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**COVID-19 SO-CALLED 6.18 OUTBREAK HAS COST THE GOVERNMENT SOME 600 MILLION PATACAS – NOT COUNTING QUARANTINES, HEALTH AUTHORITIES REVEAL**

▲ P2

**OPENING BORDERS TO 41 COUNTRIES PRODUCED LITTLE TO NO EFFECT IN FOREIGN VISITATION**

▲ P3

**HEAVY RAIN AFTER DEADLY SICHUAN QUAKE COMPLICATES RECOVERY**

▲ P7



AP PHOTO



**China** Another U.S. congressional delegation is visiting Taiwan as tensions with China remain high over its claims to the self-governed island. A steady stream of U.S. visitors has come to meet with Taiwanese officials since U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited in early August. China in response has stepped up its military harassment of Taiwan, sending warships, warplanes and drones toward the island daily.

AP PHOTO



**Philippine** President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved a recommendation to end the mandatory wearing of face masks outdoors across the country more than two years after it was imposed at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, top officials said. The Philippines and Myanmar are the last countries in Southeast Asia still requiring the compulsory wearing of masks outdoors. Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos said, adding the change in the country's masking policy will take effect after Marcos Jr. issues an executive order.

AP PHOTO



**South Korea's** new government yesterday proposed a meeting with North Korea to discuss a resumption of reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War, despite long-strained ties between the rivals over the North's nuclear weapons program. Family reunions are a highly emotional humanitarian issue because they involve people in their 80s and older who are desperate to see their long-lost relatives before they die. But North Korea, which often uses such reunions as a bargaining chip in dealings with South Korea, is unlikely to accept the offer.

More on backpage

MDT ARCHIVE

# LONG LIVE THE KING

## Queen Elizabeth II dead at 96 after 70 years on the throne

▲ P8



**GAMING EXPERTS OPTIMISTIC CASINOS TO REMAIN LEGAL IN MACAU AT LEAST UNTIL 2049**

▲ P6



▲ P11

### SHENZHEN REDUCES ENTRY QUOTA FOR HONG KONG TRAVELERS

Authorities in Shenzhen will "temporarily" reduced the city's daily quarantine quota for Hong Kong arrivals from yesterday before halving it to 1,000 by the start of next week, the South China Post has reported. A check of the Shenzhen municipal government's website by SCMP found that the total number of available units per day at the city's designated quarantine facilities had dropped to 1,800 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, reaching 1,500 on Sunday, before hitting 1,000 on Monday and Tuesday. According to the paper, Guangdong government source this week said the temporary reduction in quarantine spaces for Hong Kong travelers heading to the mainland was a precautionary measure, as Shenzhen needed to mobilize more resources to contain Covid-19 cases in the city.

### PROPERTY PRICE INDEX FALLING: OFFICIAL STATS

The overall residential property price index for May - July 2022 decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous period (April - June 2022) to 258.3. The index for Taipa and Coloane (254.4) dropped by 1.3%, while that for the Macau Peninsula (259.2) rose by 0.1%. The index for existing residential units (276) went down by 0.2%; the index for those in Taipa & Coloane (302.3) fell by 0.9% while that for the Peninsula (269.4) stayed flat over the previous period. Analyzed by age of building, the indices for residential units of buildings between 6 and 10 years old and for those over 20 years old decreased by 3.1% and 0.5% respectively, whereas the index for those between 11 and 20 years old grew by 0.7%. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units (306.1) dropped by 0.5%.

### UM AND MAINLAND ENTERPRISE FOUND SMART ENERGY LABORATORY

The University of Macau and China Southern Power Grid yesterday signed a collaboration agreement online on the establishment of the China Southern Power Grid - University of Macau Joint Laboratory of Smart Power and Energy for Carbon Neutrality. Through university-enterprise collaboration, the joint laboratory "will give full play to the strengths of both parties, carry out scientific and technological research, talent training, and industrial promotion in the field of carbon-neutral smart power and energy systems," the parties said in a joint communiqué. The collaboration will also "realize the deep integration of industry, universities, and research institutes, and promote innovation and development of the power and energy industry" in Macau, the Greater Bay Area, and across China.

RENATO MARQUES



### COVID-19

## 6.18 OUTBREAK COSTS GOV'T MOP600M, NOT COUNTING QUARANTINES

RENATO MARQUES

**T**he most severe outbreak of Covid-19 in Macau over the past two and half years, which started on June 18 (known as the 6.18 outbreak), has cost the government some 600 million patacas, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday in response to a media inquiry.

Leong explained that this figure only includes the expenditure for the citywide nucleic acid tests (NATs) as well as the supply of 55 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits and 60 KN95 face-

masks per person.

"In total, the calculation is that we have spent about 600

million patacas," Leong said enumerating the costs.

Later, Leong noted that the

costs related to the quarantine of persons either infected or isolating as close or secondary contacts are not yet included, indicating that the final bill could be significantly higher.

Leong ruled out any possibility of quarantine-free travel between Hong Kong and Macau for the time being, as she noted that the neighboring SAR is once again being severely affected, having recorded over 10,000 new cases in the past days.

Noting again that a decision to establish a "travel bubble" between Macau and HK would necessitate the closing of the border links with the mainland, Leong reaffirmed that is not yet possible to resume normal border conditions between Macau and HK. Leong added that the "quarantine imposed upon those arriving currently from HK is already greatly reduced [the numbers] when compared with figures from the recent past."

### PREVENTION SCHEME FOR SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

**A**T yesterday's Covid-19 press briefing, the representative of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), Luis Gomes, announced that this year's interschool competitions will proceed with a new Covid-19 prevention scheme, combining vaccination, nucleic acid tests (NATs) and rapid antigen tests (RATs). Gomes explained that before any

competitions begin, all participants will have to have taken a NAT within 48 hours of the event. After that, those that have completed the primary vaccination scheme (2 doses of a vaccine) will have to take a RAT before participating in the events, while those who have not completed the vaccination scheme must take a NAT. In the first case, the first NAT

and the RAT will be provided by the DSEDJ, while in the case of the following NAT for those unvaccinated, the costs must be borne by the students and their parents. The intention is clear: the DSEDJ aims for more students to get vaccinated, the authorities considering that this is still the best protection against the severe effects of the virus.

### HEALTH

## New head of Taipa hospital development committee inaugurated, holds first plenary

**H**onorary president of the Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Zhao Yupei, was inaugurated yesterday as the head of the Taipa Hospital Strategic Development Committee, which held its first plenary session on the same day.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng officiated at the inauguration by offering letters of appointment to Zhao and other committee members.

