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**CONSUMPTION CARNIVAL TO OFFER PRIZES OF NEARLY MOP100 MILLION TO BOOST SPENDING, CO-HOSTS OF THE CITY'S EVENT SAID**

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**MACAO ONE ACCOUNT: DIGITAL DRIVING DOCUMENTS INTO FORCE SATURDAY**

P3



**Indonesia** is preparing to start Southeast Asia's first high-speed rail service that will cut travel time between two cities from the current three hours to about 40 minutes. The railway line, which connects Indonesia's capital Jakarta and Bandung, the heavily populated capital of West Java province, is part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.



**Malaysian** opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday he was optimistic that his alliance can achieve a simple majority in general elections expected to be held next month, despite the odds stacked against them. Riding on a wave of anger over government corruption, Anwar's three-party Hope Alliance won a stunning victory in 2018 polls with the help of former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.



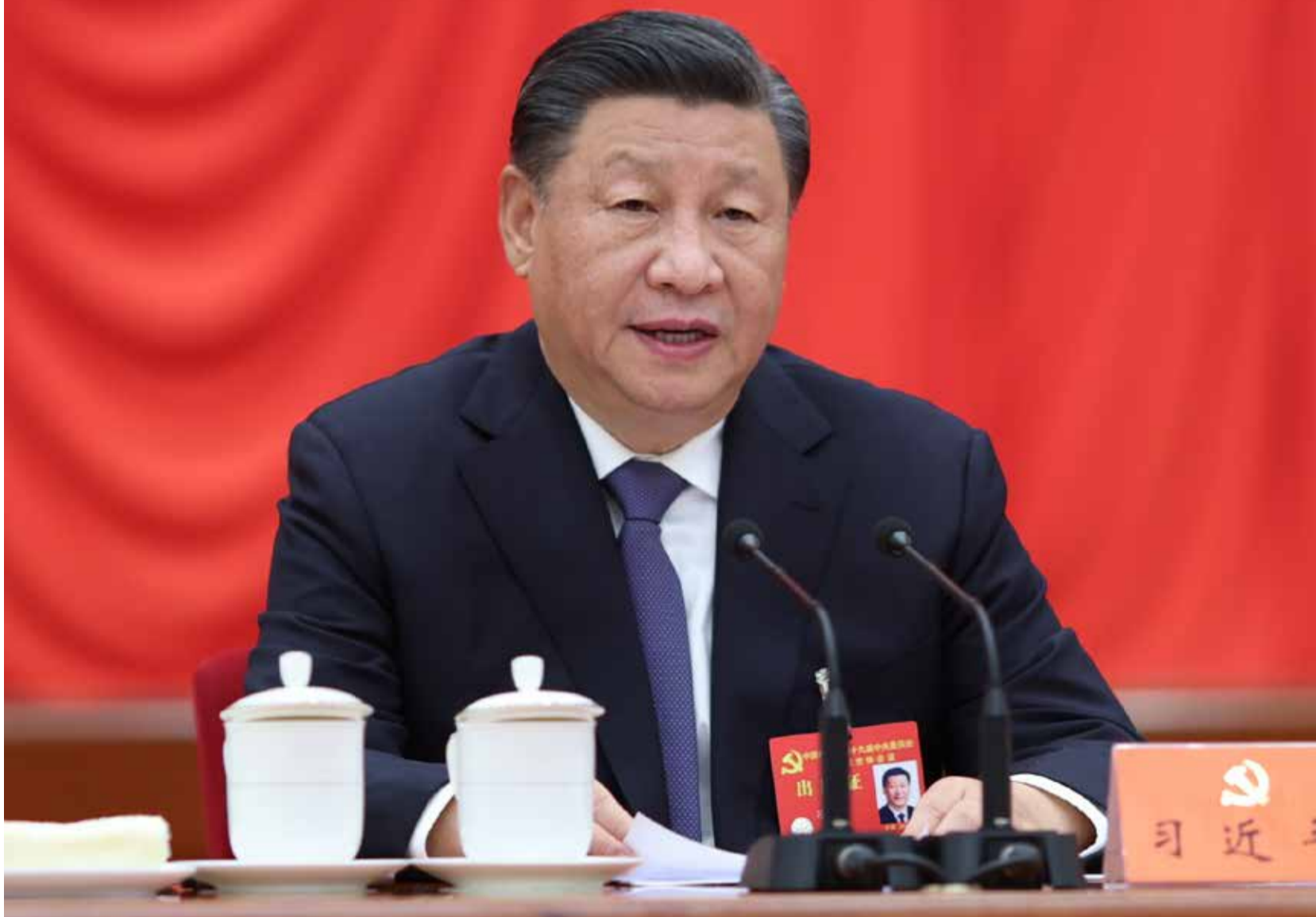
**India** Two judges on India's top court yesterday differed over a ban on the wearing of the hijab, a headscarf used by Muslim women, in educational institutions and referred the sensitive issue to a larger bench of three or more judges to settle. Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia issued a split ruling after hearing petitions filed by a group of Muslims against a high court's judgment in Karnataka state. The state court had refused to stay a government order issued in February that banned people from wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges.

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# PARTY LINE UP

**Xi gets chance to tighten hold on economy at historical 20th CPC congress which starts Sunday**

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**FITCH REPORT GAMING RECOVERY FAR-OFF AMID EASING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

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**WYNN WINS US JUDGE ENDS LOBBYING SUIT AGAINST CASINO MOGUL**

P5

### IAM RUNNING BIDS FOR FOOD TRUCKS ON ZAPE PROMENADE

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has called for tenders for food truck operations near the Macao Science Center on the ZAPE coastal promenade. The bid winners will be allowed to sell snacks, light meals, drinks and souvenirs. The winning bid will be able to operate for two years and the base rental will be MOP8,000 per month. Individuals or entities residing in, or having a registered address in, Macau are eligible to submit a bid. The trucks will take two designs: a shape resembling a chameleon and a double-decker bus.

### SOCIAL ADVISOR CALLS FOR BETTER FACILITIES NEAR BARRA TRANSPORT HUB

Chang Ka Wa, a member of the Central District Advisory Committee, has proposed that better support facilities be built around the future Barra Transport Hub. Considering the hub is expected to be completed this coming March, the committee member believes more pedestrian facilities should be constructed near the hub to allow for conditions that are more convenient and safer for foot traffic. He also believes a coastal promenade in the area is necessary to boost sightseeing and a leisure lifestyle. He foresees that the São Lourenço district will connect with Barra as a great tourist attraction, featuring historic buildings and specialty food.

### GAMING

# BIG SIX SHARES ON A CONTINUOUS DECLINE AHEAD OF BEIJING'S PARTY CONGRESS

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE city's big six shares are in free fall at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, with Sands China and Wynn Resorts leading the plunge with a 7.5% and 6.39% drop, respectively.

The casinos' stocks are in turmoil and have been plunging since Monday, a week ahead of the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which will commence Sunday.

SJM Holdings was the only operator not in the red, with a slight uptick of 0.78%.

MGM China, Galaxy Entertainment Group and Melco International Development also recorded drops of 3.71%, 2.16% and 1.95%, respectively.

On the first day of trading opening this week, shares of the US-listed Macau casino stocks in New York were markedly lower, with Wynn leading the decline, falling 11%. Las Vegas Sands fell 7.2%, while Melco Resorts & Entertainment was down 6.1% and MGM Resorts International fell 3.7%.

In the HKSE the next day, MGM China plunged 5.34%,

MDT ARCHIVE



followed by Wynn Macau and Sands China with drops of 4.45% and 4.47% respectively.

"I believe the drop is a result of both a plunge in the Hang Seng Index combined with China's continuing of their zero-Covid strategy," Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting, told the Times.

The sector, which is in turmoil, continues to face headwinds, particularly due to emerging Covid-19 cases in the neighboring region.

In a Bloomberg Intelligence's video yesterday, Angela Hanlee, Bloomberg Intelligence Analyst on APAC Gaming and Hospitality Research, has reiterated that forecasts for the city's gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the year 2022 will not be altered.

