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GOV'T ORDERED AN INQUIRY FROM MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CODE APP IN LIGHT OF SYSTEM MALFUNCTION THIS WEEK

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EDUCATION BUREAU TO HELP LOCAL UNIVERSITIES WITH MARKETING: OFFICIALS

▲ P4

BIDEN WANTS TO DISCUSS TAIWAN, RUSSIA, TRADE WITH XI

▲ P6




China Bao Tong, a leading voice for political reform in the Chinese Communist Party who was purged after the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, has died at age 90. Son Bao Pu said in a tweet that his father passed away peacefully Wednesday morning. Bao had been living in a Beijing suburb under tight police supervision.



Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia next week, an Indonesian government official said yesterday, avoiding a possible confrontation with the United States and its allies over his war in Ukraine. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the chief of support for G-20 events, said Putin's decision not to come was "the best for all of us."



Ukraine Russia's military said it will withdraw from the only Ukrainian regional capital it captured, but Kyiv was skeptical and an analyst warned this could be a ruse to lure the country's forces into a deadly trap. A forced pullout from the city of Kherson would mark one of Russia's worst setbacks in the 8-month-old war. Ukrainian authorities cautioned against considering the announced plan to retreat from Kherson, a gateway to the Crimean Peninsula as a done deal.

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BUDGET REVISITED

Lawmakers discussing gov't proposed budget 2023 say it's 'deja vu' and disbelieve an 'overly' optimistic MOP130 billion gaming revenue

▲ P3



DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION DECLINE REFLECTS DROP IN NON-RESIDENT WORKERS

▲ P2



SUNCITY TRIAL

PROSECUTOR UNIMPRESSED AS LAWYER BEWAILS POLICE POWERPOINT TESTIMONY

ANTHONY LAM

THE prosecution interrupted a defense lawyer in the Suncity trial as he complained about a Judiciary Police (PJ) inspector using a PowerPoint presentation while testifying as a witness in a court hearing this week.

The prosecution had subpoenaed the PJ inspector, surnamed Mak, to testify in the trial. The inspector gave his testimony using a PowerPoint presentation.

Defense lawyer Pedro Leal objected, believing the witness was making a presentation rather than responding to questions raised in court.

Before Leal had finished his objection, prosecutor Lai U Hou interrupted by raising his voice and accused the lawyer of harassing the witness. He said, "you should not interrupt him! Who are you to speak at this moment? You are disturbing the testimony!"

Presiding judge Lou Ieng Ha suggested both sides calm down before asking why the PowerPoint presentation was necessary. Mak said it was for convenience and clarity. The judge accepted his justification and Mak was permitted to continue his presentation.

Lasting over two hours, the presentation covered documents that included instructions on onsite betting, communication records and other evidence.



The PJ inspector said the documents recorded formulas used to calculate "operations", a term the prosecution and the police believe refers to side betting.

According to Mak, investigations have pointed to Suncity including "operations" as an internal responsibility. He also

testified that Alvin Chau, boss of Suncity, had signed in approval on a MOP9 million's investment for an additional functionality in a computer app to improve the reliability of messages.

The PJ added the app was used for side betting.

Mak also said the computer

server Suncity had rented from local telecom service provider CTM had a cluster named New Operations, in which records between 2014 and 2021 related to 97 side betting companies were found. Of these 97 companies, 30 had shares held by Chau or his "main camp". "Self-operated" means

Suncity operated the companies.

Mak then showed a phone record dated March 2016, in which a secretary to Chau told him that Cheung Chi Kin, also a defendant in the case, wanted to discuss side betting revenue with him. The messages also concerned proportions of each side betting company, about which the secretary sought Chau's confirmation.

Chau's lawyer Leong Weng Pun asked Mak for proof of Chau's ownership in the "main camp", and for proof that Chau had replied to the messages. Mak responded: "if I were the boss, I would get my employees to handle it."

In a file named Operation ROLLING_ROLLSMARY, which Mak presented to the court, there are 68,000 records dated between December 2013 and March 2021 that allegedly concern side betting. Mak emphasized that evidence found in different forms echoed each other.

However, Leong questioned why a piece of evidence showed a gambling time that was 17 minutes earlier than the conversation time. Mak said he did not know why, but insisted that it echoed intelligence collected through phone tapping.

At the end of the session, Chau asked to speak and said he did not understand why the "main camp" was considered related to him.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population decline still mainly attributable to fewer non-residents

MACAU'S population has continued to decline as the city recorded a 5,400 population decrease in the third quarter to 671,900, due mainly to the drop in non-resident workers.

In September alone there were only 153,841 blue card holders, which is a decrease of 159 workers when compared month-to-month.

In August this year, the number of non-resident workers dropped by nearly 3,800 people.

Data released from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicate 1,038 live births were delivered in the third quarter of this year, an increase of 51 quarter-to-quarter.

Mortality decreased by 77 quarter-to-quarter to 562 in the third quarter. The

top three underlying causes of death were neoplasms (197), circulatory system diseases (122) and respiratory system diseases (94). In the first three quarters of this year, mortality totaled 1,814, an increase of 102 year-on-year.

Also in the third quarter, new arrivals from mainland China with one-way permits (619) and individuals with a newly granted right

of abode (132) increased 126 and 6 respectively quarter-to-quarter. The number of non-resident workers at the end of the third quarter (153,841) dropped by 8,550.

