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GAMING: DAISY HO HAS BEEN APPOINTED MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SJM RESORTS AMID THE ONGOING TENDER SELECTION PROCESS

▲ P4

REAL ESTATE: CENTALINE SEES NO BASIS TO EXPECT BOUNCE IN PROPERTY PRICES

▲ P4

JAPAN-CHINA TIES AFTER 50 YEARS: IT'S COMPLICATED

▲ P10,20



AP PHOTO



Koreas In a show of defiance, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea yesterday, hours after U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris flew home from a visit to South Korea during which she emphasized the “ironclad” U.S. commitment to the security of its Asian allies. It was the third round of missile launches by North Korea this week, extending a record pace in weapons testing as it accelerates a push to expand its arsenal and pressure Washington to accept it as a nuclear power.

AP PHOTO



South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly passed a motion yesterday calling for the dismissal of the foreign minister over a series of alleged diplomatic missteps, including controversial remarks by President Yoon Suk Yeol caught on a hot mic in the United States. The motion isn't legally binding and doesn't suspend Foreign Minister Park Jin (pictured).

AP PHOTO



India's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that all women, regardless of marital status, can obtain abortions up to 24 weeks into their pregnancies. Previously, under India's abortion law, married women could have abortions up to 24 weeks into their pregnancies, but single women were limited to 20 weeks. Yesterday, the court extended the 24-week period to all women.

More on backpage

RED PACKS

MGTO hopes for daily tourist arrivals of 20,000 during National Day holidays in a city packed with events and fireworks ▲ P2



XINHUA

END OF ZERO TAIWAN TO DROP QUARANTINE FOR ARRIVALS STARTING OCT. 13

▲ P6

AP PHOTO



GBA HENGQIN DELEGATES COME TO MACAU FOR TALKS ON FINANCE AND TALENT

▲ P8

GOLDEN WEEK

Tourism chief hopes for daily tourist arrivals of 20,000 during Oct. 1 holidays

ANTHONY LAM

AT a press event yesterday, a tourism official expressed his hope that the city will attract 20,000 visitors per day during the seven-day October 1 holidays in mainland China.

Cheng Wai Tong, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), made that remark based on the count of over 26,000 visitor arrivals last Friday. He emphasized that it was the highest number since the June 18 Covid-19 outbreak, and he voiced his hopes that the rising numbers will continue into the October 1 holidays. In fact, he said that he expects the daily tourist arrival count to reach as high as 25,000, with a total of 170,000 counts of people having visited Macau across the seven days.

The MGTO announced a series of events to be held during the holidays: the October 1 fireworks gala, new elements at the Macao Grand Prix Museum, community



tourism drive and constant promotional campaigns for Macau.

In Singapore, according to various regional and international news outlets, hotel prices in July rose to a near-decade high. "Hotels [in Singapore] are getting a 'flood of enquiries' from overseas visitors and are seeing a 'desperation' for rooms," Singaporean media CNA cited a tourism consultant, Christopher Khoo, as saying.

The city-state will also see the Formula 1 Grand Prix's (GP) main race returning on October 2, with a list of world-class entertainment, which includes concerts featuring Westlife, Green Day, Black Eyed Peas and Suede, surrounding the race.

From August 29, Singapore lifted the quarantine upon arrival requirement for all entrants regardless of their vaccination status.

At the same time, Macau's

Sports Bureau president, Pun Weng Kun, recently disclosed that his team is trying to bring the Motorcycle GP back to the Guia Circuit after years of suspension due to border restrictions.

However, an online racing media outlet reported that several major motorcycle racers did not find the invitation appealing based on current quarantine requirements. As the report pointed out, big names such as John McGuinness

and Michael Rutter were not interested in the lengthy quarantine required upon arrival in Macau.

Pun also disclosed that the chances for seeing the F3 World Cup and the GT World Cup in Macau this year are non-existent.

Yesterday also saw a local health official discouraging local people from visiting "risky areas" when they travel during the October 1 and Chung Yeung Festival holidays.

Lei Pui I, chief of service at the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), emphasized that locals should be mindful of the Covid-19 pandemic when they plan their trips, and suggested they avoid visiting areas with risks of Covid-19 transmission.

People returning from trips should seek medical advice and disclose their travel history if they develop symptoms.

Across this period, the health department will also stay vigilant and conduct temperature check and health code inspections on entrants to Macau.

GOLDEN WEEK

Hotel sector bullish on holidays as search traffic for local OTAs up 130% y-o-y

LYNZY VALLES

THE hotel sector has been seeing a pick-up in arrivals during the holiday period at an accelerated pace in the past two weeks, the Macau Hotel Association observed. Hence, the seven-day holidays are looking stronger compared to previous holidays this year such as Mid-Autumn and May Labor Day holidays.

The hotel sector, along with the tourism sector, is gearing up for the upcoming Golden Week National Holidays that will commen-

ce tomorrow – a holiday that the city has been awaiting, as tourism has been on hold.

Last year, the week-long holiday was an extraordinary one for the SAR – a city highly-dependent on tourism – following to the blows dealt by Covid-19 that led to quarantine for arrivals into the neighbouring region. Official figures showed that there were only 8,159 tourist arrivals recorded during the holiday, typically one of the city's busiest times, a stunning decline of 94% compared to last year

— and a disappointment for local retailers and the tourism sector generally. However, Macau may see some positive numbers this year.

According to vice-chairman of the Macau Hotel Association, Rutger Verschuren, the search traffic for Macau on main online travel agents (OTAs) has increased by 130% over this National Holiday as compared to last year, particularly the traffic of October 1 to 3, which is double that of October 4 to 7.

"Locally, Chung Yeu-

ng Holiday also coincides during this weeklong holiday in the mainland, thus we also see an uptick on October 3 for Macau-local Staycations," the hotelier told the Times.

"Bookings for October 5 to 7 still need to catch up, but with the booking lead time mostly for a three-day booking window, we still have hope for some last-minute pick-up for these days, but at lower rates than the first three days," he added.

Verschuren revealed that the first three busy days will see healthy room rates for

the first time this year, even though they are 30% lower than pre-Covid Holiday rates, while the three to four days of the Golden Week will see much lower rates.

Such a forecast echoes similar sentiments from the Macau Hoteliers & Innkeepers Association, who remain highly confident about business performance during the holidays.

The group anticipates the hotel occupancy rate to further elevate to above 70%, with most of the customers projected to extend their stays to three days.

"Overall, the Cotai's integrated resorts lead in attracting guests for gaming and leisure over this holiday by having large room blocks reserved for gaming patrons," Verschuren added.

Meanwhile, Zhuhai authorities have called on residents to reduce visits to other cities as much as possible due to the scattered Covid cases in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, which are at single digit increments on a daily basis.

Following this holiday, the sectors are eyeing the issuance of group package tours to Macau and eVisas under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS), which is set to be a massive boost for the SAR's gaming and tourism operators, which have been negatively affected since the pandemic began in early 2020.

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REAL ESTATE

Realtor sees no basis to expect bounce in property prices

ANTHONY LAM

AN executive at a regional real estate agency foresees that real estate prices will remain low despite the expectation of better tourism prospects.

The government recently announced two tourism-related policies to be expected in late October: the resumption of mainland group tours to Macau and a travel endorsement digital application.

Nonetheless, John Ng, principal regional sales director at Centaline Property, told a press conference yesterday that the two policies would have limited effect on the real estate market.

The main reason for this prediction is the less-than-ideal external factors such as increasing interest levels, plunging stock prices, military and political crises, as well as an unclear employment future.

Given these factors, the realtor suggests prospective buyers exercise caution while making their decisions.

While reviewing the past quarter, the realtor highlighted that in August and September, the performance of the market did not revive to the expected levels. Both prices and quantity of



transacted properties have fallen quarter-to-quarter.

Data from the Financial Services Bureau showed that there were only 128 transactions in July and 157 in August. Property prices have steadily fallen by 2 to 3% in the past two months. An estimated average price per square foot is HKD6,195, the realtor added.

August saw a reinvigoration of the lease market as external

students were in the search of accommodation in Macau. The realtor estimated that there would be 300 leases in August and 200 in September. However, rental is still about 30% lower, year-over-year.

