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GAMING TENDER: SANDS CHINA SAYS IN A CONFERENCE CALL MACAU GOVERNMENT DELIBERATION ON CONCESSION IN ‘GOOD PROGRESS’

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WEATHER ALERT: CITY MAY FACE ANOTHER TROPICAL STORM THIS WEEKEND

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CHINA'S RULING PARTY CONGRESS OFFERS LOOK AT FUTURE LEADERS

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AP PHOTO



New Zealand Farmers across New Zealand took to the streets on their tractors protest government plans to tax cow burps and other greenhouse gas emissions, although the rallies were smaller than many had expected. Lobby group Groundswell New Zealand helped organize more than 50 protests in towns and cities across the country, the biggest involving a few dozen vehicles. Last week, the government proposed a new farm levy as part of a plan to tackle climate change.

AP PHOTO



Japan marked a trade deficit for the 14th month in a row, government data showed yesterday, with exports and imports ballooning to record highs, as the declining value of the yen added to the soaring costs of imported energy, food and other goods. Imports totaled 10.9 trillion yen (\$72.7 billion) in September, up nearly 46% from the same month a year ago on the back of rising oil and gas costs. Imports have grown for 20 months straight on-year.

AP PHOTO



Philippines Russia wants the Philippine government to honor a signed contract to purchase 16 military heavy-lift helicopters, which the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte had cancelled due to fears of possible U.S. sanctions. Moscow's ambassador to Manila, Marat Pavlov, told reporters that his government has not officially notified Russia of its decision to cancel the deal and a Russian company was proceeding to manufacture the Mi-17 helicopters after the Philippines made an initial payment.

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REPORT

CHINA MAY REDUCE QUARANTINE FOR TRAVELERS

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XINHUA

TAIPA HOSPITAL

CRITERIA TO SEND LOCAL DOCTORS FOR TRAINING IN BEIJING IN PROGRESS

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DRIVE IN



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RENATO MARQUES



URBAN RENEWAL BILL DISCUSSION ALMOST CONCLUDED, LIKELY TO COME INTO FORCE ON JAN. 1

RENATO MARQUES

THE Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) has generally concluded the discussion over the bill that aims to establish the legal regime for urban renewal in Macau, the president of the committee, lawmaker Chan Chak Mo said yesterday in a media briefing after the committee meeting.

According to Chan, the discussion yesterday went "swifter than initially expected." As such, the committee has already concluded the review of all the bill Articles. The only remaining matters are "a few details to be settled between the two juridical advisories [of the government and the AL]."

The president said that the committee has reviewed the new text delivered by the government at the end of the last legislative year and that the members were pleased with the changes made to the ori-

ginal bill.

Chan said that since the work is going more swiftly than expected (there was a second meeting scheduled for today to debate the bill that was canceled as unnecessary), he hopes that the bill can be raised to the plenary session for final voting in time for it to enter into force as planned on January 1, 2023.

Among the changes promoted by the government is the scope of the bill, which had sparked substantial criticism during the first reading.

Chan explained that the government has now amended the bill to include not only building reconstruction (as stated in the original text) but also building repairs, preservation, and other maintenance works.

"Before this section, the object and scope [of the bill] was very simple and only mentioned reconstruction. But now in addition to some new writing and clear mention of urban renovation in number 1 [of Arti-

cle 1], there is also a new number 2 which clearly mentions the other types of restoration and rehabilitation works included in this law," Chan explained, adding that this new draft has satisfied the lawmakers.

Another change relates to the clarification of the role of the Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR). Chan noted that earlier iterations were unclear on the participation and role of the company. However, "now in Article 4, numbers 1 and 2 have a clarification of the role of MUR."

SIMPLIFIED KICK-OFF FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROCESS

One of the most significant changes in the new version of the bill is the simplification of the initial procedures. Chan explained that the first version of the bill required the promoter of an urban renewal project to present a project and estimation of costs by a registered technician (architect,

engineers, etc.). Now, the bill has dispensed with this requirement by allowing this first phase of the urban renewal project to be completed with a draft project and a rough estimation of costs, without the need to hire a professional office or company to complete this first step.

He explained that the purpose of this is to facilitate the process and ease the financial burden, as the initial step is intended only to gather opinions of unit owners to inform the decision regarding whether to commence an urban renewal project for a certain building.

"This first phase is a consultation with the unit owners. This is just to ascertain if the owners are likely to agree with the rebuild. We thought that the demand for a specialized technician was both time consuming and costly, so this requirement has been dropped. If there is enough consensus and the process can finally

start, then there will be the need for the real project plan, but not at this early stage," Chan explained.

Another important change has to do with protecting the rights of individual owners to live in their homes in the event of a change in the purpose of the building.

In the first version of the bill, if a majority of the owners agreed to reconstructing a building and changing its purpose from residential to commercial or industrial, they could go through an arbitration tribunal if a minority of owners did not agree. Conversely, in the final version of the bill, this will not be possible when the right to live in a residential unit owned by an individual is on the line.

Changes in building purpose can only be made with 100% agreement of the owners or when the government is proposing to change the purpose of a certain land plot to reorganize a certain area or place.

"This will protect the right of a person, even if it is just one individual, and remove the risk of them losing their home if the purpose of the building is changed from residential to commercial," Chan explained.

RIGHTS OF TENANTS ALSO SECURED

Changes were also promoted regarding the right of the tenants occupying units of a building that is being proposed to be rebuilt or changed.

If a consensus has been achieved among owners and the proposal receives approval, owners must notify any tenants according to the civil code. This prescribes a notice period of 180 days for contracts of three or more years, 90 days for contracts between one and three years and more than 10 days for monthly contracts.

Chan said that members agreed that not only will this change accelerate the urban renewal process, but also eliminate the need to wait for the rental contract to expire while also protecting the rights of the tenants who will be entitled to receive compensation.

He also remarked that after the arbitration or full consensus has been reached by all owners, no rental contracts can be signed. Any such agreements that are signed after consensus has been achieved will be considered void.

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COVID-19

China debates possible reduction to quarantine for inbound travelers: Report

CHINESE officials are debating whether to reduce the amount of time people coming into the country must spend in mandatory quarantine, Bloomberg reported yesterday, citing sources familiar with the discussions.

According to Bloomberg, bureaucrats "are looking at cutting the quarantine period to two days in a hotel and then five days at home," said the sources.

Currently, China requires seven days of hotel room quarantine, followed by another three days at home, where people are still monitored and subjected to regular testing. The move could be included "in a new iteration of the nation's Covid-19 protocol expected to be released soon," the sources, who asked not to be identified given the private nature of the discussions, told Bloomberg.

Authorities throughout China use the protocol to guide their response when new virus cases emerge.

The shift would need to be



approved by senior leaders, "so [it] could still be altered or not deployed at all," one of the sources said. The National Health Commission, which is responsible for the protocol, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bloomberg pointed out that stocks linked to the nation's reopening, including Air China Ltd. and China Eastern Airlines Corp., rose yesterday while oil advanced.

The possible change in main-

land pandemic control policy follows the end of quarantine in Hong Kong and Taiwan, which are now open to foreign travelers.

Wednesday, Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee announced a more attractive working visa to attract talent amid a brain drain in the neighboring SAR.

Macau Secretary for Culture and Social Affairs Elsie Ao Ieong also indicated Wednesday that the quarantine period for foreign motorcycle riders partici-

pating in the upcoming Grand Prix – slated for November 17 to 20 – may be reduced to "four or five days."

Macau has now twice reduced the hotel quarantine period – from 14 to ten days and then to the current seven-day quarantine period during summer-time.