Marriage registration recorded 502 cases in the third quarter, down 147 quarter-to-quarter. In the first three quarters of this year, 1,968 marriages were registered, a decrease of 497 year-on-year. LV



LYNZY VALLES

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AL PLENARY

2023 budget approved in first reading but not without remarks

RENATO MARQUES

NEXT year's government budget passed unanimously yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Although 100% of votes were in favor of the budget, several lawmakers have criticized the proposal as unrealistic and generally a repeat of proposals presented in the past two years.

Among topics discussed was the forecast for the gaming gross revenue in 2023, which according to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, should be approximately MOP130 billion.

As in previous years, many lawmakers considered this estimation exaggerated, and reality has proven them right. Nonetheless, the government has included the figure. The figure is the main source of tax income for the Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Lei said the 2023 budget represented the continuing pursuit of a "pragmatic and proactive finance policy" that prioritizes the central government's measures announced at the end of September related to the resumption of the issuing of the e-visas and tour groups from the mainland to visit Macau.

Lei added that, with the approval of the new gaming law and new concessions to be attributed before the year's end, the gaming concessionaires will "promote next year the development of non-gaming elements, according to the commitment made on the public tender."

Lawmakers Ella Lei and Ron Lam were the most active in questioning Lei Wai Nong on the budget proposal. Lei, who represents the workers' sector noted that, besides the exaggeratedly optimistic forecast for the GGR, the budget still presented a deficit



figure that fell between expenditure forecasts and expected receipts.

"According to the data provided, the GGR occupies a very important share of the government's forecasted receipts but the Secretary is forecasting [again] MOP130B. In 2020 the GGR was MOP60B and even if we can reach the level of 2020 [in 2023], this [income of MOP130B] will not happen," Ella Lei said, adding, "Last year we did the same thing [in overestimating the GGR] and this year we have a difference that is basically half [of the estimated]."

The lawmaker criticized the idea that the measures announced by the central government will solve all problems and help the economy recover, noting that,

in reality, "not many people can come to Macau and some of those who can are lacking the will to do so [because] of the pandemic restrictions and constant instability."

"I believe that the government is giving us similar figures for the last two years but that is far from reality. What is the government going to do to achieve this MOP130B of GGR receipts?"

Ron Lam directed similar criticism at the budget proposal, saying, "we have pretty much already had these discussions during last year's budget."

The lawmaker is one of several who called on the government to recommence the government's injection of MOP7,000 into the provident fund, which has been

suspended since 2020.

Lam also accused Lei Wai Nong of trying to turn the "financial reserves into magical reserves," resorting to this backup every time he fails to produce a proper budget and advance measures to promote economic recovery.

Lam called on the government to suspend payment of the annual cash handouts under the Wealth Partaking Scheme to those not living permanently in Macau. He estimated this measure alone could save the government some MOP1B, while the reinstatement of the MOP7,000 for the aged population would cost only half of that.

The lawmaker urged the government to thoroughly revise the "cash handouts scheme." He said

the scheme had completely lost its purpose and the government should develop new measures to support the population.

Lam also attacked Lei Wai Nong's policies for investment in the education and health sectors, saying he manipulates the figures by significantly reducing the investment in one year only to slightly increase the investment in later years to eventually the original value. In doing so, the policies pretend the government is increasing its investment while actually returning what had previously taken.

Talking specifically about education, Lam accused the government of having disinvested in the sector for the past three or more years and of juggling the figures and policies to hide that reality.

"We have not increased the investment, with the increase we are seeing now [for 2023] we are just leveling to the investment of 2020 and since the classes now have more students, this means that the resources per capita have been reduced," he remarked, calling on the Secretary to identify the area that will experience the 12% reduction to be reflected in the budget for the health sector.

Replying to the lawmakers, Lei Wai Nong said that as a result of the central government's reinstatement of tourism-related measures, the government expects that the figures of visitors per day to Macau will be over 40,000 the whole year, noting that such an estimation supports the MOP130B GGR forecast.

Responding to the call to resume the injection of the MOP7,000 into the providence fund, Lei Wai Nong said, "we have used some MOP203.5B over the past years from the [financial] reserves already. This reserve was not easy to achieve and we cannot just throw it away. This year the conditions are not gathered to the attribution of that money. I must explain that, according to the law, this does not apply only to the senior citizens but to all residents over 22 years old who have stayed in Macau for over 183 days this year." He added, "our goal is to be able to resume [the 7,000 patacas measure] due to a restored economy and positive balances."

AL AGENDA

Lawmakers inquire about Health Code breakdown

RENATO MARQUES

SEVERAL lawmakers at yesterday's Legislative Assembly asked the government about the malfunction of the local health code system that occurred on at least two separate occasions Wednesday

and that disrupted several services and border crossings.

The lawmakers wanted to know how it was possible for such failures and malfunctions to still be happening when the government had guaranteed on previous occasions

that it had established a backup system to prevent recurrence of the problem.

In response to the population's doubts and anticipating the lawmakers' inquiries, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong,

said yesterday the government had ordered an inquiry and a thorough report from the management of the health code system, identifying the causes of the breakdown and how to effectively prevent it.