Following the inauguration, the committee had its first meeting, which mainly revolved around the signing of an



agreement for cooperation between Macau and the hospital in Beijing on the pre-appointment training of specialist medical staff.

The intention for coope-

ration was signed by public doctor Lei Wai Seng, head of the Taipa Hospital Preparatory Office.

As such, in the future, the Peking Union Medical College

Hospital, while considering the actual needs of the future Taipa Hospital, will screen qualified local residents and provide them with training, so that afterwards they will be able to serve at the Taipa Hospital.

Information about preparatory work and its progress, as well as necessary legislative procedures for the future hospital, were also presented at the meeting. Meanwhile, the charter of the committee and the mechanism of work of the committee were also reviewed and passed at the meeting. **AL**

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COVID-19

# 95 foreign visitors have entered Macau over the last week

RENATO MARQUES

A total of 95 tourists holding foreign passports have entered Macau over the past week, health authorities said in a reply to a Times inquiry during yesterday's press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the officials, these 95 foreign visitors include holders of Portuguese passports. It is unclear how many of these tourists benefited from the measure launched by the government on September 1 allowing the entry of visitors holding passports from 41 different countries.

"Last week a total of 1,204 people entered Macau coming from areas of medium and high risk. Of those [people], 646 were residents of Macau, the others were non-residents and tourists. As for tourists, we have recorded a total of 95 that are not holders of mainland China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan travel documents. These include [...]



holders of Portuguese and other passports," the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday in response to

a question from the Times. Leong also added that, as of September 1, these visitors do not need to request special authorization to enter Macau. Authori-

ties are not aware how many have entered due to the easing of the entry restrictions or had already previously requested special authorization to enter.

To another inquiry from the Times about the quarantine hotel facility to be used for the medical observation of those foreign visitors, the representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Liz Lam, clarified that the visitors will be lodged in the Regency Art Hotel in Taipa.

This hotel unit also serves as

an optional medical observation venue available for those residents arriving from foreign countries or the Taiwan region who are bearing the costs of the quarantine. Those exempted from paying for the lodging (that is, those undergoing quarantine for the first time) are required to stay at the Treasure Hotel, located also in Taipa but next to the Macau International Airport.

At the same press briefing, the representative from the Public Security Police Force, Ma Chio Hong, gave an update on the weekly figures of border crossings. These showed a general increase in all border crossings by 10.2% and an increase in visitors by 10.1%.

The peak of the border-crossing figures last week was reached on September 5 (Monday), when 34,100 visitors crossed the border.

## HEALTH AUTHORITIES CALL FOR 'EXTRA CAUTION' OVER THE MOON-FESTIVAL HOLIDAY

HEALTH authorities are calling for residents to exercise extra caution over the moon-festival holidays this weekend.

At yesterday's press briefing, Leong noted that the Covid situation in the neighboring areas, including the city of Zhuhai, is "not very stable" and advised the residents to reconsider

traveling to high-risk areas. "I appeal for people to be extremely careful, especially those who are traveling over these days, and to consider the risks involved," she said, noting that those who are not traveling should still pay special attention to crowd-gathering situations and wear a mask at all times.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# KAI FONG'S LAWMAKERS RESPOND TO 99% CASES IN PAST YEAR

ANTHONY LAM

**L**AWMAKERS Ho Ion Sang, Leong Hong Sai and Ngan Iek Hang have declared that they have addressed almost all requests for assistance in the past legislative session.

The past 11 months constituted the first session of this legislative term. Parliamentary sessions usually run from October to August.

At the press conference held yesterday concluding the session, the three lawmakers revealed that they received 3,252 requests for assistance and responded to 3,250 of them. They added that 80% of the requests were in the areas of society and culture, economy and finance, as well as transport and public works.

They also noted that they recorded full attendance at all the meetings they were required to attend.



With it remaining unclear when the pandemic will end, lawmakers presented the government with proposals in several areas concerning the lingering

Covid-19 pandemic.

First, they recommended that the government expand the tourism source market so as to accelerate economic recovery.

Emerging industries should also be developed, they added.

Second, the lawmakers stated that employment for local residents must be secured. They

believe that the second round of MOP10-billion subsidies will help achieve that. In fact, the government has also claimed past subsidies stabilized the employment market.

Third, construction in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone should continue, while pushing forward Macau-Hengqin integration, so that the region can be further integrated into the Greater Bay Area.

Fourth, social welfare and education development should be promoted, while at the same time the legal rights of disadvantaged groups must be protected.

Fifth, the border-crossing between Macau and Zhuhai should be facilitated, while abiding by disease control measures.

Sixth, improvements should be made to public infrastructure, with particular emphasis on housing, flood control and the development of new districts.

Seventh, public service and administration should be reformed to improve efficiency and the quality of services.

The three lawmakers pledged that they will continue to supervise the work of the executive branch in the coming legislative session.



YOUTH

# Education committee discusses measures to strengthen mental health

ANTHONY LAM

**A** local education government committee yesterday discussed measures to identify and support non-tertiary education students in the area of mental health at a regular plenary session.

The government's Non-tertiary Education Committee

held its second plenary session of the year yesterday. It was presided over by the director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), Kong Chi Meng, who is also vice president of the committee.

At the meeting, Leong I On, head of the Secondary Education Division of the DSEDJ,

presented the measures to strengthen the physical and mental health of students. He said that the government had actively developed work on life education. The government has already set up the Working Group for Monitoring the Mental and Physical Health of Young People - Transporting Love, which aims to improve

the functioning of interdepartmental services with the features of prevention, control and joint action, as well as continuous monitoring of the various works involved.

Leong added that complementary health education materials for primary and secondary students, a working group devoted to physical and mental health at each school and a mechanism for detecting students with greater risks of mental disturbances will be created as part of the government's attempt.

At the same meeting, the head of the Department of Non-Tertiary Education of the DSEDJ, Luís Gomes, gave a brief presentation on the work underway to improve the development of public schools of non-higher education, including the definition of the organization and functioning of these schools, the statute of teaching staff in public schools and the performance assessment agenda for teachers in these schools.

Further, during the same session the head of the DSEDJ General Student Development Division, U Hon Sang, presented the epidemic prevention preparatory plan for school competitions/activities for the 2022/2023 academic year. Committee members were briefed on probable measures to be enacted under this circumstance.

FINANCE

# GIF ASKS FOR COLLABORATION IN 'COMBATING GROWING CYBERCRIME'

STAFF REPORTER

**S**INCE cybercrimes have become one of the major criminal activities, rapid illicit fund flows and concealment of criminal identities thus "pose challenges for analyses and investigations," the Financial Intelligence Office (GIF) said in a press release.

