it as a good development for the sector?

WW – First of all, it shows a clear direction in which the integrated resort business has to develop - not [to be] totally dependent on gaming. We have to look at the non-gaming aspect of our operations. In 2004, we had something like 1,700 members working in the non-gaming areas. Today, we have 14,000, which is like 52% of our workforce. In our business operation, MICE, retail, entertainment, F&B, already take 52% of our labor force!

MDT – So, you' are already complying with the direction of the new law?

WW – We have moved in the government's desired direction. In the new tender document they listed 11 areas, and really these are the areas that to a greater or lesser degree we have already been developing. There are some [areas in which] we are more invested, like the MICE sector: 85% of Macau's MICE business is ours. Also, the entertainment business. So, we are very compliant with the direction in which this is going. Of course, we have to do more.

MDT – As an example, MICE depends on local infrastructure (seamless connections, etc.): it seems that, for instance, the airport is not meeting those expectations.

WW – You have to think outside Macau. We do have an international airport at our doorstep: Hong Kong. The [HK-Macau-Zhuhai] bridge has never been really used! In fact, we were planning when the bridge opened to use the Hong Kong airport for large scale convention event [access], because the HK airport already designed a transit arrangement for people arriving internationally: not ha-

ving to go into Hong Kong, but take a direct transit to Macau. In the other [direction] is the Greater Bay area. Right now, high-speed rail comes to Zhuhai, and then there's the infrastructure linking up with Hengqin and Zhuhai.

MDT – But then we are talking once again about the Chinese mainland, the same Chinese market...

WW – For convention and MICE, that's fine. [...] We have large groups from China attending conventions. We've had conventions with 10,000 participants.

“ Singapore has come back very strongly, and that positive revenue has almost covered the loss in Macau.

MDT – SCL drew \$201 million from a credit revolver earlier this year, providing the gaming company with “enough capital to survive through the end of this year.” In Q2, revenues were nearly cut by half. New GGR lows in “decades,” Macau casino operators post losses topping USD2 billion as Covid hits - how is SCL dealing with these cards in the bid proposal?

WW – It just shows the depth of our financial strength. We have survived for two and a half years already and there's the support of the parent company. LVS just lent us \$1 billion to support our bid. Any bidding has to be on the basis that we have confidence in the future, any bidding has to [anticipate] business will return to normal, sustainable, one day. Whether that is this year, next year, we don't know.

MDT – There is no alternative.

WW – There is no alternative, but judging from the way the tourists reacted, once a lock down is over, once the boarder re-opens, there's immediately more people coming in. It's very fast.

MDT – Are the leaders in China showing signs that the Zero-Covid policy is going to change soon?

WW – I have no crystal ball. But obviously, the Chinese leadership is well aware of what's happening in the rest of the world. They are of course, considering their own situation within the country, because every country has its unique problems. And you shouldn't forget that China has a very large rural population, still about 500 million people, and the medi-

cal facilities may be inadequate in these areas. So, they must have their own consideration and I'm sure they are looking at different ways of dealing with the problem. Higher vaccination rates, a cure, medicine and all these things.

MDT – Can Hong Kong and Macau serve as laboratories to test and advance the policies?

WW – Whatever happens in Hong Kong will be under close observation. This three-day quarantine plus four days home isolation, China's government must be observing it very closely. China is also now saying we can shorten the quarantine period from 14 days to 7. It is a step forward, as the country [learns] more about the development of Covid, as the country takes more reference to the international situation and practices, as with the practice in Hong Kong. I'm sure they're going

to adjust the policy and Macau has to follow, because naturally 70% of our customers come from the Chinese mainland, at this stage. Maybe in future there will be more from foreign destinations, but until the border is opened to foreign countries, this won't happen. So, we still have to rely mainly on what happens in the Chinese mainland.

MDT - I was recently in Singapore and visited Marina Bay Sands which was crowded. Within the LVS universe will there be a shift in your center of revenue from Macau to Singapore or even to other locations in Asia... do you still have plans for Taiwan?

WW - No. Right now it's just Macau and Singapore. We [also] sold Vegas and we're looking at other locations in the U.S.. We are interested in other destinations in Asia, but there's no strong indication at this stage. It's really focused on Singapore and Macau. Singapore has come back very strongly, and that positive revenue has almost covered the loss in Macau. It's lucky that LVS has these two operations [in Asia]. We are very pleased that the Venetian [came] here 15 years ago, and that has spear-headed the integrated resort business in Macau. As a company we are very privileged to be here. The late Sheldon Adelson's vision made this happen. We are here to execute and make sure that his dream goes on.

MDT - So your prospects are optimistic?

WW - We are optimistic. That is why we are going confidently into bid for the next 10-years.

PLENARY

AL closes the year with approval of lifts bill

RENATO MARQUES

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) closed this legislative session on Monday evening with the final approval of the Elevator and Escalator Safety Legal System bill.

The bill was passed on its final reading and will enter into force from April 1, 2024.

From that date on, entities responsible for lifting equipment including lifts, escalators, and other similar equipment that carry people and cargo will be required to undertake a complete inspection and proceed with the needed repairs or improvements, namely safety features, of this equipment, within a period of three years.

After this period, the equipment must undergo a regular yearly inspection by a certified entity. Those that fail to comply with the stipulated period of three years to modify or improve the equipment will be subjected to a special inspection every eight months.

In the debate preceding the approval of the law, several lawmakers questioned the responsibility for the maintenance and inspection of such equipment, namely those located in private venues.

In response, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, explained that the law will apply to those lifts in use in public use spaces as well as residential and commercial buildings, noting that, at the moment, the large majority of these already have a maintenance contract between the building management company and a lift maintenance company, noting that these will be, in light of the law, the entities responsible for the equipment.

For the buildings that do not have condominium management attributed to a management company, the responsibilities will fall to the building owner management committee, he explained, noting however that such cases are very rare in Macau as most of the buildings that do not have condominium management are low-rise buildings, which also do not have lifts.

According to Rosário, there are currently around 10,000 lifting pieces of equipment to which this new law will apply in Macau.

Also responding to inquiries over the lack of personnel for the maintenance and inspection, he said that there are 730 registered electrical and mechanical engineers in Macau, as well as over 300 lift technicians registered with the government, noting that finding a company for the maintenance and inspection (which must be a different entity) should not be a problem.

He also reaffirmed that the idea of having a third party carrying out the annual inspection comes in a bid to



enforce added safety to the users of the equipment, as the inspection entity will work as a “supervisor” of the maintenance body, to ensure that such a job is being undertaken properly and not being neglected.

KOU HO IN EVALUATES THE YEAR ON A POSITIVE NOTE

At the end of the plenary session, which was the last of this legislative year, the president of the AL, Kou Ho In, evaluated the work done over the past year, noting his pleasure at the work developed over the legislative session.

According to the summary, Kou said that 19 of the 29 bills submitted by the government had been concluded.

He also noted the four bills in which the government adopted the urgency process and the remaining 10 that are being addressed and will move to the next legislative session, to start in October this year.