"We keep our expectation unchanged that gaming revenue this year will reach just 20% of pre-pandemic levels, although these easing travel restrictions are boosting sentiment for Macau casino stocks that suffered

for the last three years," she said.

Although the city has recorded a significant uptick in visitors with the recent National Day Golden Week, exceeding the government's expectations with over 30,000 arrivals on the first day, per head spending remains a question mark given the worsening consumer power in China.

In China, the sluggish consumer spending has dragged its economy down, with little relief anticipated for the months ahead.

# Fitch: Gaming recovery far-off amid easing travel restrictions

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU'S gaming sector's recovery remains far-off despite the recent easing of travel restrictions with mainland China.

Visitor numbers to Macau are beginning to recover but they remain low, with the potential for a viral variant to cause a reinstatement of travel restrictions and regulatory uncertainty key risks that could lead to a negative rating, Fitch Ratings says.

The agency expects that the gross gaming revenue (GGR) recovery curve for 2022-2024 revenues will be 27%, 50% and 70% of 2019



levels, respectively.

"Relaxing strict coronavirus policies could result in a materially faster rebound

in visitation and revenues, but the timing of such policy changes is uncertain. Any major easing in the

zero-Covid approach in the near term is unlikely," the group said.

China is steadfast in its zero-Covid policy, which results in lockdowns of districts and mass testing, both of which affect visitors to the SAR.

Following the announcement that the return of group tours from mainland China can be expected as soon as late October, along with the reinstatement of digital travel endorsement applications, gaming shares soared to their highest level in six months, up 15.65%, as recorded by Sands China.

However, Fitch forecasts the gaming recovery could

be delayed with the reinstatement of tighter restrictions with higher infection rates.

"Slower China economic growth could also negatively affect the gaming recovery, including for the valuable premium mass and higher-end players," the group said.

It said capital access for the operators' Hong Kong-listed subsidiaries, which are the primary debt issuers associated with Macau operations, is likely to remain limited until "GGR recovers to levels closer to 2019 and the regulatory overhang from the gaming concessions subsides. Re-

financing needs are modest until 2024 when some subsidiaries will start facing debt maturities, [and] when concession renewal event risk will no longer be a concern," it added.

Currently, the public tender gaming concession is reviewing the proposals of seven companies vying for six concessions, which Fitch said "poses material event risk."

"The possibility of oneous capital commitments also remains a key unknown until the concession tender process is publicly outlined by the government, which could occur in the near term," it said.

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RENATO MARQUES

MACAO ONE ACCOUNT

# Digital driving documents into force Saturday

FROM Saturday October 15, all vehicle drivers in Macau will be able to replace their paperback and physical driving documents and cards with digital versions stored in their Macao One Account profiles, the government announced at a press conference yesterday.

Several documents including driving licenses, vehicle registrations and insurance proofs can be presented to the police authorities if requested in the digitalized form using the mobile application, adding convenience for both drivers and inspection authorities.

The deputy director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), Ng Wai Han, told the press conference the digitization of government services had been one of the measures included in Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's policy address this year.

Ng said the digitization of driving documents has particular importance in terms of volume. She said the "My Vehicle" section of the Macao One Account is the service more people are registering for. It has been used in 300,000 of the 340,000 accounts created.

The new functions have been added to the section that previously (since January 1) only served for the payment of the annual road tax of local vehicles.

With the additional functions, it is also possible for drivers and vehicle owners to review their vehicles' status at any time including fines for traffic violations, and a whole range of functions related to both the vehicles and their drivers.

Public Security Police Force (PSP) representative, Ho Sio

RENATO MARQUES



Meng, told the press conference the functions also provide more accurate information to police officers to verify drivers' and vehicles' documentation. With the scan of a QR Code, officers will know immediately if the driving license has been suspended and other particulars such as the validity of the insurance.

The new system will particularly benefit motorcyclists who have difficulty keeping the documentation safe in their vehicle.

Ho Sio Meng also noted that although this function is very practical and convenient, drivers need to pay special attention to the fact that, to show the

documents, their mobile phones must have enough battery power and an internet signal. Without these, drivers must provide original documents when requested by the authorities.

This will also be true during periods of system maintenance. Acting according to the law, authorities will inform citizens about periods of maintenance five days before maintenance occurs via a notification sent through the Macao One Account system platform.

Ng noted there are currently more than 240,000 motor vehicles in Macau, with about 130,000 already linked to the

platform. It is expected more will link to the platform over the next few days.

## INSURANCE PROOF TO BE ADDED VIA QR CODE

A representative from the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM), and another representing the Insurance Companies Association, has noted the majority of insurance companies providing vehicle insurance have been added to the platform, explaining all insurance policies acquired or renewed on or after last August 15 already have a QR Code. This allows owners to attach them to the vehicle in the Macao One Account. For those acquired before this date, the application also allows the users to ask their insurer to send their QR Code to enable them to complete the process.

They noted that when an insurance policy is renewed, users must update the data with the new policy, removing the expired policy.

According to data from the insurance sector, as of October 10, insurance companies had already provided 44,723 QR Codes to drivers who had already requested them. Officials said the process takes a maximum of seven days between requesting the QR Code from the insurance company and the reception of this code via SMS.

## OVER 4,400 FOR IRREGULARITIES REGARDING DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

DATA disclosed by the representative of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), Ho Sio Meng, shows that the force has fined 4,451 people over the last two years due to irregularities related to their driving qualifications as well as vehicle defects or insurance. The same official said 1,150

cases related to irregularities in driving abilities, 1,892 cases of vehicles without insurance and 1,409 cases of vehicles with unapproved characteristics. In the last case, the fines related to changes made by the owners that had not been approved by the Transport Bureau.

## MENTAL HEALTH

# Center continuously records rise in support requests

LYNZY VALLES

THE Women's Federation Psychotherapy Center has received a large percentage of residents seeking assistance for family, marriage, and interpersonal problems.

According to the center director, Lao Chan Fong, more than 80% of the requests for assistance were related to families, while around 30% (99 residents) said they had thoughts of

hurting themselves or suicide, four of whom were underaged students.

According to Lao, the proportion of children and adolescents willing to seek help has risen from more than 20% in 2020 to the current 30%.

The Women's Federation Psychotherapy Center has been established for 10 years.

As of June this year, the center has conducted more than 3,300

cases and 32,000 interviews since its establishment in 2012.

In 2021, the center provided services to a total of 908 requests for assistance, of which the total number of new cases is 683. The total number of interviews conducted was 3,058.

Back in July, health authorities advised members of the public with mental health concerns due to the long duration of Covid-19

prevention measures to seek help.

This came after the city recorded consecutive suicide cases – particularly among older adults.

As of July, government data shows that there has been a total of 53 suicides; a figure close to the 60 suicides recorded in the entire year of 2021.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) encourages residents to be conscious of their psychological and emotional state as well as those of their relatives and friends. If in need, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525222) or IAS' counseling hotline (28261126).

ADRIAN SWANCAR





# CITYWIDE CONSUMPTION CARNIVAL KICKS OFF WITH MOP100M REWARDS

ANTHONY LAM

**T**he Macau citywide Consumption Carnival will offer prizes of nearly MOP100 million to boost consumption, co-hosts of the carnival said yesterday.

Co-hosted by the Macau

Chamber of Commerce and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT), the carnival was officially opened yesterday afternoon. It will run from October 15 this year to February 28 next year. The 20-week duration will equate to nearly MOP100

million in prizes and rewards for winning consumers.

Shoppers bearing identity-verified mobile payment accounts will be entitled to participate in a digital lucky draw, for each purchase or consumption of at least MOP68. Each purchase or consumption will

be eligible for up to five chances to participate in a lucky draw.

At the end of the festival, all lucky draw participants will be entitled to take part in a final round lucky draw, with cash prizes amounting to MOP1 million, in addition to commodity prizes such as hotel accommodation.