Developers, meanwhile, have started reconsidering their strategies, transforming their projects from sale-oriented to lease-oriented. This shift in focus has thus far proven reasonable, as a lease-

-oriented project on Guia Hill mid-levels saw a sweep in contract conclusions.

With regard to commercial properties, Roy Ho, director for Macau and Hengqin at Centaline Property, has similar expectations to Ng on the outlook of the market.

Recapping the commercial real estate market in the last quarter, the realtor pointed out that the June 18 Covid-19 outbreak and

the de-facto lockdown in July has significantly affected the market, as only 12 transactions were recorded in July, a new low in recent years.

In contrast to July, transactions quickly increased in August and September, with an estimated 25 and 30 transactions for each month respectively. The estimate for the third quarter is 67 transactions, which will be similar to the number in the second quarter.

Ho emphasized that the revivals were led by first and second-tier street shops, although price drops were widely present as previous owners lost patience as they could not see a clear outlook. The same rate of sales, nonetheless, did not occur in lower-tier shops. Ho said that not many deals were closed even as sellers became willing to shrink the price tags.

In terms of shop leases, all closed deals occurred in civilian districts. Ho expects that more deals will be made when the two tourism policies kick in.

There will not be many deals closed in both the office and industrial spaces market, Ho added.

Discussing Hengqin, Sam Lam, district deputy general manager at Centaline Hengqin, revealed that in the third quarter, most deals on the island were made by buyers from Zhuhai, mainly because they are usually more sensitive to mainland policy adjustments than Macau residents.

It has been hinted that by the end of the year, Hengqin will fully become a special taxation area. Some describe Hengqin's future status as a domestic external location, meaning that it would align further with Macau in certain areas.

GAMING

Daisy Ho appointed SJM managing director amid law overhaul

LYNZY VALLES

DAISY Ho has been appointed managing director ("administradora-delegada") of SJM Resorts, S.A., amid the ongoing tender selection process regarding who will be awarded the 10-year gaming concession following the city's biggest gaming law overhaul.

Ho replaces Angela Leong, who has been managing director of the group since 2011.

The company registry, which the Times reviewed, states that Leong was re-appointed to the position on May 27, 2022, which means that she is the official

representative of SJM.

Her appointment - valid for three years until a general assembly convenes in 2025 - was terminated following a decision made by the company on August 24, 2022 and filed with the official commercial registry this week, on September 26.

According to that filing, Daisy Ho was appointed managing director, replacing Leong.

The move comes after incumbent gaming operators submitted their bids on or before September 14, seeking to secure a fresh gaming concession which is slated to operate from January 1, 2023.

In the city's biggest ga-

ming law overhaul, Article 19 requires that the concessionaire's managing director "shall be a permanent resident of the Macau SAR and shall hold at least 15% of the capital stock of the concessionaire."

This new regulation is an increase from the previous 10% of share ownership requirement which had been in place for the past 20 years.

"The appointment has been approved by the Chief Executive of the Macau SAR. With this appointment, Daisy Ho is granted expanded management rights and authorities," SJM said in a statement.

With this appointment, Ho becomes the official re-

presentative of SJM, responsible for all formal business dealings and contacts with the SAR government, as well as with the subsidiaries of the company and other entities.

Ho is also responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Company and corporate matters including the formulation of policies, objectives, and investment plans to ensure that the Company and its activities are in full compliance with the relevant legal and regulatory obligations.

She was elected to the Board of Directors of SJM in March 2019. She is also an executive director of SJM



Holdings Limited, the holding company of SJM, and was appointed as chairman in 2018.

Incumbent gaming operators, along with GMM Limited, are eyeing the opportunity to be granted one of the six concessions towards the end of the year, as the sector faces the fresh allocation of licenses by 2023.

The committee for the

gaming tender bids met with the seven companies competing for the six concessions this week, where competitors presented their proposals in the hopes of securing a slot.

With the city's biggest gaming law overhaul, the Chief Executive has the power to decide not to award all or some of the concessions put out to tender.

CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



2022 Consumer Carnival kicks off Oct. 15

FLORA TANG

THE Macau Consumer Carnival is aiming to stimulate consumption and expand domestic demand in Macau amid the current economic crisis brought forth by the pandemic.

In a press conference held yesterday, organizers announced that the 20-week carnival will kick off on October 15 and will run until February 28.

The organizers hope the carnival will strengthen the confidence of small and medium-sized enterprises in operating their businesses and prompt local economic recovery.

"As a part of the financial assistance measures issued by the Macau Government, we injected nearly MOP100 million in this event to cooperate the government's measures to encourage residents' consumption," said Chan Tze Wai, subdirector of the Economic and Technological De-

FLORA TANG



velopment Bureau (DSED).

As to why electronic payment will be used for this year's event, Chan explained, "with the popularization of e-wallets, we encourage residents to use electronic payment in daily life."

Residents can obtain electronic coupons after spending MOP68 or more in their e-wallet, as according to Chan, "using elec-

tronic coupons to promote secondary consumption is one of our goals."

"With the effort of this event, we expect to make a double effect in improving economic recovery," said Mok Chi Wai, vice-president of the Macao Chamber of Commerce.

"Launching more discounts of product and combined con-

sumption [will] increase the confidence in residents' consumption," Mok added.

Since 2016, the bureau has cooperated with different local chambers of commerce in holding the Consumer Carnival.

This year's carnival is organized by the DSED and the Macao Chamber of Commerce, with support from several local sectors,

associations and eight electronic payment institutions.

The previous edition, the 2020 Consumer Carnival series, recorded total sales worth more than MOP 860 million.

Organizers noted that the carnival gave out 1.64 million digital consumption coupons (worth about MOP 7.1 million) back in 2020.

TABLE TENNIS

WTT Champions presents another star-studded edition

THE World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao 2022 will feature another star-studded line-up in a series of matches at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion from October 19 to 23.

The event will feature 32 top male players in men's singles and 32 top female players in women's singles. The preliminary line-up includes: Fan Zhendong, Ma Long, Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng from China; Tomokazu Harimoto and Mima Ito from Japan; Truls Møregårdh from Sweden; Hugo Calderano from Brazil; and Adriana Díaz from Puerto Rico.

The first two days (19 and 20 October) will feature 32 matches for both categories. The Octofinals, of 16 matches, will be held on 21 October. Quarterfinals and semifinals will be held on 22 October, and the finals of the men's and women's singles will take place on 23 October.



Ma Long

In his speech, Sports Bureau (ID) director Pun Weng Kun noted that the WTT Champions Macao 2021 China Stars not only received support from Macau residents, but also propelled the development of sports tourism in the city.

He also announced that Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) will once again serve as the presenting partner of the

WTT Champions Macao this year, continuing on from 2020 and 2021.

In a press conference yesterday, GEG presented a MOP16 million cheque to the ID for sponsorship.

The event is organized by the ID of the Macau SAR Government and World Table Tennis (WTT) and co-organized by the Macau Table Tennis General Association. LV

ZERO-COVID

TAIWAN TO END QUARANTINE FOR ARRIVALS STARTING OCT. 13

TAIWAN yesterday said it will end mandatory COVID-19 quarantines for people arriving from overseas beginning Oct. 13.

The Central Epidemic Command Center announced that the previous weeklong requirement will be replaced with a seven-day self-monitoring period.

A rapid antigen test will still be required upon arrival, but those showing no symptoms will be allowed to take public transportation.

Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Victor Wang said the current limit of 150,000 visitors allowed to enter Taiwan weekly will also be gradually relaxed.

Taiwan has been one of the few places in the world that has held on to a quarantine for all arrivals throughout the course of the pandemic.

In recent months, it has relaxed its measures and currently requires travelers to isolate in a hotel for three days, followed by four days at a private residence.

Wang said epidemic prevention regulations will continue to be loosened and that Taiwan would learn to live with the virus through constant self-regulation.



That stands in strong contrast with mainland China's hard-line "zero-COVID" policy that has put millions of people under lockdown, upending daily life and the national economy.

On September 26, Hong Kong scrapped its controversial Covid-19 hotel quarantine policy for all arrivals after 2.5 years, in a long-awaited move for many residents and businesses in the financial hub.

All international arrivals are now able to return straight home and would only have to self-monitor for three days upon arrival.