Still under analysis are the bills related to the regulations for the study centers, the bill of occupational safety in the civil construction and the legal regime of publicly owned companies (First Standing Committee) as well as the fiduciary law, the legal regime for urban renewal and the law for the operation of the casinos (junkets law), all under the purview the Second Standing Committee.

Still under review by the Third Standing Committee are the new tax Code law, the law on veterinary clinical care and pet shops commercial activity, the archives law, and the legal regime for the attraction of qualified staff (Talents law).

No bills have been received that have not yet been approved on the first reading.

CHINA ANNOUNCES VISA SCHEMES FOR FOREIGNERS IN MACAU TO ENTER HENGQIN

ANTHONY LAM

A Chinese diplomatic official has announced at a forum in Macau that visas will become available to facilitate foreigners' entries to Hengqin alone.

The announcement was made by Commissioner Liu Xianfa of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the city at the Macao Urban Transformation and Development Dialogue forum co-hosted by the Ministry's Office in Macau and the city's government.

A district in Zhuhai city of Guangdong Province in the southern coast of China, Hengqin, now branded as the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone, has been positioned by Beijing as key to supporting Macau's diversified development.

As such, the administration has expressed its desire to attract global talent to the Zone. Given the backdrop, as Liu announced, a visa facilitation policy for foreigners in Macau will be enacted to foster progress.

The policy will take place from tomorrow, September 1.

Permanent residents of Macau of foreign nationalities will be eligible to apply for multiple-entry visas that are valid for five years. Non-permanent residents will be eligible to apply for multiple-entry visas that are valid for the validity of their Macau IDs.

Specialized non-resident workers will be eligible to apply for multiple-entry visas with a validity period of a year. Foreign visitors to Macau who have the need to visit Hengqin for convention



and exhibition purposes will be eligible for multiple visas that are valid for three months.

Full information will be made available on the website of the Ministry's Office in Macau.

DIALOGUE DISCUSSES MACAU'S FUTURE

During the same forum session, local and foreign representatives spoke online and offline about experiences of development and the blueprints of Macau's future.

While opening the forum, Liu said, "General Secretary Xi Jinping has always attached great importance to Macau's prosperity and development and the well-being of people of Macau, while stressing that the motherland stands firm behind Macau's long-term prosperity and stability."

Liu also highlighted that Xi had personally planned for and promoted the development of the Zone in Hengqin, adding that Macau's transformation and development calls for strategic planning, independent innovation, talent support, institutional guarantee and youth cultivation.

He also believes that Macau would have a better future as the city further integrates into the mainland and works out its positions and strengths.

In the meantime, Macau Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong has expressed his belief that the insights of various sides on implementing the Global Development Initiative and promoting economic diversification and transformation will instil more valuable inspirations for Macau's future development, in particular

for the city to bring about further development of the Zone.

He added that the inspiration will help speed up the development of a moderately diversified and sustainable industrial structure that suits Macau's realities in the direction previously set, while stabilizing the economy and ensuring people's well-being.

The insights will also contribute to benefiting the people and stabilizing employment in the process of promoting economic transformation and upgrading, Lei said.

Deputy Director Zhang Rongshun of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region noted that Beijing had explicitly put forward and firmly supported Macau's moderate economic diversification and

transformation, as well as introducing a series of important policies regarding the repositioning of Macau, in addition to the developments of Hengqin and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Former Japanese chief cabinet secretary Takeo Kawamura and businessperson Maruta Masayuki anticipated the two sides stepping up exchange on industrial diversification and support for Japanese companies to invest and set up businesses in the Zone in Hengqin.

Julie Becker, CEO of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, spoke on the development of the modern finance industry and shared the experience of Luxembourg becoming the European financial center. Cooperation programs between the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and the Chinese side serve as a successful example of the diversified development of the modern finance industry.

CEO Fahad Al Gergawi of Dubai Investment Development Agency and CEO Abdulla Bin Damithan of the DP World UAE & Jafza pointed out that the success of Dubai's economic diversification lies in continued policy support, a long-term perspective, strategic goals and follow-up measures.

Park Joo-Bong, vice-minister level government official in Korea and Lee Si Young, chairman of Korea-China Cultural Exchange Foundation, proposed four suggestions on the transformation and upgrade of small and medium enterprises.

CRIME

Three suspects arrested due to aggravated harm in Areia Preta fight

STAFF REPORTER

THE three suspects involved in the armed fight in an eatery in Areia Preta have been arrested, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a special press conference yesterday.

The first suspect was a 34-year-old unemployed resident; the second suspect, a 34-year-old hair salon worker and mainland resident; the third suspect, a 67-year-old unemployed resident.

The victims, meanwhile, are a father and son duo aged 68 years old and 33

years old, respectively.

The younger victim and one of the suspects used to be married with two children but divorced in January this year.

According to the PJ, the cause of the case was related to family and financial conflict.

Upon checking the ex-couple's record, it was found they had been reported to police multiple times and accused each other of domestic violence, intimidation, robbery and fraud from 2020 to 2021.

In the early morning of August 29, the first suspect

and the second suspect jointly went to a residential unit at Areia Preta District to obtain alimony and money from a previous financial conflict, taking around MOP60,000. They later called on the third suspect to join them.

At 1 p.m. Monday, the second suspect took out a sharp knife and stabbed the left side of the chest of the first victim twice in the eatery.

Police officers caught the first and second suspects upon their arrival at the scene.

The third suspect esca-

ped, yet surrendered to the PJ at around 2:30 p.m.

The first suspect admitted to attacking the first victim's back using a car key; the second suspect admitted to preparing the sharp knife for attacking the first victim; the third suspect denied attacking the first victim but admitted to attacking the second victim.

According to the preliminary judgment of the forensic investigators, the younger victim has undergone surgery but is still in a critical situation. The father suffered fractures to both his face and the left



side of his chest.

Upon carrying out multiple inspections, the PJ added that signs show all three suspects had committed aggravated harm and other criminal behaviors, during which, the second

suspect used a banned weapon, and the third suspect also committed common assault causing harm.

The three suspects' case was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office for follow-up.

EASED RESTRICTIONS

Macau reopens borders to 41 foreign passport holders

ANTHONY LAM

FOREIGN residents from 41 countries and regions will be allowed to enter Macau from tomorrow, the government announcement in a statement.

The latest announcement is the city's biggest step yet towards loosening Covid controls as the city adheres to Beijing's strict zero-Covid policy.

The city has kept its borders closed for foreign entrants since March 2020 to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Last night, the government stated that foreign entrants from places other than mainland China will not need prior approval from the Health Bureau (SSM) if they bear passports issued by countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the UK and the US among others.

Those not meeting the above criterion will be allowed to enter Macau with prior SSM approval if they are a spouse or a family member of Macau residents; bear a Permit to Stay as employee; possess Entry Permission for Work Purposes or Preliminary Approval for Permit to Stay as Employee issued by the Public Security Police (PSP); family members of professional non-resident workers, with approval to stay, and those who bear a permit to stay issued by the Macau government.

International students accepted by any local higher education institutions and those visiting Macau for "emergency business, official or private



matters" will also be permitted entry.