Ella Lei and Lei

Leong Wong were two lawmakers who delivered spoken inquiries solely on the topic, although the matter was also mentioned by others who addressed matters related to economic recovery, tourism, and border crossings.

Ao Ieong's comments were made on the sidelines of the Pai San (blessing) ceremony for the 69th Macau Grand Prix earlier in the day. She also said the results of such an inquiry and report should be known within this week.

HIGHER EDUCATION

EDUCATION BUREAU TO HELP LOCAL UNIVERSITIES WITH MARKETING

ANTHONY LAM

THE Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) will help local higher education institutions to “improve their attractiveness,” an education official recently told the Education Committee.

At a recent meeting of the committee, the first this year, Fong Ka Kin, division head for tertiary education cooperation and exchange of the DSEDJ, said the bureau would “coordinate and support higher education institutions to strengthen external publicity, adopt different online and offline methods to carry out more targeted promotion, and enhance the attractiveness of these institutions,” while complying with government planning and policies.

The official also said local higher education institutions have “developed rapidly in recent years, and their rankings have continued to [rise] in international listings. There are also many achievements in research, result-



ing in certain disciplinary advantages.”

At the same meeting, Leong I On, head of Division of Secondary Education at the DSEDJ, introduced committee members to DSEDJ’s work on career and life planning. Pragmatic examples at the Seac Pai Van Vocational and Technical Education Activity Center were also presented to clarify the ideation of the work.

Leong added the bureau would like to familiarize students

with developments in various industries through its work in this aspect, so students will start planning their career and life earlier, garnering greater opportunities for multidisciplinary academic and career development.

Elsie Ao leong, secretary for social affairs and culture as well as chair of the committee, highlighted that making education policies more coordinated and effective was the goal of the committee.



WYNN MACAU SEEING OCCUPANCY BUILDUP AMID RELAUNCH OF E VISAS

LYNZY VALLES

WYNN Macau is seeing a buildup in occupancy this coming weekend, president of Wynn Macau Ian Coughlan told analysts in an earnings call.

The resumption of electronic visas for mainland travelers to Macau commenced November 1. This move was long-awaited by the tourism sector after electronic visas were halted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the city’s tourism bureau clarified earlier this week that they are still waiting on an official announcement confirming the resumption of mainland excursions.

“We are coming out of our recent outbreak, and I believe we will see the EVs trickle in in the next couple of weeks and

then pick up pace in the coming months,” said Coughlan.

Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace — the operator’s two venues in the SAR — shed USD75.8 million in adjusted property EBITDA year-over-year. The third quarter included a nearly two-week closure of Macau casinos due to an increase in coronavirus cases.

“Long term, we remain excited about the prospects for Macau with so much pent-up demand for travel and tourism in Asia,” said Craig Billings, CEO of Wynn Resorts.

Billings has noted the market continues to be challenging with market wide gross gaming revenue in the third quarter only reaching approximately 8% of the third quarter of 2019 levels, and “our results have reflected that.”

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GAMING

Galaxy's net revenue plummets 50% in Q3

ANTHONY LAM

LOCAL resort operator Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has recorded a loss of HKD581 million in its adjusted EBITDA for the third quarter of this year.

In Q3 this year, GEG posted a net revenue of HKD2 billion, down 52% year-on-year and down 16% quarter-on-quarter. In the same quarter last year, the amount was HKD503 million but it plunged to negative HKD384 million in Q2 this year.

Property-specific figures from Galaxy Macau are negative at HKD299 million, StarWorld Macau negative at HKD169 million and Broadway Macau negative at HKD16 million.

The company has followed the Macau government's call to use Broadway Macau intermittently as a special quaran-



tine hotel.

GEG added that in the latest twelve months, the adjusted EBITDA was HKD653 million, down 81% year-on-year and down 62% period-on-period.

During Q3 this year, GEG proved unlucky in its gaming operations which saw adjusted EBITDA decrease by

approximately HKD20 million.

GEG's total gross gambling revenue (GGR) on a management basis in Q3 this year was HKD900 million, down 75% year-on-year and down 34% quarter-on-quarter. Mass GGR was HKD800 million, down 65% year-on-year and down 32% quarter-on-quarter.

ter. VIP GGR was HKD56 million, down 95% year-on-year and down 63% quarter-on-quarter. Electronic GGR was HKD64 million, down 57% year-on-year and down 15% quarter-on-quarter.

GEG's overall financial condition was described as "healthy and liquid".

As at September 30 this year, cash and liquid investments totaled HKD22.5 billion and net cash equaled HKD19.3 billion. As at the same date, GEG had debts of HKD3.2 billion and said the situation "primarily reflects ongoing treasury yield management initiatives with minimal core debt of HKD0.3 billion."

Regarding future development, GEG said it would "align the opening of Raffles at Galaxy Macau with prevailing market conditions, followed by the opening of Galaxy International Convention Center (GICC) and Andaz Macau, while proceeding with the construction of remaining phases."

In addition, GEG promised that Phases 3 and 4 would "have a strong focus on non-gaming [elements], primarily targeting MICE, entertainment, family facilities," but gambling elements will still be included.

