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HONG KONG OFFERS NEW VISA TO WOO TALENT AMID BRAIN DRAIN

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AP FILE PHOTO



Australia Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday he will discuss with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida strengthening their bilateral defense and security partnership to counter a more assertive China when the leaders meet in Australia this week. Kishida will make the first visit to Australia by a Japanese prime minister since Shinzo Abe in 2018 when he arrives tomorrow in the west coast city of Perth, officials said.

AP PHOTO



Haiti The United States and Mexico said they are preparing a U.N. resolution that would authorize an international mission to help improve security in Haiti, whose government issued a “distress call” for the people of the crisis-racked nation. Thousands across Haiti organized protests demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. The demonstrations came on the day the country commemorated the death of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, a slave who became the leader of the world’s first Black republic.

AP PHOTO



France President Emmanuel Macron visited Paris’ central mosque yesterday to mark 100 years since it was built - a presidential stop to project that the French leader is representing all factions of French society, united under one secular republic. The visit comes just months after his reelection in April in which debates about the Muslim veil and the role of Islam in secular France — home to Western Europe’s biggest Muslim population — became a political hot potato.

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NATIONAL SECURITY AND INSUFFICIENCY OF COURTS FACILITIES HIGHLIGHTED AT JUDICIARY YEAR OPENING

RENATO MARQUES

THE importance of the preservation of national security as well as the insufficiency of local court facilities was highlighted yesterday during the opening ceremony of the new Judiciary year 2022/2023.

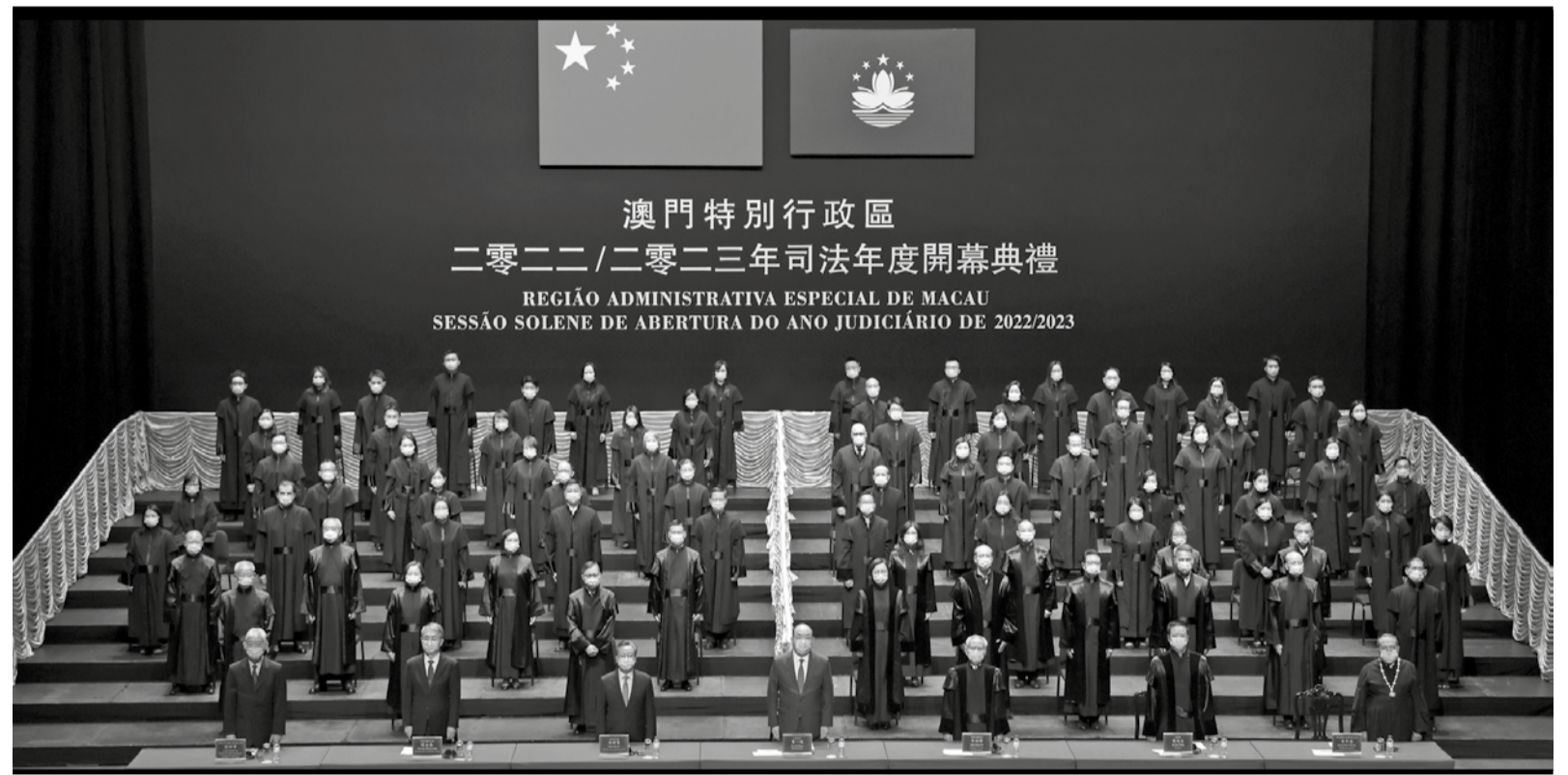
In several speeches, starting with the one from the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, the matters of national security were emphasized, with the CE calling for the need to defend the country as the only way to preserve the rule of law, which has characterized the governance and development of Macau.

"The defense of the State's sovereignty, security, and development interests is the supreme principle of the 'One country, two systems' policy, and the stronger the 'One country', the clearer the advantages of the 'two systems' will be," Ho said.

He added, "In recent years, the international environment has been volatile and complex and the security situation in Macau has tended to deteriorate, which is why it is imperative to strengthen the system and [its] capacity to safeguard national security. To prevent and to stop the interference and sabotage by external forces and firmly safeguard the security and stability of the country and the MSAR (Macau Special Administrative Region) are joint responsibilities of the MSAR government and the judiciary institutions."

The CE also noted that "Since Macau's return to the motherland, judicial bodies have exercised judicial power independently, in strict accordance with the Macau Basic Law, upholding the rule of law with impartiality and justice, and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of residents," he said, noting that this fact helped to ensure the successful application of the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macau governed by its people" with a high degree of autonomy.

Also in the same tone, the Prosecutor-General of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP),



Ip Son Sang noted that one of the important demands for all the staff of the MP in their tasks is to have a "correct understanding of the 'One country, two systems' principle" as well as to "conscious defense of national security and ensuring the stable development of Macau," he said, adding that the "Love for the motherland and Macau are core values of Macau society. Only with respect for history and in-depth dissemination of feelings of love for the Motherland and Macau can the principle and connotation of 'One country, two systems' be properly understood."

For Ip, facts prove that the stable and prosperous development of Macau since the handover "is inseparable from the successful implementation of the policy of 'One country, two systems', which is an integral concept, in which the 'One country' [principle] is the cornerstone of the 'Two Systems' principle, so only with the faithful fulfillment of the 'One Country' principle can one follow to the harmonious coexistence with the 'two systems'."

The Prosecutor-General also highlighted that only with the safeguarding of the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of the State, the firm implementation of the general concept of national security, and the dedication to the prevention and repression of any unlawful acts against the security of the State, can Macau guarantee its sustainable development.