Criteria for considerations, according to the government, will include actual needs and pandemic risks.

Although they may be allowed to enter Macau, people should get certain documents ready prior to their departure,

such as SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) negative results for boarding, as well as booking confirmations for quarantine hotels and NAT during quarantine.

The current length of quarantine is seven days in a hotel and three days under self-management.

ON ENTRANTS OF MAINLAND, HONG KONG AND TAIWAN RESIDENTS

In a separate statement, residents of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan will be allowed to enter Macau regardless of their travel history.

Prior to this change, residents from outside Greater China were not allowed to enter Macau. Those with residency of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan were allowed in unless they had been outside of Greater China in the preceding 14 days.

The change, as announced in the Chief Executive Dispatch No 166/2022, takes effect from tomorrow, putting an end to the Dispatch No 64/2022, which was enacted April 26 this year.

"These residents will be permitted to enter Macau from inside or outside of China," the government said in a statement. Despite this fact, entrants will need to abide by existing health measures put into force by the SSM, such as quarantine-upon-entry.

Meanwhile, foreign entrants from mainland China will not need prior SSM approval if they bear a valid Portuguese passport; and if they bear a valid passport of other countries and possess any type of permit to stay issued by the PSP.

41 FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Australia	Denmark	Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway	Spain
Austria	Estonia	Ireland	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden
Belgium	Finland	Israel	Luxembourg	Portugal	Switzerland
Brazil	France	Italy	Malaysia	Romania	Thailand
Brunei	Germany	Japan	Malta	Singapore	The United Kingdom
Canada	Greece	South Korea	The Netherlands	Slovakia	Kingdom
Czech Republic	Hungary	Latvia	New Zealand	Slovenia	The United States

CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC PLUNGES 95%

Cross-border vehicular traffic in July plunged by 94.5% year-on-year to 19,371 trips, of which light automobile trips (332) tumbled by 99.9%, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has shown. The downturn comes as the pandemic hit Macau in mid-June to July leading to a partial lockdown, as well as strict border restrictions. In the first seven months of 2022, cross-border vehicular traffic (1,916,223 trips) decreased by 22.9%, year-on-year. Arriving and departing commercial flights totalled 392 trips in July, a decline of 77.4% year-on-year. From January to July 2022, the number of arriving and departing commercial flights declined by 36.1% year-on-year to 5,880 trips, while the gross weight of air cargo (30,963 tonnes) rose by 38.3%.

SPORT FOR ALL TO KICK OFF THIS WEEKEND

The "Sport For All Festival 2022" will start this weekend (September 3 and 4), running from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tap Seac Square. The festival will feature four different themed-gaming areas and performances for residents. The festival will be the first recreation and sports event to be held after the pandemic that occurred in mid-June. The Sports Bureau (ID) stated that more public recreation and sports activities will be launched in the next few months. For example, in September, there will be a sports day for the elderly, a summer sports carnival and a physical fitness challenge day.

CESL ASIA

Over 30 awards given in sustainability design contest

STAFF REPORTER

CESL Asia and the Macau Youth Art Association have co-organized the "CESL Asia Social Investment Initiative Teen's Design Contest 2022 - Sustainable City Mascot" event, inviting Macau students aged 12 to 17 to design a mascot that personifies their expectation of what a

sustainable city represents. Held for the third year, Antonio Trindade, president and CEO of CESL Asia, explained that the aim of the contest is to encourage students to "explore the concepts of urban sustainability and sustainable lifestyles."

The awards ceremony took place at the Don Bosco Auditorium within the

University of Saint Joseph yesterday.

The Golden Creative Award was awarded to Wong Hou (Escola Hou Kong), the Golden Visual Award to Lam Nok Hei (Escola Secundária Lou Hau) and the Silver Creative Award to Wong Si Weng (Colégio de Santa Rosa de Lima - Secção Chinesa).

The Silver Visual Award



was given to Cheok Ka Him (Escola Secundária Lou Hau), while the Bronze

Award was awarded to Yang Qi Cheng (Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong

Middle School). 30 Merit Awards and the Online Popularity Award were also awarded.

CESL Asia Social Investment Initiative (CSII), a corporate initiative, regularly organizes activities for children and youth education, inclusive sports, environmental protection and public welfare. The initiative aims to develop CESL Asia's core leadership with a capacity to invest in the development of local talent and contribute to the development of a more sustainable and inclusive community.

*Macau Daily Times is a media partner of the event.

COVID-19

MILLIONS IN NEW LOCKDOWN AS CHINA KEEPS STRICT POLICY

CHINA has placed millions of its citizens under renewed lockdown following fresh outbreaks of COVID-19, authorities reported yesterday, as the government persists in its hard-line policy on containing the virus.

The measures affected about half of the 6 million residents of the port city of Dalian, along with an undisclosed number in Chengde and Shijiazhuang in Hebei province, both around three hours from the capital Beijing.

Dalian's lockdown was due to last five days, although authorities have in past extended restrictions depending on the number of new cases.

Beijing has been relatively unaffected thus far, although travel in and out of the capital has been discouraged and residents are subject to testing on an almost daily basis.

Partial lockdowns have also been imposed on cities such as Chengdu in the southwest, Shenyang in the northeast and Jishui in the southeast.

Such measures are mandated under China's "zero-COVID" policy, which contrasts starkly

AP PHOTO



with moves by other nations to coexist with the virus through gradual easing of restrictions, vaccinations, improved therapeutics and voluntary isolation.

China has largely kept its bor-

ders closed to foreign visitors, while requiring those who do come to submit to more than a week of quarantine in hotels where sanitary conditions are often poor.

Masking and regular testing are also standard and anyone found to have been in close contact with a person confirmed to have the virus is forcibly transported to field hospitals.

The World Health Organization has called China's policy unsustainable and on Monday, a Chinese think tank issued a rare public disagreement with the ruling Communist Party, saying the curbs that have shut down cities and disrupted trade, travel and industry must change to prevent an "economic stall."

The Anbound Research Center gave no details of possible changes but said President Xi Jinping's government needs to focus on shoring up sinking growth. It noted the United States, Europe and Japan are recovering economically after easing anti-disease curbs.

"Preventing the risk of economic stall should be the priority task," the think tank said in a report titled, "It's Time for China to Adjust Its Virus Control and Prevention Policies."

Previous lockdowns have seen tens of millions confined to their homes, sometimes for weeks. A strict lockdown in the largest city and commercial hub of Shanghai earlier this year led to protests online and in person over lack of food and medical services.

China yesterday reported 1,717 cases of local transmission, 52 of them in Liaoning province where Dalian is located. Most of the cases were reported in Sichuan province, whose capital is Chengdu, and the vast majority were asymptomatic. **MDT/AP**

TAIWAN

Tsai tells troops to keep cool amid Chinese threats

TAIWAN'S leader told the self-ruled island's military units yesterday to keep their cool in the face of daily warplane flights and warship maneuvers by China, saying that Taiwan will not allow Beijing to provoke a conflict.