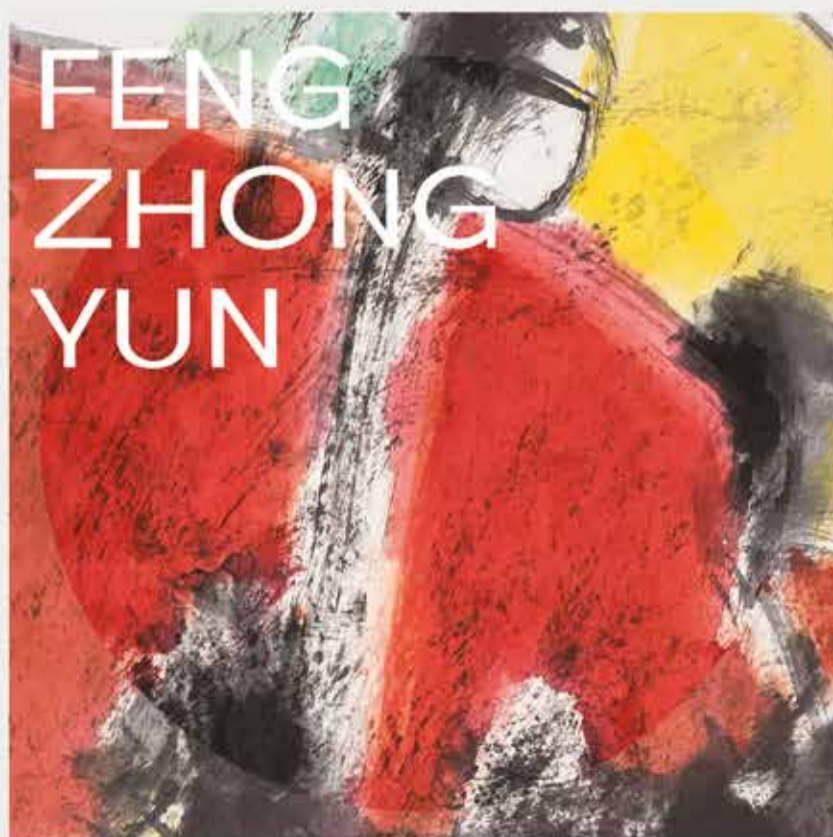
TAP SEAC CRAFT MARKET TO FEATURE OVER 100 STALLS

The Tap Seac Craft Market will run from November 17 to 20 and from November 24 to 27, featuring Hong Kong singer Rocky Chan as a performing guest. The market will feature over 100 handicraft and creative gastronomy stalls containing elements of local cultural heritage, including daily necessities, clothing and accessories, handicrafts, as well as natural and handmade products. Moreover, there will be creative food stalls and musical performances by singers from Macau and mainland China. In addition, a number of creative handicraft workshops will be held during the event, including workshops for families.

LABOR BUREAU PARTNERS WITH FAOM FOR JOB-MATCHING

The Labour Affairs Bureau will co-host a job-matching session with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) on November 17 to 18, offering 110 jobs. On the first morning, there will be a matchmaking session for the telecommunications sector, with 17 jobs on offer for functions such as direct line agent, customer service director, network technician and telecommunications. On November 18, there will be a job-matching session for the building administration sector, with 50 jobs on offer. On the afternoon of the same day, a session for the security sector will take place, with 43 jobs on offer. The sessions will be held at FAOM's headquarters and registration starts today on the DSAL website.

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DIPLOMACY

BIDEN WANTS TO DISCUSS TAIWAN, RUSSIA, TRADE WITH XI

AAMER MADHANI,
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said yesterday [Macau time] he plans at an anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping to discuss growing tensions between Washington and Beijing over the self-ruled island of Taiwan, trade policies and Beijing's relationship with Russia.

The White House has said it is working with Chinese officials to arrange a meeting between Biden and Xi on the sidelines of next week's Group of 20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, but the two sides have not confirmed the meeting will take place.

Biden told reporters at a White House news conference that he had much to discuss with Xi as U.S.-Chinese relations have grown more fraught in recent months.

"What I want to do with him when we talk is lay out what each of our red lines are and understand what he believes to be in the critical national interests of China, what I know to be the critical interests of the United States," Biden said. "And determine whether or not they conflict with one another."

Xi's government has criticized the Biden administration's posture toward Taiwan — which Beijing looks eventually to unify with the communist mainland — as undermining China's territorial integrity. The Chinese president also has suggested that Washington wants to stifle Beijing's growing influence as it tries to overtake the U.S. as the world's



U.S. President Joe Biden

No. 1 economy.

Tensions over Taiwan have grown since House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August.

Biden said that he's "not willing to make any fundamental concessions" about the United States' Taiwan doctrine.

Under its "One China" policy, the United States recognizes the government in Beijing while allowing for informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. It takes a stance of "strategic ambiguity" toward the defense of Taiwan — leaving it open whether

it would respond militarily were the island attacked.

Biden caused a stir in Asia in May when at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. The White House and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin were quick to clarify that there was no change in U.S. policy.

Beijing sees official American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step U.S. leaders say they don't support. Pelosi is

the highest-ranking elected American official to visit since then-Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1997.

The anticipated Biden-Xi meeting would be the first between the leaders of the world's biggest economies since Biden became president in January 2021.

The two traveled together in the U.S. and China in 2011 and 2012 when they were serving as their countries' vice presidents, and they have held five phone or video calls since Biden became president.