Officials heard by the Times said that Macau will strictly follow mainland policy regarding Covid-19 control measures and not those of Hong Kong. PC

WEATHER

CITY MAY FACE ANOTHER CYCLONE THIS WEEKEND

A developing meteorological depression system will likely enter the South China Sea from the east of the Philippines this weekend, according to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau's (SMG) forecast.

The bureau highlighted that a low-pressure area near the eastern coast of the Philippines is developing and may transform into a tropical cyclone. It may make a landfall before reentering the marine area over this coming weekend.

Showers will become more frequent early next week as the system moves, while winds will intensify. The public is advised to remain alert to the latest developments.

Recapping on the passage of cyclone Nesat, which peaked at an intensity category of typhoon, the SMG observed that the system fits the features characteristic of autumn cyclones. These features include strong winds through synergizing with the northeastern monsoon, a highly unpredictable trajectory, plunging temperatures, and the typhoon signals being replaced with the Strong Monsoon Signal near the end of the impact.

Nesat triggered the hoisting of Signal No 3 for strong winds for 30 hours and 30 minutes, before being replaced by the Strong Monsoon Signal at 11 pm, October 18. AL

Criteria to send local doctors for training in Beijing in progress

ANTHONY LAM

THE government has not yet outlined the criteria for the selection of candidates to be trained at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

In response to a written inquiry by lawmaker Chan Iek Lap, who is also a medical doctor, Chou Kuok Hei, acting director of the preparatory office for the Islands Hospital, disclosed that his team and their counterparts in relevant entities are negotiating the criteria. Chou did not explain what he meant by "relevant entities."

The appointment of the Peking Union Medical College Hospital to manage the future Islands Hospital was made after the local government consulted the National Health Commission for recommendations.

The criteria will focus on numerous areas, Chou said,



such as prospective trainees, conditions for registration, modes of selection, as well as details of training and examination. He stressed that work is in progress and the office is striving to make an announcement "as early as possible."

Chou also reiterated that an "Intention for Cooperation" document between the hospital and the preparatory office was signed on September 7, 2022, regar-

ding the training of specialist doctors at the hospital in Beijing.

Trained doctors will eventually return to Macau and serve at the future Islands Hospital.

In his inquiry, Chan foresaw that the overall medical development strategy of the local government "will not only be directive to medical development in Macau but will also vigorously drive current medical profes-

sionals." Therefore, clarifying the government's overall plan for medical development is part and parcel of the preparation of local medical professionals.

In another written inquiry, lawmaker Si Ka Lon asked the government about environmental protection strategies, with particular emphasis on the inauguration of the smart electricity network.

Citing the Macau Envi-

ronmental Condition Report 2021 published in June 2022, the lawmaker pointed out that the city has consumed more resources in 2021 than in 2020. This was especially seen in electricity consumption, which surpassed the consumption level in 2019, when Macau received 40 million tourists. In 2021, 71.4% of electricity generated was used in commercial operations, the lawmaker added.

As a national target, the lawmaker stressed that a smart electricity network must be built as soon as possible to cope with increased electricity consumption. At the same time, due to the old age of the Framework Law on the Environment, which was promulgated before 1999, the lawmaker suggested that the government put together its overall considerations on the matter.

In response to the in-

quiry, Ip Kuong Lam, acting director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), stressed that the establishment of the smart electricity network is gradually coming together.

Information technology, data collection and automated control tactics will be employed to achieve better smart surveillance, dispatch, and stability across the local electricity network. It will also help with cleaner energy and the migration to electric vehicles.

By the end of the year, 40% of local electricity gauges will be renewed as a key step to developing the smart electricity network, with the conclusion of renewal efforts expected in 2025.

An overhaul to the Framework Law, meanwhile, is not the preferred approach, according to Ip. However, reviews will be made on an as-needed basis.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



MICE ECONOMIC CHIEF: MACAU TO FURTHER NATIONAL TIES TO SEEK SYNERGIES

ANTHONY LAM

SPEAKING at a business event, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong emphasized that Macau will intensify collaboration with mainland counterparts in search of “multiplications of opportunities.”

The 27th Macao International

Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) commenced yesterday morning. The Zhejiang-Macao-Portuguese Speaking Countries Economic and Trade Co-operation and Exchange Conference subsequently commenced the same day as part of the MIF. It was at this event that Lei gave a speech.

Zhejiang Province is the

partner province of this year's MIF, according to Lei. The first MIF took place in 1996 and has since been a government-led commercial fair that aims to promote Macau in business.

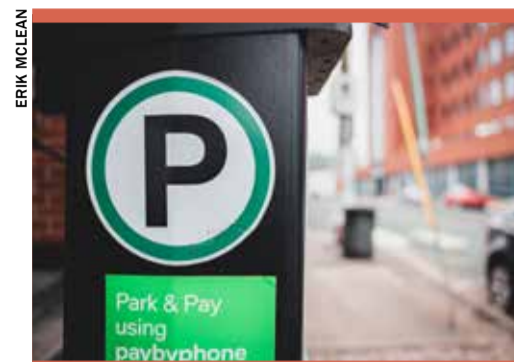
Lei pledged that the local government would participate in national-level initiatives by strengthening collabora-

tion with sibling provinces and municipalities, as well as lusophone countries in the development of Hengqin, the Pearl River Delta and the Changjiang River Delta. Doing so will generate multiplicative effects, facilitate connections and communications into and out of the country, and allow the country to promote its policy of “dual circulations.”

“Dual circulations” was a policy adopted by Beijing during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The policy is intended to lead economic growth through emphasizing domestic consumption and reducing overreliance on international trade, while still maintaining international relations and interactions.

Lei foreshadowed that several agreements will be signed between Macau and Zhejiang during the MIF to foster greater cooperation in the areas of the establishment of the China-Lusophone platform, regional and industrial collaborations, among others.

In addition to tourism and trade, Macau will also assist with translations, finance, conventions and exhibitions, and legal services in the province's cooperation with lusophone countries, according to the Secretary.



50 PUBLIC CAR PARKS TAKE CONTACTLESS PAYMENT

DATA released by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) shows that MPay's MPark platform is available in 21 of the 50 car parks that allow entry and exit with contactless payment.

The city has a total of 56 public car parks owned or operated by the government.

DSAT highlighted that seven of these 50 car parks accept more than one platform.

As of October 14, with service provided at 21 car parks, MPark is leading the race. Next is Tai Fung Pay, the mobile app owned by local Tai Fung Bank, which is accepted by 19 car parks. The next contender is E-Park, which is accepted by 12 car parks.

According to DSAT, provisions to require the installation of similar modes of entry and exit will be added to the contracts or tenders of the remaining car parks, which currently do not accept contactless payment. **AL**

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GAMING

Sands China: Gov't deliberation on concession in 'good progress'

LYNZY VALLES

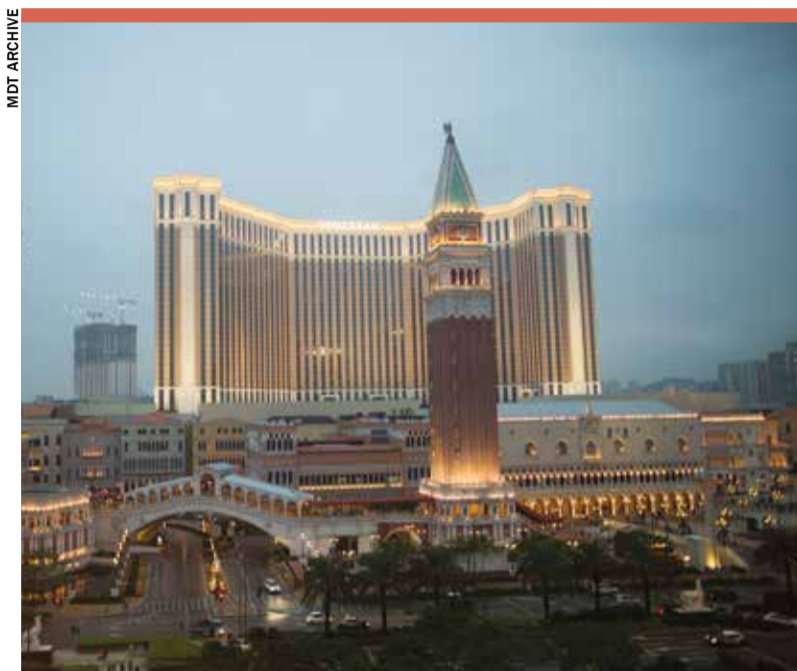
SANDS China has held several rounds of discussion with the government regarding the current gaming tender deliberation and is expecting a notice on the next development by the end of the month.