China has kept up military pressure on Taiwan in the weeks following U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei in early August. Beijing initially retaliated with large military drills in the waters and skies near Taiwan. It fired missiles over the island, some of which landed in Japan's economic zone, considered a serious escalation, while also sending warships and planes toward the island in large numbers.

Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan must remain restrained despite the daily pressure from China.

"The more provocative enemy soldiers are, the more stable we need to be. We will not allow those on

AP PHOTO



the opposing banks to manufacture a conflict with an inappropriate excuse," she said during a visit to the navy's station on Penghu, an archipelago of several dozen islands off Taiwan's western coast.

She also inspected a radar squadron, an air defense company, and a navy fleet.

At the Magong air base,

she was greeted by pilots standing in front of a Taiwanese-made Indigenous Defense Force fighter jet.

"You are the pride of the Taiwanese people," Tsai said. "When each Taiwanese person sees you in the national military uniform, everyone's hearts are filled with respect and gratitude."

China accuses the U.S. and Taiwanese "separatist

forces" for creating instability by rejecting Beijing's claim to sovereignty over the island.

"The Taiwan independence forces' attempt to solicit foreign support, including that of the U.S., for independence is the source of current tensions across the Taiwan Strait," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily

briefing in Beijing.

Zhao also criticized the visit of Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Bucaro to Taiwan yesterday.

"The Taiwanese ... authority has been using the so-called countries with diplomatic ties for political manipulation. These are nothing but self-deceiving tricks and cannot block the historical trend that China will be fully reunified," he added.

Bucaro met with Tsai earlier yesterday and reaffirmed his country's support of Taiwan. Guatemala is one of Taiwan's 14 remaining diplomatic allies.

While China's biggest maneuvers, which had disrupted fishing, shipping and air traffic, are over, Beijing has kept up the pressure in recent weeks with daily flights by warplanes and warship navigations, often over the median line of the Taiwan Strait, a waterway that separates the island from China.

Taiwan has responded by tracking the ships and the planes, issued warnings and used its missile systems to monitor the other side's movements.

China has also sent drones flying over the Kinmen islands, which are closest to China, in the latest escalation. A video that went viral last week showed two soldiers staring up at the drone from an outpost in an outlying island in Kinmen before attempting to strike it down with a rock. This weekend, another video published online allegedly showed a Chinese drone flying around a different outlying island.

A spokesperson for Kinmen's army unit said in a statement Monday that Taiwan would take a four-step measure to deal with drones in the future, which involves warning it off, reporting the incursion, expelling the drone, and finally shooting it down if it doesn't leave. **MDT/AP**

KRISHAN FRANCIS &
BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI,
COLOMBO

SRI LANKA

President says IMF talks nearing successful end

SRI Lanka's president said yesterday that his bankrupt country's talks with the International Monetary Fund for a rescue package have successfully reached final stages as he presented an amended budget that seeks to tame inflation and hike taxes.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, said in a speech in Parliament that his government will soon start negotiating debt restructuring with countries that provide loans to Sri Lanka.

Declaring that Sri Lanka is on the "correct course in the short term for recovery," Wickremesinghe warned the country must prepare for at least 25 years of a national economic policy, starting with the 2023 budget.

An IMF team is visiting Sri Lanka and is expected to end the current round of talks on Wednesday.

Prior to the visit, the IMF said that because Sri Lanka's public debt is unsustainable, the IMF's executive board will need assurances by Sri Lanka's creditors that debt sustainability will be restored before any bailout program begins.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt exceeds \$51 billion — of which it must repay \$28 billion by 2027.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis with acute monthslong shortages of essentials like fuel, medicine, and cooking gas due to a severe foreign currency dearth. Though cooking gas supplies were restored through World Bank support, shortages of fuel, critical medicines and some food items continue.

AP PHOTO



Sri Lankan president Ranil Wickremesinghe

Wickremesinghe delivered his first budget proposal after he was elected by Parliament in July to cover the remainder of the five-year term of ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe said that the United Nations along with other international organizations has launched a program to ensure food security. Schools have reopened and universities have resumed classes after long closures, he said. However, long fuel lines have reappeared after a quota system seemed to have brought them un-

der control over the past weeks.

"I thought things are improving," salesperson Asanka Chandana said. "For several weeks in May and June, we faced severe hardships, but things were getting better over the last two weeks after the introduction of the quota system. Now it looks like the shortage is still there and we are back to the square one."

Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said lapses in distribution, delays in unloading, and payments for orders by fuel stations have created long li-

nes. He said the issues will be sorted out within days.

Wickremesinghe also said that his administration's fiscal program envisages government revenue increasing to around 15% of GDP by 2025 from 8.2% at the end of 2021. He also aims to reduce public sector debt from around 110% of GDP in 2021 to less than 100% in the medium term.

He also vowed to control inflation to a mid-single digit level, and proposed a value added tax increase to 15% from the current 12%. Other taxes approved in

May will soon come into operation, he said.

The new budget comes amid a relative calm following months of public protests that led to the ouster of Wickremesinghe's predecessor and his family members from power. Protesters accused the once-powerful Rajapaksa family of being responsible for the economic crisis through corruption and mismanagement.

Rajapaksa fled the country in July and resigned after protesters stormed his official residence. He is now in Thailand. Party leaders say he is expected to return from exile early in September and have asked Wickremesinghe to provide him with security and facilities to which a former president is legally entitled.

Since becoming president, Wickremesinghe has cracked down on protesters and dismantled their main camp outside the president's office. The use of a harsh anti-terror law to detain a protest leader has led to the United States and European Union raising human rights concerns.

Yesterday, police fired tear gas on students demonstrating against the detention of a student leader also under anti-terror laws.

"I don't see a significant change except there is a new person in the office of the president," political analyst Jayadeva Uyangoda said, as criticism mounted that Wickremesinghe was an extension of the Rajapaksas' administration.

"No opposition party seems to be willing to join Mr. Wickremesinghe's proposed all-party government for two reasons: they think Mr. Wickremesinghe lacks legitimacy and they are not happy with the dominance of the Rajapaksa party," Uyangoda said.

MDT/AP

OBITUARY

Japanese business pioneer, philanthropist Inamori dies at 90

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

AP PHOTO

KAZUO Inamori, founder of Japanese ceramics and electronics maker Kyocera who also became a philanthropist singing the virtues of fairness and hard work, has died. He was 90.

Inamori, who also founded major telecommunications company KDDI Corp., died Aug. 24 of natural causes at his home in Kyoto, Kyocera said yesterday.

Inamori established Kyocera as an insulator manufacturing company in 1959, with a 3 million yen (\$22,000) investment from his acquaintances.

While struggling to build his company, Inamori



Japan Airlines Chairman Kazuo Inamori (2010)

came up with his philosophy of management that emphasized people, doing the right thing and what he

called "corporate character," the old-style Japanese equivalent of professionalism and ethical standards.

His thoughts, which were pioneering for modernizing Japan, were based on the idea that workers and companies must be motivated by pure intentions, not by greed, and ultimately the desire to serve society.

His ideas spanned principles about fair competition, the proper pursuit of profit and the need for managerial transparency, as well as about living a virtuous life as an individual, for which he listed six principles: diligence, humility, reflection, gratitude, benevolence and detachment.