Ip's comments came in a sequence of what he called a "new era of ever-changing complex international environment and diverse external challenges," making a specific reference to "recent provocative acts by the United States of America and some Western countries [aiming] to arbitrarily destroy the 'One China' principle."

Doing an exhaustive statistics presentation, the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), Sam Hou Fai, noted that, in general, the number of cases entering the courts has dropped for the sixth consecutive year, being the decrease when compared with last judiciary year of around 10.1%.

Both Sam and Ip made use of the figures to demonstrate that the judiciary system has been working well, with Sam adding that there has been a faster resolution for the majority of the cases as well as fewer appeals

from the courts' decisions.

Another of the topics addressed by Sam and later on by the president of the Macau Lawyers' Association, Jorge Neto Valente, was related to the insufficiency and weaknesses of the court facilities, which have been recently highlighted by the trial involving the former junket company Suncity Group.

The president of the TUI noted that courts need more and better facilities to be able to undertake their important tasks, while Neto Valente proposed it toughen its stance saying, "It is not just about the appearance of the room - the smallness of the facilities - which could well have led the court to hold the trial in a space worthy of a public building with the appropriate size for the number of participants" that matters the most, but, the fact that such restrictions are ultimately causing a "limitation on the rights of the defense and the defendants, and that is not acceptable," he remarked.

For Neto Valente, besides the improvements in the facilities, which he hopes will come soon, there is lacking, more importantly, "a broader debate on the reform of the courts and judi-

ciary bodies," he said, claiming that the justice in Macau "remains slow and delayed, with cases that have been dragging on for years, with trial hearings in civil cases scheduled for the last quarter of next year and, in criminal cases, appointments several months away."

For Neto Valente, more important than the figures cited by Sam and Ip of the reduction of the number of new cases and other statistics, is the number of pending cases, namely in the Court of First Instance and Criminal Investigation Court, which continues to grow.

For the president of the lawyer's association, more important than to display figures is to understand if, in reality, "we are doing things better than we did before."

"Whoever is satisfied with what is done does not progress. It is not enough to state wishes for them to come true. We need qualified professionals, people with talent and courage, who discuss, criticize, and point out solutions, and not just applaud what has been done and keep imposing their opinion, silencing dissenting voices and despising the ideas of others," he concluded.

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GRAND PRIX

Quarantine reduction for GP riders in the pipeline

RENATO MARQUES

THE medical observation quarantine period for the riders coming from Europe to participate in the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix next month might be reduced from the current seven days to “four or five” the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, said yesterday on the sidelines of the opening of the Judiciary year.

Questioned by the media on the possibility of reducing the quarantine time especially for those riders, Ao Ieong said that the government and the health authorities are considering the possibility of a special plan that would include four to five days in isolation and additional daily nucleic acid testing (NAT) on the following days.

The Times also learned from people close to the organization



RENATO MARQUES

of the event, who wish to remain anonymous, that during the invitation and negotiation period with the racers, one of the attraction points used by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) to attract the foreign riders to return to Macau, was an “unwritten” promise that “by the time of their arrival to Macau they would benefit from a reduced

quarantine [from the current 7+3 rule].”

More than one person has mentioned to the Times the number of “three days” or “3+4,” but remarked that this was only hinted at in the context of negotiation as a possibility and was never officially granted.

According to the president of the Sports Bureau and Coordinator of the MGPOC, the event

will include the presence of 10 riders coming from the UK, Portugal, Germany, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands.

The Grand Prix event goes on track on November 17 with the arrival of the riders to Macau being expected between the last few days of October and the first days of November.

ZHANG RONGSHUN LEAVES LIAISON OFFICE IN MACAU

The State Council has approved the cessation of appointment of Zhang Rongshun as deputy director of the Central People's Government's Liaison Office in Macau, the office announced on its website. No announcement as to Zhang's future position has been made so far. Zhang assumed the position in June 2018. Prior to his appointment to the Liaison Office, he worked in several national-level positions, such as the SARs Affairs Office of the State Council, as well as being the vice chair at the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Zhang is 59 years old.

RUNNING COMPETITION TO BLOCK NUMEROUS ROADS

From 9 a.m. this Saturday to 10 a.m. this Sunday, a number of public roads will be cordoned off to facilitate a running competition. The traffic suspension will also affect a number of bus routes, such as 15, 21A, 22 and 25. Affected bus stops will be out of service from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. this Sunday. Concerned areas include the coastal district from Ocean Garden to near Galaxy Macau, as well as certain areas within the Concordia Industrial Park. Measures such as parking space suspensions, as well as limited or completely blocked traffic will be implemented in these roads.

JUDICIAL YEAR 22/23

Top lawyer says hard to tell yet what changes in new national security law

RENATO MARQUES

THE president of the Macau Lawyers' Association (AAM), Jorge Neto Valente, said that at the current stage (public consultation) it is difficult to understand clearly the real changes that the government wants to promote on the national security law.

Neto Valente's comments were issued on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the new Judiciary year, where he said that the AAM has been invited by the Secretary for Security to deliver a legal opinion on the new law, which it did.

For Neto Valente, it is difficult to understand exactly the real scope of the changes as “the public consultation document has only broad concepts and principles which are not the articles of the law,” he explained.

“We need to wait for the real bill. Only when we have the real articles, can we understand what is coming,” he said, adding also that he does not feel too bothered with the fact that Macau



RENATO MARQUES

is legislating on the matter.

“All countries have laws on national security and as China has been recently provoked by other countries in several aspects of its sovereignty and even in [matters] related to trade and other things, it's normal that China wants to defend itself,” Neto Valente said, while noting that the Article 23 of the Macau Basic Law already regulates on this matter and that under this law nobody was ever accused or tried.

“I think that maybe that [Ar-

ticle 23 of the Basic Law] was enough, but let's see. If [the bill] comes with broad concepts, then we have a problem,” he remarked, noting that besides the rule itself, the law must be very specific and concrete, taking the details of its application to the point of hairsplitting.

“The only way to prevent several interpretations and broad interpretations of the same law is to take its concepts and application to the [finer] detail,” he concluded.

ENCOUNTER IN MACAO

CHINA AND LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES FILM FESTIVAL TO OPEN IN EARLY NOVEMBER

THE China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival, integrated in the fourth edition of the “Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries” will be held from November 4 to 18.

Themed “All Rivers Flow to the Sea,” this year's film festival will present nearly 30 films from China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The opening film, In Search of Lost Time, will be screened on November 4 at the Galaxy Cinemas.

This year's festival is divided into three sections, namely, “As Inclusive as the Ocean,” “China Films” and “Portuguese-speaking Films,” highlighting the “spirit of exchange and inclusion, mutual understanding

and pioneering between China (including Macau) and Portuguese-speaking countries and regions,” as cited in a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Also, in a bid to introduce more films to the community, the film The Boy and the World will be screened on October 29 at 2:45 p.m. at the Taipa Houses Amphitheatre, with free admission.

Members of the public who dine in at participating restaurants at the Broadway Food Street, from October 18 to November 3, are eligible to receive a voucher to redeem two film tickets for the opening film In Search of Lost Time during this period, at the Cultural Affairs Bureau Building during office hours. LV



ANTHONY LAM

MICE

MULTI-FAIRS RECORD INCREASE IN SME PARTICIPANTS

LYNZY VALLES

THE 27th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) is again set to take place in both online and offline formats from today until October 22 with Zhejiang province as its partner province in a bid to reinforce regional co-operation.