Deputy director Chan Tze Wai of the DSEDT said in her speech that with travel endorsement online applications and the resumption of group tours set for the near future, the government will spare no effort in expanding the market and boosting internal consumption to help the economic revival.

The festival is part of the government's work that she hoped would help boost internal consumption by rewarding consumers with coupons and lucky draw chances. She also expects it to help sustain various trades.

Moreover, executive director of the Chamber Ma Chi Ngai said that, during preparation for the carnival, his organization had contacted various businesses about payment support as well as lucky draw arrangements and prizes to popularize the event. He hoped people in Macau would increase consumption to help boost the economy.

## TOURIST PRICE INDEX REMAINS STABLE IN Q3

**S**tatistics and Census Service (DSEC) data shows the Tourist Price Index (TPI) has remained stable for the third quarter of this year (Q3), representing a slight drop of 0.93% year-on-year.

The decrease was mainly attributable to lower hotel room rates and reduced charges for restaurant services. DSEC notes the drop was not more significant due to the increase in local food product prices which offset the decrease. Among the various sections of goods and services, the price index for accommodation (-22.83%) recorded a notable year-on-year decline, whereas the indices of food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+5.59%) and clothing and footwear (+5.27%) were the two that increased.

In comparison with the previous quarter, the TPI for Q3 went up 0.55%.

The average TPI for the last four quarters (Q4 2021 to Q3 2022) dropped 0.24% from the previous period.

Information from the DSEC indicated that visitor arrivals surged to 331,397 in August attributable to the easing of cross-boundary measures between Zhuhai and Macau in early August. In July, the city only recorded 9,759 visitor arrivals, a plunge of 98.8% year-on-year due to the Covid-19 outbreak that began June 18. **RM**

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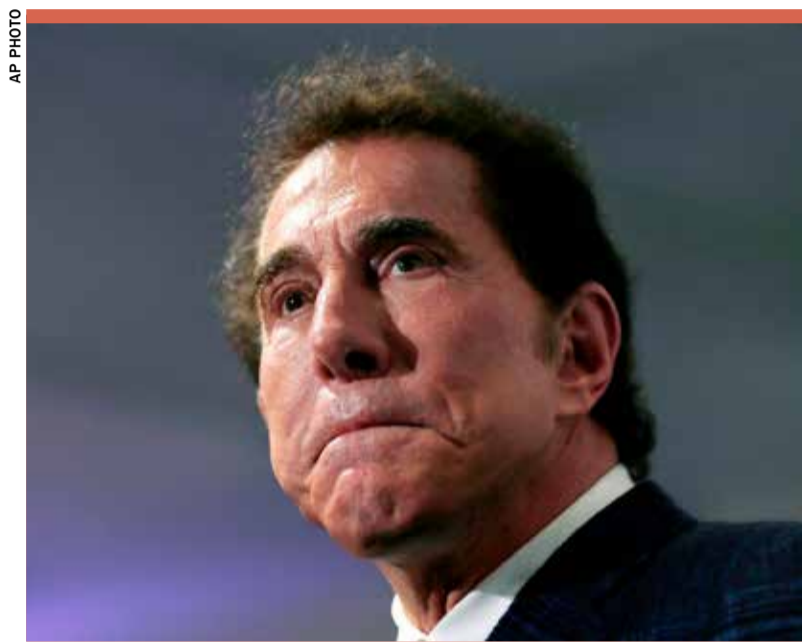
# US judge ends lobbying suit against casino developer Steve Wynn

ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

**A** U.S. federal judge yesterday [Macau time] dismissed a Justice Department lawsuit that sought to force longtime casino developer Steve Wynn to register as a foreign agent because of lobbying work it said he conducted at the behest of the Chinese government during the Trump administration.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg did not address in his 20-page order whether Wynn was functioning as a Beijing agent. Instead, he said he agreed with Wynn's lawyers that the department could not compel him now to register as a foreign agent because any relationship Wynn had with the Chinese government ended in 2017.

The order is a setback for stepped-up Justice Department efforts to enforce a decades-old law known as the Foreign Agents Registration Act. It requires anyone who lobbies on behalf of a foreign government or entity to register their work with the U.S. govern-



AP PHOTO

ment. "We are delighted that the District Court today dismissed the government's ill-conceived lawsuit against Steve Wynn," his lawyers, Reid Weingarten and Robert Luskin, said in a statement. "Mr. Wynn never acted as an agent of the Chinese government and never lobbied on its behalf."

The Justice Department said

in a statement that it "respectfully disagrees with today's ruling and is considering options in the litigation and more generally," and remains committed to enforcing the lobbying law.

The department had repeatedly advised Wynn over the past four years to register. It sued him in May to try to force him to do so, describing the suit as the first of its

kind in more than three decades.

The complaint alleged that Wynn, a prolific Republican donor and onetime finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, lobbied then-President Donald Trump and members of his administration for several months in 2017 to expel from the United States a Chinese citizen who had been charged with corruption in China and was seeking political asylum in America. Efforts to send the man back to China were ultimately unsuccessful.

According to the complaint, the lobbying effort was conducted on behalf of senior Chinese government officials, including Sun Lijun, the then-vice minister of the Ministry of Public Security who sought Wynn's help in trying to get the Chinese man's new U.S. visa application denied.

The lobbying effort also included conversations over dinner with Trump and by telephone, and multiple visits to the White House by Wynn for apparently unscheduled meetings with the issue was discussed.

The complaint said Wynn was

motivated to protect his business interests in China. At the time, his company owned and operated casinos in the Chinese territory of Macau. The government in Macau had restricted the number of gaming tables and machines that could be operated at Wynn's casino, the Justice Department said, and he was scheduled to renegotiate licenses to operate casinos in 2019.

Lawyers for Wynn denied at the time of the suit that he had acted as an agent of the Chinese government or that he had had an obligation to register. They later moved to dismiss the lawsuit, noting that his relationship with the Chinese government had ended in 2017.

Wynn's team cited a 1987 appeals court opinion suggesting that the obligation to register as a foreign agent terminates once the relationship with foreign entity has ended. In his opinion, Boasberg said that ruling required dismissal of the suit.

"The Court will thus do so without ever considering whether Wynn was a PRC agent or not," Boasberg wrote, using the acronym for the People's Republic of China.

Wynn resigned in 2018 as chairman and CEO of the casino and resorts company bearing his name, after multiple women accused him of sexual misconduct. He has denied those alle-

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ANALYSIS

# Xi gets chance to tighten hold on economy

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

**P**RESIDENT Xi Jinping, China's most influential figure in decades, gets a chance to install more allies who share his vision of an even more dominant role in the economy for the ruling Communist Party and tighter control over entrepreneurs at a party meeting that starts this weekend.

The only question, economists and political analysts say, is whether China's economic slump might force Xi to temper his enthusiasm for a state-run economy and include supporters of the markets and private enterprises that generate jobs and wealth.

The congress will name a new Standing Committee, China's inner circle of power, and other party leaders, not economic regulators. Those will be appointed by the legislature, which meets in March. But the leadership lineup will highlight who is likely to succeed Premier Li Keqiang, the top economic official, and take other government posts.

Xi has called for a "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" by reviving the party's "original mission" as economic and social leader. During his term, the emphasis has been on politics over economics and on reducing reliance on foreign technology and markets.

A report Xi is due to deliver at the congress will set economic,

trade and technology goals for at least the next five years.

Investors will look for signs of "a more private sector-led economy. But with President Xi in place, there won't be much change," said Lloyd Chan of Oxford Economics. "Any reforms will be carried out in a way that it will be state-led."

The party faces an avalanche of challenges: A tariff war with Washington, curbs on access to Western technology, a shrinking and aging workforce, the rising cost of Beijing's anti-COVID strategy and debt Chinese leaders worry is dangerously high.

Economic growth slid to 2.2% over a year earlier in the first six months of 2022, less than half the official target, sapped by a crackdown on debt in China's vast real estate industry and repeated shutdowns of major cities to fight virus outbreaks.