"Superiors who seem to agree with their subordinates in all matters may appear to be loving bosses,

but they are actually spoiling and ruining their employees," he once wrote.

"True love requires that we rigorously seek to discern what is indeed best for others."

In the 1980s, Inamori set up a school called Seiwa-jyuku to teach his management philosophy in more than 100 locations, about half abroad, which claims to have taught about 15,000 business owners and entrepreneurs worldwide.

Inamori also oversaw the revival from bankruptcy of Japan's major carrier Japan Airlines, or JAL, in 2010, serving as a board member.

In 1984, Inamori established his nonprofit called

the Inamori Foundation, which awarded the Kyoto Prize every year to recognize humanitarian contributions around the world.

Inamori noted that all living things, including flowers and animals, merely want to survive, and the human being is no different. To do well, you must love the work you do, he said many times, so you end up working harder than anyone else.

A private funeral was held with his family. Inamori is survived by his wife Asako and three daughters. A formal farewell service may be held later but details aren't decided, Kyocera said. MDT/AP

UN warns six million Afghans at risk of famine as crises grow

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

WARNING that Afghanistan faces deepening poverty with 6 million people at risk of famine, the U.N. humanitarian chief yesterday [Macau time] urged donors to restore funding for economic development and immediately provide \$770 million to help Afghans get through the winter as the United States argued with Russia and China over who should pay.

Martin Griffiths told the U.N. Security Council that Afghanistan faces multiple crises -- humanitarian, economic, climate, hunger and financial.

Conflict, poverty, climate shocks and food insecurity "have long been a sad reality" in Afghanistan, but he said what makes the current situation "so critical" is the halt to large-scale development aid since the Taliban takeover a year ago.

More than half the Afghan population -- some 24 million people -- need assistance and close to 19 million are facing acute levels of food insecurity, Griffiths said. And "we worry" that the figures will soon become worse because winter weather will send already high fuel and food prices skyrocketing.

Despite the challenges, he said U.N. agencies and their NGO partners have mounted "an unprecedented response" over the past year, reaching almost 23 million people.

But he said \$614 million is urgently required to prepare for winter including repairing and upgrading shelters and providing warm clothes and blankets -- and an additional \$154 million is needed to preposition food and other supplies before the weather cuts access to certain areas.

Griffiths stressed, however, that "humanitarian aid will never be able to replace the provision of system-wide services to 40 million people across the country."

The Taliban "have no budget to invest in their own future," he said, and "it's clear that some development support needs to be started."

With more than 70 percent of Afghan's living in rural areas, Griffiths warned that if agriculture and livestock



production aren't protected "millions of lives and livelihoods will be risked, and the country's capacity to produce food imperiled."

He said the country's banking and liquidity crisis, and the extreme difficulty of international financial transactions must also be tackled.

"The consequences of inaction on both the humanitarian and development fronts will be catastrophic and difficult to reverse," Griffiths warned.

Russia called the U.N. Security Council meeting on the eve of the first anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and its ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, sharply criticized the "ignominious 20-year campaign" by the United States and its NATO allies.

He claimed they did nothing to build up the Afghan economy and their presence only strengthened the country's status "as a hotbed of terrorism" and narcotics production and distribution.

Nebenzia also accused the U.S. and its allies of abandoning Afghans to face "ruin, poverty, terrorism, hunger and other challenges."

"Instead of acknowledging their own mistakes and supporting the reconstruction of the destroyed country," he said, they blocked Afghan financial resources and disconnected its central bank from SWIFT, the dominant system for global financial

transactions.

China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun also accused the U.S. and its allies of "evading responsibility and abandoning the Afghan people" by cutting off development aid, freezing Afghan assets and imposing "political isolation and blockade."

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield accused the Taliban of imposing policies that "repress and starve the Afghan people instead of protecting them" and of increasing taxes on critically needed assistance.

She asked how the Taliban -- which has not been recognized by a single country -- expect to build a relationship with the rest of the world when it provided a safe haven for the leader of al-Qaida, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in downtown Kabul. He was killed by a U.S. drone strike on July 31.

Nonetheless, Thomas-Greenfield said, the United States is the world's leading donor in Afghanistan, providing more than \$775 million in humanitarian aid to Afghans in the country and the region in the last year.

As for Afghan frozen assets, President Joe Biden announced in February that the \$7 billion in the U.S. was being divided -- \$3.5 billion for a U.N. trust fund to provide aid to Afghans and \$3.5 billion for families of American victims of the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States.

"No country that is serious about containing terrorism in

Afghanistan would advocate to give the Taliban instantaneous, unconditional access to billions in assets that belong to the Afghan people," Thomas-Greenfield said.

To Russia's claims that Afghanistan's problems are the fault of the West and not the Taliban, Thomas-Greenfield asked, "What are you doing to help other than rehash the past and criticize others?"

She said Russia has contributed only \$2 million to the U.N. humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan and China's contributions "have been similarly underwhelming."

"If you want to talk about how Afghanistan needs help, that's fine. But we humbly suggest you put your money where your mouth is," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Russia's Nebenzia took the floor again, calling the suggestion "stunning."

"We are being asked to pay for the reconstruction of a country whose economy was essentially destroyed by 20 years of U.S. and NATO occupation?" he asked. "You are the ones who need to pay for your mistakes. But first of all, you need to return to the Afghan people the money that has been stolen from them."

Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador, had the last word.

"If the Russian Federation believes that there was an economy in Afghanistan to be destroyed, it's been destroyed by the Taliban," she said.
MDT/AP

this day in history

1959 ANGLO-US TV DEBATE MAKES HISTORY



British prime minister Harold Macmillan (pictured) and American president Dwight Eisenhower have given an historic live television broadcast from Downing Street.

Among the subjects the two leaders discussed were world peace and global poverty.

President Eisenhower told the prime minister he thought Anglo-American relations had never been stronger.

But, he said, the two countries' efforts to achieve world peace must remain at the top of the agenda.

He said: "When we are talking about peace, we're talking about something that's the imperative of our time.

"War has become so frightening in its capacity for destruction of the whole of civilisation that we... have the responsibility of making sure that our actions... are all directed by this single purpose."

The two men discussed the threat of Communism and the Anglo-American efforts being made to control the Soviet Union's attempts to dominate Western Europe, particularly in Berlin.

Mr Macmillan called for a summit meeting to discuss the Cold War and ways to bring it to an end - Mr Eisenhower indicated he had reservations on that subject.

The debate then moved to the topic of global poverty and the need to tackle it through expanding world trade and contact between countries.

The president said: "There are one billion, seven hundred million people living today without sufficient food, clothing and health facilities."

Mr Macmillan then spoke about the Commonwealth and its role in improving conditions for millions around the world.

"Don't let anyone in America think it's the sun setting on the British Empire, it's the dawn rising on the new Commonwealth and it's all part of the same story," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Eisenhower's meeting with the Prime Minister Macmillan took place as part of a nine-day tour of Europe.

During his trip he held talks with the French President General Charles de Gaulle in Paris, where he also met with Italian Prime Minister Signor Segni and Nato personalities.