The information was revealed by Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, in a third quarter earnings call with analysts.

According to the executive, the group is waiting for the government notification on whether there will be another round of discussion and confirmed that the timetable remains the same.

"Everything is in good progress, and we expect some notification towards the end of the month for us to know the next steps," he added.

The gaming operator is optimistic that the entire process will be concluded by the end of the year, as previously stated by the government.



The city's gaming operators have all submitted their bids, competing for six concessions to operate for 10 years.

The government is currently deliberating on who among the seven companies that submitted proposals will acquire a

concession.

Rob Goldstein, chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands, has expressed that although the "operating environment remains difficult," the parent company remains a "big believer in Macau as a world center

of tourism and leisure."

"We have been the biggest investor and have operated non-gaming businesses over the past two decades in Macau. We absolutely welcome the opportunity to invest even more in the non-gaming products and offerings in Macau," Goldstein said during the earnings call.

Pivoting to the resumption of group tours and e-visas by the end of the month or early November, the CEO said the group remains cautious about predicting the outcome of the easing of restrictions for mainland travelers.

"Predictions on Macau have been erroneous these last couple of years because we do not know who is going to come, and we do not know when they will close the market. It has been stopping the resumption of business for so long. It is silly for us to pontificate on the exact gains in EBITDA," he said.

Casinos in the city have been burning millions of dollars in

cash each day as gaming revenues continue to slump.

Although the local government is hopeful about the positive economic effects of visa resumption, the spending power of these travelers is not as powerful as those traveling under Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) visas.

According to Grant Chum, CEO and executive director of Sands China, group package tours represented roughly one quarter of visits before the pandemic.

"With respect to electronic visas, we don't have those numbers. Obviously, it varies significantly from province-to-province. But clearly, the provision or availability of that mode of application absolutely is helpful to facilitate the visa application for those relevant provinces."

"Hopefully, as we get out further into the fourth quarter with these recent measures, we're going to start to see a more well-rounded mix of visitation building up towards the end of the year," he added.

LOSSES WIDEN IN Q3

The total net revenues for the gaming operator decreased to USD251 million, compared to USD611 million in the third quarter of 2021. The net loss was USD472 million, compared to USD423 million in the third quarter of 2021.

CHARITY DRIVES CONTINUE AMID ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

ANTHONY LAM

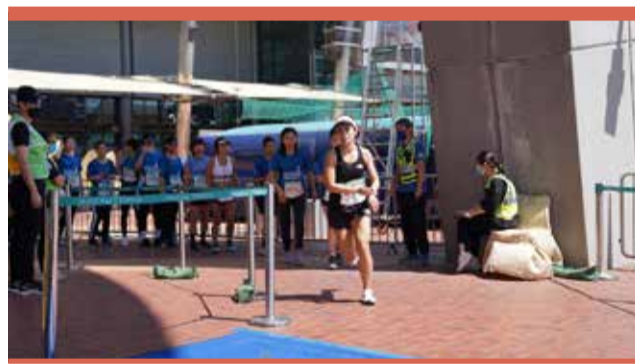
AN international sight-saving charity has recently launched an initiative both to call for donations and raise concerns over optical health.

Orbis International, owner of the world's only optometry and ophthalmology aircraft-hospital, has recently commenced this year's World Sight Day - Action for Sight activities, which will include an online eye health survey, virtual and physical exhibitions, and fundraisers.

Both exhibitions have started, with the Macao Science Center the venue for the physical event. The virtual event is accessible through the organization's website.

Meanwhile, the organization encourages donations for the initiative. As a token of appreciation, donors can collect one of the two limited design (randomly selected) Action for Sight 2022 pins with donations of MOP100 or more.

This year's event, the



organization highlighted, carries greater significance than previous editions as it marks the 40th anniversary of the maiden flight of the flying eye hospital.

Orbis stressed that 90% of the eye problems affecting 1.1 billion people worldwide are in fact preventable or curable.

Last weekend, British-born Oxfam concluded its Oxfam Tower Run at the Macau Tower, with iconic faces such as local off-road runner Vivi Cheung, master of ceremony Elvis Chao and squash athlete Armando Ao contesting the championships, while appealing for donations set to help Oxfam's worldwide campaign.

American-founded insurance company AIA International's Macau Office agreed to donate an extra HKD100 for each competitor who finished the 61-level full race.

The charity run initiative started in 2014.

The Fuhong Society of Macau has recently received MOP60,000 in proceeds from the Pui Ching Middle School Alumni Association. The funds were generated from an earlier sale of commemorative mooncakes decorated with the school's emblem. The charity organization stressed that the sum will be allotted to assist its initiatives for the benefits of the physically disadvantaged.



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ANALYSIS

INTRA-PARTY POLLS REFLECT DEMOCRACY

LI FENG, CHINA DAILY*

THE Communist Party of China attaches great importance to intra-Party elections, which are based on five factors. First, intra-Party elections follow the principle of democratic centralism — a fundamental organizational principle of the Party. The Party decided that democratic centralism would be the golden rule for intra-Party elections and democracy after the Red Army reached Yan'an, Shaanxi province, at the end of the Long March in 1935.

Second, the Party accords great importance to elections in primary-level Party organizations. Since the launch of reform and opening-up in 1978, primary-level Party organizations have improved their practices and institutions. And the 19th National Congress of the CPC in 2017 saw the Party reiterating that the term for Party committees at the village and community levels will also be five years in sync with primary-level Party organizations' elections every five years.

Third, in the election of delegates to Party congresses, priority is given to the candidates' competence and honesty. Local Party congresses are convened by the Party committees at the corresponding level, and the number of delegates to the local Party congresses at any level and the procedure governing their election are determined by the Party committees at the corresponding levels, with the decision being reported to the immediately higher Party committees. That's why electing the right delegates — that is, those with moral integrity and high reasoning and communication



skills — to the Party congresses is important.

For the election of delegates, the Party branch of an election unit, according to the allocated quota, starts the nomination of candidates based on the consensus reached by a majority of Party groups or members. After that, the election units conduct preliminary verification of the candidates, followed by a meeting among Party committee members to finalize the list of the candidates and

report to the corresponding Party committees for further scrutiny and review of the candidates' work and political integrity and competence.

The requirements for the election of delegates to the National Congress are even more stringent. A total of 2,296 delegates have been elected to attend the ongoing 20th National Congress. The electoral work, which took place from November through July, was organized by 38 electoral units, including

provincial-level regions, central authorities, the central financial sector, and centrally administered State-owned enterprises based in Beijing.

Fourth, elections in local Party organizations, which are getting increasingly institutionalized, are an important way of reinforcing the Party's political institutions and inner-Party democracy.