Macau, meanwhile, is sticking with Beijing's zero-Covid policy and is not

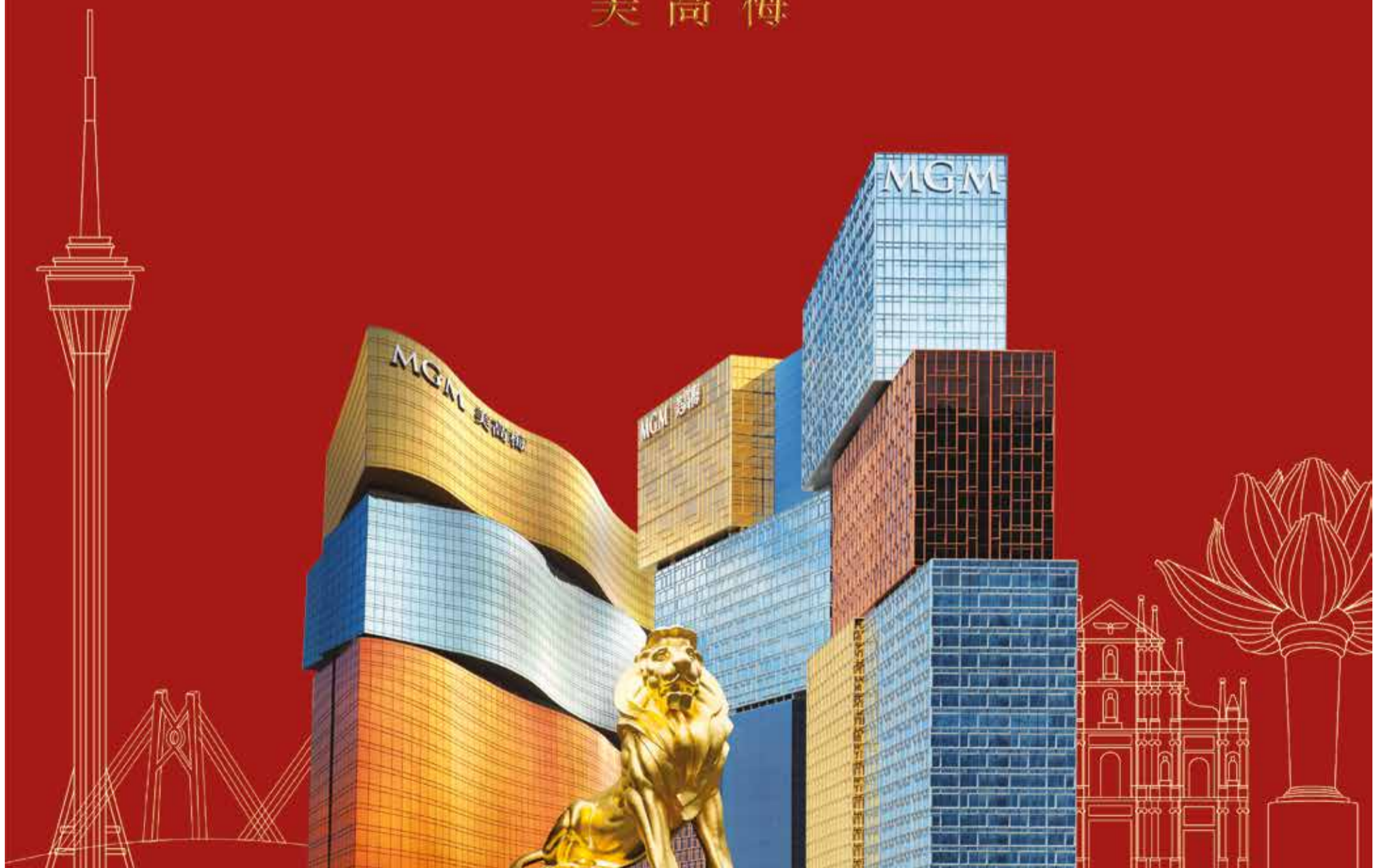
planning to reduce days any time soon.

Recently, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has once again rejected the idea of co-existence with Covid-19 in Macau, despite it becoming a trend in more places around the world.

He attributed the impossibility to border normalization between Macau and mainland China. He warned that weakening Covid-19 prevention and control policies in Macau could affect the travel of people in Macau visiting mainland China.

Currently, people in Macau are not quarantined upon entry to the mainland. MDT/AP

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



EXPORT INCREASES TO MOP1.37B

Total merchandise exported amounted to MOP1.37 billion in August 2022, up by 28.3% year-on-year. The value of re-exports (MOP1.16 billion) grew by 31.0%, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows. Meanwhile, total merchandise imported decreased by 4.4% year-on-year to MOP11.66 billion. From January to August this year, the total value of merchandise exports increased by 3.0% year-on-year to MOP9.13 billion. Of this, the value of re-exports (MOP7.75 billion) and domestic exports (MOP1.39 billion) increased by 2.0% and 9.3% respectively. Meanwhile, exports to mainland China decreased by 36.9% year-on-year to MOP866 million, of which exports to the Nine Provinces of the Pan Pearl River Delta (MOP807 million) fell by 34.5%.

19 SIGNED COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN IIICF INVOLVE USD15 BILLION

Yesterday, the 13th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) closed. Across the forum, 19 cooperation agreements were signed, which involved MOP15 billion, said chairman of the China International Contractors Association, Fang Qiuchen. The money covered across the agreements increased over five and a half times compared to last year. "Chinese authorities expressed support toward the industry of infrastructure investment and construction in Macau currently. The association will follow up and implement the cooperation intentions and achievements, to promote the diversified development of Macau's infrastructure and economy," said Fang.

GBA

Hengqin delegates visit SAR for talks on talent practices

STAFF REPORTER

A delegation from the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin recently visited the SAR to promote talent introduction systems and cross-border financial innovation and development.

During the first stop at the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs & Culture, Secretary Ao Ieong U introduced Macau's talent introduction policy and a legal system bill on talent introduction under consideration by the Macau Legislative Council. Views were exchanged on talent policy convergence between Hengqin and Macau, and making the Cooperation Zone a talent introduction platform for the two regions.

The cooperation zone is formulating an overall talent



policy, said deputy director of the Executive Committee Nie Xinping, who led the delegation. The policy stresses cross-border collaboration with Macau, which gives full play to the existing industrial development basis and advantages of leading enterprises in Hengqin and lays a talent foundation for Macau's diversified industrial development,

noted Nie. He said a special workgroup will be set up by the two parties to study and implement relevant work. Nie also expressed hope that more Macau young people would come to the cooperation zone for a deeper understanding of Hengqin or to start businesses there.

The delegation discussed establishing a coordinated

mechanism for cross-border financial innovation and exploring a collaborative regulatory model on financial leasing. According to Nie, innovative and favorable measures have been issued since Cooperation Zone establishment in September 2021, while an emerging financial ecology attracts more Macau residents to work and invest in Hengqin.

AD

CONGRATULATIONS
ON THE 73RD
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA





Congratulations on
the 73rd Anniversary of
the People's Republic of China

MELCO
新濠



Dancers perform at the annual Japan-China Exchange Festival at the Yoyogi Park in Tokyo on Saturday, in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of the bilateral relations

ANALYSIS

FRIEND OR FOE? JAPAN-CHINA TIES COMPLICATED AFTER 50 YEARS

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

FRRIEND or foe? Or both? On the streets of Tokyo and Beijing, the ties between Japan and China remain complicated and often contradictory, 50 years after the two Asian countries normalized relations as part of the process that brought Communist China into the international fold.

Chinese official media and textbooks memorialize the victims of Japan's brutal invasion during World War II, even as young urbanites slurp "ramen" soup noodles in a two-story restaurant row made to look like Tokyo's narrow alleyways.

In the real Tokyo, Japanese flocked to a festival last weekend to try Chinese dumplings, even as they worried about the growing military prowess of their much larger neighbor and its designs on the self-governing island of Taiwan.

"Politics is politics, it has nothing to do with the exchanges between us people," said Zheng Bin, baking a Chinese leek pie at the festival in Yoyogi Park. He has spent half his life in Japan, coming as a student 30 years ago, and now runs six Chinese restaurants in the Tokyo area.

Politics influences people, though, and critical views are on the rise as the two countries mark the 50th anniversary today of the agreement to estab-

lish diplomatic relations, which followed U.S. President Richard Nixon's groundbreaking visit to China earlier in 1972.