But the U.S.-China relationship has become far more

complicated since those getting-to-know-you talks in Washington and on the Tibetan plateau a decade ago.

As president, Biden has repeatedly accused China of human rights abuses of the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities. He has taken Beijing to task for its crackdowns on democracy activists in Hong Kong, coercive trade practices, military provocations against Taiwan and differences over Russia's war against Ukraine.

Weeks before Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine, the Russian president met with Xi in Beijing and the two issued a memorandum expressing hopes of a "no limits" relationship for their nations.

China has largely refrained from criticizing Russia's war but also has held off on supplying Moscow with arms.

"I don't think there's a lot of respect that China has for Russia or Putin," Biden said. "And in fact, they've been sort of keeping the distance a little bit."

On another issue, White House officials have expressed frustration that Beijing has not used its influence to press North Korea to pull back from conducting provocative missile tests and to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Xi has stayed close to home throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic.

He made his first trip outside China since the start of the pandemic in September with a stop in Kazakhstan and then Uzbekistan to take part in the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organization with Putin and other leaders of the Central Asian security group.

Xi last month was awarded a third five-year term as the Chinese Communist Party leader during the party's national congress. **MDT/AP**

TRADE & INVESTMENT

German business leaders warn against pulling out of China

A group of top German business executives is warning against withdrawing from China, while acknowledging that it's right for Germany to redefine its relationship with Beijing.

The intervention by eight chief executives in an article yesterday for the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung comes as Germany grapples with its future relationship business and political relationship with China.

The authors included the CEOs of industrial conglomerate Siemens, che-

micals manufacturer BASF, technology company Bosch, auto parts supplier Schaeffler and the port of Hamburg.

They said German companies' sites in China and elsewhere in the world contribute significantly to their competitiveness, and that China has become the world's second-biggest and most dynamic market — "so our presence there is particularly important in the interest of German economic strength."

The potential of the Chinese market offers an opportunity to scale up

faster and to be more successful in other markets, securing jobs in Germany, the authors argued.

They said that, given China's increasingly assertive behavior and the human rights situation in Xinjiang province, "it is right for Germany today to define its relationship with China in a more nuanced way, in the three dimensions of competition, cooperation and systemic rivalry." But, they added, "in the current public discussion, we perceive an almost exclusive emphasis on systemic rivalry, in

words and concrete measures."

"Despite all the challenges of China and with China, we are convinced that its fundamental growth dynamic will remain," the authors wrote. "A withdrawal from China would cut us off from these opportunities."

In recent weeks, Chinese investments in Germany have been in focus as officials seek to balance strong business relations with a desire to avoid repeating mistakes made with Russia, which once supplied more than half of

Germany's natural gas and now supplies none.

Last month, Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition argued about whether to allow Chinese shipping company COSCO to take a 35% stake in a container terminal at the Hamburg port. The Cabinet eventually cleared COSCO to take a stake below 25%, ensuring that it wouldn't gain the ability to block company decisions.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet blocked the sale of a chip factory in Germany to a Swedish subsidiary of a Chinese company and

a second planned investment, which the government didn't detail.

In between, Scholz visited Beijing last week.

Scholz is encouraging companies to diversify but not discouraging business with China. He said before his trip that "we don't want decoupling from China" but that "we will reduce one-sided dependencies in the spirit of smart diversification."

In yesterday's article, the CEOs concurred that "we must diversify risks," for example in chips, batteries and raw materials. **MDT/AP**



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

Japan, US hold joint arms drills amid China, N.Korea worry

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPAN and the United States began a major joint military exercise yesterday in southern Japan as the allies aim to step up readiness in the face of China's increasing assertiveness and North Korea's intensifying missile launches.

The biennial "Keen Sword" drills kicked off at a Japanese air base in southern Japan and were also held at multiple other locations in and around Japan. They will run through Nov. 19.

About 26,000 Japanese and 10,000 American troops, as well as 30 vessels and 370 aircraft from both sides, are to participate in the drills, according to the Japanese Defense Ministry. Australia, Britain and Canada will also join parts of the drills, it said.

Joint field trainings that include amphibious landing exercises are planned on southwestern Japanese

remote islands, including Tokunoshima, Amami and Tsutarajima, as Japan has been bolstering its defense capability in the region amid growing tensions over China.

China has reinforced its claims to virtually the entire South China Sea by constructing artificial islands equipped with military installations and airfields. Beijing also claims a string of islands that are controlled by Japan in the East China Sea, and has stepped up military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, which it says is part of China to be annexed by force if necessary.

The joint exercise also comes on the heels of intensifying missile firings by North Korea, which has launched more than 30 of them this year, including one on Wednesday that fell in the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Last month, an intercontinental ballistic missile flew over northern Japan.

Prime Minister Fumio

Kishida, citing worsening security in the region, has pledged to substantially increase Japanese military capability and possibly allow pre-emptive strike capability to attack enemy missile launch sites from afar. The plans are expected to be included in a revised national security strategy and mid-to long-term defense guidelines later this year.

A move to develop strike capability is a major shift for Japan's self-defense-only principle, though the country has rapidly expanded its military's role and capability in the past decade to work more closely with the United States and other partners in the region and Europe.