He then held talks with German Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer in Bonn.

The main purpose of the round of meetings was to discuss issues such as the future status of Berlin and to strengthen Western ranks against any future Soviet pressure on Berlin.

It was during the British leg of his tour that the historic television broadcast was made, which according to sources at the White House, was received very favourably around world.

It was the first time that such a broadcast had ever been made and initial protests by the Labour party - fearing the event would jeopardise its chances in the forthcoming General Election - were withdrawn.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Peers may not be on your side. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Extravagance will be a problem. Your high enthusiasm will be sure to inspire anybody around you. Listen, but don't make any rash decisions.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Don't let relatives make demands of you. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. Make changes that will heighten your appeal.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You will be overly generous with children today. Control your anger. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Tie up your personal papers or push to have legal settlements completed. Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate. Entertaining conversation will be informative and uplifting.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Empty promises could be likely where work is concerned. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Limitations on the home front can be expected if you have been restricting your mate's freedom.

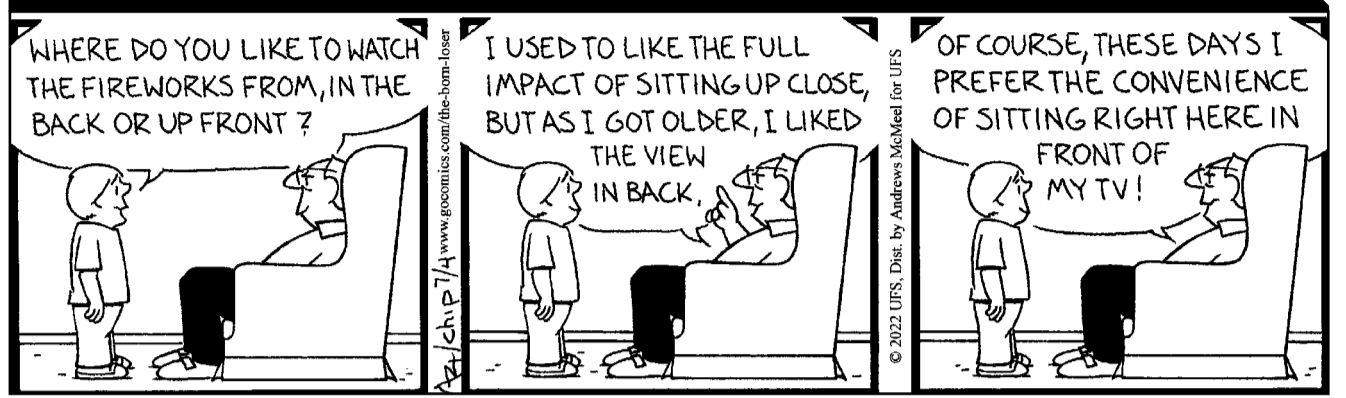
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may want to take a look at your direction in life. You may find that you are a little lucky today. You may want to make changes that will not be to their liking.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You are best to concentrate on work. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate loved ones due to your stubborn nature lately. Stay out of other people's affairs.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members. Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with. Don't let your emotional upset interfere with your professional objectives.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Love and romance are evident. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Check into art objects or precious stones. You can do well in group endeavors.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

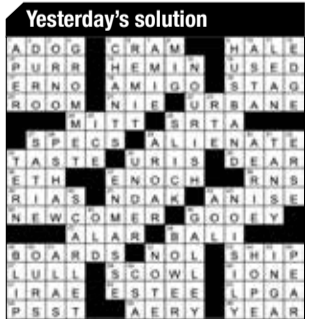
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	29	overcast
Changchun	14	24	cloudy
Chengdu	19	23	showers
Chongqing	25	30	rain
Fuzhou	27	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	thunderstorms
Guiyang	22	28	showers
Haikou	25	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	33	thunderstorms
Harbin	11	24	cloudy
Hefei	20	24	thunderstorms
Nanjing	23	27	showers
Shanghai	27	33	rain
Taipei	26	31	cloudy
Wuhan	22	26	overcast
Hong Kong	27	31	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	8	21	rain
Frankfurt	14	27	showers
Paris	17	29	overcast
London	16	24	overcast
New York	19	31	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Mocks; 6- Iota preceeder; 11- Wire measure; 14- Matriculate; 15- Herbert Hoover, for one; 16- Point of no return?; 17- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 18- Give a seat?; 19- Filled pastry crust; 20- Bronte heroine; 22- Conger catcher; 24- Indigenous inhabitants; 28- Place where books are assembled; 30- Out of bed; 31- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 32- Considers; 33- Worship; 37- Believer's suffix; 38- Wonderland girl; 39- Never, in Nuremberg; 40- Rhizome; 43- Designer Simpson; 45- Graduated glass tube; 46- Stared fiercely; 47- To the extent that; 50- Nation; 51- Pipsqueak; 52- Unskilled laborer; 53- Honshu honorific; 54- Sports venue; 57- You ___ mouthfull; 62- Swan song; 63- Penultimate round; 64- World-weariness; 65- Dunderhead; 66- Rock; 67- U-Haul competitor;

DOWN 1- Modern flier; 2- Brian of rock; 3- Hesitant sounds; 4- Caviar; 5- Arm coverings; 6- Layers; 7- Gap; 8- Ram's mate; 9- Tic ___ Dough; 10- Roof item; 11- Sap tree; 12- Less friendly; 13- Guarded; 21- Hankering; 23- Prepare a book or film for release; 24- Lowest point; 25- You ___ right; 26- Connect with; 27- Doctrine; 28- Child's building cube; 29- Able was ___; 31- Decree; 33- Healing plants; 34- Lifeless; 35- Fuel transport; 36- Wanting; 38- Gillette brand; 41- Ski lift; 42- Exceed; 43- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 44- Rockers Steely ___; 46- Sticky substance; 47- Lost; 48- Graceful birds; 49- Wards (off); 50- ___ and desist; 52- Nabokov novel; 55- Emeritus; Abbr.; 56- Comedian Philips; 58- ___ day now...; 59- Neither Rep. nor Dem.; 60- Expected; 61- Life support?;



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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- 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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- 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
- HELLENE G. | 2 BEDS HKD 9,900,000
- TAIPA STUDIO | 1 BED HKD 3,980,000
- NOVA PARK | 2 BEDS HKD 10,800,000

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CYBERSECURITY

'TAPE OR CHEWING GUM:' TWITTER'S LAPSES ECHO WORLDWIDE

AP PHOTO



BARBARA ORTUTAY,
SAN FRANCISCO

FROM fire departments to governments, from school districts to corporations, from local utilities to grassroots organizers around the world, Twitter at its best is a tool to get a message out quickly, efficiently, directly.

It's also a constant risk-and-reward calculation.

A recent bombshell whistleblower report from Twitter's former head of security alleges that the social media company has been negligently lax on cybersecurity and privacy protections for its users for years. While worrisome for anyone on Twitter, the revelations could be especially concerning for those who use it to reach constituencies, get news out about emergencies and for political dissidents and activists in the crosshairs of hackers or their own governments.