Loyalty to Xi is regarded as key to promotion. One potential candidate for premier, a post that usually goes to the No. 2 or 3 party leader, declared his allegiance by publishing a newspaper article in July that invoked Xi's name 48 times.

"Xi Jinping prefers to appoint party apparatchiks, cadres who are loyal to himself, rather than technocrats," said Willy Lam, who researches elite Chinese politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Beijing opened its auto industry to foreign ownership and car-



ried out other market-oriented reforms. But it has failed to follow through on dozens of other promised changes. Meanwhile, the party is pouring money into creating computer chip, aerospace and other industries.

Private sector success stories including Alibaba, the world's biggest e-commerce company, and Tencent, a giant in games and social media, are under pressure to align with party plans. They are diverting billions of dollars to chip

development and other political goals.

Xi's government wants manufacturers to reduce reliance on global supply chains and use more domestic suppliers, even if that raises costs.

Under the 1950s propaganda slogan "common prosperity," Xi is pushing entrepreneurs to help narrow China's wealth gap by paying for rural job creation and other initiatives.

Li, the No. 2 leader, is due to step

down as premier next year but at 67 is a year below party retirement age. It isn't clear whether he might stay on the Standing Committee and take a different government post.

Other regulators and policymakers, some foreign-educated and experienced in dealing with foreign markets and governments, are due to leave office over the coming year if retirement ages are enforced.

They include Vice Premier Liu

## PLENUM MAKES FULL PREPARATION FOR 20TH CPC

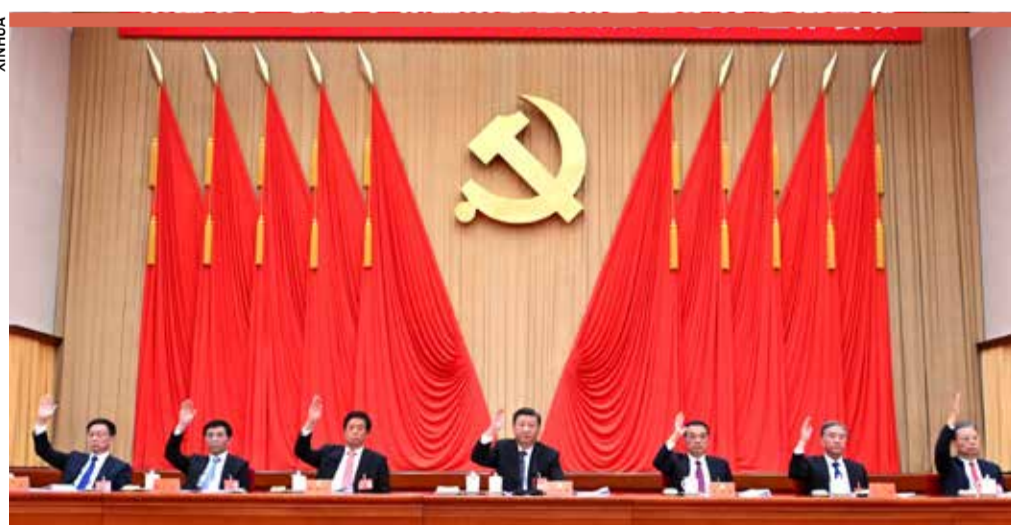
XINHUA REPORTER

**T**HE 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its seventh plenary session in Beijing this week with a communique issued.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made "an important speech at the four-day session," which was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

It was decided at the plenary session that the 20th CPC National Congress will open on Oct. 16 in Beijing, according to the communique.

Entrusted by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Xi delivered a work report to the plenum.



Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng attend the seventh plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

The plenary session also discussed and adopted a report to be made by the 19th CPC Central Committee to the 20th CPC National Congress, a work report of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) to the congress, and an amendment to the CPC Constitution.

The three documents will be submitted to the upcoming congress for examination and deliberation, read the communique.

During the session, Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft report by the 19th CPC Central Committee to the 20th CPC National Congress. Wang Huning made explanations on the draft amendment to

the CPC Constitution.

It was noted at the session that over the past year, confronted with a complex and challenging international situation and demanding tasks of advancing reform, promoting development, and maintaining stability at home, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee "has fully implemented Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and united and led the whole Party, the armed forces and the people of all ethnic groups in completing the historic mission of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and thus realizing the first centenary goal, and in embarking on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing toward the second centenary goal," the communique said.

According to Xinhua, over the past five years, the CPC Central Committee,

progress "have been unusual and extraordinary," said the communique.

Over the past five years, "the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has held high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and united and led the whole Party, the armed forces and the people of all ethnic groups in completing the historic mission of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and thus realizing the first centenary goal, and in embarking on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing toward the second centenary goal," the communique said.

According to Xinhua, over the past five years, the CPC Central Committee,

# ny at meeting



He, a Harvard-trained reform advocate who is Xi's economic adviser and the chief envoy to trade war talks with Washington. Yi Gang, governor of the central bank and a former Indiana University professor, Finance Minister Liu Kun and bank regulator Guo Shuqing also are due to go.

When their successors are picked, the big question will be "whether Xi has unlimited decision-making authority over the economy and technology," Derek Scissors of the American Enterprise Institute in Washin-

gton said in an email.

"Is Xi forced by party elites to listen to someone?" Scissors said.

Xi's decision to go abroad for last month's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Central Asian leaders suggests, according to observers, "he was confident he has a third term locked in and didn't need to stay home to make deals."

Possible candidates for premier include Wang Yang, who already is a Standing Committee member, according to political analysts. Others

are Hu Chunhua and Han Zheng, both deputy premiers, a role that is seen as training for the top job.

Wang, a former party secretary of the southern manufacturing powerhouse province of Guangdong, and Han, who was party secretary of the business capital Shanghai for many years, are seen as politically close to Xi and might represent little change in economic direction.

Hu might represent a potential change. He is seen as politically closer to Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao.

Hu Chunhua, 59, lobbied for the job by citing Xi in every sentence of a July 27 article about farm policy in the main party newspaper.

That showed Hu is "very eager to get that position," said Lam. He said Hu has less economic experience than Li, the premier, "but at least he comes from a different faction" than Xi, which would add to diversity of views.

Potential dark horse candidates include party secretaries Li Qiang of Shanghai or Chen Min'er of the populous city of Chongqing in the southwest.

A potential "economic czar" to succeed Liu, the vice premier, is He Lifeng, chairman of the Cabinet planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission. A friend of Xi, he is seen as a politician, not a technocrat.

A party statement in August reinforced the dominance of politics by calling for "party building." Last month, the party magazine Seeking Truth published a Xi speech that emphasized the party's need for "self-revolution" to fight corruption and other problems.

That suggests Xi will tighten party control, "further narrowing the space for liberal approaches to economic policy," Neil Thomas of Eurasia Group said in a report. **MDT/AP**

## NATIONAL CONGRESS

with Xi Jinping at its core, "has united and led the whole Party, the armed forces and the people of all ethnic groups in effectively coping with the grave and complex international situation and a series of major risks and challenges, and pushing forward socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era in an energetic manner."

"Many tough problems that remained unsolved for a long time have been solved, many things of vital importance and long-term significance have been accomplished, and major achievements that captured the attention of the world have been scored in the cause of the Party and the country," the communique said.

The communique noted that these achievements have been the result "of concerted efforts of all Party members and all Chinese people under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, and the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era."

It emphasized that, the Party has established "Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and has defined the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The session took stock of the work of the 19th CPC CCDI, noting that discipli-

ne inspection commissions at all levels "had resolutely implemented the Party's strategic decisions of self-reform and full, rigorous self-governance."

Xinhua added that "an overwhelming victory has been achieved in the fight against corruption, and this has been consolidated across the board"

The session analyzed the current situation and the tasks, and hosted "in-depth discussion on major issues including upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics on the new journey in the new era, and building a modern socialist country in all respects. It made full preparation for the upcoming 20th CPC National Congress," the communique said.