GIF "remains committed" to cooperating and communicating with the financial sector to enhance the effectiveness on the prevention and suppression of money laundering and terrorist financing.

GIF held a Joint Meeting on Prevention and Suppression of Financial Crimes on Wednesday via an online platform, with a total of around 170 participants, including compliance officers and employees from the compliance departments of financial sector entities.

During the meeting, representatives from GIF discussed the AML/CFT statistical data in Macau, the latest suspicious transaction trends and case sharing.

A newly established electronic communication platform was also introduced in order to enhance the communication mechanism between GIF and the financial sector.

# Wynn Supports Patriotic Education to Raise National Security Awareness among Youth

**A**s a local enterprise deeply rooted in Macao, Wynn is dedicated to upholding the spirit of the Chinese nation and ensuring the core value of loving the country and Macao is passed down to future generations, thus contributing to the future development of the city and the country as a whole.

## CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT IN SPACETECHNOLOGY

Co-organized by the Wynn Care Foundation and the National Conditions Education (Macao) Association, the sixth "Wynn Cup – Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition" recently concluded with an award ceremony at Wynn Palace. The competition was themed "My Art – My Space Dream" and was dedicated to encouraging Macao primary students to give an artistic depiction of the nation's great achievements in space technology as well as their vision and hope for the future of space science and technology.

This fascinating event captured the enthusiasm of the children and deepened their knowledge and understanding of the country's development in this field. The competition attracted participation from around 10,000 primary students from 52 local schools. A selection of 258 drawings have been displayed in the Art Center of Wynn Palace to showcase the artistic creativity of Macao children.

In addition, a fashion show titled "Space Odyssey" was hosted by Wynn in partnership with the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, where local designers showcased a variety of space-themed parent-child outfits.

## HOLDING SHARING SESSION ON THE SPIRIT OF "TWO SESSIONS"

This year, Wynn once again hosted a sharing session on the spirit of the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political



Wynn hosted a sharing session on the spirit of the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



The sixth "Wynn Cup – Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition" attracted participation from around 10,000 primary students from 52 local schools.

Consultative Conference ("Two Sessions") that featured a number of keynote speakers, including Lao Ngai Leong, Macao Deputy of the NPC and the Head of the Macao Delegation; Jose Chui Sai Peng, Macao Deputy of the NPC and Deputy Leader of the Macao Delegation; Ho Teng Iat, Member of the CPPCC National Committee and Vice Chairman of the Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese of the National Committee of the CPPCC; and Zhang Zongzhen, Member of the CPPCC National Committee.

The four keynote speakers shared the key points of "The Report on the Work of the Government" and the Two Sessions, provided participants with an in-depth analysis of supporting the overall national development and offered

insights on how Macao can seize opportunities.

Wynn also livestreamed the sharing session in the back-of-house areas for more than 1,500 team members, and broadcasted the entire event live on Facebook to reach 12,500 Wynn team members and many members of the public, promoting the spirit of loving the country and Macao.

## JIANGSU AND MACAO CO-HOST SEMINAR ON "THE TAIWAN QUESTION" WHITE PAPER

To thoroughly unravel the historical background and significance of the white paper entitled "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era", the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification in Jiangsu and the Association of Excellent Traditional Chinese Cul-

ture of Macao jointly organized a seminar on the white paper through online and offline channels on August 23 in Nanjing and Macao, where scholars and distinguished guests from both regions were invited to give speeches, share ideas and build a consensus for the bright prospects of peaceful reunification and rejuvenation of China. The event, steered by the Taiwan Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central Government in Macao and the Macao Office of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits and coordinated by the Wynn Care Foundation and the Macao Lotus Times, attracted around 150 participants from different sectors to attend in Macao.

Linda Chen, President of the Association of Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture of Macao, hopes

seminar participants from Macao can learn more about the historical background and significance of the white paper, help leverage the city's unique strengths, and contribute their wisdom and power as Macao people to the nation's reunification and rejuvenation.

With this year marking the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Consensus, during the seminar, the organizers also held an online launch ceremony for the consensus-themed Q&A infographics. The infographics were uploaded online to give Macao people, especially local teenagers, an in-depth understanding of the context and core value of the 1992 Consensus: "Both sides of the Taiwan Straits belong to one China and will work together toward national reunification."

## INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AMONG TEAM MEMBERS

Wynn organized 50 members of its management team and joined hands with local associations to arrange a visit to the National Security Education Exhibition with Taiwanese youth, helping them to gain comprehensive knowledge about national security as well as its importance to the country, the Macao SAR, and all members of the community, thus jointly safeguarding national security and the city's social prosperity and stability.

The exhibition was divided into six sections featuring a combination of video and image with text descriptions that highlighted how the country has coordinated its development and security, calmly responded to the once-in-a-century global changes and pandemic, and made a series of great accomplishments in promoting national security in the new era by adopting a holistic approach to national security. The exhibition also introduced the various measures and achievements of the SAR Government in upholding national security and propelling the steady progress of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy.



The seminar on "The Taiwan Question" white paper and the launching ceremony of the 1992 Consensus infographics were held at Wynn Palace.



Wynn management team members have deepened their understanding of the country, the significance and importance of national security.

AD



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- **Studies on National Regime and Macao SAR\*\***  
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\* Chinese-speaking ability is a must for teaching the subject.

**THE FUTURE OF CASINO INDUSTRY**

# OLIVEIRA SAYS MACAU HAS HIGH AUTONOMY WHEN IT COMES TO GAMING POLICY



**ANTHONY LAM**

A former commissioner for legal affairs for the Gaming Commission said that, contrary to popular belief, Macau does have a say in the formulation of the SAR's own gaming policies.

Jorge Costa Oliveira, founder and CEO at JCO Consultancy, made the remark during a webinar organized yesterday by the France Macau Chamber of Commerce at which a panel of three commentators sat in front of cameras to discuss Macau's future in the casino industry.

Oliveira – who is also a regular MDT contributor – admitted that, in many people's minds, Macau, as a special administrative region of China that is very much dependent on the Central Government, does not have much fighting power against the instructions or directives from Beijing. However, he said that this was not completely true, at least not when it comes to gambling and casinos in the MSAR.

The commentator said that, given that the topic is almost a taboo in mainland China and must be handled with exceptional delicacy, officials in the north did have occasion to ask Macau officials and experts about gambling policies.

"They would ask the implementation of certain policies to be explained or justified," Oliveira said, adding that the background for certain policies might also be questioned. "In gambling, it's not defined by Beijing. Macau has leeway to act [independently]."