The Macao Franchise Expo 2022 (2022MFE) and the 2022 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macao) (2022PLPEX) is also taking place alongside the MIF.

To promote the city's economic diversification, this year's exhibitions focus on seven areas: regional co-operation, the platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, "Industry + MICE" collaboration, the big health industry, cultural and creative industries, high-tech industry and the support for SMEs.



With a total exhibition area of 29,300 square metres, the three exhibitions set up more than 1,800 booths, including 389 booths for local SMEs, up by 27.5% compared to last year.

As of Tuesday, there were more than 1,000 on-site exhibitors and over 1,200 online exhibitors, with around 3,700 exhibits available online. Online and on-site exhibitors are from mainland China, Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal, Hong Kong and Macau regions, covering industries such as traditional Chinese medicine,

technological innovation, culture and creativity, food and catering, and retail services.

Compared to last year, the number of on-site exhibitors has increased by 12.8%. In the meantime, more than 2,000 buyers and procurement groups will also be organised to participate in online and offline exhibitions. During the three-day exhibitions, more than 50 themed business matching sessions, forums, conferences and exchange promotion sessions will take place.

A "Zhejiang Pavilion" and a "Zhejiang Commo-

ditities Pavilion" will be set up to showcase Zhejiang-themed images and a number of local products. In the meantime, Zhejiang province will organise the participation of nearly 30 local enterprises at the MIF in Macau.

The "Macao Pavilion" will set up an exhibition area for the "Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Co-operation Zone in Hengqin."

The three exhibitions, which are all accredited by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI), will be held concurrently at Cotai Expo, The Venetian Macao.

MDT ARCHIVE



SMES

F&B REVENUES DROP 6% IN AUGUST

REVENUES of restaurants and similar establishments interviewed as part of a Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) survey dropped by 6.3% year-on-year in August 2022, with Local Style Cafes, Congee & Noodle Shops and Western Restaurants recording respective decreases of 13.5% and 10.1%.

However, data from the DSEC shows that in comparison with July, the sector's receipts surged by 159.5% in August.

Still, the baseline was low as the sector suffered from the partial lockdown that led to a halt in services for non-essential businesses. Restaurants were only operating take-away services.

As regards the business expectations for September,

52% of the interviewed restaurants & similar establishments were expecting their receipts to increase month-on-month in September.

On the other hand, 15% of the interviewed establishments predicted that their receipts would decrease month-on-month in September. Meanwhile, half of the interviewed retailers anticipated month-on-month sales growth in September.

The sample of the Business Climate Survey on Restaurants & Similar Establishments and Retail Trade comprises 229 restaurants & similar establishments and 161 retailers, which accounted for 53.5% and 70.6% of the respective industry's receipts in 2019. **LV**

GAMING

The Star fined AUD100m over money-laundering activities

LYNZY VALLES

AUSTRALIAN gaming giant Star Entertainment Group has been fined AUD100 million amidst pressure to reform their operations following reports of money-laundering activities.

The group's license to operate its Sydney casino, The Star, has also been suspended, as it has failed to deter money-laundering inside the casino.

In several inquiries this year in the state of New South Wales (NSW) investigating whether the Australian casino is still fit to hold a gaming license, evidence was heard that private gaming rooms at The Star's casino only shut down following the arrest of junket mogul Alvin Chau.

Wealthy Chinese gam-



blers have allegedly been encouraged to deposit millions of dollars into a junket operator's Macau bank account, a red flag in respect of money-laundering controls.

The AUD100 million fine was announced on Monday and is the maximum fine allowed.

However, the NSW Independent Casino Commission stopped short of

removing Star's license altogether, to protect thousands of jobs, as cited in a BBC report.

The casino, however, will still operate, under a manager appointed by the regulator.

The Star pledged that it would "do everything in [its] power" to regain its license and the public's trust, and that it is committed to "charting a path

back to suitability."

With the cancellation of numerous contracts between Suncity and casino regulators following the scandals surrounding the recent arrest of its CEO Alvin Chau, a senior Star executive admitted before an inquiry in March that the promoter to ultra-wealthy Chinese gamblers "was still operating at the Star, albeit not under the Suncity banner."

The announcement contradicted the gaming operator's statement back in 2019 that the two companies had already terminated their relationship – a relationship which came to light after a scandal in 2019 when Australian newspapers The Age and the Herald Sun revealed the operator's ties to powerful Asian crime syndicates.

SJM HOSTS RECEPTION FOR CHINESE NATIONAL DAY

AFTER its management overhaul, casino operator SJM Resorts, S.A. and its employee welfare department held a reception yesterday to celebrate the People's Republic of China.

Daisy Ho, the two-week-old managing director of the casino concessionaire, officiated at the reception Tuesday, alongside Angela Leong, lawmaker and president of the employee welfare department. Also present were SJM's secretary-general and lawyer Rui Cunha as well as lawmaker and lawyer Vong Hin Fai, advisor for SJM's Employer-Employee Negotiation Committee.

Leong departed from managing director as Ho took office.

During her speech, Ho emphasized that "as the

gambling industry is entering a new era in Macau, SJM remains completely confident in the city's future. We will continue to fully support the government in fostering economic diversification and innovation, as well as [presenting] exquisite images for Macau and mainland China."

Leong, on the other hand, used her speech to celebrate the achievements of China in the Winter Olympics, the Winter Paralympics and its aeronautic missions. "[These achievements] signify the inexhaustible energy of the Chinese people to progress and improve," she remarked. "I believe, with the support of the local and national governments, Macau will definitely march towards a better future." **AL**

Lawmakers dissatisfied with lack of budget for LRT East Line

ANTHONY LAM

AT a recent presentation session at the parliament, lawmakers expressed concerns over the lack of budget and operational costs for the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line.

Officials from the transport and public works sector of the government presented plans on the Line and the New Urban Zone A to lawmakers, who questioned the fact that the officials had not provided a budget for the transport project.

Even President Kou Hoi In of the parliament spoke out against the matter, remarking that the government should be more open and transparent, so that the public can provide more constructive suggestions.

In addition, Kou believes that even if the future checks are more expensive than the announced budgets, with thorough explanation of the matter, the public will eventually understand.

In response to the queries, Secretary for Transport and Public

ANTHONY LAM



Works Raimundo do Rosário stated that the government did budget for the project, but he feared that announcing the budget would trigger public skepticism.

The senior official used the opportunity to complain about "irrational criticisms" from the public on public construction projects. Citing traces of over-budget in the 51 projects, which exceed MOP100 million in budgeted costs currently in progress,

he boasted that a great improvement had been achieved, but no credit had ever been given to his staff of over 3,000 members.

He said further that most public transport systems operate with losses. The government is considering the possibility of introducing commercial elements to the LRT system to compensate for its losses.

Apart from the lack of commercial allotments at the LRT

system, which can at least cater to the needs of commuters, lawmakers have repeatedly blamed the government for omitting this since the opening of the LRT.

To support the need for the LRT, Rosário reiterated that the city has reached its limit for road transport.

Another topic that garnered concerns from lawmakers is whether the planned facilities

will be able to cater to the needs of the planned 100,000-people population in Zone A.