The seventh plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee opened in Beijing on Oct. 9, with 199 full members and 159 alternate members present. Members of the CCDI and leading officials of related departments were also present in a non-voting capacity.

In accordance with the CPC Constitution, the session decided to admit Ma Guoqiang, Wang Ning and Wang Weizhong as full members to the 19th CPC Central Committee. They had been alternate members of the committee.

The session also endorsed the expulsion of Fu Zhenghua, Shen Deyong and Zhang Jinghua from the CPC, as was decided by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, as well as the punishment on Li Jia, who was removed from his post in the CPC. **MDT/XINHUA**



### TAIWAN

## Chipmaker TSMC says quarterly profit \$8.8 billion

**TAIWAN** Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the biggest contract manufacturer of processor chips for smartphones and other products, said yesterday that its quarterly profit rose 79.7% over a year earlier to \$8.8 billion amid surging demand.

Quarterly revenue rose 47.9% over a year ago to \$19.2 billion, the company reported.

TSMC, headquartered in Hsinchu, Taiwan, makes processor chips for brands including Apple Inc. and Qualcomm Inc. Many of their products are assembled by factories in China, which has exposed TSMC to the possible impact of U.S.-Chinese tension over technology and security.

TSMC's U.S.-traded shares fell 14% in value after Washington on Friday tightened restrictions on Chinese access to advanced computer chips. Those controls are based on limiting the ability of TSMC and other suppliers to use U.S. chip or manufacturing technology for Chinese customers.

The American Embassy in Beijing didn't immediately respond to a question about whether TSMC had received an exemption that might allow normal supplies to Chinese factories to continue.

TSMC's chip supplies to China already were restricted under a 2020 order by then-President Donald Trump that prohibits vendors from using U.S. technology to manufac-

ture for Huawei Technologies Ltd., a maker of network switching gear and smartphones. Washington says Huawei is a security risk and might facilitate Chinese spying, which the company denies.

Chipmakers are benefiting for demand for next-generation telecoms, high-performance computing and chips for use in products from cars to medical devices.

TSMC announced plans last year to invest \$100 billion over the next three years in manufacturing and research and development.

Most semiconductors used in smartphones, medical equipment, computers and other products are made in Taiwan, South Korea and China.

That has prompted concern among American officials about reliance on supplies that might be disrupted by conflict between China and Taiwan. They are lobbying TSMC and other chipmakers to set up factories in the United States.

TSMC announced plans last year to build its first chip factory in Japan. The company and Sony Corp. later said they would jointly invest \$7 billion in the facility.

TSMC operates a semiconductor wafer fabrication facility in Camas, Washington, and design centers in San Jose, California, and Austin, Texas.

The company has announced plans for a second U.S. production site in Arizona. **MDT/AP**

NORTH KOREA

# Kim takes inspiration from Putin's nuke threats

FOSTER KLUG, TOKYO

**F**OR decades North Korea has threatened to turn enemy cities into a "sea of fire," even as it doggedly worked on building a nuclear weapons program that could back up its belligerent words.

Now, as North Korea conducts another torrid run of powerful weapons tests — and threatens pre-emptive nuclear strikes on Washington and Seoul — it may be taking inspiration from the fiery rhetoric of the leader of a nuclear-armed member of the U.N. Security Council: Russia's Vladimir Putin.

With Putin raising the terrifying prospect of using tactical nukes to turn around battleground setbacks in Ukraine, there's fear that this normalization of nuclear threats is emboldening North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as he puts the finishing touches on his still incomplete nuclear program.

"Putin and Kim feed off each other, routinizing the right to nuke a peaceful neighbor by repeating it without repercussion," said Sung-Yoon Lee, an expert on North Korea at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. "Putin's threats sound more credible than Kim's, as there is bloodshed in Ukraine every day. But Kim's threats must not be dismissed as empty bluster."

After more than 40 missile launches this year — its most ever — there are a host of fresh signs that North Korea is becoming more aggressive in making its nuclear bombs the centerpiece of its military.

A recent two-week barrage of missile launches was meant, according to North Korean media, to simulate the use of its tactical battlefield nuclear weapons to "hit and wipe out" potential South Korean and U.S. targets. It's believed to mark the first time that North Korea has performed drills involving army units tasked with the operation of tactical nuclear weapons.



AP PHOTO

The tests — all supervised by Kim — included a nuclear-capable ballistic missile launched under a reservoir; ballistic missiles designed for nuclear strikes on South Korean airfields, ports and command facilities; and a new-type ground-to-ground ballistic missile that flew over Japan.

State media announced yesterday the tests the previous day of long-range cruise missiles, which Kim described as a successful demonstration of his military's expanding nuclear strike capabilities and readiness for "actual war." There are also indications that North Korea is taking steps to deploy tactical nuclear weapons along its frontline border with South Korea. The North has also adopted a new law that authorizes preemptive nuclear attacks over a broad range of scenarios, including non-war situations, when it perceives a threat to its leadership.

North Korea is still working to perfect its nuclear-tipped missile technology, but each new test pushes it closer to that goal.

"North Korea has been clearly emulating Putin's approach in his war on Ukraine while using it as a window to accelerate arms development," according to Park Won Gon, a professor of North Korea studies at Seoul's Ewha Womans University.

In what's seen as a reference to his nuclear arsenal, Putin has declared his readiness to use "all means available" to protect Russian territory. With a string of defeats in Ukraine lea-

ving Putin increasingly cornered, observers worry that Putin could be tempted to explode a tactical nuclear weapon to avoid a defeat that may undermine his grip on power.

Battlefield nuclear weapons are intended to crush advancing enemy troops in one designated frontline section, and have a low yield compared to nuclear warheads fitted on strategic weapons. But even these types of nuclear weapons would expose huge numbers of civilians in densely populated Ukraine, and possibly Russia and other places, to radiation risks.

It would also have a devastating political impact, marking the first time nuclear weapons have been used since World War II and prompting rapid escalation that could end in all-out nuclear conflict.

The United States and its allies have said they are taking Putin's threats seriously but won't yield to what they described as Putin's blackmail to force the West to abandon its support for Ukraine. Ukraine said it won't halt its counteroffensive despite Russian nuclear strike threats.

U.S. officials have said they don't believe that Kim is going to launch conventional or nuclear attacks because of what the North Korean leader sees happening in Ukraine. Rather, they see Kim as worried that North Korea may be left behind in the international influence battle and therefore escalating because Putin is getting all the attention.

North Korea's missile launches are seen by many

as presaging an eventual test of a nuclear device.

Such tests, besides putting Washington and Seoul on the defensive, may be meant to win talks, on North Korean terms, with Washington that could eventually get the North recognized as a legitimate nuclear power. That, in turn, would force the international community to ease crushing sanctions and, eventually, negotiate the removal of nearly 30,000 U.S. troops in South Korea.

Pyongyang's ultimate goal, according to Lee, the Tufts professor, is to complete what Kim Jong Un's grandfather, Kim Il Sung, began in 1950 with the surprise North Korean invasion of South Korea and establish a Korean Peninsula ruled by the Kim family.

Putin's moves in Ukraine could also help Kim by continuing to distract the United States from focusing on North Korea and deepening a divide on the U.N. Security Council where Russia and China side with North Korea and prevent additional sanctions over the North's recent tests, said Park, the analyst in Seoul.

"North Korea is paying as much attention to the (Ukraine) situation as anyone," Park said. If Putin gets away with using nukes without suffering major repercussions, North Korea will see that as boosting its own nuclear doctrine, Park said.

The Korean Peninsula is still technically at war because the 1950-53 conflict ended with an armistice not a peace treaty, and the two Koreas have a history of bloody skirmishes. North Korea fired artillery during South Korean military drills in 2010 that killed two civilians and two South Korean military members on a front-line island. An international panel also blamed the North for sinking a South Korean warship the same year, killing 46.