"We tend to look at these companies as large, well-resourced entities who know what they're doing — but you realize that a lot of their actions are ad hoc and reactive, driven by crises," said Prateek Wa-

ghre, policy director at the Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights nonprofit in India. "Essentially, they're often held together by cello tape or chewing gum."

Peiter "Mudge" Zatkó, who served as Twitter's security chief until he was fired early this year, filed the complaints last month with federal U.S. authorities, alleging that the company misled regulators about its poor cybersecurity defenses and its negligence in attempting to root out fake accounts that spread disinformation. Among Zatkó's most serious accusations is that Twitter violated the terms of a 2011 FTC settlement by falsely claiming that it had put stronger measures in place to protect the security and privacy of its users.

Waghre said the allegations in the complaint about India — that Twitter knowingly allowed the Indian government to place its agents on the company payroll where they had "direct unsupervised access to the company's systems and user data" — were particularly worrisome. He also pointed to an incident earlier this month where a former Twitter employee

was found guilty of passing along sensitive user data to royal family members in Saudi Arabia in exchange for bribes.

The consequences of privacy and security lapses can range from inconvenience and embarrassment — such as when an Indiana State Police account was hacked and tweeted "poo-poo head" earlier this year — to much worse. In October 2021, a Saudi humanitarian aid worker was sentenced to 20 years in prison because of an anonymous, satirical Twitter account that the kingdom says he ran. It's possible that the case is linked with the men accused of spying on behalf of the kingdom while working at Twitter.

As an advocate for dissidents and others detained in Saudi Arabia, Bethany Al-Haidari has been concerned for years about Twitter's user privacy safeguards. The new whistleblower allegations make her all the more worried.

"Given what we know about how social media is used around the world, that is incredibly problematic," said Al-Haidari, who works for The Freedom Initiative, a U.S.-based human rights group. The possibility of hackers or governments exploiting the alleged cybersecurity lapses at Twitter to get users' identities, private messages or other personal information "is quite disturbing to me," she said. **MDT/AP**

AD

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FOOTBALL

Man United set to sign Brazil winger Antony from Ajax

BRAZIL winger Antony looks set to complete a move to Manchester United for \$95 million, joining Lisandro Martinez in making a big-money switch from Dutch club Ajax to the English giant in the transfer window.

The clubs said yesterday they have reached agreement on Antony's transfer, subject to a medical examination, his contract being finalized, and international clearance.

The 22-year-old Antony, a skilful and quick left-footed attacker, has spent just two full seasons at Ajax but appears to have done enough to convince United to make him its second most expensive signing after Paul Pogba in 2016.

He will be the fourth costliest player to join an English team, after Jack Grealish to Manchester City, Romelu Lukaku to Chelsea, and Pogba.

The impending arrival of An-



Sporting's Ricardo Esgaio (left) and Ajax's Antony

tony, who is likely to be part of Brazil's squad at the World Cup in Qatar, sees United again look to the Dutch league in its latest rebuild.

First, Erik ten Hag left Ajax to join as manager and he has brought Martinez — the Argentina center back arrived for nearly \$58 million — and now Antony with him from the Amsterdam

club. Tyrell Malacia was signed from Feyenoord and Christian Eriksen, a former Ajax player, has joined on a free transfer.

United also signed Brazil midfielder Casemiro from Real Madrid last week in a spending splurge in the final days of the transfer window by a club whose ownership, the Glazer family, is in the eye of a storm. Fans

have been protesting about the direction of the club under the Glazers after almost a decade of underachievement, disgruntlement that became more pronounced after United lost its first two games of the season in the Premier League.

With his tricks and skills, Antony will bring some flair to United while also adding more competition to the wide positions, where Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Anthony Elanga are vying for spots.

It also adds to the uncertainty surrounding another forward at United, Cristiano Ronaldo, who has been pushing to leave for a club playing in the Champions League.

United will reportedly pay Ajax a further 5 million euros (\$5 million) in potential add-ons for Antony, who complained last week in an interview with Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano that the Dutch champions were not allowing him to leave. **MDT/AP**

GOLF

EUROPE TO HAVE SIX CAPTAIN'S PICKS FOR RYDER CUP IN 2023

EUROPE captain Luke Donald will have six picks for next year's Ryder Cup in Italy.

That's three more picks than Padraig Harrington had for Europe's record 19-9 loss to the United States at Whistling Straits last year.

Ryder Cup Europe announced the qualification process for the 2023 event yesterday, with three automatic qualifiers coming from the leading players on the European points list and then the top three on the world points list.

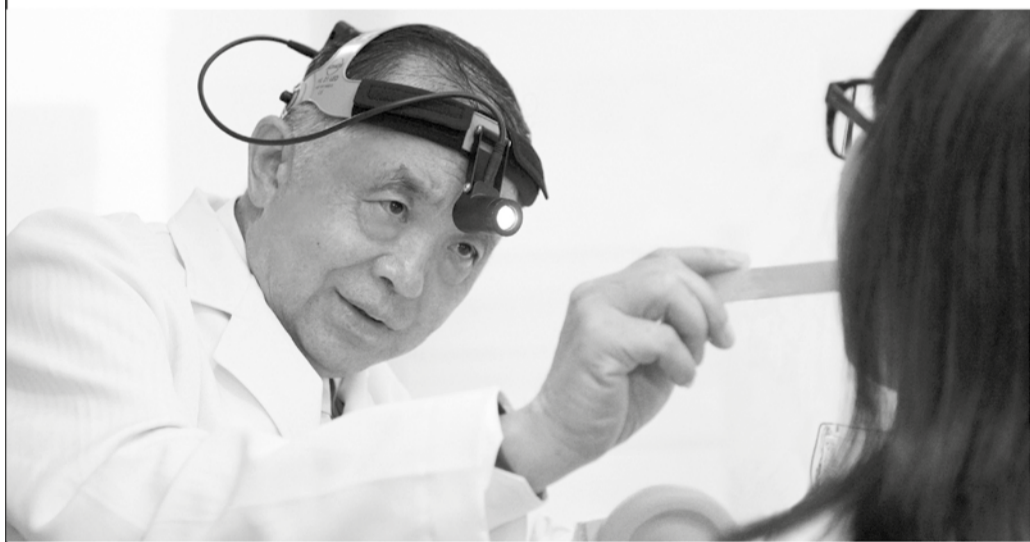
The qualification period begins at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth from Sept. 8-11 and runs to Sept. 3 next year, three weeks before the Ryder Cup.

Donald said having six picks gives him "flexibility to ensure we have the strongest lineup at Marco Simone in terms of in-form players, players with Ryder Cup experience, and potential pairings." **MDT/AP**

AD



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OPINION

EXPLAINER

Seth Borenstein & Sibi Arasu, MDT/AP

PAKISTAN FATAL FLOODING HAS HALLMARKS OF WARMING

The familiar ingredients of a warming world were in place: searing temperatures, hotter air holding more moisture, extreme weather getting wilder, melting glaciers, people living in harm's way, and poverty. They combined in vulnerable Pakistan to create unrelenting rain and deadly flooding.