When discussing the attractiveness of Macau to foreigners, Oliveira thought that Macau has never been a first choice for gamblers from outside greater China. He recalled that there used to be rich gamblers from Southeast Asia coming to Macau casinos, but that they have more recently been attracted to Australia, where junkets offer better deals.

## Experts expressed their optimism that Beijing would allow casinos to remain legal in Macau at least until 2049

When asked by the Times to comment on shows and concerts that had helped diversify the source of tourists in the industry, another panelist, Alidad Tash, managing director at 2NT8, curtly declared that Macau "had no entertainment."

"The only two entertainments were Zaia and the House of Dancing Water,"

Tash said, adding that it was tough for the industry to continue to thrive because the government has been slow in issuing migrant worker IDs to facilitate external professionals to work legally for short-term projects.

Another commentator, Vitaly Umansky, managing director and senior analyst at AB Bernstein, said that concerts and shows would not appeal to day-trippers, which make up a significant proportion of Macau's tourist count.

"No day-tripper will sacrifice two hours in their single-day trip to watch a show," he commented, adding that Macau must extend tourists' stays in order to incorporate more shows, concerts and non-gambling elements.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, resorts used to bundle round-trip ferry tickets with concert tickets to attract people from Hong Kong to the shows. In addition, many concert-goers make same-day visits to Hong Kong from other Greater Bay Area cities just to watch a concert featuring local stars such as Hins Cheung and Sammi Cheng.

During the concluding part of the webinar, all three commentators expressed their optimism that Beijing would allow casinos to remain legal in Macau at least until 2049.

ADVERTORIAL

## SANDS CHINA NEWS

### Sands Cares Ambassadors Celebrate Venetian's 15th Anniversary with Macau Special Olympics

Members of four local NGOs – including Macau Special Olympics (MSO) – and their families rode in gondolas, played games and enjoyed other activities Aug. 28 with Sands Cares Ambassadors to celebrate The Venetian Macao's 15th anniversary. Participants also received health checks from the MSO Healthy Athletes programme, with Sands Cares Ambassadors assisting.

The fun parent-child event, **The Venetian Macao 15th Anniversary Presents: Sands Cares Healthcare Day**, was organised by Sands China and MSO, and co-organised by Macau Medical and Health Federation, in promotion of the health of people with intellectual disabilities.

On the same day, Sands China Ltd. made a MOP 248,000 donation to MSO in support of its Healthy Athletes programme. Co-organised by Sands China and MSO, this free programme aims to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities and to reduce relevant parenting stress. Having helped identify health issues for 5,500 people with intellectual disabilities, with 600 children and young adults with intellectual disabilities having enjoyed follow-up treatments fully funded by the programme to date, the Healthy Athletes programme also offers useful advice for caregivers of its participants.

Hetzer Siu, national director of Macau Special Olympics, said: "MSO and Sands China have collaborated for over 15 years, and it is now the 9th year since the launch of our Healthy Athletes Programme. Through this programme, Sands Cares Ambassadors and our members have developed a great bond, which gives the local community a better understanding of the challenges faced by the families of individuals with intellectual disabilities."

Around 300 people participated in Healthcare Day's fun activities, where 100 Ambassadors hosted 150 children with disabilities and their family members from MSO, the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau, the Macau Association for Intellectual Development Services, and the Macau Down Syndrome Association.

Besides the gondola rides and games, the group visited the V15 time tunnel, joined a parent-child handicraft workshop, and received a gift pack featuring a Venetian signature doll.

Sands China's community initiatives are part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of Las Vegas Sands Corp.



Rescuers transfer an earthquake affected villager through a damaged mountain road near Moxi Town of Luding County, Sichuan Province

#### 82 DEATHS

# Heavy rain after deadly Sichuan quake complicates recovery

**H**EAVY rains are complicating earthquake recovery efforts in southwestern China, where the death toll from Monday's disaster has risen to 82.

More than 20,000 people have been moved to temporary shelters amid the threat of landslides and buildings collapsing in the mountainous region of Sichuan province, state media reported yesterday. The rains are expected to last at least through Friday.

Another 35 people are missing and 270 have been hospitalized with injuries from the magnitude 6.8 quake that leveled buildings and sent boulders tumbling onto roads in Sichuan's Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Region and neighboring Ya'an city, the reports said.

Buildings were also shaken in the provincial capital of Chengdu, where 21 million people are among the 65 million Chinese under a strict COVID-19 lockdown confining them to their homes and residential compounds.

Following the quake, police and health workers in Chengdu refused to allow anxious residents outside, adding to public frustration over the government's strict zero-COVID policy mandating

lockdowns, quarantines and other restrictions, even while the rest of the world has largely reopened.

Despite the impact on the economy and public sentiment, the policy has become closely identified with president and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping in what has been called a politicization of health care.

The government is also discouraging domestic travel during the mid-autumn festival on Saturday and the weeklong national holiday at the start of October.

Virus outbreaks have been reported in 103 cities, the highest since the early days of the pandemic in early 2020.

Monday's quake was centered in a mountainous area of Luding county, which sits on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau roughly 200 kilometers from Chengdu.

Friction between tectonic plates in the region frequently cause earthquakes, including China's deadliest in recent years, a 7.9 magnitude temblor in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan.

That quake devastated towns, schools and rural communities outside Chengdu, leading to a years-long effort to rebuild with more resilient materials. **MDT/AP**

UK

# Queen Elizabeth II dead at 96 after 70 years on the throne

DANICA KIRKA, JILL LAWLESS & SYLVIA HUI, LONDON

**Q**UEEN Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a rock of stability across much of a turbulent century, died Thursday (early today, Macau time) after 70 years on the throne. She was 96.

The palace announced she died at Balmoral Castle, her summer residence in Scotland, where members of the royal family had rushed to her side after her health took a turn for the worse.

A link to the almost-vanished generation that fought World War II, she was the only monarch most Britons have ever known, and her name defines an age: the modern Elizabethan Era.

The impact of her loss will be huge and unpredictable, both for the nation and for the monarchy, an institution she helped stabilize and modernize across decades of huge social change and family scandals.

With the death of the queen, her 73-year-old son Charles automatically becomes monarch, though the coronation might not take place for months. It is not known whether he will choose to call himself King Charles III or some other name.

The queen's life was indelibly marked by the war. As Princess Elizabeth, she made her first public broadcast in 1940 when she was 14, sending a wartime message to children evacuated to the countryside or overseas.

"We children at home are full of cheerfulness and courage," she said with a blend of stoicism and hope that would echo throughout her reign. "We are trying to do all we can to help out gallant soldiers, sailors and airmen. And we are trying, too, to bear our own share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well."