After the 18th Party Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee specified that the number of candidates should be at least 10 percent more than the delegate quota for the competitive elections of permanent and alternate members of the Party committees and members of the discipline inspection commissions. And the

number of candidates for the election to the standing committees should be at least one or two more than the number of candidates to be elected, and the candidates for alternate members of Party committees should not be less than 15 percent of all members.

At the end of 2020, the CPC Central Committee promulgated the Regulations of the CPC on the Elections of Local Party Organizations, saying the elections of delegates to the Party congresses, and

permanent and alternate members of the Party committees, and members of the standing committees of the Party's local units, as well as members of the standing committees of discipline inspection commissions should be competitive.

Fifth, worthy delegates to the CPC Central Committee are selected through both single-candidate and competitive election. While individual Party members are subordinate to the Party organization, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the lower Party organizations are subordinate to the higher Party organizations, and all the constituent organizations and members of the Party are subordinate to the National Congress and the Central Committee of the Party.

The Party's leading bodies at all levels are elected except for the representative organs dispatched by them and the leading Party members' groups in non-Party organizations. And the highest leading bodies of the Party are the National Congress and the Central Committee elected by it. The members of the Central Committee are elected by delegates to the National Congress by secret ballot, while the list of candidates is deliberated and discussed by Party organizations and confirmed through secret ballot.

Since the 13th Party Congress, the elections of members and alternate members of the CPC Central Committee and Central Commission for Discipline Inspection have become competitive.

To elect the members of the CPC Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau decided at a meeting in

OUTSIDE VIEWS

China's confidence seen in its growth

CHEN WEIHUA, BRUSSELS,
REN QI, MOSCOW
& SONG PING, BEIJING

CHINA has confidence in its development and global responsibility to contribute to a better human community while demonstrating an alternative and more effective model for national modernization and global governance, international experts said.

They made the comments as the Communist Party of China has vowed to comprehensively advance national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to moder-

nization, a central task the Party laid out for the next five years and beyond at the 20th CPC National Congress, which opened in Beijing on Sunday.

While delivering a report at the congress' opening session on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping underscored the need to coordinate development and security, and highlighted safeguarding national security and social stability while advancing sustained growth.

Masanari Koike, a former member of Japan's House of Representatives, said the re-

port expressed confidence in the decades of economic development and maturity in promising global responsibility for a better human community.

"Not only Chinese people, but also global citizens will benefit from that promise," Koike said.

Yuri Tavrovsky, chairman of the Russian-Chinese Committee for Friendship, Peace and Development's Experts Commission, said the congress is a significant event.

Over the past decade, China has made great achievements in accelerating the

construction of a modern economic system, strengthening scientific and technological innovation, improving national governance, eradicating extreme poverty and focusing on green development.

Ebrahim Hashem, Asia-Global Fellow at the Hong Kong-based Asia Global Institute, said that Xi's statement "makes it crystal clear that he and his nation offer an alternative and better model for national modernization and global governance.

"The choice of words shows the Chinese are more

confident than ever about their future," he said.

He added that some shortsighted and self-centered politicians in the West, and particularly in the United States, consider the Chinese model of modernization a threat, due to its effectiveness.

"It offers the world a more equitable and people-centric example to follow, exposing the savagery of Western capitalism," Hashem said.

Kostas Gouliamos, former rector of European University Cyprus and an ordinary member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, said the report Xi delivered has profound historical significance and carries forward the CPC's great founding spirit. It highlights the vigorous pro-

gress and achievements needed to build a modern socialist country in all respects, he said.

"Meanwhile, in today's world of international instability and turbulence, this report presents a Chinese-style path to modernization, providing an inclusive approach of modernization for humanity," he said.

Moreover, he said, the report correspondingly contributes Chinese wisdom to global governance by strengthening the principles of multilateralism and further applying to international affairs three major initiatives that Xi has proposed — the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

February 2016 to establish a leading group with the CPC Central Committee general secretary as the top reviewer of cadres to be promoted to the CPC Central Committee and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

From July 2016 to June 2017, the group set up 46 task forces to review cadres from 124 central Party and government institutions, national financial enterprises, centrally administered State-owned enterprises in Beijing and other institutions in 31 provincial-level regions.

Instead of holding mass meetings and simple questionnaires, the task forces have held in-depth discussions with all relevant parties to gain more comprehensive knowledge of the cadres. Through these discussions, some cadres were recommended or selected for more important positions while the Party appreciated the performance of others.

The Party's electoral system not only safeguards the democratic rights of Party members but also ensures the views and wishes of Party organizations at different levels are heard. As Daniel A. Bell, a Canadian scholar, said, it is the system of intra-Party elections that produces political elites with outstanding political accomplishments and governance capability.

Intra-Party elections, featuring "organizational screening and democratic election", embody democratic centralism and help the Party assign the right people in the right position.

***The author is an associate professor at the Department of Teaching and Research of Politics and Law, Party School of the Central Committee of CPC, and a research fellow at the Digital Governance Research Center of Tsinghua University.**

Kazakhstan-China Trade Promotion Association President Hanat Baisek said he looks forward to seeing the continuation of Chinese-style modernization, as he has already felt his country has benefited greatly from the BRI.

"Chinese-style modernization will propel China to achieve more economic and social accomplishments, and will provide Kazakhstan and other developing countries with more opportunities to develop," he said.

Gal Luft, co-director of the US-based Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, said he was particularly struck by the report's focus on the goal of "building cultural confidence".

He said that cultural resilience is a critical element in the effort to prevail in the newly divided international system. **CHINA DAILY**

ANALYSIS

CPC National Congress embraces development and prosperity

WANG HUIYAO, GDTODAY*

THE 20th CPC National Congress, which will end on October 22, is an occasion to stimulate and unify the minds and hearts of the people. China is on the right track and has sent positive and open messages to the world.

During the past decade, the country has achieved its goal of realizing a "moderately prosperous society", which was defined in quantitative terms as a doubling of GDP and per capita income of urban and rural residents by 2020 as compared to 2010. By 2019, China had reached an annual GDP of 99 trillion yuan (\$14.4 trillion) – already more than double the 2010 figure of 41.2 trillion (\$6.37 trillion) – with a per capita GDP of \$10,276.

However, the nation's economic development, though a bright spot, is not the sole focus of building a moderately prosperous society. Major breakthroughs have also been made in other areas. There has been a real improvement in the living standards of Chinese people, as reflected by the steady rise of various indicators. China's rating on the Human Development Index (HDI) has increased from 0.49 in 1990 to around 0.76 in 2019, while life expectancy is also well above the global average, reaching 77.3 by 2019.

Despite the progress in the areas mentioned above, the CPC is also concerned with ensuring that development is balanced. Over China's 40 years of reform and opening-up, it has lifted nearly more than 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for more than 75 percent of global poverty reduction during this time.

In the past three decades, global poverty alleviation has lagged far behind the pace of globalization, and rising inequality has been the main cause of the recent wave of anti-globalization. This is why China's achievements in poverty alleviation is of global significance and has the potential to contribute to the continuation of globalization and further steps toward global poverty alleviation.

China has leveraged its system and policy advantages on the way to building a moderately prosperous society. The government has taken advantage of its strengths in infrastructure, industrial development, education, healthcare, and environmental protection to foster development.

China invested heavily in education, increasing the higher education gross enrollment rate from 30 percent in 2012 to 57.8 percent in 2021. As of 2021, China's nationwide



The GuangYue International Community in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province

basic medical insurance program now covers more than 1.3 billion people and its basic pension insurance scheme covers nearly 1 billion people. China also guarantees compulsory education for school-age children and teenagers in accordance with the law.

Nonetheless, when evaluating the reasons behind these remarkable achievements, we cannot ignore the benefits that globalization and opening-up have brought to China's economic development. Poverty has been reduced because of international trade. "Trade is better than aid," as former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said.