Similar future clashes could be followed by North Korean threats to use nuclear weapons, said Park. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1994 ISRAELIS AND ARAFAT SHARE PEACE PRIZE

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and two Israelis, the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, have been named the winners of this year's Nobel peace prize.



The announcement has been marred by the resignation of one of the Nobel peace prize committee members.

Kare Kristiansen objected to the honour being given to the PLO leader, whom he described as "too tainted by violence, terror and torture".

The award has also been overshadowed tonight by the bungled rescue of a kidnapped Israeli soldier from his militant Palestinian captors, which ended in the deaths of the captive, three of his kidnapers and one of his would-be rescuers.

It is the first time the prize has been divided among more than two named individuals and only the third time in the prize's 93-year history that a committee member has broken ranks publicly and quit.

The peace prize follows the historic handshake between the PLO leader and the Israeli Prime Minister on the White House lawn on 13 September 1993, marking an agreement to give the Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The Nobel Committee statement said the award was to honour a political act "one that called for great courage on both sides...By concluding the Oslo accords Arafat, Peres and Rabin have made substantial contributions to a historic process through which peace and cooperation can replace war and hate".

But the failed rescue attempt of Corporal Nahshon Waxman has served to highlight how frail the peace is in the Middle East.

The Israelis had accused Hamas of holding Corporal Waxman in PLO-administered territory. But after the PLO leader ordered a search and detained some 150 suspects, the soldier was eventually found in an Israeli-occupied area of the West Bank.

The kidnapers were demanding the release of their leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and 200 Hamas extremists being held in Israeli jails. Otherwise, they said, they would kill Corporal Waxman.

Mr Rabin refused to negotiate and - an hour before the captors' deadline expired - Mr Rabin ordered the rescue attempt.

He said afterwards: "I would happily give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back the lives of the soldiers who fell.

"Whoever wants to advance peace must fight the radical, murderous terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the rejectionists because they are the murderers of peace."

Middle East experts were surprised at the inclusion of Mr Peres in the award. Although he and Rabin represent the same political party, they are bitter rivals. Both men have claimed the credit for last year's breakthrough.

Today's was the second Nobel peace prize awarded to peacemakers in the Middle East, the first being the 1978 joint award to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The award was controversial and generated a great deal of criticism.

Adrian Hamilton of The Observer called it a "peace of opportunism rather than one of principle".

David Horowitz of the Financial Times said it was a decision based on "hopes of peace rather than peace itself". Events since 1994 have tended to prove them right.

Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated in November 1995 by a right-wing Jewish extremist opposed to the peace process.

Yasser Arafat died in 2004.

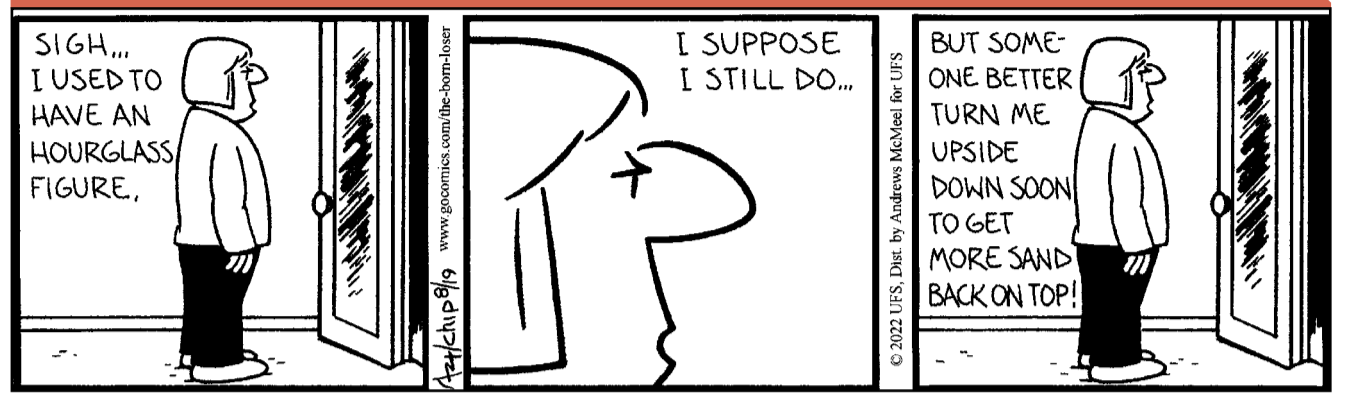


MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

<p><b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Empty promises are evident and deception probable. Rely on the one you love for support and affection.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>You need to concentrate on solving existing problems. Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. You won't have much time for your mate today.</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Don't get involved in other people's problems. Don't let others saddle you with guilt that isn't warranted.</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>Changes in your home will be positive. Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. You could be attracting individuals who are anything but good for you.</p>
<p><b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Pursue outdoor activities or any physical exertion. Social activities or travel should be in your plans. Tempers will mount if you are too pushy at work.</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>You're in the mood to do things such as competitive sports, or perhaps a night on the town. New hair, new outfit, new you. If you've taken on a lot of work, be sure to leave some time for yourself and family.</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>You will enjoy the interaction with youngsters and take great pride in the projects you've completed. You can continue to make gains if you call a few people who can help you close an important deal.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Take the time to do your job correctly or you may find yourself looking for a new one. You could expand your circle of friends if you get involved in unusual activities.</p>
<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. The advice you get today may be based on false information. Problems with relatives and friends could surface.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Be careful with luggage; it may be rerouted. Don't lament to a friend about any grievance regarding your mate, or it may be hard to rectify your relationship.</p>
<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. A residential move may be in order. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are.</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives.</p>

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

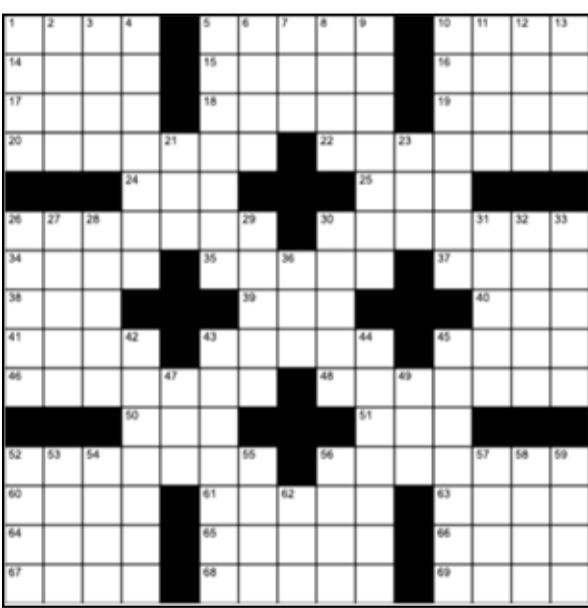
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	21	cloudy
Changchun	7	17	cloudy
Chengdu	13	21	cloudy
Chongqing	17	22	overcast
Fuzhou	20	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	16	31	fine
Guiyang	13	21	fine
Haikou	24	27	cloudy
Hangzhou	14	24	overcast
Harbin	6	16	cloudy
Hefei	10	21	cloudy
Nanjing	12	23	cloudy
Shanghai	18	22	cloudy
Taipei	22	23	rain
Wuhan	9	24	fine
Hong Kong	24	30	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	3	8	rain
Frankfurt	13	16	rain
Paris	16	17	rain
London	10	17	showers
New York	9	20	fine

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Feathered creature; 5- Sidewalk eateries; 10- Stated; 14- Rent-\_\_\_; 15- Love deeply; 16- Cougar; 17- Actress Olin; 18- Song of joy; 19- Asian sea; 20- Prankish; 22- Large sea wave; 24- \_\_\_ polloi; 25- Verse starter?; 26- Put into a list or an inventory; 30- Corridor; 34- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 35- Surpass; 37- Hades; 38- Sushi choice; 39- Drift, make a mistake; 40- Afternoon social; 41- Dance move; 43- Foam; 45- \_\_\_ even keel; 46- Small, sassy woman; 48- Married man; 50- Pro vote; 51- Parisian possessive; 52- Boat race; 56- Graceful antelope; 60- Like some history; 61- Living in a city; 63- Din; 64- South American monkey; 65- Insurgent; 66- Futile; 67- Observed; 68- Short literary composition; 69- Finishes;