Since Feb. 6, 1952, Elizabeth reigned over a Britain that rebuilt from war and lost its empire; joined the European Union and then left it; and transformed



from industrial powerhouse to uncertain 21st century society. She endured through 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, becoming an institution and an icon -- a fixed point and a reassuring presence even for those who ignored or loathed the monarchy.

She became less visible in her final years as age and frailty curtailed many public appearances. But she remained firmly in control of the monarchy and at the center of national life as Britain celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with days of parties and pageants in June 2022.

The same month she became the second longest-reigning monarch in history, behind 17th-century French King Louis XIV, who took the throne at age 4. On Sept. 6, 2022, she presided at a ceremony at Balmoral Castle to accept the resignation of Boris Johnson as prime minister and appoint Truss as his successor.

When Elizabeth was 21, almost five years before she became queen, she promised the people of Britain and the Commonwealth that "my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

It was a promise she kept across more than seven decades.

Despite Britain's complex and often fraught ties with its former colonies, Elizabeth was widely respected and remained head

of state of more than a dozen countries, from Canada to Tuvalu. She headed the 54-nation Commonwealth, built around Britain and its former colonies.

Married for more than 73 years to Prince Philip, who died in 2021 at age 99, Elizabeth was matriarch to a royal family whose troubles were a subject of global fascination -- amplified by fictionalized accounts such as TV series "The Crown." She is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Through countless public events, she probably met more people than anyone in history. Her image, which adorned stamps, coins and banknotes, was among the most reproduced in the world.

But her inner life and opinions remained mostly an enigma. Of her personality, the public saw relatively little. A horse owner, she rarely seemed happier than during the Royal Ascot racing week. She never tired of the companionship of her beloved Welsh corgi dogs.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born in London on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. She was not born to be queen -- her father's elder brother, Prince Edward, was destined for the crown, to be followed by any children he had.

But in 1936, when she was 10, Edward VIII abdicated to marry twice-divorced Ame-

rican Wallis Simpson, and Elizabeth's father became King George VI.

Princess Margaret recalled asking her sister whether this meant that Elizabeth would one day be queen. "Yes, I suppose it does," Margaret quoted Elizabeth as saying. "She didn't mention it again."

Elizabeth was barely in her teens when Britain went to war with Germany in 1939. While the king and queen stayed at Buckingham Palace during the Blitz and toured the bombed-out neighborhoods of London, Elizabeth and Margaret spent most of the war at Windsor Castle, west of the capital. Even there, 300 bombs fell in an adjacent park, and the princesses spent many nights in an underground shelter.

In 1945, after months of campaigning for her parents' permission to do something for the war effort, the heir to the throne became Second Subaltern Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She enthusiastically learned to drive and service heavy vehicles.

On the night the war ended in Europe, May 8, 1945, she and Margaret managed to mingle, unrecognized, with celebrating crowds in London -- "swept along on a tide of happiness and relief," as she told the BBC decades later, describing it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life." **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1976 CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG DIES

The chief architect of the Chinese revolution, Chairman Mao Zedong, has died at the age of 82.

His death - at 10 minutes past midnight - was announced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the party's Military Affairs Commission.

Chairman Mao had been in poor health for several years and had declined visibly in recent months. He had not seen any foreign visitors for some time. It is not clear yet who will replace him. There is no designated heir to the leadership of China's 800 million citizens.

News of Chairman Mao's death has spread quickly through the Chinese capital. Many people are wearing black armbands. Groups have paid tribute opposite a huge portrait of Chairman Mao at the main entrance to the Forbidden City.

His body will now lie in state at the Great Hall of the People. A memorial service will be held in Tiananmen Square on 18 September. Everyone except those performing essential tasks will be expected to maintain a three minute silence.

The official Chinese obituary paid tribute to Chairman Mao's important struggles against "enemies" within the Chinese Communist Party, which he co-founded in 1921.

He rose to prominence as the man who led the communist forces on the epic 6,000 mile (9,656 km) "long march" to Shen in northern China to flee attacks from the nationalist Kuomintang party in the mid-1930s.

In 1949 he became chairman of the newly established People's Republic of China.

During the 1950s, Chairman Mao launched the Great Leap Forward, a campaign to increase industrial production by mobilising China's enormous manpower into rural peoples' communes.

Even after he retired as chairman of the republic he continued to influence policy as chairman of the Communist Party.

The Cultural Revolution was launched in 1966. Schools and colleges were closed and the students joined the Red Guards in an ideological crusade which led to many officials losing their jobs, being tortured and killed.

He was credited for encouraging President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972, the first by an American leader. Other countries opened embassies in Beijing and China was finally granted a seat at the United Nations in 1971.



Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Mao Zedong was the founder of modern China and is still regarded by the Chinese as one of their great leaders. However, according to observers, he was also a ruthless leader.

The so-called "Great Leap Forward" of collectivised farming and rapid industrialization led to nationwide famine which killed millions, according to some historian accounts.

The Cultural Revolution, which he launched to purge political opponents, dragged on for 10 years and ruined the lives and educations of a whole generation. His death left a power vacuum in China.

The "gang of four" - leading radicals, including Mao's widow, responsible for the Cultural Revolution - attempted to take control but were arrested by Mao's successor Hua Guofeng and convicted of crimes against the state.

Deng Xiaoping emerged as China's new leader in 1978.



## YOUR STARS

### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. Romance will be on your mind, and chances for ideal connections are in the works.

### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You can expect to have some problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't taken proper care of them. You'll be pleased with the results if you take the time to decorate your home.

### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Travel opportunities should be your first choice. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Changes in your home environment are likely.

### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Be sure to take time for old friends or relatives you don't get to see that often. You should make special plans for you and your lover. Don't rely on others to do your work.

### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. For now just do the best you can. Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance.

### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Hard work will bring rewards. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special. You just hate waste, and when someone else costs you dearly you see red.

### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Take time to catch up on overdue correspondence. Read between the lines before you sign your name. Try to keep ahead of the game.

### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Romance will be on your mind, and chances for ideal connections are in the works. There is not much you can do to alleviate the problem, but consider putting some extra work into your house.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Travel will be in your best interest.

### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Physical activity will help defuse your frustration. Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your way, look out world. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence.

### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

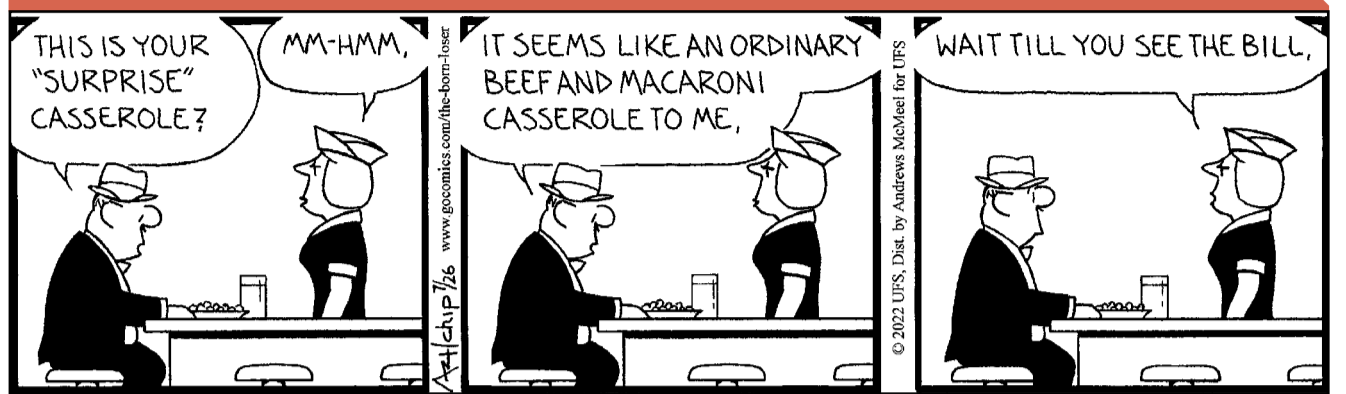
Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Think before you act. Unforeseen circumstances will disrupt your daily routine. Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication.

### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. You will enjoy physical activities more than you think. Read between the lines before you sign your name.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

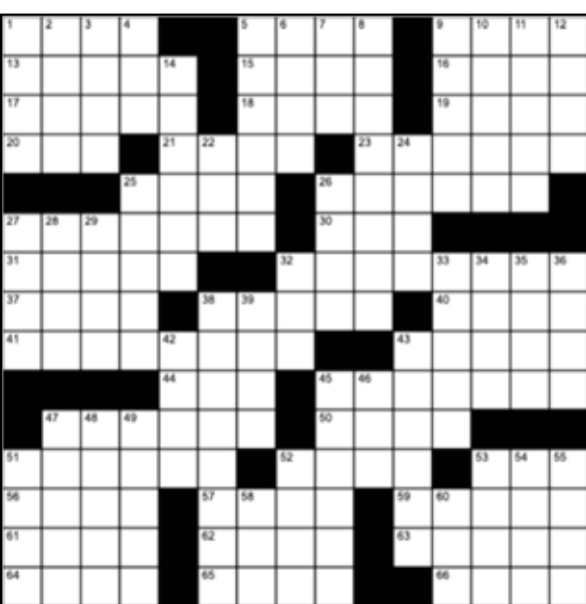
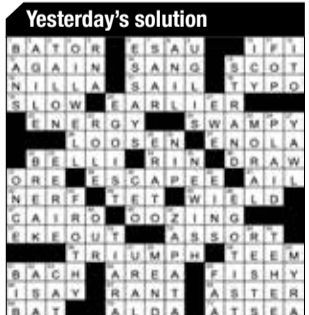
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	17	31	fine
Changchun	15	29	fine
Chengdu	19	27	overcast
Chongqing	26	33	cloudy
Fuzhou	23	34	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	32	rain
Guiyang	16	30	cloudy
Haikou	25	31	rain
Hangzhou	23	32	overcast
Harbin	15	26	cloudy
Hefei	19	30	cloudy
Nanjing	22	30	cloudy
Shanghai	24	31	overcast
Taipei	24	30	fine
Wuhan	22	33	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	31	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	4	13	overcast
Frankfurt	14	22	showers
Paris	16	21	showers
London	13	21	showers
New York	18	28	clear

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Mogul capital until 1658; 5- Prophetic sign; 9- Portico; 13- Climb; 15- Actress Foch; 16- Small batteries; 17- Follows orders; 18- Formerly, formerly; 19- Open \_\_\_ night; 20- Young goat; 21- Ferrara family; 23- Sardonic; 25- Do a slow burn; 26- Fly; 27- State in W Mexico; 30- Goose egg; 31- Remain; 32- Ingoing; 37- Kind of ticket; 38- Marshal; 40- Romance lang.; 41- Job change or marriage, psychologically speaking; 43- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 44- Barcelona bear; 45- Official permit; 47- Conviction; 50- Foreign dignitary; 51- Military decorations; 52- Somewhat; 53- Sloth, for one; 56- Got off; 57- Riverbank component; 59- Absurd; 61- Fermented grape juice; 62- Give the eye; 63- Discontinue; 64- Be a mother to; 65- Laugh loudly; 66- Horse's gait;

DOWN 1- Hog-wild; 2- Mongolian desert; 3- Regretted; 4- \_\_\_ day now...; 5- Ring combo; 6- Bog; 7- Nav. officer; 8- Birth of Christ; 9- Mead subject; 10- Spoil; 11- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 12- Just \_\_\_; 14- African fly; 22- Dry, as wine; 24- Make angry; 25- Move sideways; 26- Editor Wintour; 27- Packs tight; 28- Encourage in wrongdoing; 29- One telling tales; 32- Go off course; 33- Bill attachment; 34- Pack \_\_\_ (quit); 35- Scottish refusals; 36- Adhesive; 38- Estimator; 39- Mouth part; 42- Potting need; 43- Like toxic rainfall; 45- Mailed communique; 46- \_\_\_ little teapot...; 47- Give a false impression of; 48- Minneapolis suburb; 49- "See ya!"; 51- Bryn \_\_\_ College; 52- \_\_\_ breve; 53- Coal-rich region; 54- Words before "many words"; 55- Nair rival; 58- Can \_\_\_ now?; 60- Can be used to catch fish or surf!;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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DRIVE IN

# 'BARBARIAN' GLEEFULLY MESSES WITH HORROR CUSTOMS

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**B**ARBARIAN" starts at night with a heavy downpour and a thunderclap. So far, so good, for what seems to be a classic horror movie. Hold onto your ponchos.

Some two hours later you will have seen virtually every horror convention — from doors slamming on their own to weird monsters with mommy issues and subterranean torture rooms — ingeniously messed about with. Even the title is a misdirection.

"Barbarian" marks the auspicious feature film debut of director-writer Zach Cregger, someone well-versed in film tropes and with a subtle skill at social satire approaching Jordan Peele levels. He will also somehow make you laugh hard in oases of humor before the dread reappears.