The parliamentary president worried that Zone A would be more populous than the government has imagined, considering the fact that the LRT East Line will connect four border checkpoints, in addition to the government's proposal to build a cable car system on the zone.

Nonetheless, only four roads have been built or planned to link the zone with the main peninsula. Kou suggested that the government be a planner instead of a mere problem-fixer.

On the design of the eight future government housing projects allotted to Zone A, Rosário assured the meeting that the eight architects or designers would synchronize the buildings' design styles. Bidders for the construction projects are required to follow the design schemes.

He then reiterated that about 20,000 out of the city's 238,000 residential apartments are vacant or not regularly occupied. Based on this, he assumed that not all of the 32,000 residential apartments in the Zone A would be occupied in the future.

The senior official also admitted that he is not confident about the ability of Zone A to help with the Areia Preta district in terms of public facility capacity.

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ANALYSIS

Chinese path gives world 'new choice'

CAO DESHENG, CHINA DAILY

AT a crucial moment in which China is embarking on a new journey to build a modern socialist country in all respects, the Communist Party of China has mapped out an ambitious blueprint to comprehensively advance Chinese modernization, a central task it has laid out for the next five years and beyond to realize national rejuvenation.

When delivering a report on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee at the opening session of the 20th CPC National Congress on Sunday, Xi Jinping expounded on what the Chinese path to modernization looks like and how it works, and said that it offers humanity a "new choice" for achieving modernization.

Highlighting that Chinese modernization is socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the Party, Xi said

that it contains elements that are common to the modernization processes of all countries, but "it is more characterized by features that are unique to the Chinese context".

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, generations of Chinese people have sought to realize the country's modernization.

After China completed the historic task of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in 2021, Xi ushered in a new stage for the Chinese nation to become modernized on all fronts in the next few decades.

He explained in the report to the 20th CPC National Congress that China's modernization will be shared by a large population, and features the common prosperity of all its people, material abundance and cultural-ethical enrichment, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development.

In a two-step strategic plan,

China aims to basically realize socialist modernization by 2035, and then build a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by the middle of this century.

A series of steps have been set out in the report, including significantly increasing economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and composite national strength; basically modernizing the system and capacity for governance; improving the system for whole-process people's democracy; and substantially growing the middle-income group.

Alessandro Golombiewski Teixeira, a professor of public policy at Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy and Management, said that common prosperity has become one of the most important concepts guiding Chinese policymakers in recent years.

"This is a bold commitment

for all Chinese, and common prosperity will become an important feature of China's socialist modernization," Teixeira said in an article published on the website of China Global Television Network.

"China's practice of pursuing common prosperity is of great global significance. If it succeeds, it will provide the world, especially the vast number of developing countries, with a choice of their own development path."

Alexander Ayertey Odonkor, a Ghanaian author, economic consultant and chartered financial analyst, commended China's ecological conservation efforts while maintaining rapid economic development during the course of its modernization drive.

He said in an opinion piece on the CGTN website that China has sought to balance sustained economic growth, protect the natural environment, and boost harmonious coexistence be-

tween humanity and the natural environment — an impressive feat that presents the country as a unique example of how to balance economic growth and protect nature.

Externally, China's modernization faces a more volatile international landscape that is speedily evolving. Factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine crisis, the increasing geopolitical competition and mounting protectionism and unilateralism have complicated China's development environment.

PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT

Xi said in the report that China has entered a period of development in which strategic opportunities, risks and challenges are concurrent and uncertainties and unforeseen factors are rising. He stressed that in pursuing modernization, China will not tread the old path of war, colonization and plunder taken by some countries.

INTERVIEW

China's model of modernization is unique, said expert

LYDIA LIU, GDTODAY

THE 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) kicked off on October 16 in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a report to the Congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee, which highlighted CPC's work in the past decade and its future plans.

"We can actually observe China's whole-process people's democracy through the Congress," said Xia Lu, Research Fellow at the National Academy of Development and Strategy of Remin University of China (RUC) and Associate Professor of RUC's School of Marxism Studies, in his interview with GDToday.

"The almost 97 million CPC members elected 2,296 representatives to the 20th CPC National Congress from different regions, fields and industries. This is a practice of intra-Party democracy, which sets an example for the democratic development in Chinese society at large," Xia elaborated. "And the development of whole-process people's democracy is one of

the essential requirements of Chinese modernization."

HOW TO UNDERSTAND CHINA'S MODERNIZATION?

Now the CPC is on a new journey toward building a modern socialist China in all respects and aims to basically realize socialist modernization by 2035, so the next five years will be crucial for the task off to a good start, the report to the 20th CPC National Congress said.

"China's path to modernization is unique," Xia said and stated five reasons. "First, China has the largest population in the world. The fruit of its modernization will be shared among 1.4 billion Chinese people, which is an arduous endeavor unseen in previous modernized countries."

The second aspect, according to Xia, is that China's modernization aims to achieve common prosperity, which means no one will be left behind in the process of China's social, economic and cultural development, as well as environmental improvements.

"The third point is that China's path to moderniza-

tion features both material and cultural advancement," Xia went on, "Chinese culture lays the foundation for material achievements."

The fourth characteristic of China's modernization, in Xia's view, is that it attaches importance to the balance between social economic development and nature preservation. "The previous models of modernization across the world tend to sacrifice natural environment for material or economic advancement. That will not be the case of China," Xia noted.

Last but not least, Xia said that China will not follow the path of some modernized countries who have accumulated their wealth by exploiting or colonizing foreign nations. "China will pursue the modernization through peaceful development, coordination and cooperation."

WHAT HAS CHINA ACHIEVED IN THE PAST DECADE?

"Most of the achievements over the past ten years are very tangible and observable, such as econo-

mic development. And the sky has become bluer; the air has become cleaner; the water has become fresher," Xia elaborated. "Many tough problems remaining unsolved in previous times have been solved; many things of vital importance and long-term significance have been accomplished."

"The first example is the accomplishment of China's poverty alleviation task," Xia said. In February 2021, China announced its all-round victory in the fight against poverty, where around 800 million people had been raised from poverty, according to the World Bank's international poverty standard. This means China achieved the first target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

"The second example is that in 2021, China's per capita GDP reached more than 12,000 USD," Xia told the reporter. "It is a signal that China has the potential capacity for becoming developed and more prosperous."

"When China estab-

lished diplomatic ties with European countries including UK and Germany fifty years ago, Chinese diplomats were amazed by the rich diversity of goods, dazzling stores and bright classrooms in those countries," Xia furthered, "But now we have seen remarkable social transformations and economic development in our own country, and these achievements are enjoyed by each and every Chinese person."

For future development, Xia took Guangdong province for example. "Guangdong is a forerunner of China's reform and opening-up. Among China's four special economic zones, there are three in Guangdong, which are Shen-

zhen, Zhuhai and Shantou," Xia said.

"In the next 5 or 10 years, Guangdong should further its opening-up, welcoming more foreign companies to trade and invest in the province and encouraging our professionals, scholars, students and media to fully participate in international cooperation," Xia added.

GDTODAY



Xia Lu, Remin University of China

“Dedicated to peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, we will strive to safeguard world peace and development as we pursue our own development, and we will make greater contributions to world peace and development through our own development,” he said.