**DOWN** 1- Latvian, e.g.; 2- Bakery worker; 3- Royal Indian; 4- Previous monetary unit of Greece; 5- Overturn; 6- Forever's partner; 7- Adversary; 8- Quod \_\_\_ demonstrandum; 9- Carnal; 10- Class where you learn ser, estar, and haber; 11- Glow; 12- Mosque leader; 13- Spanish surrealist; 21- Pond fish; 23- Young \_\_\_; 26- \_\_\_ my case; 27- Iota preceder; 28- Conger catcher; 29- Apply, as pressure; 30- Western Australia's capital; 31- MetLife competitor; 32- Derive; 33- Gnu cousin; 36- \_\_\_-Magnon man; 42- Saliva enzyme; 43- Any part of the face; 44- Within the realm of people's capability; 45- Notice; 47- Court call; 49- Oh yeah? \_\_\_ who?; 52- Goes bad; 53- Ashtabula's lake; 54- Fence opening; 55- Ancient Athens's Temple of \_\_\_; 56- Greek goddess of the earth; 57- It may be floated; 58- Put down; 59- Sea eagles; 62- Small shot;



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- 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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AD

BOOK IT

# HISTORY OF MOVIE ACADEMY FAVORS FACTS OVER MELODRAMA

**F**ILM historians and others digging for a deeper vein of Oscar knowledge than mere trivia will turn up many nuggets in "The Academy and the Award," which focuses on the initial three decades in the corporate life of the sword-wielding statuette.

Bruce Davis' insightful history of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization he served as executive director for 20 years, explains how the academy survived more than one near-death experience, usually related to funding, and created a cultural icon with its award.

The broad story is already known.

The backstory, however, has been unknown or misinterpreted at times, in part because the academy has guarded the minutes of its directors' meetings and other records. That archive was opened for Davis. The inclusion of mundane details in this history is understandable, if tedious at times, since it may well stand for decades until the

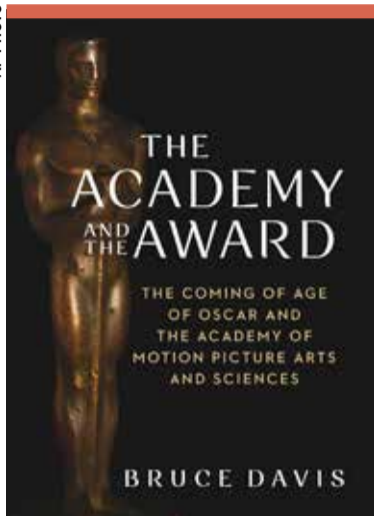
academy lifts the veil again.

Along the way Davis provides an origin story for the Oscar statuette that's as colorful as a superhero's and debunks the legend of how the award got its name (it's complicated). He also unwinds such byzantine decisions as those creating, killing or tinkering with various awards categories. Most revelations in the book are of the boardroom variety and can be rather dry when compared to the stormy, sexy, risky act of moviemaking.

The book rolls to a stop ahead of the tumultuous 1960s, leaving one to wonder what lies in the academy archives about the organization's internal debates, if any, over the impact on its awards and TV show of civil rights, the drug culture, Vietnam and even shootings (the show was postponed in 1968 in the wake of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder and again in 1981 after President Ronald Reagan was shot).

What about Oscar's own scandals, such as the refusal of awards by George C. Scott

AP PHOTO



"The Academy and the Award: The Coming of Age of Oscar and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences" by Bruce Davis (Brandeis University Press)

in 1971 and Marlon Brando in 1973, the presence of a streaker at the 1974 awards show, the Best Picture foul-up in 2017 and, of course, this year's slap seen 'round the world?

Oscar would be lucky to have as keen and even-handed a historian as Davis to explore its next era. **DOUGLASS K. DANIEL, MDT/AP**

ITUNES

# MIKO MARKS DRAWS ON CHURCH ROOTS AND BRIDGES GENRES

**M**IKO Marks created a buzz last month performing at AmericanaFest in Nashville, Tennessee, and his latest album is an engaging encore.

"Feel Like Going Home" is also the follow-up to "Our Country," Marks' 2021 album that marked the revival of her musical career after a hiatus of more than a decade to focus on family.

Marks joins a welcome trend of recent breakouts in country music by Black women who defy genre boundaries. Her new album draws on gospel, the blues, Motown, Memphis soul, Southern rock and more, the result an auditory rainbow to match the visual delight provided on stage by Marks and her band, the Resurrectors.

Marks never oversings, but every note is delivered with fervor on such subjects as deliverance, perseverance, transcendence and empowerment. Her church roots are a unifying element, with singalong choruses out of the choir loft and ballads as prayer.

Steve Wyreman and Justin Phipps produced and wrote the

AP PHOTO



Miko Marks and the Resurrectors, "Feel Like Going Home" (Redtone Records)

material with Marks, and make distinctive contributions on multiple instruments.

"Let me ride, ride, ride to the other side," Marks sings on "The Other Side," and Wyreman's electric slide guitar emerges to show the way. His frantic playing provides an energetic push on "Trouble," a topical stomper inspired by the late civil rights leader John Lewis. The song pairs passionate lyrics with an unspoken message: The joyful momentum of Marks' music is not to be stopped. **STEVEN WINE, MDT/AP**

AD

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AP PHOTO



Park Hae-il, left, and Tang Wei in a scene from "Decision to Leave."

DRIVE IN

# Romance, mystery in Korean noir 'Decision to Leave'

LINDSEY BAHR,  
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

**A**N insomniac detective falls for a beautiful suspect in a suspicious death he's investigating in "Decision to Leave." This deceptively simple premise is stretched over two beguiling hours in director Park Chan-wook's homage to film noir and Alfred Hitchcock. It lulls the viewer, along with the protagonist, into a misty, dreamlike delirium until you're not even certain of what's right in front of your face.

Hae-joon (Park Hae-il) is the detective in question, an elegant, stoic sort who works cases in Busan during the week and spends free weekends with his wife Yoo Mi-ji (Jung Yi-seo), who lives hours away in Ipo. Even his weekend trips home don't always happen — people don't stop murdering because it's the weekend, he explains, but for now the arrangement seems to suit both. He doesn't sleep anyway, so he might as well spend his many, many awake hours in the car.

But his world is soon to be upended by a new case involving

a skilled climber who has been found dead at the bottom of a very peculiar mountain that looks like a very tall, narrow mushroom. And while this fallen climber might seem like a rather straightforward case, it becomes less so once he gets a glimpse at the dead man's beautiful widow, Seo-rae (Tang Wei), who is Chinese. Hae-joon is immediately smitten.

Seo-rae is neither innocent victim nor straightforward femme fatale. She doesn't seem remotely upset that her husband, who is much older and who abused and branded her, is dead. She even

wants to look at the pictures from the crime scene. She laughs at inappropriate moments, which she later explains happens when she's unsure of her Korean, regularly eats ice cream for dinner and provides home care for grannies, who all love her, during the week.

And Hae-joon can't get enough of her either. He stakes out her apartment at night. He watches her at work with the grannies. And they have what might be considered a very strange "date" too, in an interrogation room in the police station with others watching through the one-way glass.

The expensive takeout sushi they consume is filmed so lovingly you half expect it to have its own credit at the end. But it's clear that Hae-joon, who has just instructed his colleague to not spend too much on his own lunch, is making some very peculiar decisions for such a well-respected, methodical detective.

Seo-rae also knows she's being watched and seems to almost like it. Is this romantic? Manipulative? Well, that may depend on the individual viewer, but it is intoxicating in its own way.