The flooding has all the hallmarks of a catastrophe juiced by climate change, but it is too early to formally assign blame to global warming, several scientists tell The Associated Press. It occurred in a country that did little to cause the warming, but keeps getting hit, just like the relentless rain.

"This year Pakistan has received the highest rainfall in at least three decades. So far this year the rain is running at more than 780% above average levels," said Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute and a member of Pakistan's Climate Change Council. "Extreme weather patterns are turning more frequent in the region and Pakistan is not an exception."

Climate Minister Sherry Rehman said "it's been a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions."

Pakistan "is considered the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change," said Moshin Hafeez, a Lahore-based climate scientist at the International Water Management Institute. Its rain, heat and melting glaciers are all climate change factors scientists warned repeatedly about.

While scientists point out these classic climate change fingerprints, they have not yet finished intricate calculations that compare what happened in Pakistan to what would happen in a world without warming. That study, expected in a few weeks, will formally determine how much climate change is a factor, if at all.

The "recent flood in Pakistan is actually an outcome of the climate catastrophe ... that was looming very large," said Anjal Prakash, a research director at India's Bharti Institute of Public Policy. "The kind of incessant rainfall that has happened ... has been unprecedented."

Pakistan is used to monsoons and downpours, but "we do expect them spread out, usually over three months or two months," said the country's climate minister Rehman.

There are usually breaks, she said, and not as much rain -- 37.5 centimeters falls in one day, nearly three times higher than the national average for the past three decades. "Neither is it so prolonged. ... It's been eight weeks and we are told we might see another downpour in September."

"Clearly, it's being juiced by climate change," said Jennifer Francis, a climate scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Massachusetts.

There's been a 400% increase in average rainfall in areas like Baluchistan and Sindh, which led to the extreme flooding, Hafeez said. At least 20 dams have been breached.

The heat has been as relentless as the rain. In May, Pakistan consistently saw temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius. Scorching temperatures higher than 50 degrees Celsius were recorded in places like Jacobabad and Dadu.

Warmer air holds more moisture - about 7% more per degree Celsius -- and that eventually comes down, in this case in torrents.

Across the world "intense rain storms are getting more intense," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer. And he said mountains, like those in Pakistan, help wring extra moisture out as the clouds pass.

Instead of just swollen rivers flooding from extra rain, Pakistan is hit with another source of flash flooding: The extreme heat accelerates the long-term glacier melting then water speeds down from the Himalayas to Pakistan in a dangerous phenomena called glacial lake outburst floods.

"We have the largest number of glaciers outside the polar region, and this affects us," climate minister Rehman said. "Instead of keeping their majesty and preserving them for posterity and nature. We are seeing them melt."

Not all of the problem is climate change.

Pakistan saw similar flooding and devastation in 2010 that killed nearly 2,000 people. But the government didn't implement plans to prevent future flooding by preventing construction and homes in flood prone areas and river beds, said Suleri of the country's Climate Change Council.

The disaster is hitting a poor country that has contributed relatively little to the world's climate problem.

China says a key congress of the ruling Communist Party at which leader Xi Jinping is expected to be granted a third five-year term will open on Oct. 16.

Such congresses are held every five years and usually bring in a new slate of leaders, particularly on the party's all-powerful seven-member Politburo Standing Committee.

Xi, who is also head of state and chief of the powerful military, broke with convention in 2018 by amending the party constitution to remove all term limits on the presidency, essentially making him leader for life.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the date of the congress

was announced yesterday at a meeting of the party's Politburo.

The congress is "of great significance to be convened at a crucial moment, as the whole Party and the entire nation embark on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal," Xinhua said, referring to a long-standing economic development target.

"The congress will thoroughly review the international and domestic situations, comprehensively grasp the new requirements for the development of the cause of the Party and the country on the new journey in the new era, as well as the new expectations of the people," it said.

TEA DRINKERS ENJOY POSSIBLE HEALTH BENEFITS, STUDY SUGGESTS

CARLA K. JOHNSON, MDT/AP MEDICAL WRITER

A cup of tea just got a bit more relaxing.

Tea can be part of a healthy diet and people who drink tea may even be a little more likely to live longer than those who don't, according to a large study.

Tea contains helpful substances known to reduce inflammation. Past studies in China and Japan, where green tea is popular, suggested health benefits. The new study extends the good news to the U.K.'s favorite drink: black tea.

Scientists from the U.S. National Cancer Institute asked about the tea habits of nearly a half million adults in the United Kingdom, then followed them for up to 14 years. They adjusted for risk factors such as health, socioeconomic, smoking, alcohol intake, diet, age, race and gender.

Higher tea intake — two or more cups daily — was linked to a modest benefit: a 9% to 13% lower risk of death from any cause vs.



non-tea drinkers. Tea temperature, or adding milk or sugar, didn't change the results.

The study, published Monday in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found the association held up for heart disease deaths, but there was no clear trend for cancer deaths. Researchers weren't sure why, but it's possible there weren't enough cancer deaths for any effect to show up, said Maki Inoue-Choi, who led the study.

A study like this, based on observing people's habits and health, can't prove cause and effect.

"Observational studies like this always raise the question: Is there something else about tea drinkers that makes them healthier?" said Marion Nestle, a professor of food studies at New York University. "I like tea. It's great to drink. But a cautious interpretation seems like a good idea."

There's not enough evidence to advise changing tea habits, said Inoue-Choi.

"If you drink one cup a day already, I think that is good," she said. "And please enjoy your cup of tea." MDT/AP



Japan-Israel The defense ministers of Japan and Israel shared concerns yesterday about growing global tensions from Asia to the Middle East and signed an agreement to step up cooperation in military equipment and technology. Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he welcomes stronger military ties with Israel as a way to achieve a "free and open Indo-Pacific" vision advocated by Japan and the United States. Hamada said peace and stability in the Middle East would also help Japan's peace and prosperity.



Israel A court yesterday sentenced the Gaza director of a major international charity to 12 years in prison after the court earlier convicted him of terrorism charges in a high-profile case in which independent investigations found no proof of wrongdoing. Mohammed el-Halabi, the Gaza director for the international Christian charity World Vision, was arrested in 2016 and accused of diverting tens of millions of dollars to the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules the territory.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said yesterday that his country is well-prepared to tackle a possible energy shortage because of Russia's squeeze on European gas supplies, even as fears grow about the juggernaut of rising prices that will likely hit consumers across the continent this winter. Scholz spoke at the start of a two-day government retreat, attended also by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, which will focus on the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the energy supply in Europe.

Austria A Vienna court overturned the corruption conviction of former Austrian Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache for trying to change laws to favor a private hospital in exchange for donations to his political party, local media reported Tuesday. The Vienna Higher Regional Court said proceedings would have to be repeated because exculpatory chat messages had not been sufficiently appreciated during an earlier trial.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Rajanish kakade



Social gathering. People pray before forming a human pyramid to break the "Dahi handi," an earthen pot filled with curd, as part of celebrations to mark Janmashtami festival, which marks the birth of the Hindu god Krishna, in Mumbai, India.