Experts said that the Chinese path to modernization has brought new elements of value to the international order. It provides an alternative to the Western model of modernization, expands the channels for developing countries to achieve modernization, and offers a Chinese approach to human progress, they said.

Yang Guangbin, a professor of political science at Renmin University of China, said that no developed country in the West has developed without relying on war, colonization and plunder.

Instead of plundering through war, China has risen through peaceful development, which is fundamentally different from the way that Western countries have risen and influenced the world, he said.

China's experience offers “China's solution” and China's inspiration to developing countries that want to develop while maintaining their independence, he added. **CHINA DAILY**



The Lancang-Mekong Express starts its first trip from Kunming in Yunnan province to Laos, the capital of Vientiane, on Jan 10, 2022



SECURITY

One of world's safest countries: Official

WANG CONG, XINHUA

CHINA is widely acknowledged as one of the safest countries in the world, Xu Ganlu, vice minister of public security, told a press

conference here yesterday.

Noting that China is one of the countries with the lowest homicide rate and the lowest number of gun- and explosives-related cases,

Xu said the country has witnessed significant drops in the numbers of criminal cases and safety accidents over the past decade.

The number of major criminal acts including

homicides and rapes in 2021 was 64.4 percent lower than that of 2012, while the numbers of drug-related crimes, robberies and thefts also dropped by 56.8 percent, 96.1 percent and 62.6 percent respectively, Xu told journalists on the sidelines of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

According to a survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2021, some 98.6 percent of those polled felt safe living in China, up by 11 percentage points from 2012, he said.

The vice minister said some 3,800 police officers had sacrificed their lives in the past 10 years in the process of defending social security and stability.

Nonetheless, Xu said China will continue to crack down on organized crime and root out local criminal gangs on an ongoing basis and focus its efforts on serious criminal offenses of major concerns to the public, to better safeguard national security, social stability and interests of the people. **XINHUA**

LAW

CHINA TO STEP UP JUDICIAL PROTECTION OF IPR: SENIOR JUDGE

CHINESE judicial agencies will step up protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in a bid to support the country's drive to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, a senior judge said.

Sound rules will be introduced to protect IPR in sectors such as big data, artificial intelligence and genetic technologies, and judicial actions will be enhanced against monopolies and unfair competition, He Rong, vice president of the Supreme People's Court (SPC), told a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Greater efforts will be made to regulate and guide the sound development of capital, He said, adding that judicial agencies will also advance international cooperation and exchanges.

Over the past decade, China has made notable progress in judicial protection of IPR, according to He.

The number of IPR law-

suits closed in the first instance has totaled 2.74 million since 2013, registering an average yearly increase of 24.5 percent, she said.

Lawsuits concerning IPR have covered a wide scope of cases involving patents, trademarks, copyrights, business secrets, integrated circuit designs, new plant species, geographic indications, monopolies and unfair competition.

Consumers' rights and the rights of people having new forms of employment have been better protected.

The IPR court under the SPC and four specialized courts for IPR in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and the Hainan Free Trade Port have facilitated the country's reform on IPR case settlement.

With persistent efforts to ensure foreign entities enjoy equal legal protection in China, more and more foreign enterprises have settled their IPR disputes at Chinese courts, He said.

XINHUA

PUTIN'S WAR

Russia evacuates occupied Ukrainian city, orders martial law

HANNA ARHIROVA
& SABRA AYRES, KYIV

RUSSIAN forces launched mass evacuations of civilians yesterday from one of the first major cities they seized in the invasion of Ukraine — a tacit acknowledgement that yet another stinging battlefield defeat may be unfolding for President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine's stunning counteroffensive appears to be bearing down on Kherson, a southern city of more than 250,000 people, with industries and a major port on the Dnieper River. The battle for the city is a pivotal moment for both Ukraine and Russia heading into winter, when cold and difficult conditions could largely freeze front lines until the spring thaw.

In what could be another sign that his invasion is not going as planned, Putin ordered martial law yesterday in four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed in recent weeks and where Russian forces have full or partial control. The region surrounding Kherson that bears the same name is among them.

What had previously been a trickle of evacuations from the city in recent days was becoming a flood. Residents could be seen on Russian state television crowding on the Dnieper's banks, many with small children, to cross by boats to the east — and, from there, deeper into Russian-controlled territory.

Text messages warned residents to expect shelling and said buses were being prepared for them to leave, Russian state media reported. Leaflets told evacuees that they could take the weight equivalent of two large suitcases, medicines and food for a few days.

Moscow-backed authorities have said evacuations from occupied territories are voluntary. But in many cases, the only routes out are to Russia.

"It's better to evacuate people in case the fighting starts to involve artillery shelling and bombing of the city, and that's what we are doing now," said Vladimir Saldo, the region's Moscow-installed head.

Andriy Yermak, head of



A dead Russian soldier lies on the ground, in the village of Zarechne, Donetsk region

the Ukrainian presidential office, called the evacuation "a propaganda show" and said Russia's claims that Kyiv's forces might shell Kherson were "a rather primitive tactic, given that the Armed Forces do not fire at Ukrainian cities."

Ukrainian forces have rolled back Russian positions on the river's west bank in recent weeks, and the region's Moscow-installed administrators now appeared to be hoping that the Dnieper's wide, deep waters will act as a natural barrier against those approaching forces.

In a rare acknowledgment of the pressure that Kyiv's troops are exerting on the ground, Russia's new commander for Ukraine on Tuesday described the situation for Russian forces in the Kherson region as "very difficult." Russian bloggers have interpreted Gen. Sergei Surovkin's comments as a warning of a possible pullback of Moscow's forces.

Kherson is one of four partly or fully-occupied regions that Russia illegally annexed last month, in an effort — widely condemned and rejected by Western nations — to cement its land-grabs.

Putin's martial law order extended to all four regions. He also gave emergency extra powers to the heads of Russian regions.

Putin didn't immediately spell out the powers that martial law would grant. But they could include restrictions on travel and public gatherings, tighter censorship and broader powers for law enforcement agencies.

Proving incapable of holding all the territory his mi-

litary has seized and struggling with manpower and equipment losses, Putin has stepped up bombardments from the air, with a scorched-earth campaign targeting Ukrainian power plants and other key infrastructure.

Those tactics contrast with the Kremlin's strategy in the invasion's opening stages in February, when Russian commanders had seemingly sought to spare some utilities they perhaps thought they might later need.

But after being routed from around the capital, Kyiv, and then pushed back in the south and east by the ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive launched in late summer, with the backing of Western-supplied weaponry, Moscow is now increasingly resorting to targeting Ukraine's power plants and other energy infrastructure, threatening a miserable winter for millions of Ukrainians.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted Tuesday that nearly a third of the country's power stations have been destroyed since Oct. 10, causing "massive blackouts" nationwide.

Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians to make "a very conscious" effort to save power, speaking before another night where substations and other infrastructure were pounded.

Shelling knocked out power and water in some parts of Enerhodar, Mayor Dmytro Orlov said. The southern city is next to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is one of the most worrisome flashpoints of the nearly eight-month invasion.

Missiles severely dama-

ged an energy facility in the region of Kryvyi Rih, a city in south-central Ukraine, the regional governor reported. He said the strike cut power to villages, towns and to one city district.

Western nations have promised more air-defense systems to help Ukraine counter the aerial assault that is testing the resilience Ukrainians have shown since Moscow invaded.