A survey last year by Japanese think tank Genron NPO found that 90% of Japanese had a negative image of China, and 66% of Chinese felt the same way toward Japan, up from 53% the previous year.

"It's normal that there are problems at the 50th anniversary," said Li Tingjiang, the director of a Japanese studies center at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He cited geopolitics and the social and economic differences between the two countries. "But we shouldn't deny the longstanding positive impact from mutual understanding and cultural exchange over the past 50 years."

CAN PEOPLE EXCHANGES OVERCOME TOXIC TIES?

Japanese college student Momo Unou went to the Tokyo festival to scout out the food — she wants to sell Chinese dumplings and buns at an upcoming event with exchange students from China.

Until a high school trip to China, her view of the country was based solely on textbooks and TV news — and it wasn't a positive one. Once there, she was

struck by the eagerness of her Chinese counterparts to communicate, prompting her to major in Asian studies.

"I would have thought of China as a scary nation if television news were my only source of information about it," she said.

"Politics is politics, it has nothing to do with the exchanges between us people."

ZHENG BIN
FESTIVAL ATTENDANT IN YOYOGI PARK

The Japan-China Exchange Festival returned last weekend after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizers hope it will help restart cultural exchange despite tense political ties as Japan is pulled into a growing rivalry between the U.S. and China.

Festival adviser Yasuo Fukuda, a former prime minister who is an active proponent of better ties with China, said the pandemic has reduced communication between the two nations.

"Lack of dialogue increases risks of misunderstanding... and things that do not happen under normal circumstances could happen," he said in an interview with the AP.

"I hope this festival provides an opportunity for you to think of that day 50 years ago and find our path for the future," he said in remarks at the opening of the two-day event.

Festival goer Masaki Maki-ta, who studied and worked in Shanghai for nearly a decade, has issues with China's policy toward Taiwan and its crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong. He feels media coverage has affected people's views in both countries, probably more so because of the isolation from the pandemic.

"I think news about China that we see in the Japanese media could be somewhat biased, while I don't think China is right either," he said. "But I have many Chinese friends, and it has nothing to do with politics."

CAN SOFT POWER OVERCOME WARTIME HISTORY?

A fatty, garlicky smell greets visitors to Yume Wo Katate restaurant in the Chinese capital. And come they do, lining up at times for the 90 or so bowls of Jiro-style ramen served daily at the shop in the Japanese restaurant row.

Owner Shi Xin, who has lived in Japan, expressed a sense of achievement at bringing back the hearty soup with its thick noodles and winning over fans among

both Chinese and Japanese living in Beijing.

"Although it's nothing huge, through small things like food, I hope to promote friendship between China and Japan and contribute to cultural exchange," he said ahead of the dinnertime rush at his 6-year-old restaurant.

Beijing residents expressed a friendliness toward Japan and a fondness for Japanese culture, though some added that the wartime past could not be forgotten, particularly in the runup to China's National Day on Saturday.

"If it's a period like National Day, I think there are expectations that our generation and the younger generations can still remember the history of fighting against Japanese aggression," said 35-year-old Su Mengtong, who was waiting for friends getting COVID-19 tests at a booth near the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

"After all, the invasion is a big trauma for our country," he said.

Recent decades have brought Japanese food and pop culture, including movies, TV shows and "manga" comics, said Li, who is currently a visiting scholar in Tokyo.

Ramen, a Japanese export now popular in many countries, actually has Chinese roots, dating from the 19th century when noodle soup was brought to Japan, according to the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum in Japan.

But Japan's soft power is not immune from its wartime history. Chinese police detained a woman posing for photos in a kimono at a Japanese-style commercial area in the city of Suzhou in August, shortly before the anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of World War II.

The incident sparked a heated discussion online, with some saying that a love for Japanese culture doesn't make a person unpatriotic, and others accusing the woman of hurting the feelings of the Chinese people close to a wartime anniversary.

Social media has been the main platform for discontent about Japan. Tens of thousands of people left unfavorable comments about former Japanese leader Shinzo Abe after his assassination in July, because of his association with nationalists who deny or minimize the atrocities committed by Japan's military in China.

Liu Wei, who is in his 50s, said China needs to stand firm on territorial issues — Japan and China have competing claims to islands in the East China Sea — but more generally favors looking forward rather than back.

"That time has already passed," said Liu, who was taking a walk near the war museum. "If you keep holding onto it, it doesn't generate too much positive impact on the future." MDT/AP



Liu Qiangdong, also known as Richard Liu, CEO of JD.com, raises his arms to celebrate the IPO for his company at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York on May 22, 2014

RICHARD LIU

Chinese tycoon faces civil trial in alleged rape

AMY FORLITI, MINNEAPOLIS

A Chinese billionaire, one of the richest people in the world, is heading to trial in Minneapolis to defend himself against allegations that he raped a former University of Minnesota student after a night of dinner and drinks in 2018.

Richard Liu, the founder and former CEO of e-commerce giant JD.com, has denied raping the woman, and prosecutors did not file criminal charges. The woman, Jingyao Liu, sued in civil court, alleging she was coerced to drink before Richard Liu groped her in a limousine and raped her in her apartment.

Both are expected to testify, and it will be up to a jury to decide who is telling the truth. Jury selection starts today [Macau time], with opening statements Monday.

"I think our client's credibility is one of the strongest parts of what the jury is going to hear," said Wil Florin, an attorney for Jingyao Liu. "The incredible courage and fortitude that this young lady has shown is truly admirable."

Diane Doolittle, an attorney for Richard Liu, said that the woman has changed her story and that the evidence will clear her client's name.

"We are looking forward to presenting the evidence, presenting the truth, so that the world will know that Mr. Liu is fully and completely innocent of these allegations against him," she said.

The woman alleges the attack happened in 2018 while Richard

Liu was in Minneapolis for a weeklong residency in the University of Minnesota's doctor of business administration China program, geared toward high-level executives in China.

Jingyao Liu, a Chinese citizen, was at the university on a student visa and was a volunteer in the program at the time. The Associated Press does not generally name people alleging sexual assault, but Jingyao Liu has agreed to be identified publicly.

Richard Liu and Jingyao Liu are not related. Jingyao Liu was 21 at the time; Richard Liu was 46.

Richard Liu is a celebrity in China, part of a generation of entrepreneurs who created the country's internet, e-commerce, mobile phone and other technology industries since the late 1990s. Forbes estimated his wealth at \$11.5 billion.

Richard Liu, who stepped down as CEO of JD.com this year amid increased government scrutiny of China's technology industry, was arrested on suspicion of felony rape, but prosecutors never filed criminal charges, saying the case had "profound evidentiary problems."

Jingyao Liu sued Richard Liu and JD.com in 2019, alleging sexual assault and battery, along with false imprisonment.

The case drew widespread attention at a time when the #MeToo movement was gaining traction in China. Richard Liu's supporters and opponents waged aggressive public relations campaigns on Chinese social media; censors shut down some accounts that supported Jingyao Liu for

"violating regulations."

Jingyao Liu says in her lawsuit that she had to withdraw from classes in fall 2018 and seek counseling and treatment. Her attorney says she has since graduated but has post-traumatic stress disorder. She seeks compensatory damages to cover medical bills, emotional distress and pain and suffering, and Judge Edward Wahl ruled she could also seek punitive damages from Richard Liu.

She is seeking more than \$50,000, a standard figure that must be listed in Minnesota if a plaintiff intends to seek anything above that amount. She is expected to ask a jury to award much more.

According to the lawsuit, on the night of the alleged attack, Richard Liu and other executives went to a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis, and one of the men invited Jingyao Liu at Richard Liu's request. Jingyao Liu felt coerced to drink as the powerful men toasted her, and Richard Liu said she would dishonor him if she did not join in, she said in her lawsuit.

According to text messages reviewed by The Associated Press and Jingyao Liu's interviews with police, she said that after the dinner, Richard Liu pulled her into a limousine and groped her despite her protests. She said he raped her at her apartment. She texted a friend: "I begged him don't. But he didn't listen."

After police went to her apartment, Jingyao Liu told one officer, "I was raped but not that kind of rape," according to police. When asked to explain, she changed the subject and said Richard Liu was

famous and she was afraid. She told the officer that the sex was "spontaneous" and that she did not want police to get involved.