Over the past four decades, multinational companies (MNCs) have invested in China, accounting for about half of the country's import and export trade, almost 20 percent of tax revenue, and one-tenth of urban employment. They have not only fostered economic development, but also provided an enormous amount of employment opportunities in China.

Moreover, since China joined the WTO in 2001, China's GDP has expanded more than tenfold. There are nearly 300 million rural migrant workers in China, and the income of migrant workers at MNCs, and their remittances sent home have become an important part of China's economic growth. Continued opening-up has also advanced China's technological innovation. In the 2010s, the digital economy and e-commerce connected China with the world and drove it into an era of mobile payment.

Over the next five to ten years, high-quality development is crucial for developing a model of modernization that benefits all of society. As mentioned in the work report delivered by President Xi to the 20th CPC National Congress, the market has played a decisive role in the economic development, but science,

technology and talent are also important resources for high-quality development and will continue to provide China with considerable momentum. All these imply that China will introduce more innovative policies to attract global talent.

Talent innovation is also part of China's rapid development. China has gradually become a top choice for global talent and entrepreneurship. From 1978 to 2019, the total number of Chinese students studying abroad reached over 6.5 million, and 86.28%, or some 4.2 million, have chosen to return to China after their studies.

According to the Global Innovation Index Ranking 2022, China's ranking has risen rapidly to the 11th from 29th in 2015. China also ranked first in the world in terms of the total number of R&D personnel and the number of international patent applications with more than 69,000 submissions.

The global need for talent will become even stronger in the post-pandemic era, with countries scrambling to introduce new policies to attract talent. In order to ensure China is no longer limited to simple core technologies, it must make greater efforts to attract top international talents.

Today, China has strengths in attracting global talents in the fields of artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and genetic engineering, and China must become more attractive to be competitive.

China has implemented many innovative policies to attract international talents in recent years, including the creation of an independent National Immigration Administration and adjusting its Green Card policy. However, we need to further improve supporting policies and create a more open and inclusive, convenient and livable social environment.

China can also provide greater

policy incentives to attract the best international talents. The country has been providing a more open and equitable environment for international talents to work and start businesses, including easier visa application procedures, more accessible residency services, broader green card treatment, and an international living environment. Experience of Guangdong, as well as Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SARs) in reforming mechanisms for attracting talents can be replicated and promoted in other cities.

China has made remarkable progress in the first hundred years since the CPC was established. Looking into the future, to achieve its second centenary goal – which is to build a modern socialist country by 2049, the Party will face a set of new challenges that need to be tackled, such as the middle-income trap, an aging population and achieving its carbon emissions targets. Therefore, further reform and opening-up are necessary and vital to the country's future while tackling these new difficulties and striving for its second centenary goal.

Despite the current complex international environment, further integration into the world economy will not only advance the country's strengths in technology and innovation, but more importantly, increase China's soft power by creating a more peaceful, friendly and lovable image on the world stage. Ultimately, one of the most important and challenging tasks for China is to increase mutual understanding, receive global recognition and expand its circle of friends internationally – something that cannot be achieved through economic growth alone.

***Wang Huiyao is the president of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) and former Counselor to the State Council of China.**

AP PHOTOS



this day in history

1982 SINN FEIN TRIUMPH IN ELECTIONS



Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, has won its first seats in the elections to the new Ulster Assembly.

Gerry Adams, vice president of Sinn Fein, took the Belfast West seat. It is the first time his party has stood for election since the Troubles began.

Mr Adams, 34, made clear that being elected would not stop the IRA's campaign of violence.

"The IRA have said that while the British army is in Ireland they will be there fighting" he said.

As he emerged from City Hall in Belfast, where the votes were counted, he was met by chants of 'murderer' and 'scum' from members of the Democratic Unionist Party.

Former IRA 'brigade' commander Martin McGuinness was elected to a seat in Londonderry.

The seats gained by Sinn Fein are at the expense of the Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP), traditionally a voice for Roman Catholics in Ulster.

Referring to the creation of the Ulster Assembly the leader of the SDLP John Hume said: "It's dead. It's dead as a dodo. There is no possibility of cross-community partnership; there is no possibility of devolution of power".

The elections were called to introduce a power sharing executive to Northern Ireland.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Prior, said it would be a while before the full implications of the results were apparent.

"We shall have to wait and see how it gets on. We are not going to change the situation in Northern Ireland quickly and I think we shall have to persevere. Every solution put forward in recent years has had great difficulties" he said.

The date of the first meeting of the 78-seat Ulster Assembly is yet to be announced.

Courtesy BBC News

ANALYSIS

China's ruling party congress offers look at future leaders

WHILE Xi Jinping is primed to receive a third term as head of China's ruling Communist Party on Sunday, it is unknown who will join him for the next five years on the party's leading bodies, the Central Committee and the Politburo.

Analysts will scrutinize who joins, and who leaves, for any clues about the future direction of policy as well as just how much power the 69-year-old Xi has been able to amass as one of China's most influential figures in the country's modern political history.

Most closely watched will be the Politburo Standing Committee, whose size fluctuates but has stood at seven members under Xi. Based on past practice, the new lineup will be revealed when the members walk out from behind a curtain Sunday, one day after the end of a weeklong party congress.

The positions they take on stage, to Xi's left and right, will indicate their rank within what is considered the inner circle of power. Leading contenders include both current members and newcomers:

LI KEQIANG

One major question is the future of the party's No. 2 official, Premier Li Keqiang, who has been on the Standing Committee since 2012 and is primarily responsible for heading the cabinet and managing the world's second-largest economy.

The 67-year-old Li is regarded as an advocate of market reforms and private enterprise, in contrast to Xi, who favors state-led development with an emphasis on technological self-reliance and reducing the large gap between rich and poor.

Li has had little impact on policymaking, but he has led efforts to promote consumption-led economic growth and reduce reliance on exports and investment, employing tactics that some other countries say violate China's free-trade commitments.

Though he has said he will step down as premier next year, he is still eligible to stay on the Standing Committee. If he remains, analysts say that might indicate that supporters of a more market-driven economy have tempered Xi's push for greater state control.

WANG YANG

Other possible holdovers include Wang Yang, who joined the Standing Committee in 2017 and is also regarded as a member of the wing that favors markets, private enterprise and economic experimentation.

Wang heads the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a party-controlled advisory body made up of representatives from various sectors such as religious groups, professional organizations and chambers of commerce.

He won plaudits in 2011 for defusing protests by resi-

dents of the fishing village of Wukan over land sales by local officials.

WANG HUNING

Longtime party political theorist Wang Huning is seen as likely to stay on the Standing Committee. He may move up to head of the National People's Congress, the largely ceremonial legislature, which would make him one of the top three party officials.

HU CHUNHUA

Among possible newcomers, Vice Premier Hu Chunhua is considered one of those with the best chance. He was a top official in Guangdong province from 2012 to 2017, where he led a crackdown on "naked officials" who work in China but have sent their families to live abroad, considered an indication of corruption.

Hu rose through the party's Communist Youth League, which is seen as "politically close to Xi's predecessor, former party leader and President Hu Jintao."

Hu Chunhua is known as a boy wonder who ranked first in China's national university entrance examinations and became the youngest person to hold several official posts.

He spent the first two decades of his career in Tibet, where he promoted economic development and oversaw efforts to suppress pro-independence sentiment. He was thereafter appointed party secretary for the Inner Mongolia region.

LI QIANG

Li Qiang has been party secretary of Shanghai, China's largest city and financial hub, since 2017. The post was previously held by Xi, former President Jiang Zemin and former Premier Zhu Rongji.