A newly arrived German-supplied air defense system has been deployed and is performing well against the Russian strikes, Zelenskyy said.

He thanked Ukrainian soldiers who shot down missiles and Iranian-made drones that have targeted energy facilities.

Iran has denied supplying drones to Russia, even though the ones now used to strike Ukrainian targets have been identified by Ukraine and Western nations as Shahed drones, a comparatively cheap, unmanned aircraft that Iranian armament facilities make in large numbers.

Across Ukraine, Russian strikes killed at least six civilians and wounded 16 in the latest 24-hour period, the president's office said yesterday. It said Russian forces attacked nine southeastern regions of Ukraine using drones, rockets and heavy artillery, focusing on energy facilities.

Four cities were attacked around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, the largest in Europe, with residential buildings damaged. In Enerhodar, where plant workers live, electricity and water was partially lost. MDT/AP

this day in history

1967 THOUSANDS JOIN ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT



The biggest demonstration yet against American involvement in the Vietnam War has taken place in the town of Oakland, in California.

An estimated 4,000 people poured onto the streets to demonstrate in a fifth day of massive protests against the conscription of soldiers to serve in the war.

The city was brought to a standstill as protesters built barricades across roads to prevent buses carrying recruits to the Army's conscription centre.

Police reinforcements came in from San Francisco as the protests turned violent.

Demonstrators, many wearing helmets and holding plywood shields, overturned cars and threw bottles, tin cans and stones at the police.

Four people were injured and seven arrested.

There was no repeat of the scenes three days ago, however, when police in Oakland used clubs and chemical sprays to clear the streets.

The heavy-handed treatment of demonstrators caused outrage throughout the country.

Today's demonstration was part of what is being called "Stop the Draft Week" — a nationwide initiative which has seen peace marches in cities across the United States.

It is expected to move to Washington DC tomorrow, and demonstrators are said to be targeting all roads to the capital.

It is thought up to 40,000 could join a protest march from the Lincoln Memorial to the Pentagon.

The demonstrators are trying to disrupt military induction centres, encouraging large numbers of young men to turn in their draft cards.

Many are burning the cards — an illegal act under a law passed by Congress two years ago.

About 50 conscientious objectors have already been sent to jail for their protest.

It is estimated up to 7,000 have left the country, mainly to Canada, to avoid the draft.

Recent polls suggest that American support for the war in Vietnam is declining steadily.

President Johnson is under attack from those who believe he is not being aggressive enough on Vietnam as well as those who think he should withdraw.

A Gallup poll published earlier this month showed his popularity rating plummeting to the point where if an election were held at this point in his term of office, he would lose by a landslide.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The anti-war movement grew from strength to strength, until in March 1968 President Johnson announced a pause in the bombing of North Vietnam to start negotiations for peace. At the same time, he announced he would not be standing for re-election as President. He left office in 1968, while the war was still at its height.

Lyndon Johnson continued to be closely involved in negotiations for peace in Vietnam, in an initiative which culminated in the Paris Peace Accords of 1973.

He did not live to see the treaty signed. Five days before, on 22 January 1973, he died suddenly of a heart attack at his Texas ranch. The hated draft ended in the same year, and America converted to an "all-volunteer military". Despite the Accords, the fighting in Vietnam continued until the Saigon government surrendered to the Vietcong in April 1975.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. It's time to make professional changes.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Emotional up and downs have caused doubts in your personal life. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You can make money if you pursue your own business. Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Try to calm down emotionally about personal financial matters. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Don't let any money slip through your fingers today. Channel your energy wisely and you can score points with the boss. Move into a leadership position if you are determined to do so.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You should put a little extra effort in at work. Communications with loved ones may be strained. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Get down to business and do the work yourself. Problems with in-laws or relatives may be more damaging than you realize. You should be putting in some overtime.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. You will need to finalize important deals today. Heart to heart talks will clear up vague issues.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You are best to be discreet. You may find yourself changing plans for some form of entertainment. A new image can be the result if you change your look. You should be on the road.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness today. Travel and social activity will bring about interesting talks, not to mention contacts. Pamper yourself today.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Extravagance and overindulgence are not a cure if you're feeling sorry for yourself. You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard today.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

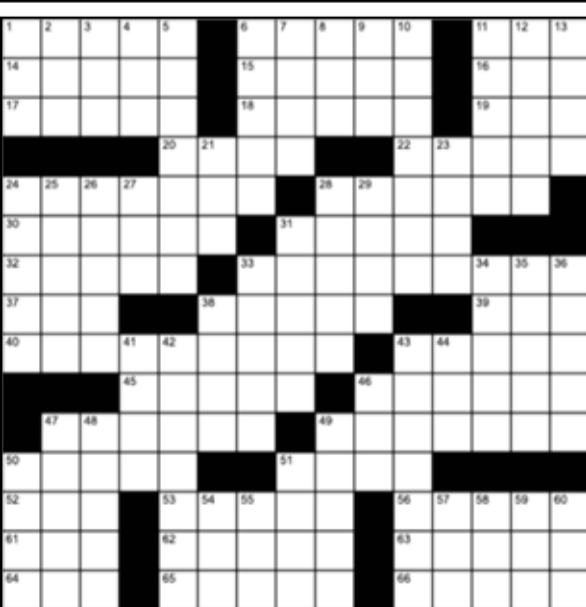
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	6	17	cloudy
Changchun	11	19	fine
Chengdu	16	25	fine
Chongqing	16	30	fine
Fuzhou	17	25	cloudy
Guangzhou	21	30	cloudy
Guiyang	14	23	cloudy
Haikou	24	27	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	13	24	cloudy
Harbin	9	17	cloudy
Hefei	14	24	cloudy
Nanjing	14	23	cloudy
Shanghai	16	22	cloudy
Taipei	21	25	cloudy
Wuhan	17	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	2	7	cloudy
Frankfurt	13	17	cloudy
Paris	16	21	rain
London	12	17	rain
New York	6	15	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Ships' officers; 6- Sketches; 11- Rickey ingredient; 14- Whiskey type; 15- Attack; 16- "Xanadu" band; 17- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 18- Deadly virus; 19- Never, in Nuremberg; 20- Salver; 22- Fable finale; 24- Indicator of illness; 28- Convoluted; 30- Perfectly; 31- Macbeth, for one; 32- Mystery writer's award; 33- Inferior poet; 37- Pro ___; 38- Income source; 39- Pay stub?; 40- Massacre; 43- "Othello" composer; 45- Perch; 46- Faculties; 47- Wise guy; 49- Guitarlike instrument; 50- Hot stuff; 51- Engrossed; 52- Diarist Anais; 53- Disinfectant brand; 56- Unwarranted; 61- Wager; 62- Skeddadle; 63- Brings up; 64- Weep; 65- Pays to play; 66- Pulls down;

DOWN 1- Russian fighter; 2- First name in Notre Dame football; 3- Up to, informally; 4- Wind dir.; 5- Break into pieces; 6- Night vision?; 7- Red gem; 8- Year abroad; 9- ___-Mart; 10- Staying power; 11- Style; 12- Greek epic poem; 13- Christmas song; 21- Lobster eggs; 23- Corrida cries; 24- Cancels a dele; 25- Warble; 26- Molten rock; 27- Mom-and-pop org.; 28- Gaiety; 29- Cereal grain; 31- Flat sign; 33- Scapegoat; 34- Trunk; 35- Senior; 36- Elevate; 38- Ammo; 41- River to the Caspian; 42- Ape; 43- Risk; 44- Wind up; 46- Enervate; 47- Less outgoing; 48- Like some mouthwashes; 49- Bundles; 50- "Power Lunch" network; 51- Wander; 54- Strong desire; 55- Watched the kids; 57- PBS benefactor; 58- ___ es Salaam; 59- Pot used to contain the ashes of a dead person; 60- Lion tail?;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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AD

HUMAN RESOURCES

HONG KONG OFFERS NEW VISA TO WOO TALENT AMID BRAIN DRAIN

KANIS LEUNG & ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HONG Kong's leader yesterday unveiled a new visa scheme to woo global talent, as the city seeks to stem a brain drain that has risked its status as an international financial center.