Officers released Richard Liu because "it was unclear if a crime had actually taken place," according to police. In an interview later with an investigator, Richard Liu said that the sex was consensual and that the woman "enjoyed the whole process very much."

According to police, Jingyao Liu told a sergeant she wanted to talk with Richard Liu's attorney and threatened to go to the media if she did not. Richard Liu's former attorney recorded the phone call, in which Jingyao Liu said that she didn't want the case to be in the newspaper and that "I just need payment money and apologize and that's all."

That phone call will be allowed as evidence in the trial. The jurors will also be told that they may presume any electronic messages deleted by Jingyao Liu contained information unfavorable to her. Both pretrial rulings were considered wins for the defense.

Surveillance videos from the restaurant, its exterior and the halls of the woman's apartment complex will be shown at trial. Richard Liu's attorneys have said the video shows that Jingyao Liu does not appear to be intoxicated or in distress, as she initially claimed, and that she changed her story after the video surfaced.

She says in her lawsuit that she went to her apartment building with Richard Liu to be polite, and that she believed he was simply walking her to the door. Florin, Jingyao Liu's attorney, intends to play body camera video from police that he says shows his client feared Richard Liu because he is powerful.

"Insanely wealthy men, they always have the card that they play: 'Well, I'm being accused of this because I'm wealthy,'" Florin said.

"What happened that night was an evening of consensual sex," Doolittle, one of Richard Liu's attorneys, said. "Mr. Liu regrets that, and he regrets being unfaithful to his wife."

The burden of proof is lower than in a criminal trial, and jurors need only find a preponderance of evidence in either side's favor, said Chris Madel, a Minneapolis attorney who isn't involved in the case.

If jurors proceed to considering punitive damages, that portion of the case requires a different standard of proof. To award punitive damages, jurors must find "clear and convincing evidence" that Richard Liu "deliberately disregarded the rights or safety of others," Madel said.

After cases like this, Madel said, no matter how much evidence is presented, jurors will typically say: "We just listened to him, we listened to her, and we made our minds up." MDT/AP

FORMER VICE GOVERNOR OF HUBEI PROVINCE EXPELLED FROM CPC, PUBLIC OFFICE

CAO Guangjing, former vice governor of central China's Hubei Province, has been expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) and dismissed from public office "over serious violations of party discipline and laws," the country's top anti-graft body said yesterday, according to a dispatch from Xinhua.

"The punishment was handed down following an investigation into Cao conducted by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission upon the approval of the Central Committee, Xinhua said.

Cao was also a former member of the leading party members group of the provincial government.

The state agency said that "the investigation found that Cao lost his ideals and convictions, engaged in political speculation and superstitious activities, and resisted investigation by authorities."

According to the statement, Cao accepted gifts and money, as well as banquets and tours that "might compromise his impartiality in the performance of official duties," thus disregarding the ruling party "eight-point frugality code."

The commission found that Cao took advantage of his power for personal gain, "traded power and money for sex, and intervened in judicial affairs in breach of relevant regulations," said the statement cited by Xinhua.

He was also found to allegedly have used his positions to seek benefit for others in business operations and project contracting, "taking a huge amount of money and valuables in return."

In line with the ruling party regulations and laws, a decision was made to expel Cao from the party, "remove him from public office, confiscate his illicit gains, and hand over his case to the procuratorate for criminal investigation and prosecution." MDT

MYANMAR

Model fearing military junta heads to asylum in Canada

TASSANEE VEJPONGSA,
BANGKOK

A fashion model from Myanmar who feared being arrested by the country's military government if she was forced back home from exile has arrived in Canada, which she says has granted her asylum.

Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, left on a flight from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport early Wednesday morning, according to Archayon Kraithong, a deputy commissioner of Thailand's Immigration Bureau.

Thaw Nandar Aung wrote on Facebook she had arrived in Canada and thanked her fans for their support.

"I will do my best to help my beloved Myanmar and the people of Myanmar as much as I can," she wrote in the post seen yesterday.

Thaw Nandar Aung had told Radio Free Asia, a U.S.-government funded broadcaster, on

AP PHOTO



Burmese fashion model Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, speaking to a reporter in Bangkok, last year

Tuesday that she was headed to Canada, after having been granted political asylum there with the assistance of the U.N. refugee agency and the Canadian Embassy in Thailand.

"Everything happened so fast, and I only have a few pieces of clothing. So I will have to go along

with what they have planned for me," she said.

"I have spoken out for Myanmar wherever I go. I have talked to the media about my country while I was staying in Thailand. Since Canada is a safe place for me, I will have more opportunities to speak out on the issue. And as you know,

there is a large Myanmar community in Canada, so I'm sure I'll be able to carry on the struggle for Myanmar with their help."

A phone call to the Canadian Embassy seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Thaw Nandar Aung had been stuck at Bangkok's airport after Thai authorities denied her entry when she arrived Sept. 21 from a short trip to Vietnam. She has been living in Thailand but needed to leave and enter again in order to extend her stay.

While at the airport she met U.N. refugee agency representatives in an effort to avoid being sent back to Myanmar. People denied entry to Thailand are usually deported to their last point of departure, but the U.N. agency advised her she would be arrested in Vietnam and then repatriated to Myanmar. A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson said she had been denied entry into Thailand "due to an issue with her travel document."

Thaw Nandar Aung denounced

her country's military rulers last year from the stage of Miss Grand International beauty pageant held in Bangkok. She accused them of selfishness and abusing their power for using lethal force to crush peaceful protests, and appealed for international help for her country.

Myanmar's military seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and has cracked down heavily on widespread opposition to its rule. Critics, including actors and other celebrities, have been arrested on charges that carry penalties ranging from three years' imprisonment to death.

In July, authorities executed four activists who were accused of involvement with terrorist activities, and U.N. experts have described the country's violence as a civil war.

Thaw Nandar Aung said she was charged in absentia in September last year with sedition for speaking out against the military takeover at the pageant and online. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

New York-based Human Rights Watch accused Myanmar's military government of revoking or otherwise interfering with Thaw Nandar Aung's passport, making her "the victim of a deliberate political act by the junta to make her stateless when she flew back from Vietnam to Thailand." **MDT/AP**

AD

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山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
趙魯 Zhao Lu °•
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斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
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USA

White House's Pacific strategy heralds new engagement in region

THE White House yesterday unveiled a Pacific strategy designed to bolster U.S. engagement with more than a dozen island nations on issues including climate change and maritime security while pledging to expand the U.S. diplomatic presence in the region.

The Biden administration released its new strategy, as well as plans for \$810 million in new aid for Pacific Island nations, as President Joe Biden prepared to meet with leaders attending the U.S.-Pacific Island Country Summit. The Democratic president was set to address the summit today [Macau time] and then host the leaders for a dinner at the White House. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with leaders on Wednesday at the State Department.

The president's push to improve relations in Pacific comes amid growing U.S. concern about China's growing military and economic influence. Earlier this year, the Solomon Islands signed a new



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left) greets dignitaries from Pacific Island Countries in Washington

security pact with Beijing, and ahead of the summit signaled it would be hesitant to sign any end-of-summit statement critical of China.

Among the new initiatives the White House announced are plans to ask Congress to appropriate \$600 million over 10 years to support economic development and promote climate resilience efforts for Pacific fisheries and establish a regional mission

of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Suva, Fiji. The White House also reiterated previously announced plans to open embassies in the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati.

The White House also announced plans to recognize the Cook Islands and Niue as sovereign states, after "appropriate consultations." The U.S. currently recognizes the islands as self-governing territories.

The 16-page document notes "heightened geopolitical competition impacts" for the Pacific Island countries that also directly affect the United States.

"Increasingly those impacts include pressure and economic coercion by the People's Republic of China, which risks undermining the peace, prosperity, and security of the region, and by extension, of the United States," the strategy document says. "These challenges demand renewed U.S. engagement across the full Pacific Islands region."

Among the broad strategy aims laid out by the Biden administration in the document are expanding the number of U.S. diplomatic missions from six to nine across the Pacific and completing work to renew strategic partnership agreements with the Pacific Island nations of Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands that are set to soon expire. The strategy also calls for increasing the presence in the region of the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Pentagon.