Exercises like Keen Sword provide Japanese and U.S. forces "opportunities to train together across a variety of mission areas in realistic scenarios to enhance readiness, interoperability, and build credible deterrence," U.S. Forces Japan said in a statement yesterday. **MDT/AP**

AD



Barrier Gates Installation Schedule for Macau Grand Prix

"The 69th Macau Grand Prix" will be held from 17th to 20th of November. To coordinate with the event arrangement, barrier gates will be installed at the following locations along the circuit progressively starting from 14th November and the roads will be suspended of traffic on the occasion. The below locations will be successively reopened from 20th Nov upon the conclusion of the event till the morning of 21st November. The Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee would like to seek the understanding of motorists and to advise all road users to pay attention to the installation time of the barrier gates and respect the temporary traffic signage and instructions from the Traffic Authorities.

Date	Barrier Gates Installation Time	Road	Location
14 th November (Monday)	15:00	Est. de Cacilhas	Depósito de Pólvora (Ramp)
		Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Communications Museum
		Rua dos Pescadores	Entrance and Exit of Macao Water
15 th November (Tuesday)	10:00	Av. da Amizade	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Jubilee Court Building (Next to petrol station)
		Est. de Cacilhas	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Cheng Pak Kok Building
	15:00	Est. dos Parses	Exit of the garage at the Monetary Authority of Macao
Av. da Amizade		Junction of the crossing point from Rua de Nagasaki to Av. da Amizade (Next to Jardim San On Building)	
16 th November (Wednesday)	10:00	Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of Car Workshop (Next to Communications Museum)
		Av. da Amizade	Junction of the crossing point from Amizade Bridge to Av. da Amizade

US MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Analysis: A stunning draw as Democrats hold their own

STEVE PEOPLES,
WASHINGTON

FACING tremendous headwinds and weighty history, Democrats fought Republicans to a stunning midterm draw.

Many Democrats went into election night dreading how bad their losses could be and pondering how to explain them. By yesterday [Macau time], they had quickly shifted into day-after hoping that they could actually maintain a voting majority in the Senate, celebrating victories in key governors' races, and aware that control of the House was still not declared.

Republicans were left grumbling about "candidate quality." Several candidates refused to concede in races that The Associated Press had called for their opponents.

The final numbers might not be known for weeks. There's still a chance Republicans could take unified control of Congress, and President Joe Biden's ambitions for the next two years would instantly shrink. The nation's fractious political divides remained on vivid display.

Democrats had plenty to savor in the morning light. But as they exhaled and Republicans lamented big gains that didn't materialize, there were larger problems that both political parties will need to address -- and soon.

For the Republicans, Donald Trump and his conspiracy-laden politics were exposed anew as a problem, one that this time likely blocked his party from achieving much bigger gains in a nationwide election. Instead of celebrating a red tsunami, Republicans faced a new round of infighting over Trump's role in the GOP and the red wave that wasn't.

"Every Republican in America this morning is waking up sick to their stomach," said Republican strategist David Urban, a former Trump adviser. "Live by Trump, die by Trump."

Whether that assessment is overheated will play out in the coming weeks, starting next Tuesday, when Trump has promised a "major" announcement. Most available evidence shows he is still the most powerful figure in his party.

Given the political and economic climate, it should not have been difficult for Repu-



Anthony Brown (facing camera), Democratic nominee for Maryland attorney general, hugs Democrat Wes Moore after Moore was declared the winner of the Maryland gubernatorial race

blicans to make major gains Tuesday. Polling showed voters were deeply pessimistic about the state of the economy and the direction of the nation. President Biden's approval ratings were anemic. And history strongly suggested that any party holding the White House would bear the brunt of voter discontent.

But in several key races, the candidates backed by Trump stumbled.

In battleground Pennsylvania, Democrats won contests for Senate and governor against a pair of Trump loyalists who embraced his lies about the 2020 election. Democrat John Fetterman pushed past concerns about his health and his progressive policies to defeat Mehmet Oz, the celebrity TV doctor Trump picked from a crowded Republican primary field this spring. Trump defender Doug Mastriano was headed toward double-digit defeat in the governor's race.

Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert, one of Trump's loudest cheerleaders in Congress, was locked in a close race with the final votes being counted.

It was much the same in Georgia, where Trump's hand-picked Senate nominee, former football star Herschel Walker, was running essentially tied with Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock even as Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, whom Trump opposed, cruised to reelection.

"Clearly, we lost races we should have won because Trump picked flawed candidates," said Republican strategist Alex Conant. "Georgia should have been a slam dunk."

"Trump's challenge," Conant added, "is that with every loss, his opposition grows stronger."

Indeed, as Trump-backed candidates flailed, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential 2024 presidential rival who was not endorsed by Trump, scored a resounding victory.

But for Democrats, a could-have-been-worse election night was not the same as a great one.

With several key races still too early to call, the Republican Party may still win control of the House of Representatives for the next two years of Biden's presidency. And with that, the GOP could block the passage of any meaningful legislation while launching independent investigations -- even impeachment proceedings -- with impunity.

And while the Democrats avoided a political wipeout, some of the places they lost exposed deepening cracks in the racially diverse working-class coalition that has fueled their victories for years. It may be weeks or months before the exact extent of those cracks is known, but there is little doubt they are there.