Li is regarded as being close to Xi after serving under him in the southeastern province of Zhejiang, a center for export-oriented manufacturing and private enterprise.

His reputation was dented by a lengthy lockdown of Shanghai earlier this year that confined 25 million people to their homes, disrupted the economy and prompted scattered public protests.

CHEN MIN'ER

Chen Min'er, another Xi ally who worked under him in Zhejiang province, has served as party secretary of the vast southwestern city of Chongqing since 2017.

The 62-year-old Chen is regarded by analysts as a rising star whom Xi might want to promote in order to secure his legacy in the next generation.

Chen has never held a national-level position but is seen as a capable leader who made Chongqing's government more responsive and efficient after a turbulent period under the now-imprisoned Bo Xilai.

He previously held the top post in Guizhou, a relatively poor southern province, from 2012 to 2017. **MDT/AP**

IN CONTEXT

When counting in the first Ulster assembly poll finished it was revealed that Sinn Fein had won 10.1% of the votes.

Neither Sinn Fein nor the SDLP took up their seats on the Assembly when it opened in November 1982. In 1986, following the withdrawal of several other parties the Assembly was dissolved.

In April 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was signed by the British and Irish governments. In June of the same year the Northern Ireland Assembly was resurrected with the SDLP taking most of the seats.

This power-sharing executive has been suspended four times. Lack of weapon decommissioning by the IRA and accusations of IRA intelligence gathering in the Northern Ireland office were the main causes.

The Northern Ireland Assembly met for the first time after a five year suspension in May 2007 with DUP leader Ian Paisley as first minister.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. A female colleague may cause problems for you. Make changes that will enhance your appearance.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You need to spend some time reflecting on past experiences and involvements. You should be in business for yourself. Don't let situations get out of control.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. You will be in the mood for entertainment. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
There are ways of making extra cash if you put your mind to it. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Colleagues may try to undermine you. Travel will be exciting. You may want to take a look at your direction in life. Try making some changes to your appearance and your attitude that will reinforce just that.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. Unpleasant situations concerning family members will be unnerving.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Invite friends in for a visit. Real estate investments will payoff. You could expand your circle of friends if you get involved in unusual activities.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You will feel better about yourself and you may also meet potential lovers. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Be sure to get involved with those who can introduce you to unusual forms of entertainment.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Too much talk will lead to disputes. Plan some family outings. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Put your energy into home renovations.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity. Try not to spend too much on children or entertainment.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side. Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise donations.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

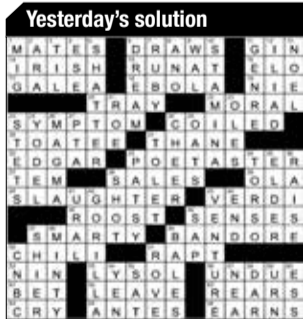
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Changchun	7	19	cloudy
Chengdu	15	24	fine
Chongqing	16	28	cloudy
Fuzhou	18	25	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	26	cloudy
Guiyang	10	23	cloudy
Haikou	19	26	rain
Hangzhou	11	22	cloudy
Harbin	3	17	fine
Hefei	8	22	fine
Nanjing	11	22	cloudy
Shanghai	14	21	fine
Taipei	19	22	overcast
Wuhan	10	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	3	7	cloudy
Frankfurt	13	17	rain
Paris	13	21	overcast
London	12	18	showers
New York	8	17	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Verbal flourishes; 6- Citrus coolers; 10- Chemical ending; 13- Overjoy; 14- Canoeing body; 15- Winder for holding flexible material; 16- Cookwear; 17- Manitoba native; 18- Opposed to; 19- At that time; 20- Without interruption; 22- "I, Robot" author; 24- Parentless child; 28- Degrees in a right angle; 31- Fluff, as bangs; 32- ___ Carta; 34- TKO caller; 36- Having wealth; 37- Lay down the lawn; 38- Tab grabber; 41- Chiang ___-shek; 42- Converse competitor; 44- 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 45- Cessation; 47- Farm layers; 49- Rather recent; 51- Grownups; 53- Entirely; 56- Polish remover; 59- Bear in the sky; 61- Haunted house sound; 64- Blend; 65- Discharge; 66- Kind of prof.; 67- Uh-huh; 68- His and her; 69- French possessive; 70- Not barefoot; 71- Lost;

DOWN 1- Nipple; 2- ___Bits; 3- Challenges; 4- Making amends; 5- DC bigwig; 6- Recess; 7- Fix hose; 8- Squeezes (out); 9- Take care of; 10- Dusk, to Donne; 11- Open mesh fabric; 12- Certain Ivy Leaguer; 15- Knocker of a door; 20- Consisting of nine; 21- Meal crumb; 23- Aromatic herb; 25- Japanese three-line verse; 26- Tin Pan Alley org.; 27- Classic soda; 29- Commerce; 30- Are we there ___?; 32- Shifted; 33- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 35- Catlike; 37- Narrative of heroic exploits; 39- Long, long time; 40- Observe the Sabbath; 43- Obliquely; 46- Notion; 48- And so on; Abbr.; 50- Out of breath; 52- Big rigs; 54- Forest makeup; 55- Actor Davis; 57- New Ager John; 58- Bread spread; 60- Gillette brand; 61- Slip preventer; 62- Sugary suffix; 63- Donkey's uncle; 65- Greek H;



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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WWII NOVEL SETS HIGH BAR FOR HISTORICAL FICTION

GUNDI, Irma and Hilde all find themselves at a Lebensborn Society house for future mothers who are deemed to be racially fit. Each woman is there for the same reason: to usher life into the world. But the three main characters have different stances on Nazi Germany and its burgeoning eugenics program.

Often overlooked in history, women are the focus of Jennifer Coburn's novel "Cradles of the Reich." The horrors of Nazi Germany are no secret and there's no shortage of World War II literature around, but Coburn manages to peel back layer after layer of shocking misconduct, maintaining suspense all the while.

Irma Benz, who retired from nursing after witnessing tragedy in the Great War, wants nothing more than to settle down and live a normal life with her fiancé. That is, until she finds a Jewish woman secretly living in his house.

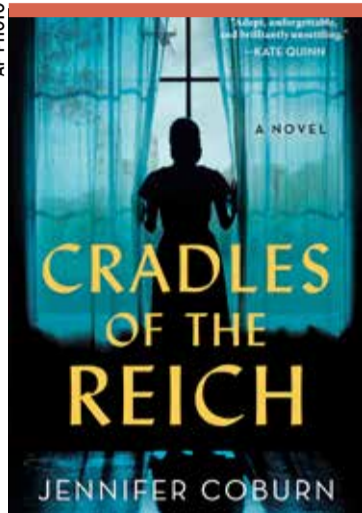
Gundi Schiller, the quintessential young German Aryan

woman, is pregnant with a Jewish man's baby. She possesses levels of morality and self-evaluation well beyond her years, yet she is unable to fathom the cruelty of the Reich, her inexperience in suffering a byproduct of her youth and beauty.

Hilde Kramer, a prospectless high school graduate, discovers a future for herself as the mistress of a high-ranking official. Her naiveté and inexperience mixed with inside knowledge and loads of propaganda lead her into deeper, murkier waters as she desperately seeks validation and status.

"Cradles of the Reich" switches between their points of view, urgency dictating which woman's name appears at the top of each chapter. The ending came much quicker than I expected — Coburn easily could have kept my attention a lot longer, but it's a smart play to end where she did and not risk overstaying the story's welcome.

A WWII newbie who knows little to nothing of the subject



"Cradles of the Reich" by Jennifer Coburn (Sourcebooks Landmark)

would find the book horrifyingly educational. A scholar of Nazi Germany would be pleasantly surprised at nuggets of fact embedded throughout the fiction and the overall level historical accuracy.