It starts on a rainy middle-of-the-night street of a half-ruined section of Detroit when a young woman (Georgina Campbell) finds her Airbnb-rented house weirdly occupied by a stranger (Bill Skarsgård.) "I don't know what the protocol for all this is," he tells her. Their little awkward dance — checking booking receipts, offering to sleep on the couch — seems

AP PHOTO



Georgina Campbell in a scene from "Barbarian"

to point to a tiny tale of gender roles and microaggressions. Yet somehow it will evolve into a hair-on-fire horror flick with eyeball-gouged skulls.

Make no mistake: Cregger is playing with us every step of the way. Casting Skarsgård

as the is-he-a-sweetie-or-not comes colored by his role as Pennywise in "It," and even the film's setting is a slight-of-hand — a bombed out section of Detroit with the Airbnb home in its center was actually filmed in Bulgaria.

Later, the arrival of Justin Long — playing a slimy TV figure of a new show tellingly called "Chip off the Block" — clouds things further, he being an actor long associated with good-guy comedy. Cregger is somehow leaning into Hollywood conventions even outside his own movie.

As good as the casting is, it is the house that is the real star, nicely appointed but cookie-cutter, in a sea of torn up and decayed homes. It has an alarming basement with a horrific room that has a soiled bed, a bucket and a camera. But there's more: An even creepier cavernous space below. You can almost hear Cregger cackling as our heroes face TWO horror-film ready basements. "You're safe," says one. "I don't think I

am," another replies. (They're not, by the way, of course.)

One running joke is that Campbell spends so much time trying to escape the house and yet smashing her way back into it moments later that more than one person in the audience at a recent screening loudly implored her to get into her Jeep Cherokee and just drive away.

All along are reaches for real social issues — redlining, misogyny, character redemption, gun accidents and police misconduct, among them — that elevate the film from genre-gazing silliness. There may be a monster inside the house, but forces outside that structure keep that monster firmly inside.

"Barbarian" is firmly of its time — online house rental bookings, smart-phone flashlights and real estate square footage listings — and yet timeless, like an arm ripped off and used as a club. It was predictable and yet was impossible to predict. It's worth booking one night soon.

**"Barbarian," a 20th Century Studios release that lands in theaters Friday, is rated R for "some strong violence and gore, disturbing material, language throughout and nudity." Running time: 103 minutes. ★★★★★**

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TASTE OF EDESIA

# Rice here, right now

IRENE SAM, MDT

**A** cornerstone of Krug's craftsmanship, individuality is the art of understanding that every plot of vines gives birth to a unique wine, a single ingredient in Krug Champagnes. From the humble potato in 2015 and the simple egg in 2016; the protean mushroom in 2017 and sundry fish in 2018, the enticing pepper in 2019, the unspoken onion in 2021, and now in 2022, the culinary chameleon we call rice.

In 2022, the House of Krug celebrates a global symbol of sustenance and vitality, the culinary chameleon we call rice. Today, the unifying staple nourishes half the world's population. Versatile and charismatic, it is the backbone of emblematic national recipes everywhere, as comfortable in the spotlight as it

is in a supporting role. By nature, an invitation calling for diversity on the plate, rice is a mirror of the human gastronomic adventure throughout the ages.

Its multifaceted expressions marry both the fullness of flavours and aromas of Krug Grande Cuvée and the elegance and boldness of Krug Rosé. Rice can be served as the perfect complement of meat, fruits, vegetables and legumes – making it one of the most versatile grains to ever exist in the culinary arts.

In the seventh edition of the Krug x Single Ingredient programme, Krug once again explores the passion, creativity and delight that a single ingredient can inspire. This year, the House of Krug continues its exploration of unexpected food pairings and brings together 75 brilliant Krug Ambassadors Chefs from 25 different countries who have taken inspiration from

the House's unique approach to Champagne creation, unleashing their imagination on the universal grain, rice.

The Chefs have selected from 7 themes ranging from finger food, dishes to share, Krug Rosé pairings, vegetarian meals, and street-food, to music-inspired culinary creations and sweet recipes using rice. Within these categories, they drew inspiration from their native or adopted cultures, experiences, personal interests or simply their desire for a challenge.

The House of Krug also presents **RICE HERE, RIGHT NOW**, the first-ever cookbook featuring original recipes by the 75 Krug Ambassade Chefs from all over the world. Through their culinary interpretations, which take the audience from earth to sea, Japan to Italy via the United States, one discovers the endless facets of rice through these inspiring recipes that can be replicated at home.

The world of rice is a culinary treasure trove of possibilities. Arborio, Jasmine, Basmati, or Wild – rice has surely exercised its enticing appeal on the Krug Ambassadors, who have made this remarkable ingredient the star of their respective dishes.



Mori Tomoaki

Uwe Opocensky

Guillaume Galliot

Robin Zavou

Vicky Cheng

AD

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**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine :** Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT :** Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

**Cardiology :** Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

**General Medicine :** Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**ECONOMIC  
 FRAMEWORK  
 FOR PROSPERITY  
 ADVANCES OBJECTIVES  
 THAT ARE NOT IN ASIA-  
 PACIFIC'S INTERESTS**

With ministers from 14 countries participating in the "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity" in Los Angeles for their first in-person meeting, the United States-proposed mechanism may finally take a visible step off the drawing board.

Little has been said or heard from the two previous ministerial meetings held virtually since US President Joe Biden launched the framework during his May visit to Japan. But given its purpose the IPEF may remain on the drawing board even after the Los Angeles meeting.

The Los Angeles ministerial gathering is reportedly aimed at a structure capable of securing chains of critical supplies such as chips and rare earths, "even in times of natural disasters and other contingencies", and enhancing cooperation on new and renewable energy.

But what US President Joe Biden envisioned in his May announcement went far beyond such goals. It does not require much effort to translate into real-world terms what he meant when he said on launching the framework that the US invited "the participation of Indo-Pacific partners that share our goals, interests, and ambitions for the region".

It is therefore hard to tell how far the meeting can go in pushing those goals, interests and ambitions for the region, since those of the US are not in the best interests of the other participants.

The White House itself appears to have no idea how the framework will achieve its aims. Or people wouldn't have been asking whether it is the Biden administration's foreign policy, trade policy, or something else. Even the US business community and members of Congress have complained about being kept in the dark about the IPEF.

But one thing is clear; the IPEF has not been created as a usual trade agreement. Since its inception, it has been flying the colors of ideological and geopolitical confrontation. Since the very beginning, when it was first announced, it was obviously intended to be confrontational and exclusive.

It has been conceived as a geopolitical expediency to cope with what in Washington politicians' eyes is an increasingly prominent threat from China. The goal is to propagate US rules and values in the region and offset Chinese "dominance".