Leaders from Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia and New Caledonia are attending the two-day summit. Vanuatu and Nauru sent representatives, and Australia, New Zealand and the secretary-general of the Pacific Island Forum sent observers, according to the White House.

White House officials acknowledge that U.S. inattentiveness toward the region since the end of the Cold War has left an opening for Beijing to exert its influence. Plans for the summit were announced earlier this month, just days after the Solomon Islands called on the U.S. and Britain not to send naval vessels to the South Pacific nation until approval processes are overhauled. The Solomons in April signed a new security pact with China.

The Solomon Islands signaled it was unlikely to sign on to a joint statement that the U.S. hoped to have hashed out by the end of the summit, according to a diplomat familiar with summit planning. The diplomat, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said "the resistance is driven in part by the Solomon Islands' tightening relationship with Beijing." **MDT/AP**

AD

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FRANCE

Cher appears at Balmain finale at Paris Fashion Week

THOMAS ADAMSON, PARIS

PARIS Fashion Week roared into full gear yesterday [Macau time] with atmospherics and excitement over Balmain's evening fashion-music festival spectacular — a star-studded charity concert featuring the latest fashions, members of the public and performances. That included a finale walk from none other than Cher.

Here are some highlights of spring-summer 2023 shows.

CHER AND BAL-MANIA

Olivier Rousteing proved he is one of global fashion's biggest showmen — putting on, yet again, not a show but a festival for Balmain that took place in a giant stadium. Of course, the greatest celebrity moment of Paris Fashion Week just had to be clinched here — when the designer came out at the end arm in arm with Cher. The 76-year-old Oscar winner trod the boards all smiles — to screams from the crowds — in a marbled spandex bodysuit, plunging neck, platform wedges and the house's famed peaked shoulders. "Just had best time on stage, felt great," she tweeted shortly after.

Balmain said it was celebrating the best in food, music and fashion within the pop-up village replete with stands — in western Paris' Jean-Bouin stadium — more used to hosting rugby matches than spandex suits. Some 10,000 tickets were made available for the general public provided they made a charity donation.

DON'T FORGET BALMAIN WAS A FASHION SHOW

Amid the razzmatazz, some guests may be forgiven for forgetting that the point of the event was the clothes. The looks, which merged ready-to-wear with couture, had some memorable moments — the fruit of the Balmain design teams foraging in the forest for organic materials.

One unique bustier was created with the bark from chestnut trees, while looks in basketweave were fashioned from materials out of bogs and meadows, all softened in water for an ethnic look.



A model wears a creation for Undercover ready-to-wear Spring/Summer 2023 fashion collection

But this show was also an emotional and cultural exploration for Rousteing himself — someone who has been vocal about his adoption, and who recently discovered that his biological parents were from the Horn of Africa.

"Throughout, the influence of Africa is, of course, quite easy to spot," the designer said. "(The discovery) only served to intensify my lifelong fascination with the beauty, traditions and designs of that region."

COURREGES' SANDS

For Courreges, a circular sandy runway featured a falling column of sand at its center evoking the sands of time — or the movie "Dune." Off-kilter and slightly unnerving musical cadences in the soundtrack endowed the show with a sanitized, pared-down spirit.

Courreges has become a brand that touts a signature mood over a signature style, and designer Nicolas Di Felice likes to inject his fashion with atmosphere.

The spring-summer fashions began with a play of the crisp white shirt, with a voluminous shirt dress carrying the simple and sporty vibe well. Models someti-

mes had bare feet or nude footwear. Di Felice used the runway to bring fashion forward twists — snipaways, toggles, sheeny space materials and deconstruction — on everyday items such as a denim jacket, denim skirt or flared pants. A sporty vest, for example, was given a kinky twist with its sheer materials.

It's an approach that works well with this generation-defining brand founded in 1961 by André Courrèges and his wife Coqueline, that became synonymous with the Space Age aesthetic.

THE ART OF THE INVITATION

The age of email and rising environmental awareness doesn't seem to have left much of a mark on the fashion industry's antiquated system of invitations.

Season after season, gasoline-guzzling couriers crisscross Paris to personally deliver ever-more-elaborate, often handmade, show invites.

Top houses vie for the wackiest or most imaginative idea that often bears a clue as to the theme of the runway collection.

For Loewe's invitation, a bright red tropical flower came through the post that

the floral dictionary identified as an anthurium. To keep the flower alive for the duration of Fashion Week, the bottom of the bloom's stem was attached to a state-of-the-art humidity capsule.

Saint Laurent's invite, meanwhile, was a chic black patent leather wallet with a metallic "YSL" on top, with the show card hidden inside.

DRIESVAN NOTEN LETS LOOSE

The Belgian fashion master was back on form for spring with a typically unpinned-downable collection held together only it seemed by the aesthetic of its looseness.

Fashion forward ensembles in all-black — an oversize menswear tuxedo worn on a bare chest, or an Asian crossover coat — suddenly blossomed in the 64-look-collection into bright sequins, pastels, then ruffles and florals.

There were artistic plays aplenty: One lace-like black top had ribbing evoking ribs, all the while looking very Elizabethan. Female models were intentionally chosen for their boyish looks, alongside myriad menswear twists on the womenswear wardrobe.

The one running theme seemed to be the softness — the floppy layers of fabric, the draped tassels that caressed the warehouse venue floor and the generous proportions in sleeves, skirts and billowing pants.

This was Van Noten, an original, having fun.

UNDERCOVER SLASHES IT UP

It was dressy with a twist at Jun Takahashi's brand Undercover.

The streetwear-infused Japanese designer went slashing mad this season, lobbing the shoulder off a bright yellow oversize tuxedo, slashing rips in a dressy white shirt, or slashing suit sleeves, pants and the lapel on another otherwise sophisticated double breasted jacket.

As in previous seasons, Japanese anime felt present. Here, there was a cartoonish vibe in the double top know hairstyles of several of the models.

Statement T-shirts with "Love" and "Dream" slashed on them added to the animation vibe. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1955 JAMES DEAN KILLED IN CAR SMASH



The Hollywood film star James Dean has been killed in a road accident in California, USA.

The 24-year-old actor was behind the wheel of his German-made Porsche sports car when it was involved in a head-on collision with another car 30 miles (48 km) east of Paso Robles this evening.

Mr Dean's mechanic, Rolph Wutherich, who was a passenger in the car, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The driver of the other car was also injured.

Medics said Mr Dean, who was dead on arrival at hospital, suffered a broken neck and numerous broken bones.

At the time of the accident the road racing enthusiast was on his way to a race meeting at Salinas, California.

James Dean completed his latest film "Giant", an adaptation of Edna Ferber's book about Texas, just yesterday.

His first film, "East of Eden", cast him firmly into the spotlight and many critics believe he had a glittering Hollywood future ahead of him.

James Byron Dean was born on 8 February 1931 in Marion, Indiana to Winton and Mildred Dean.

When he was five the family moved to Los Angeles where Winton Dean had secured a new job as a dental technician.

His mother died when he was eight after which Jimmy returned to the Midwest where he was brought up by his aunt and uncle on their Indiana farm.

After attending UCLA university in California he moved to New York to pursue his acting career.

He appeared in several television shows before gaining his first major role in "East of Eden." His second film "Rebel Without a Cause" has not yet been released.

Preparations are now being made for Mr Dean's funeral.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The legend of James Dean lives on to the present day.

He was buried in Fairmount, Indiana and his grave is visited by thousands of people every year. Although he was fast becoming a Hollywood star when he was alive, he was elevated to cult status after his death.

Within a year of the accident nearly four million people had joined his fan club and his studio was receiving up to 4,000 letters every day. His image of rebellious youth, compared at the time to Marlon Brando, continues to make £100 millions every year.