Look no further than south Florida's Miami-Dade County, an overwhelmingly Hispanic former Democratic stronghold that DeSantis, a Republican, won as he cruised to reelection. Without Miami-Dade, Democrats have little path to future victories in a state that has been a perennial presidential battleground.

"It's just a reality. There's a universe of Latinos and African Americans who are voting Republican at a higher level for lots of reasons," said Democratic pollster John Anzalone, whose clients include Biden.

Democrats also lost suburban voters across New York and Virginia. In other districts, their candidates eked out victories

in districts Biden had carried easily. They lost Hispanic communities across south Texas. And they lost in working-class regions across the Midwest, including Ohio, where moderate Democrat Tim Ryan failed to defeat Trump-backed Republican JD Vance.

Overall, Democrats struggled to find a clear, compelling message, jumping from abortion to the economy to Social Security and back to abortion.

Even before polls closed, Third Way, a group led by moderate Democrats, issued an ominous warning about the party's damaged brand.

"While it might be comforting to blame any midterm losses solely on historical trends ... there is a much deeper problem at play," Third Way wrote in a memo. "Ultimately, there is no way for Democrats to build and maintain winning coalitions without repairing their damaged brand, even in an era where Republican candidates are increasingly extreme and women's fundamental rights are on the ballot."

Despite such concerns, history suggests Democrats should have had a much worse night.

Trump's GOP lost 40 House seats in the 2018 midterms. Former President Barack Obama's party lost 63 in 2010. Going back to 1934, the party that occupies the White House has lost on average 28 House seats and four Senate seats.

"We can't let the whiners and bedwetters win," Anzalone said. "If you're facing historically bad headwinds and should have major losses, but you've made these races incredibly close, then there are a lot of key races where the Democratic messaging was working." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1975 DIVIDED ANGOLA GETS INDEPENDENCE



The southern African state of Angola has gained its independence from former colonial power Portugal.

The leader of one of the country's rival factions, Dr Agostinho Neto, of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), has been proclaimed the country's first president.

In the capital, Luanda, huge crowds cheered and soldiers fired shots into the air as the new country's flag was raised at midnight.

However, the main groups vying for power held separate independence ceremonies.

The MPLA held a huge ceremony at a stadium in the capital, Luanda, attended by a representative from the Soviet Union.

In a speech, Dr Neto was critical of the Portuguese for not recognising the MPLA as the "sole legitimate representative" of the Angolan people.

Meanwhile, the rival Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) announced it had joined forces with another liberation movement to form a national council which would act as Angola's government.

Angola's independence ends nearly 500 years of Portuguese rule.

Initially the Portuguese used Angola as a "slave pool" for its more lucrative colony in Brazil and mined Angola's precious gemstones and metals.

Resistance to Portuguese rule was widespread by the mid-20th century but was complicated by clashes between the various African communities.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After Angola's independence the civil war intensified and was bolstered by foreign involvement.

The Soviet Union and Cuba supported the left-wing MPLA and the US and South Africa backed Unita.

After 16 years of fighting in which up to 300,000 people died, a peace deal made it possible for elections to be held.

But Unita rejected the outcome and resumed the war.

However, the death of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002 raised the prospect of peace.

In April 2002 the Angolan army and Unita signed a formal ceasefire in Luanda to end the 27-year conflict.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>Money-making opportunities will surface. Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there.</p>	<p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. If you can mix business with pleasure much can be accomplished. Don't let any money slip through your fingers today.</p>
<p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>You'll be dropping friends for no apparent reason. Visitors may relieve the tension. Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you.</p>	<p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. Try to slow down, and take another look. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends.</p>
<p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Don't be angry, but be on your guard. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects.</p>	<p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>You will tend to overeat today. Creative pursuits should payoff. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. You will do well with clients today.</p>
<p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>You've been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you've fallen into. Make changes that will enhance your appearance.</p>	<p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Opportunities will come through long term investments. If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable today.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>Focus on using your creative abilities in other ways. Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. Try to keep a low profile. Unexpected events may be upsetting. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Don't get upset.</p>	<p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Your childlike quality may get you into big trouble today if you neglect your responsibilities.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	17	cloudy
Changchun	0	11	cloudy
Chengdu	16	19	overcast
Chongqing	16	25	cloudy
Fuzhou	21	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	18	28	cloudy
Guiyang	13	24	fine
Haikou	21	28	rain
Hangzhou	15	25	fine
Harbin	-4	7	fine
Hefei	13	25	fine
Nanjing	13	25	cloudy
Shanghai	16	24	cloudy
Taipei	21	25	cloudy
Wuhan	14	28	fine
Hong Kong	23	26	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	7	9	rain
Frankfurt	3	11	overcast
Paris	7	13	overcast
London	9	16	overcast
New York	19	20	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Neighbor of Java; 5- The Hunter; 10- Singer Turner; 14- Z ___ zebra; 15- Tubular pasta; 16- Squabbling; 17- Mormon state of western USA; 18- Not abridged; 19- Columnist Chase; 20- Extraordinary occurrence; 22- Tumid; 24- Catch on; 25- Clod; 26- Polish remover; 30- Unpredictable; 34- Gorge; 35- Main stem of a tree; 37- Without value; 38- Doctors' org.; 39- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example; 40- Narrow inlet; 41- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 43- Willow; 45- Prejudice; 46- Slow in action; 48- Causes to remember; 50- Clod chopper; 51- Young man; 52- Lack of success; 56- Ann or Andy; 60- Crescent-shaped figure; 61- Dark; 63- Intestinal sections; 64- Military group; 65- Sift; 66- Require; 67- Kitchen addition; 68- Barely beat; 69- Bloody;