Chief Executive John Lee said the new Top Talent Pass Scheme will allow those earning an annual salary of 2.5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$318,472) or above and graduates from the world's top universities to work or pursue opportunities in the city for two years.

The bid to attract talent to Hong Kong comes as hundreds of thousands of residents have left the city in recent years, driven by an ongoing political crackdown and diminished freedoms following the implemen-



Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee (center) enters the chamber of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong

tation of a tough national security law, as well as strict COVID-19 entry restrictions that were in

place for much of the pandemic.

Over the last two years, the city's workforce has

shrunk by about 140,000 people, Lee said.

"We must be more proactive and aggressive in competing for enterprises and competing for talent," Lee said during his maiden policy address yesterday. "Apart from actively nurturing and retaining local talent, the government will proactively trawl the world for talent."

He also announced a raft of proposals — including tax rebates and relaxed measures for hiring foreigners — to boost the city's competitiveness, after its coronavirus restrictions hammered the local economy and drove professionals away.

Foreign new home buyers can receive a partial refund of the stamp duty — a tax levied on property purchases — on their first residential property purchase when they become a permanent resident.

Processes will also be streamlined for companies to employ foreigners in designated professions, with plans to set up a new task force to formulate recruitment strategies and provide support for newcomers.

Lee's inaugural address largely focused on efforts to recruit foreign workers and support livelihoods in an attempt to win public trust, according to

Chinese University political scientist Ivan Choy.

But such measures are unlikely to boost Lee's popularity in the city, as policies like the new visa scheme focus on attracting new, foreign talent instead of retaining local talent, Choy said.

"You are only trying to attract new blood, but you do not try to stop the bleeding," he said.

Later in the afternoon, Lee said he was committed to retaining local professionals as well, pointing to the city's education efforts and subsidies to help workers pursue their career goals.

Lee, a former security chief, is under pressure to reposition the city as a top business and financial hub, after an exodus of residents sparked fears that talent would continue leaving for rival cities like Singapore and Dubai. He aims to recruit 35,000 skilled workers to the city each year.

The city's population in mid-2022 dropped 1.6% from a year earlier, falling by 113,200 residents, according to government statistics in August.

Singapore overtook Hong Kong in a ranking of global financial centers last month and in August announced a new visa that allows skilled, high-earning foreign talent to

work for multiple firms at the same time, instead of just one employer.

Despite Hong Kong's new talent drive, Singapore still has some advantages over Hong Kong because of its position in Southeast Asia, where some economies are rapidly growing, said Simon Lee, honorary institute fellow at Chinese University's Asia-Pacific Institute of Business.

He said working in a place that relies on China might mean some "career risks" to skilled workers, as China is currently grappling with economic headwinds. Skilled workers who go to Hong Kong may come from mainland China, and the move to Hong Kong may just be a stepping stone for their career, according to Lee.

"Those mainland talents have more destinations (to choose from)," he said. "Hong Kong may be their first step, but if they have a better choice, they will go to other places."

Lee, the city's chief executive, also addressed housing and national security policies in his address.

To meet increasing housing demand in the world's most expensive property market, Lee pledged to provide enough land to build 72,000 private residential apartments over the next five years.

He also said the government would speed up the development of public housing by introducing simpler layouts to reduce waiting time for applicants, who currently wait for an average of six years to get an apartment. Other measures include introducing a minimum size limit for new units.

On national security, Lee said the government would "further strengthen the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security" as the city prepares to enact its own security law, which was shelved in 2003 after fears about a loss of freedoms sparked massive protests against an attempt to implement it.

New laws and regulations will also be implemented to regulate crowdfunding activities and enhance cybersecurity for critical infrastructure. **MDT/AP**

AD

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FOOTBALL

Super League soccer company gets new CEO to revive plan

GRAHAM DUNBAR, GENEVA

THE Super League project that aims to revolutionize European soccer has hired a new top executive to steer a revived plan after a failed launch last year.

German former television boss Bernd Reichart is the new CEO of A22 Sports Management, the Madrid-based company said yesterday. The company worked with 12 elite clubs from Spain, England and Italy to create a breakaway league in April 2021.

Reichart's hiring comes as A22 and Super League holdouts Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus await a European Court of Justice ruling in their challenge to the alleged monopoly control they say Champions League organizer UEFA has over international competitions.

A revamped Super League plan — likely involving more clubs from more countries in a multi-tier com-



petition with promotion and relegation — is expected regardless of the Luxembourg court's final ruling next year.

The "Super League" brand that proved so toxic last year would likely also change, Reichart said in an interview with reporters from German news agency DPA.

"The name Super League is not

set," Reichart said

His role was described by A22 as "to initiate an active and extended dialogue with a comprehensive group of football stakeholders including clubs, players, coaches, fans, media and policy makers."

Reichart worked in commercial rights in the sports industry with the Sportfive agency and was CEO

of German commercial broadcaster RTL from 2019 through 2021.

The Super League was first planned as a 20-team breakaway with 15 founding members given protected places and guaranteed extra income. The top Champions League teams currently earn up to about 130 million euros (\$127 million) per season in prize money from UEFA.

The breakaway league launched despite failing to persuade German powers Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund to sign up, nor influential Paris Saint-Germain whose Qatari ownership has close ties to UEFA.

"I am looking forward to talks in every European territory and obviously in Germany too," Reichart told DPA.

The original project collapsed within 48 hours amid a fierce backlash from UEFA, plus fans and lawmakers in England where clubs that were key to its success pulled out.

The Super League was perceived then as an elitist power and money grab that would deny or limit chances for teams in other countries to join, potentially in breach of European Union competition laws.

"The clubs involved have taken the concept of a permanent membership off the table," Reichart said.

Reichart earlier said in a statement he supported the presidents of Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus.

"I believe they are asking the right questions and am personally keen to listen to many diverse voices so that the European football community can jointly find the right answers," Reichart said of club leaders including Madrid's Florentino Pérez and Andrea Agnelli at Juventus.

They became the public faces of trying to tear down the traditional pyramid structure of European soccer that can allow clubs from the grass roots to rise through domestic leagues to compete in the Champions League.

That so-called European sports model and UEFA's authority have been protected by the European Union, which views soccer and its clubs as having a key role in their communities and wider society.

Madrid has flourished during the turmoil of the past 18 months, winning a record 13th European title and another Spanish league trophy last season. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

TRADE WITH CHINA IS GOOD FOR THE US

History shows that cooperating with China has always served the United States well. When the two countries broke ice in 1972 and established diplomatic relations in 1979, the trade volume between them skyrocketed. When China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, it gave a tremendous boost to globalization, from which the US has been one of the main beneficiaries.