A rumour began after his death that he was not actually killed in the car crash but was hideously deformed and is still alive in a Californian hospital.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable. Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Get the red tape and the unwanted paperwork out of the way. Your diplomatic approach and rather outgoing nature will enhance your reputation and bring you the support you need.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it comes to taking care of your financial situation. You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Invite friends or relatives into your home. You should be putting in some overtime. You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. You will both have to bend if you want this union to work. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation. Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. Get down to business and do the work yourself.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You might be a tad overindulgent today. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. If you address those in a position to grant you favors you should get the support you require.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Arguments with employers or colleagues will be to your detriment. Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your way, look out world. Be careful signing important contracts today.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. You will tend to overeat today. You can invest in profitable ventures.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident today. You will find that superiors may not see situations as you do.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Visit those less fortunate than yourself; be sure to help them with their personal problems. Your lover may cost you financially. Let your lover know what your personal intentions are.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Try and avoid getting involved in idle chatter or gossip that might get you in trouble. Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. Relationships may be hard to handle.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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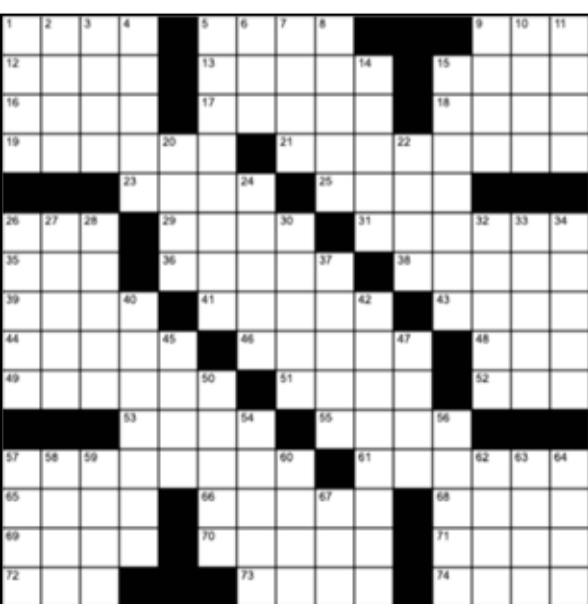
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	30	fine
Changchun	16	28	thunderstorms
Chengdu	18	24	overcast
Chongqing	19	30	cloudy
Fuzhou	25	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	34	cloudy
Guiyang	15	27	cloudy
Haikou	24	29	rain
Hangzhou	20	31	cloudy
Harbin	12	23	rain
Hefei	20	32	cloudy
Nanjing	20	30	cloudy
Shanghai	22	28	cloudy
Taipei	25	30	fine
Wuhan	20	33	fine
Hong Kong	28	31	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	11	16	rain
Frankfurt	7	17	overcast
Paris	12	19	overcast
London	11	17	rain
New York	13	19	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Texas city; 5- Close with force; 9- Letter before omega; 12- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 13- Man of morals; 15- Charts; 16- "A Doll's House" heroine; 17- Opium flower; 18- Son of Adam and Eve; 19- Root vegetable; 21- Sing for; 23- "___ Walked Into My Life" (song from "Mame"); 25- Search; 26- Tiny amount; 29- Melodies; 31- Most cunning; 35- Hot time in Paris; 36- Rare delight; 38- Twisted expression?; 39- Hgt.; 41- Dazzling display; 43- Bond classic; 44- Gymnast Comaneci; 46- Native American tent; 48- AOL, e.g.; 49- Declare; 51- Offer; 52- Shoebox letters; 53- Rail supports; 55- Breather; 57- Aromatic bark; 61- 39th president of the U.S.; 65- What ___ mind reader?; 66- Public square; 68- Cries of discovery; 69- Conceal, as a card; 70- Siouan speakers; 71- Support for a broken limb; 72- Hydrocarbon ending; 73- "___ She Lovely?"; 74- Famous last words;

DOWN 1- Took off; 2- Baseball family name; 3- "The Alienist" author; 4- Muscat native; 5- Blue gem; 6- Summer sign; 7- Serpents; 8- Acts down; 9- Sunscreen ingredient; 10- Exceeded the limit; 11- It's deserted in fantasies; 14- Funeral fires; 15- Human beings collectively; 20- ___ first you don't...; 22- Electric fish; 24- Construct; 26- "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie; 27- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 28- Exploits; 30- Income source; 32- Creepy; 33- Logic; 34- Figure of speech; 37- Get to the point?; 40- Country in SE Asia; 42- Live feed of CNN, e.g.; 45- Melody; 47- Lohengrin's bride; 50- Beat; 54- Conductor Georg; 56- Vestige; 57- Headland; 58- Model married to David Bowie; 59- Egypt's river; 60- Greek temple; 62- Yonder thing; 63- 3:00; 64- Queue after Q; 67- Mahayana movement of Buddhism;



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
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- SAN ON | 2 BEDS HKD 8,500
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- 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
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

'SMILE' TURNS TWISTED GRIN INTO BLAND HORROR FLICK

I have mostly frowny faces for "Smile," a bluntly unsettling and blandly grim new horror flick that wrings as much mileage as it can out of a twisted grin.

Parker Finn's directorial debut, which opens in theaters Friday, adapts his own 11-minute short into a jump scare-rich thriller about a hospital emergency ward therapist, Dr. Rose Cutter (Sosie Bacon), whose visit with a newly admitted patient rapidly turns gruesome. The young woman (Caitlin Stasey), beside herself with fear, suddenly flashes an ear-to-ear smile before slicing an ear-to-ear cut across her neck.

Rose at first brushes off the disturbing encounter. It's clear that, despite her profession, this has been her way of dealing with trauma since she witnessed the overdose death of her mother as a child. Soon, Rose is seeing that creepy smile on other faces. Increasingly unhinged and paranoid, she believes she's been cursed by an evil presence that, she comes to believe, is passed from person to person the way the unseen demon of "It Follows" was transferred through sex.

The devilish grin is both the movie's poster-ready image and an impossible-to-miss metaphor

AP PHOTO



Sosie Bacon in a scene from "Smile"

for putting a bright face on unexamined pain. Somewhere, you might imagine, the Joker is tapping his foot, miffed.

"Smile," of course, isn't the first film to think trouble can

lurk behind a smile. That's just one of many derivative elements to "Smile," a horror movie that makes a few feeble gestures at sliding toward the so-called elevated variety of horror (like a

couple upside-down shots that recall the vastly superior "Midsummer"). But there's nothing in the film's limp cinematography or flat atmospherics that suggest anything but cheap thrills.

Trauma, of course, has become a favorite subject of Hollywood's in recent years. "Smile" is far from the first to trade on trauma as a plot device but it may do so more than any other film I can remember.

There are moments here and there that suggest "Smile" might actually invest in its protagonist's grief. Bacon, daughter of Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, is impressively committed to the part, and her spiraling fear at both the malignant force haunting her and her own tenuous grip on reality is easily the best thing in "Smile." (OK, the best thing is the terrific character Rob Morgan, but his appearance is extremely brief.) But at every turn, "Smile" detours instead to some horror cliché, eventually leading all the way to a monster in a remote cabin.

I know. It should surprise no one that a movie marketed with creepy smiling fans at MLB games might not actually have genuine concerns about pain and healing on its mind. But it still makes "Smile" a cynical and shallow piece of work unlikely to put a you-know-what on too many faces.

"Smile," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for strong violent content and grisly images, and language. Running time: 115 minutes. ★★☆☆

AD



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TASTE OF EDESIA

Best of luxuries

IRENE SAM, MDT

RITZ-CARLTON, Macau and French high-end trunks and leather goods-maker Pinel et Pinel present Pinel et Pinel Afternoon Tea Experience. This special tea set combines Pinel et Pinel's exquisite "Made in Paris" craftsmanship with the culinary

prowess of Ritz-Carlton, Macau.

The Pinel et Pinel Afternoon Tea Set is inspired by the Mini Malle, the Fashion House's It-bag, designed and handmade by master trunk-makers in Paris. A selection of beautifully crafted and mouth-watering teatime treats is displayed on a trunk-shaped stand, inviting guests to embark

on a multifaceted sensorial journey through France and its rich culinary history.

The set includes a quartet of savory treats such as Foie Gras Mousse Mille Feuille, a decadent variation of the classic mille feuille, which originated in 17th century from the Burgundy capital of Dijon. It features perfectly layered foie gras intermixed with fresh figs, in a combination that envelops the palate and ignites the senses. Meanwhile, expect sweet offerings like the classic Opera Cake, an almond sponge cake known

for its buttercream filling, coffee flavors and elaborate layers. Another standout dessert is Clafoutis, a flan-like fruit pudding from the Limousin region of France, crafted using juicy fresh blueberries, nutty ground almonds and rich, sweetened egg custard. This baked show-stopper guarantees to fulfill your sweet cravings with its symphony of textures and flavors.