Every historical fiction novel should strive to be this compelling, well-researched and just flat-out good. **DONNA EDWARDS, MDT/AP**

tTUNES

ENTER TOVE LO'S MESSY FEMININITY IN 'DIRT FEMME'

FEMININITY is all-encompassing, it's malleable and flesh deep.

In Tove Lo's fifth studio album, "Dirt Femme" — the first under her own independent label — the Swedish singer-songwriter and producer profoundly understands the female experience can be painful, messy and iridescent. Tove Lo rejects the confined cage of femininity and gets dirty.

In "Dirt Femme," Tove Lo is able to analyze her marriage and rejects the traditional nuclear family in "Suburbia," singing "I can't be no Stepford wife." She explores an eating disorder that plagued her teenage years in "Grapefruit" — the purposefully sweltering beats makes this song a deniable club banger — and self-hatred and self-sabotage in "I'm to Blame," her most candid song yet.

Lead single "No One Dies from Love" documents how Tove Lo's interpretation of femininity means showing the vulnerability of heartbreak as she sings against heavy '80s-inspired synth, "No one dies from love/Guess I'll be the first. Will you remember us?/Or are the memories too stained with blood now?" Her second single, "2 Die 4" samples "Popcorn" by Gershon Kingsley in



"Dirt Femme," Tove Lo (Pretty Swede Records)

a shimmering, fatal love song that screams camp.

Other album standouts include "Call on Me" and "Pineapple Slice," produced by British EDM artist SG Lewis. The songs take the listener into a disco rave curated by two juggernauts of the now mainstream genre.

Tove Lo ponders the question, "After the pain is there more?" She confidently answers it through a sharply written and a sonically creative career-defining album. She shatters the pristine image of femininity shoved down her throat as woman. She is an artist — and now a independent label owner — while simultaneously dancing on a club dance-floor. **NARDOS HAILE, MDT/AP**

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本期雜誌加入了澳門國際音樂節特刊不容錯過

DRIVE IN

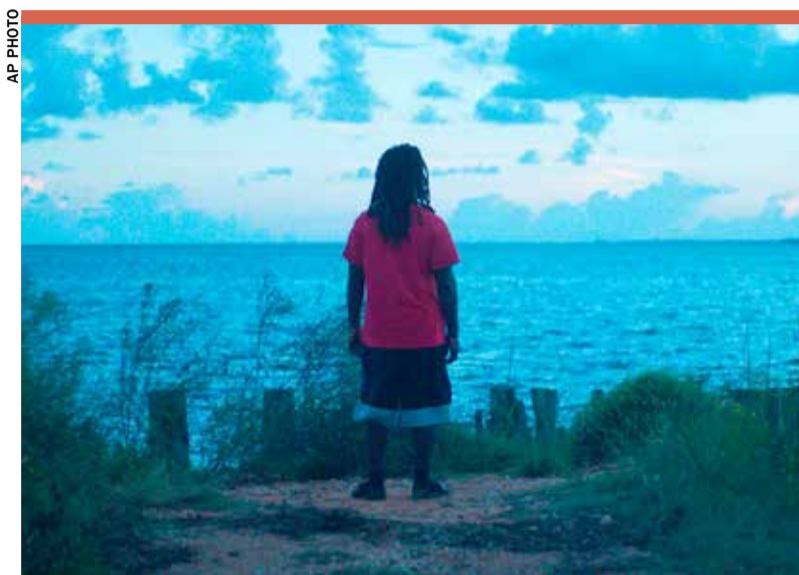
'Descendant' powerfully telescopes past and present

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

ONE of the best films of the year, Margaret Brown's "Descendant" is, strictly speaking, about the discovery of the Clotilda, the last known slave ship.

After it was used to illegally kidnap and enslave more than 100 Africans, the 90-foot-long schooner was sunk near Mobile, Alabama, around 1860, decades after the international slave trade was outlawed. Until recently, it laid unfound somewhere in the muddy waters of the Mobile River, a lost, 160-year-old crime scene.

But "Descendant," a prize-winner at the Sundance Film Festival, is exponentially more than an account of finding the Clotilda in 2019. Brown roves across the land, crowding her film with a wide spectrum of voices — community leaders, direct descendants from the Clotilda, passed-down accounts — for a living oral history that reckons with the long shadow



Emmett Lewis in a scene from the documentary "Descendant"

of slavery. "I could care less about the ship," says Joycelyn Davis, one of the film's many vibrant, thoughtful subjects and a resident of Africatown, the Mobile hamlet founded by the Clotilda's West Africans.

Modern-day Africatown is, itself, evidence of how systematic racism can operate. With the city's

highest industrial zoning regulations, Africatown has long been surrounded by factories and refineries, leading to pollution and high local cancer rates. For "Descendant," it's a powerful illustration of how past and present perpetually intermingle in America.

"Descendant," which Friday opens in select theaters and de-

buts on Netflix, is in many ways about storytelling as a form of resistance. Those that came on the Clotilda were warned not to tell anyone of their trafficking. The story went undocumented in history books. Instead, it was passed by word of mouth as local lore kept alive by descendants. Emmett Lewis, a particularly soulful descendant of Africatown founder Cudjo Lewis, describes it as "a ghost story" told to him by his father, and one he tells his young daughters.

For many, any clarity about the Clotilda is a way of adding definition to a severed heritage. One woman compares it to an adopted child searching for a parent. Among those who have learned that they're a Clotilda descendant is Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, an executive producer on the film.

At the same time, the ship's finding raises other questions of justice and of reparations. For many of the descendants, it's not a theoretical question. The slave-trafficking financier of the Clotilda,

Timothy Meaher, may have died more than a century ago, but his family is still a wealthy landowner in the area. The Meaher name adorns a local park.

There are few certain answers supplied by "Descendant," a film that carries the banner of Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground. But there is a searching, ruminative dialogue running throughout the film. Brown and editors Michael Bloch and Geoffrey Richman beautifully weave together disparate voices into a meditative chorus.

It's not just the living, either. Kern Jackson, a kindly folklorist and a central figure in the effort, plays a VHS tape of Mable Dennison, a descendant who wrote a biographical memoir of her grandfather, James Dennison, instructing others about their heritage. Brown also has many of the descendants read from Zora Neale Hurston's "Barracoon," a book based on her interviews in 1927 with Cudjo Lewis. It was surfaced only in 2018 by the author Alice Walker.

"The only fear," Emmett Lewis says in the film's final words, "is for my people's story not to be told."

"Descendant," a Netflix release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for thematic material, brief language and smoking images. Running time: 109 minutes. ★★★★★

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE FOSHAN 1050M SAND 2022-10-22|Sat|15:25

FORGET about his last run fourth in 1350M sand in September; **Rock To Road** is one of the few consistent gallopers in MJC, last season he scored 4 wins and 9 placings under his belt. That last run fourth was his first run of the season, treat that as his warmup race to get himself fitter and ready for better things to come. This Saturday his trainer enter **Rock To Road** for 1050M sand race, which is his pet distance. He is so versatile be it race on turf and on sand. I wouldn't worry too much about his draw in barrier 10, his jock C.L Cheung can get **Rock To Road** a solid run throughout. **Rock To Road** is the solid banker material of the day.

Race 3 Horse no.3 Rock To Road Win & Place bets, Solid banker of the day



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OPINION

China Daily
 Zhang Yi, China Daily

STRONG WILL FOR REUNIFICATION CAN'T BE OVERLOOKED

When General Secretary Xi Jinping made a solemn promise that the reunification of the two sides across the Taiwan Straits must be realized, there was a long burst of applause at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, if not the longest round of applause.