But lest you think the "Oldboy" director has opted for sexless sentiment over shock, know that he still takes a certain amount of pleasure zooming in on the ants crawling over the deceased's cloudy eye. It's the first of many nods to obscured vision, from the mists snaking around the roads in Ipo to a pivotal conversation atop a mountain in which one person is wearing a headlamp. And there is a fair amount of humor too, in imperfect text conversations and lost in translation confusions, as well as from Hae-joon's various professional partners, who seem to be in their own workplace comedy.

At times, the intricacies of the plot feel almost sadistically confusing — especially after the case is "solved" and the film transitions into a different phase. It almost demands a second viewing just to parse everything we come to learn about Seo-rae, as well as all the cinematic references from "Vertigo" to Robert Altman's "The Long Goodbye."

But the mystery of the murder is not really the point, is it? This is about an obsession that's both all-encompassing and impossible to rationalize that simply leaves everyone adrift and searching for eternity.

**"Decision to Leave," a MUBI film in limited theatrical release Friday, has not been rated by the Motion Picture Association, but contains adult themes and some disturbing images of dead bodies. Running time: 138 minutes. ★★★★★**

## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



### THE NANPING 1500M TURF 2022-15-10|Sat|14:35

**CANTON Rose** missed his win in his last 1200 turf race, I am confident that this Unencumbered offspring mare could atone and get her chance this Saturday. She is the cut above in this grade, **Canton Rose** returned in excellent order second-up, especially she is now go on further to 1500M this time. With W.H. Lao on her again she gets a good tactical draw in gate 3, she can get a comfortable lead under W.H Lao and dictate the pace all the way. **Canton Rose** is a solid banker investment of the day.

Race 2 Horse no. 7 Canton Rose Win & Place bets



**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BRIGHTER SHARED FUTURE**

Despite the now prevalent Western narratives surrounding such controversial topics as the South China Sea and the Ukraine conflict, there should be little doubt that China is a major provider of international development assistance.

While Western opponents of economic globalization are wrong, and biased, in their assessments that the increasingly globalized industry and supply chains have singularly favored China, it is impossible to overestimate how much China has benefited from globalization.

That is why the Communist Party of China and government leaders tirelessly reiterate their continuous commitment to reform and economic openness, as they know that closing the country's doors to the outside world again would not be in the nation's best interests. Committed to the ideal of "building a community with a shared future for mankind" and shouldering its responsibilities as a major country, China is intent on assuming a more proactive role on the international stage, rather than returning to self-isolation. The country seeks to strengthen the integrity of the postwar system by making it fairer and inclusive.

And having become rich and strong with the help of international resources, from capital to technology and management know-how, China feels the obligation to help other countries, especially developing nations, prosper by offering the same. There are numerous China-sponsored international development aid and exchange programs which the country has launched under the South-South cooperation framework and testify to the sincerity of commitment to being a major contributor to global development.

While some in the West try to distort them with baseless allegations of debt traps and the pursuit of political influence, an outstanding characteristic of Chinese aid programs is that they are entirely development-oriented and are offered with no political strings attached.

The most defining aspect of contemporary Chinese development aid programs has been the impetus they have provided for better global governance. While most governments are concerned about, and all development blueprints boil down to, specific cooperation projects, the Chinese leadership maintains a big picture perspective. Under the ambitious, ultimate goal of "building a community with a shared future for mankind", Beijing has put forward the Global Development Initiative, and is trying hard to align its Belt and Road Initiative as an accelerator for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Contrary to Western criticisms, China-proposed international development initiatives promote harmony and solidarity while facilitating prosperity, making China a builder of world peace and defender of the international order.

**HOW MOSCOW GRABS UKRAINIAN KIDS AND MAKES THEM RUSSIANS**

**THE BUZZ**

Olga Lopatkina paced around her basement in circles like a trapped animal. For more than a week, the Ukrainian mother had heard nothing from her six adopted children stranded in Mariupol, and she was going out of her mind with worry.

The kids had spent their vacation at a resort in the port city, as usual. The questions looped endlessly in her head: Should she try to rescue the children herself — and risk being killed, making them orphans yet again? Or should she campaign to get them out from afar — and risk them being killed or falling into the hands of the Russians?

She had no idea her dilemma would lead her straight into a battle against Russia, with the highest stakes of her life.

Russia's open effort to adopt Ukrainian children and bring them up as Russian is already well underway, in one of the most explosive issues of the war, an Associated Press investigation shows.

Thousands of children have been found in the basements of war-torn cities like Mariupol and at orphanages in the Russian-backed separatist territories of Donbas.

Full story on [macaudailytimes.com](http://macaudailytimes.com)

AP PHOTO



First group of foreign travelers hold souvenirs after arriving at Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan yesterday

**TOURISTS FLOCK TO TAIWAN AS COVID ENTRY RESTRICTIONS EASED**

JOHNSON LAI, TAIPEI

**T**AIWAN lifted all its COVID-19 entry restrictions yesterday, allowing tourists unfettered access to the self-ruled island after over 2 1/2 years of border controls.

Hong Kong and Taiwan, together with mainland China, required most visitors to complete a mandatory quarantine period throughout the pandemic, even as most countries reopened their borders to tourists.

Visitors are no longer required to quarantine upon entry, or take any PCR tests. Instead, they will need to monitor their health for a week after arriving, and obtain a negative result on a rapid antigen test the day they arrive. If people want to go out during the weeklong monitoring period, they need a negative test from either that day or the day before.

There are also no longer any restrictions on certain nationalities being allowed to enter Taiwan.

Dozens of visitors from Thailand were among

the first to arrive under the new rules at Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport, which serves the capital Taipei, on a Tiger Air flight that landed shortly after midnight.

Tourists like 32-year-old Mac Chientachakul and his parents were excited to visit the island.

"Hot pot is my favorite dish in Taiwan," Chientachakul said. "It's my first thing to do [...] I miss it so much."

**Dozens of visitors from Thailand were among the first to arrive under the new rules at Taoyuan airport**

Sonia Chang, a travel agent, said the changes are good for both the the tourism industry and Taiwanese residents, who can now travel abroad without having to quarantine when they get home.

Valaisurang Bhaedhayajibh, a 53-year-old business development director of a design firm, called the new rules convenient.

"We don't have to do the test before coming here, and also after arriving," he said. "We are still required to do the self-test every two days, and everything has been provided" by Taiwanese authorities, including the rapid testing kits.

At a welcome ceremony in the Taoyuan airport's arrival hall, the travelers from Thailand were met by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau's director, Chang Shi-chung, who handed out gifts.

Taiwan's tourism bureau estimated that a total of 244 tourists from some 20 tour groups will arrive yesterday.

With both Hong Kong and Taiwan getting rid of restrictions and welcoming back tourists, mainland China remains one of the few places in the world adamant in keeping borders closed and sticking to a "zero-COVID" strategy to stamp out the virus. Hong Kong ended its mandatory quarantine policy for inbound travelers late last month, requiring just a three-day self-monitoring period. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



**UN** General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to condemn Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of four Ukrainian regions and demand its immediate reversal, a sign of strong global opposition to the seven-month war and Moscow's attempt to grab its neighbor's territory. The vote in the 193-member world body was 143-5 with 35 abstentions. It was the strongest support from the General Assembly for Ukraine and against Russia of the four resolutions it has approved since Russian troops invaded Ukraine Feb. 24.

AP PHOTO



**UK** A senior member of the government rejected suggestions that Prime Minister Liz Truss should step down after lawmakers from her own party criticized Truss for economic policies that have sparked turmoil on financial markets. During a stormy, private meeting with Conservative Party lawmakers on Wednesday evening, Truss was blasted for pursuing an economic growth strategy that benefits the wealthy at the expense of the working class voters who handed the party a landslide victory in 2019.

AP PHOTO



**Norway** A bomb threat against a natural gas processing facility in central Norway forced the site's evacuation and briefly halted operations, police said yesterday, adding later that the threat wasn't credible. The incident came amid heightened security on key energy, internet and power infrastructures following last month's underwater explosions that ruptured two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea that were built to deliver Russian gas to Germany.