Complete with a selection of scones, spreads and beverages, the set also allows guests to opt for the upgrade version, which includes two glasses of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Brut Champagne.

In addition, Pinel et Pinel will bring along a string of its most iconic products to The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge. From the Twin GMT and Twin Sub watch winders, to the limited Pinel et Pinel x Cyril Kongo BE@RBRICK series, these sophisticated creations represent the Fashion House's contemporary vision and refined designs, and guests could discover the aesthetics of this modern luxury brand and add to the fun of their dining experience.

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE BAO TOU 1500 METRES TURF

2022-10-02|Sat|15:25

Owner Alliance return to his first outing of the new season, he should take all the beating from the field and in this grade over his pet distance of 1500 metres ; be it on turf or on sand. This colt under care from Stanley Chin has been a model of consistency and his versatility in his races is rock solid. There is every reason to believe that his trainer want him to run another big race again this Sunday. **Owner Alliance** is expected to improve further with a smoother run throughout, he looks capable to give a good account of himself to reward his connection with another victory.

**Race 3 Horse no. 6 Owner Alliance
Win & Place bets**



AD

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OPINION

China Daily

Kong Xuanyou, China Daily*



CHINA-JAPAN TIES FOR NEXT 50 YEARS

The China-Japan Joint Statement, inked by the two countries' governments on Sept 29, 1972, put a complete end to the post-war confrontation and isolation between Beijing and Tokyo, ushering in a new historical chapter. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japanese diplomatic ties this year, it is a right occasion to honor the strategic vision and political courage of the older generation leaders, and also the firm conviction of the two peoples to pursue peace and development.

Over the past half century, China and Japan have established close communication and increased exchanges on many fronts. The number of people traveling between the two sides annually increased to 12 million before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. Bilateral trade reached \$371.4 billion in 2021. The two sides have also established more than 260 pairs of sister provinces and cities.

Besides, China and Japan have supported each other during difficult times such as the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. In the joint fight against COVID-19, many touching stories between our two peoples gave true meaning to the verse that "Though we live in different lands, the same moon and sky make us one".

Chinese and Japanese peoples have benefited immensely from the substantial development of bilateral relations despite the differences in ideology and social system. Both sides know well that long-term peace, friendship and cooperation is the right choice for them to overcome challenges.

Standing at a historical crossroad today, the Sino-Japanese relationship faces new opportunities as well as daunting challenges.

First, only by learning from history can a better future be created. To do that, the two sides need to abide by the principles set forth in the four political documents — the China-Japan Joint Statement of 1972, the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1978, the China-Japan Joint Declaration of 1998, and a joint statement on advancing strategic and mutually beneficial ties in a comprehensive way of 2008.

Accordingly, it is important to implement such important common understandings as the two countries are "partners, not threats" to each other. China and Japan should prioritize coordination over competition and properly manage their disputes and differences, and continue to push forward the bilateral relations on the right track.

Second, the two sides need to further unlock cooperation potential. The China-Japan commercial relationship serves as both the ballast and the propeller of the overall bilateral relationship. The two sides should enhance their economic cooperation to a higher level and foster new growth areas. For instance, they should introduce economic policies to build a more open and fair business environment, and promote the integration of the industry and supply chains in a bid to reap mutual benefit.

Third, the Chinese and Japanese peoples should use the 50th anniversary commemoration to increase cultural and other forms of people-to-people exchanges, especially between the young generations, so as to consolidate the basis of public opinion for friendly neighborhood.

And fourth, China and Japan should work together to uphold true multilateralism, deepen regional cooperation and meet global challenges, based on their respective interests and the common good of Asia.

Fifty years ago, the leaders of our two countries established the bilateral relations on mutual trust, with commitments that should be duly kept today. On the major issues of principle such as history and the Taiwan region, Japan should honor its commitments without overstepping or crossing the line, so that bilateral ties can be steered away from fluctuation or regression.

Especially important, the one-China principle should be fully respected and strictly complied with, as it relates to the political foundation and basic trust of the bilateral relations.

Amid the changing international landscape, as long as China and Japan renew their shared aspirations of normalizing diplomatic relations and work in the same direction, we will definitely strengthen peace, friendship and cooperation, setting on track a stable, healthy and ever-evolving relationship for the next 50 years. [Abridged]

*The author is China's ambassador to Japan.

XI, KISHIDA EXCHANGE CONGRATS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHINA-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC TIES

THE BUZZ

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida yesterday exchanged congratulatory messages over the 50th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations.

In his message, Xi pointed out that 50 years ago, the then Chinese and Japanese leaders grasped the situation with foresight and made a major political decision to normalize China-Japan diplomatic relations, which opened a new chapter in bilateral relations.

He said that over the past 50 years, thanks to the joint efforts of the two governments and peoples, the two sides have successively signed four political documents and reached a series of im-

portant consensuses.

Xi stressed that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Japan relations, and stands ready to work with Kishida to lead both sides to jointly build a China-Japan relationship that meets the demands of the new era by taking the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties as an opportunity and following the trend of the times.

In his message, Kishida said that 50 years ago, the then Chinese and Japanese leaders, with strategic thinking and political courage, opened a new historic course in Japan-China relations.

More on p10



This illustration provided by Heming Zhang in September 2022 depicts some of the fossil fish, more than 400 million years old, which were found by researchers in southern China

FISH FOSSIL CATCH FROM CHINA INCLUDES OLDEST TEETH EVER

A big catch of fish fossils in southern China includes the oldest teeth ever found — and may help scientists learn how our aquatic ancestors got their bite.

The finds offer new clues about a key period of evolution that's been hard to flesh out because until now scientists haven't found many fossils from that era. In a series of four studies, published yesterday [Macau time] in the journal Nature, researchers detail some of their finds, from ancient teeth to never-before-seen species.

The fossils date back to the Silurian period, an important era for life on earth from 443 million years ago to 419 million years ago. Scientists believe our backboneed ancestors, who were still swimming around on a watery planet, may have started evolving teeth and jaws around this time.

This let the fish hunt for prey instead of "grubbing around" as bottom feeders, filtering out food from the muck. It also sparked a series of other changes in their anatomy, including different kinds of fins, said Philip Donoghue, a University of Bristol paleontologist and an author on one of the studies.

"It's just at this interface between the Old World and the New World," Donoghue said.

But in the past, scientists haven't found many fossils to show this shift, said Matt Friedman, a University of Michigan paleontologist who was not involved in the research. They've been relying on fragments from the time — a chunk of spine here, a bit of scale there.

The fossils from China are expected to fill in some of those gaps as researchers around the

world pore over them.

A field team discovered the fossil trove in 2019, Min Zhu, a paleontologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences who led the research, said in an email. On a rainy day, after a frustrating trip that hadn't revealed any fossils, researchers explored a pile of rocks near a roadside cliff. When they split one rock open, they found fossilized fish heads looking back at them.

After hauling more rocks back to the lab for examination, the research team wound up with a huge range of fossils that were in great condition for their age.

The most common species in the bunch is a little boomerang-shaped fish that likely used its jaws to scoop up worms, said Per Erik Ahlberg of Sweden's Uppsala University, an author on one of the studies. MDT/AP

NATO said yesterday it would retaliate for any attacks on the critical infrastructure of its 30 member countries as it suggested that damage to two gas pipelines off Denmark and would-be member Sweden in international waters in the Baltic Sea is the result of sabotage. "Any deliberate attack against Allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united and determined response," NATO ambassadors said in a statement. They said that the damage to the pipelines between Russia and Germany "is of deep concern."



Germany plans to spend up to 200 billion euros helping consumers and businesses cope with surging energy prices, particularly for natural gas, due to the war in Ukraine. Chancellor Olaf Scholz said yesterday that the government is reactivating an economic stabilizing fund previously used during the global financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic.



Brazil's presidential election Sunday is being contested by 11 candidates but only two stand a chance of reaching a runoff: former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and incumbent Jair Bolsonaro. Both are political titans, and eight of 10 Brazilians will vote for one of them, according to pollster Datafolha. That leaves little space for challengers and means that in lieu of fresh proposals and detailed programs, the two frontrunners have mostly harped on their experience and railed against each other.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Thursday October 6. 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.