The applause came from some 2,300 delegates attending the opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, representing the Party's more than 96 million members.

One delegate from Taiwan, Jiang Erxiong, who is president of the Fujian Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, was listening to the report at the scene. "My biggest feeling is that the applause represents the voice of the people," she said.

I couldn't agree more with Jiang. As a reporter covering the Taiwan question, I was lucky to be there and witness the long applause. It conveyed the great expectation, will and confidence of the Party in achieving the goal.

As written in the report delivered by Xi on Sunday, resolving the Taiwan question and realizing China's complete reunification is, for the Party, a historic mission and an unshakable commitment.

It is also a shared aspiration of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, including our Taiwan compatriots. Many young people from Taiwan were also closely following the report and felt inspired.

Lin Yen-chen, who is from Taiwan and is now a doctoral student at the School of International Studies at Peking University, watched the opening meeting live on TV with students who are Party members at the university.

"Just like the delegates sitting in the hall, many young people from Taiwan also feel greatly encouraged. We look forward to seeing the reunification of the two sides as early as possible and a beautiful future of the prosperity and development across the Straits after reunification," he said.

Such strong public will for resolving the Taiwan question should not be overlooked by anyone or any force that dares to use the island of Taiwan to contain the development of the Chinese mainland, especially some external forces that have been colluding with "Taiwan independence" forces.

The strength of such a common will can be reflected in the response of the Chinese government and Chinese people after a trip by United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese watched, discussed and were outraged by the provocative trip that was also followed by unprecedented countermeasures by the Chinese government, including conducting live-fire drills around the island and canceling some cooperation with the US.

Blood runs thicker than water, and fellow Chinese on both sides are one family bound by blood. Resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese, a matter that must be resolved by the Chinese.

"We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort," Xi said in the report, "but we will never promise to renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary."

This is directed solely at interference by outside forces and the few separatists seeking "Taiwan independence" and their separatist activities, and is by no means targeting our Taiwan compatriots.

The mainland cares for the Taiwan people and has been rolling out policies to give those who come to work and study on the mainland the same treatment as local people. Taiwan compatriots are expected to join hands with those on the mainland to strive for a common bright future.

Looking back over the past decade, the Party has put forward an overall policy framework for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era and maintained the initiative and the ability to steer cross-Straits relations.

The wheels of history are rolling on toward China's reunification and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Complete reunification of the country must be realized, and it can, without doubt, be realized.

Lawmakers from two of Germany's governing parties yesterday slammed plans for Chinese shipping company Cosco to take a major stake in the operator of the country's biggest container terminal, at Hamburg port, warning that they pose a national security risk.

Public broadcaster NDR reported that Chancellor Olaf Scholz has asked officials to find a compromise that would allow the investment to happen, after several ministries initially rejected it on the grounds that Cosco, already the port's biggest customer, could get too much leverage.

Neither the ministries nor Scholz's office immediately responded to requests for comment. But lawmakers from the Green party and the Free Democrats, which formed a coalition last year with Scholz' Social Democrats, criticized the plan.

"Our critical infrastructure must not become a plaything for the geopolitical interests of others," Green party lawmaker Marcel Emmerich said. Citing a past government decision by one of Scholz's fellow Social Democrats to let Russia buy German natural gas storage facilities, he accused the chancellor of wanting to "flog off parts of the port of Hamburg to China, whatever it takes."



Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss addresses the media in Downing Street yesterday: 'I cannot deliver.'

UK'S LIZ TRUSS QUILTS AFTER TURMOIL OBLITERATED HER AUTHORITY

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

British Prime Minister Liz Truss quit yesterday — bowing to the inevitable after a tumultuous term in which her policies triggered turmoil in financial markets and a rebellion in her party that obliterated her authority.

Making a hastily scheduled statement outside her 10 Downing Street office, Truss acknowledged that "I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party."

She is the third Conservative prime minister to resign in as many years and leaves a divided party seeking a leader who can unify its warring factions. Truss, who said she will remain in office until a replacement is chosen, has been prime minister for just 45 days.

Bitterly divided Conservative Party lawmakers have just a few days to agree on a successor, or face another leadership contest, the third in three years. Potential contenders include former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak, who lost to Truss in the last leadership contest, House of Commons leader Penny Mordaunt, Defense Secretary Ben Wallace — and Boris Johnson, the former prime minister ousted in July over a series of ethics scandals.

Truss bowed out just a day after vowing to stay in power, saying she was "a fighter and not a quitter." But she couldn't hold on any longer after a senior minister quit her government with a barrage of criticism and a vote in the House of Commons descended into chaos and acrimony just days after she was forced to abandon many of her economic policies.

Markets breathed a sigh of relief, and the pound rose about 1% to above \$1.13 after Truss' resignation.

A growing number of lawmakers had called for Truss to resign after weeks of turmoil sparked by her Sept. 23 economic plan, which included a raft of tax cuts that spooked financial markets that investors worried Britain couldn't afford.

That tumult resulted in the replacement of Truss' Treasury chief, multiple policy U-turns and a breakdown of discipline in the governing Conservative Party.

Where the party goes from here is not clear.

"Nobody has a route plan. It's all sort of hand-to-hand fighting on a day-to-day basis," Conservative lawmaker Simon Hoare told the BBC yesterday before Truss resigned.

She quit after a mee-

ting with Graham Brady, a senior Conservative lawmaker who oversees leadership challenges. Brady was tasked with assessing whether the prime minister still has the support of Tory members of Parliament.

But by that point, the chorus of voices calling for her ouster was growing.

"It's time for the prime minister to go," Conservative lawmaker Miriam Cates said. Another, Steve Double, said of Truss: "She isn't up to the job, sadly." Legislator Ruth Edwards said "it is not responsible for the party to allow her to remain in power."

Truss' downfall was so rapid that Brady was unable to spell out exactly how the selection of a new leader would unfold, and whether the party's 172,000 members, or only its 357 lawmakers, would get a say.

Brady said he was "deeply conscious of the imperative in the national interest of resolving this clearly and quickly," and the new leader would be in place by Oct. 28.

Whoever succeeds Truss will be the country's third prime minister this year alone. A national election doesn't have to be held until 2024, but opposition parties demanded one be held now, saying the government lacks democratic legitimacy. **MDT/AP**



Ukraine accused Iran of violating a U.N. Security Council ban on the transfer of drones capable of flying 300 kilometers and invited U.N. experts to inspect what it said were Iranian-origin drones being used by Russia against civilian targets. Russia and Iran denied yesterday [Macau time] the drones are Iranian.



Syria Staffers at the WHO's Syrian office allege that their boss mismanaged millions of dollars, plied government officials with gifts — including computers, gold coins and cars — and acted frivolously as COVID-19 swept the country. More than 100 confidential documents, messages and other materials obtained by AP show WHO officials told investigators that the agency's Syria representative, Dr. Akjemal Magtyмова (pictured), engaged in abusive behavior, pressured WHO staff to sign contracts with high-ranking Syrian government politicians and consistently misspent WHO and donor funds.



US The Biden administration yesterday [Macau time] awarded \$2.8 billion in grants to boost domestic manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles in 12 states. A total of 20 companies will receive grants for projects to extract and process lithium, graphite and other battery materials, manufacture components and strengthen U.S. supply of critical minerals, officials said.

Brazil Just months after enduring floods that destroyed crops and submerged entire communities, thousands of families in the Brazilian Amazon are now dealing with severe drought that, at least in some areas, is the worst in decades. The low level of the Amazon River, at the center of the largest drainage system in the world, has put dozens of municipalities under alert. The fast-decreasing river water level is due to lower-than-expected rainfall during August and September, according to Luna Gripp, a geosciences researcher.