Connected with buyers and sellers around the world, the US has sustained and expanded its leading position in the global economy with US companies focusing on the high end of the value chain and innovation.

China paid \$1.9 billion in royalties to other countries for the use of intellectual property in 2001. In 2018, it paid \$35.6 billion in IP royalties, of which \$8.64 billion went to the US, nearly one-fourth of the total. And US exports of goods to China surged from \$26 billion in 2001 to nearly \$150 billion in 2017, according to the US-China Business Council, with China becoming the third-largest market for US goods, up from the 11th in 2001.

And despite the trade war the previous US administration launched against China and the COVID-19 pandemic, China has remained the third-largest export market for the US, behind the US' neighbors Canada and Mexico.

The value of US goods exported to China in 2021 amounted to \$149 billion, and exports of goods and services to China support 858,486 US jobs, according to the US-China Business Council's 2022 report on US exports.

Indeed, contrary to the claims of the previous US administration that China has been "stealing American jobs", new studies highlighted by an influential Washington-based think tank and a top US university show US trade with China has not been pivotal to the loss of US jobs.

Losses were confined to the manufacturing sector, which makes up a small portion of the US labor market, and these were offset by gains in non-manufacturing sectors. This is the conclusion reached by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions in a report released on Friday.

But while service jobs have increased on the West Coast and the northeastern part of the US, manufacturing jobs have been lost in the middle and southern regions, which the anti-China political forces have exploited. US policymakers need to know that the healthy development of the Chinese economy benefits both countries. And with the headwinds created by the COVID-19 pandemic yet to abate, the resilient Chinese economy is a powerful engine for the global economy.

The report of the Communist Party of China Central Committee delivered to the 20th National Congress of the CPC on Sunday, stressed that: "China is committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and pursues a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up."

It is time that US policymakers recognized that politicizing trade with China and adopting protectionist measures is detrimental to the US.

SPARKLING FISH, MURKY METHODS: THE GLOBAL AQUARIUM TRADE

THE BUZZ

After diving into the warm sea off the coast of northern Bali, Indonesia, Made Partiana hovers above a bed of coral, holding his breath and scanning for flashes of color and movement. Hours later, exhausted, he returns to a rocky beach, towing plastic bags filled with his darting, exquisite quarry: tropical fish of all shades and shapes.

Millions of saltwater fish like these are caught in Indonesia and other countries every year to fill ever more elaborate aquariums in living rooms, waiting rooms and restaurants around the world with vivid, otherworldly life.

"It's just so much fun to just watch the antics between different varieties of fish," said Jack Siravo, a Rhode Island fish enthusiast who began building aquariums after an accident paralyzed him and now has four saltwater tanks. He calls the fish "an endless source of fascination."

But the long journey from places like Bali to places like Rhode Island is perilous for the fish and for the reefs they come from. Some are captured using squirts of cyanide to stun them. Many die along the way.

Full story on macaudailytimes.com

OKADA ARRESTED IN MANILA, POLICE SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATIONS

JAPANESE gaming tycoon Kazuo Okada was arrested by police authorities at Ninoy Aquino International Airport earlier this week, months after his group launched a "violent" takeover of the \$2-billion Okada Manila casino complex, Philippine press reported yesterday.

The Philippine National Police arrested Okada at Naia Terminal 1 at 5:40 a.m. Monday after his flight arrived from Haneda Airport, Japan, according to Universal Entertainment, the Japan-listed company that is led by Okada's estranged family.

The Metropolitan Trial Court of Parañaque issued warrants of arrest against Okada in Oct. 11, the statement showed.

"Kazuo Okada, along with his cohorts Antonio 'Tonyboy' Cojuangco, Dindo Espeleta and lawyer Florentino 'Binky' Herrera, are facing criminal charges for grave coercion, following their illegal and violent takeover of integrated casino resort Okada Manila on May 31, 2022," Universal Entertainment said.

Okada, in a separate statement, said he defied warnings from his lawyers that he might be detained if he returned to the Philippines.

214 GAMBLING DENS SHUT DOWN

Philippine officials say they have shut down at least 214 illegal Chinese offshore gambling operations and deported the first six of nearly 400 Chinese workers who have been detained under a renewed crackdown.

A spate of crimes victimizing Chinese workers at illegal online gambling businesses, including kidnappings and sexual abuses, sparked the crackdown and calls for the banning of even legitimate operators in the lucrative industry.

Called Philippine offshore gaming operators,



COURTESY CNN PHILIPPINES

or POGOs, the Chinese-run gambling firms are based in the Philippines, but their customers are overseas. They began growing rapidly in 2016, generating about 30 billion pesos (\$508 million) in gambling revenues and fees from 2016 to this year, officials said.

The current crackdown is directed against Chinese operators who have not paid taxes or revenue shares or have committed other violations of the law, the authorities said. The visas of their estimated 48,000 mostly Chinese workers will be canceled, and they can either leave on their own or face mass deportations, Justice Assistant Secretary Jose Dominic Clavano said by telephone.

"All of these illegal POGOs cannot operate in the country and the people who work for them are violating our laws and we should make sure that they leave our country," Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla told reporters at Manila's international airport, where the six deported Chinese workers boarded a commercial flight yesterday back to China.

Beijing has backed the crackdown on online gambling operations, which cater to clients in China despite Beijing's ban on gambling.

"Crimes induced by and associated with POGO not only harm China's interests and China-Philippines relations, but also hurt the interests of the Philippines," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement last week.

"It is, therefore, widely believed that social costs of POGO far outweigh its economic benefits to the Philippines in the long run," the embassy said.

The six deported Chinese were among 372 mostly Chinese workers who have been detained by Philippine authorities starting in September from different offshore gambling sites, Clavano said.

The identities of the other Chinese are still being verified with Chinese authorities in an often-tedious process prior to their deportation, Clavano said.

Remulla said authorities are also checking how many of the more than 48,000 Chinese workers currently remain in the country because some may have left.

More than 200,000 to 300,000 Chinese were believed to have worked in the online gambling operations when the business peaked starting in 2016, boosting real estate, transport and food businesses in cities where they were based. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

USA Netflix reversed its recent subscriber losses with a summertime gain that management is hoping to build upon with the upcoming launch of a cheaper version of the video streaming service that will include ads for the first time. The Los Gatos, California, company disclosed that it picked up 2.4 million subscribers during the July-September period, a comeback from a loss of 1.2 million customers during the first half of the year amid stiffer competition and soaring inflation that's squeezing household budgets.



AP PHOTO

USA Kevin Spacey remained composed yesterday [Macau time] during cross examination at a civil trial, repeatedly rejecting suggestions that he wasn't telling the truth when he denied an actor's claims that he made a sexual advance on him when he was 14 in the 1980s. His testimony for several hours on cross examination by a lawyer for actor Anthony Rapp, 50, went smoothly enough that Spacey's lawyer did not ask any questions after the examination was completed.



AP PHOTO

Qatar A pair of giant pandas sent as a gift from China arrived in Qatar yesterday ahead of next month's World Cup. They will take up residence in an indoor enclosure in the desert nation designed to duplicate conditions in the dense forests of mountainous Sichuan province. Eight hundred kilograms of fresh bamboo will be flown in each week to feed them. They have been given the Arabic names Suhail (a male, pictured) and Thuraya.