While the promise of trade-facilitating potential may appeal to countries, it may be another thing when it comes to the US' attempt to exclude China. After all, Beijing is the one tirelessly promoting economic and trade integration in the region, which is multilateral, inclusive and all-beneficial.

The participating countries' economies account for 40 percent of the global total. But this does not take into account the deep and close interdependence between the Chinese and other economies in the region.

**AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT TIPPED TO HEAD SENSITIVE UN RIGHTS OFFICE**

**THE BUZZ**

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has proposed a veteran Austrian diplomat to head the global body's human rights office at a time when it is facing harsh criticism from China for accusing Beijing of abuses against Muslim minorities.

The proposal circulated to member states yesterday [Macau time] of Volker Tuerk, currently undersecretary-general for policy in Guterres' office, needs to be approved by the U.N. General Assembly.

Tuerk, who spent many years working for the U.N. refugee



agency, would succeed Michelle Bachelet of Chile as High Commissioner for Human Rights, based in Geneva.

Bachelet's term ended in August with the release of a highly anticipated report on human rights in China's western region of Xinjiang. The report accused Beijing of "serious human rights violations" against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups.

China blasted the report, accusing the U.N. rights office of fabrication and allowing itself to be used by Western nations.

**NIGERIA SEIZES DONKEY PENISES TO BE SMUGGLED TO HONG KONG**

**N**IGERIAN officials have seized thousands of donkey penises that were about to be exported to Hong Kong, an official said yesterday.

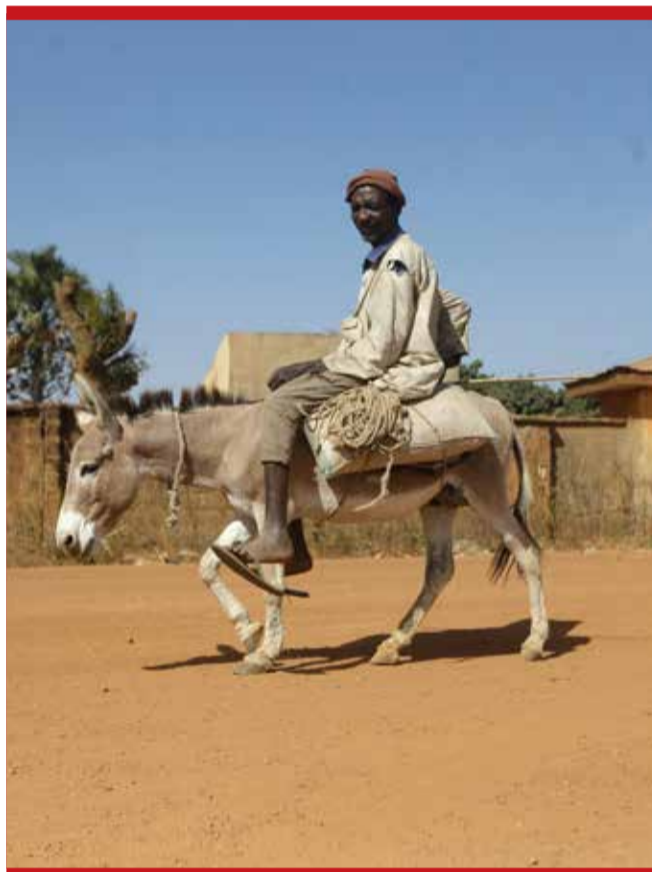
Sacks of the donkey male genitals were seized at the international airport in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, Sambo Dangaladima, the Nigeria Customs Service area commander, told reporters.

The consignment was "falsely declared ... as cow male genitals (but) after due examination, my export officers discovered they were donkey male genitals," said Dangaladima. A total of 16 sacks of the genitals were seized, he said.

An investigation has been launched to find out more information about the seized items, the customs service said.

Although the seizure of donkey genitals meant for export from Nigeria is rare, donkey skins are known to be frequently exported or smuggled out of the country. In July, the Nigerian customs seized \$116,000 worth of donkey skins being smuggled into the country from neighboring Niger.

Nigeria is trying to curb the export of donkey skins which has



drastically diminished the country's population of the work animals, particularly in the north. Nigerian senators in 2021 proposed to ban the killing of donkeys and the export of their skins.

The lawmakers said such a ban on killing donkeys would further curb the export of donkey skins and genitals — which Nigeria prohibits — to countries like China where the skins are used in popular traditional

medicines. That proposed legislation has not yet been passed into law.

"The major beneficiary in this trade is the donkey (skin) merchants in China," Muhammad Datti, one of the federal lawmakers supporting the proposed ban, has said. "This animal is facing extinction (in Nigeria) and it is an animal you cannot breed in large numbers because of the very low rate of fertility."

MDT/AP

**CHINESE MAN TRAPPED ALOFT IN HYDROGEN BALLOON FOR TWO DAYS**

**C**HINESE state media say a man has been found safe after he spent two days aloft in a hydrogen balloon, traveling about 320 kilometers, after it became untethered and flew away while he was using it to harvest pine nuts from a tree.

The man, identified only by his surname, Hu, and a partner were collecting pine nuts on Sunday in a forest park in Heilongjiang province

in northeastern China when they lost control and the balloon sailed off.

The other person jumped to the ground, and a search was launched for the escaped balloon and Hu.

State broadcaster CCTV said rescuers were able to contact the man by cellphone the following morning and instructed him to slowly deflate the balloon to land safely. It took another day

before he reached the ground about 320 kilometers to the northeast in Fangzheng region, close to the border with Russia.

Hu was in good health, apart from a pain in his lower back, possibly from standing the entire time he was in the air, CCTV said.

An official who said Hu was recovering in a hospital but declined to give further details. MDT/AP



**J**apan's foreign minister said yesterday there was "an increasing need" for India and Japan to step up security cooperation as the two countries held talks to further strengthen military ties amid growing tension from China and Russia in the region. Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada talked with their Indian counterparts, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, at their meeting in Tokyo, coming at a sensitive time as Russia holds a major multinational military exercise in its far east, with China and India participating.



**I**ndonesia Hundreds of students rallied in Indonesia's capital yesterday to protest sharp increases in fuel prices by the government. The protesters, from several student organizations, gathered at Jakarta's National Monument, which commemorates Indonesia's struggle for independence. "We reject the fuel price hikes," one of their banners read.



**G**ermany The European Central Bank has made its largest-ever interest rate increase to combat record inflation that is squeezing consumers and pushing the 19 countries that use the euro currency toward recession. The bank's 25-member governing council raised its key benchmarks by an unprecedented three-quarters of a percentage point yesterday.

**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Tuesday September 13. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.