DOWN 1- Oz creator; 2- Piedmont province; 3- One with no capacity for veracity; 4- Rashly; 5- Affluent; 6- Actress Russo; 7- Monsters; 8- Responsibility; 9- Mesh; 10- Fanlike posterior of crayfish; 11- ___ never work; 12- Greek goddess of victory; 13- ___ impasse; 21- Corporate VIP; 23- Lever for rowing; 26- Easy ___; 27- Walk-on role; 28- Les ___-Unis; 29- Rub out or remove from memory; 30- Go into; 31- Italian city; 32- Greek epic poem; 33- Category; 36- "Mentalist" Geller; 42- Jock; 43- Employ too often; 44- Associated; 45- Summons; 47- Acknowledgment of debt; 49- Periodical, briefly; 52- Duct for smoke; 53- Family member; 54- Monogram ltr.; 55- Geraint's beloved; 56- Split apart; 57- Bread spread; 58- Lewd look; 59- Gentlewoman; 62- Human limb, section of a journey;

Yesterday's solution

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D	O	E	R		S	L	O	E		T	E	T	O	N		

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



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AD

tTUNES

CARLY RAE JEPSEN'S LATEST ALBUM IS POP PERFECTION

DATING in the 21st century might be a lonely time, but Carly Rae Jepsen has found a way to make an album around those experiences that's as bright and hopeful as it is grounded. From the euphoric "Sideways" to the heartbreak of "Go Find Yourself or Whatever," on her sixth studio album, "The Loneliest Time," the 36-year-old makes one thing clear: It's rough out there in the dating world.

While the themes of "The Loneliest Time" are timeless, there's a specificity to the experiences that reflect the modern age. Jepsen's second single from the album, "Beach House," is the best example of this. The kitschy song mirrors the experience of endless scrolling on dating apps. After describing a myriad of bad dating experiences and pleading with men to not view dating as hunting season, male vocals join in with tongue-in-cheek promises that get more preposterous as they go, from "I'm probably gonna never call you" to "I'm probably gonna harvest your organs." It's a sure-to-be camp classic from

the Canadian pop icon.

Despite what are certainly lows described on "Beach House," Jepsen's optimism on "Surrender My Heart" shows she hasn't given up on love quite yet. A highlight of the album, the synth pop opener finds her embracing vulnerability.

Throughout the LP are disco and '80s influences, heard most strongly on the title track and "Far Away." The pop anthems for which Jepsen is known are not in short supply, with softer tracks like "Bends" and "Go Find Yourself or Whatever" sprinkled in between. "Go Find Yourself or Whatever" is endearing in its empathy, opening with an acoustic guitar and building to include an electric guitar, mandolin and sitar.



Carly Rae Jepsen's "The Loneliest Time" (Interscope Records)

"The Loneliest Time" is a collection of songs that encompass the highs and lows of searching for love, a journey full of second chances, mistakes and elation. It can be lonely at times, but as she articulates on the opener, her past experiences haven't stopped her from opening her heart: "I wanna be brave enough for everything."
RAGAN CLARK, MDT/AP

BOOK IT

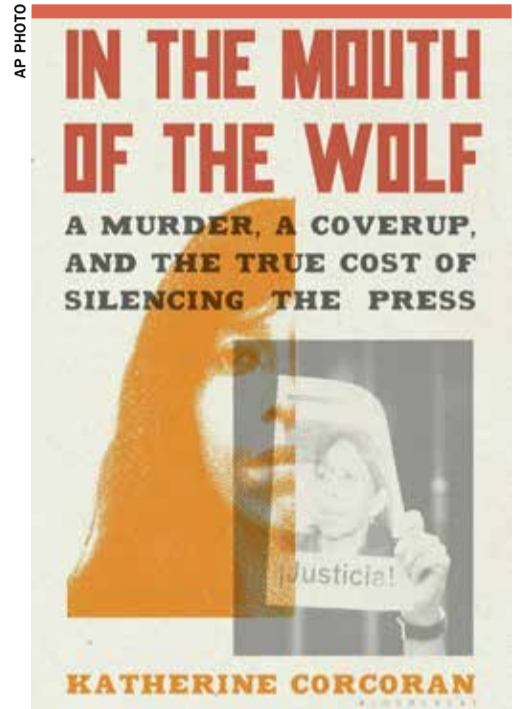
REPORTER'S MURDER SHOWS COST OF PURSUING THE TRUTH

THE confluence of corrupt governance, poverty, drug trafficking and reporters who can be bought is a dangerous place for reporters and democracy.

Accomplished Mexican investigative reporter Regina Martinez paid with her life for her relentless reporting on criminal behavior by officials, government ministers, police and anyone else who violated a public trust.

In this book, former Associated Press reporter and bureau chief Katherine Corcoran takes up a consuming quest during her time in Mexico — who killed investigative reporter Regina Martinez?

Corcoran's book is what we in journalism like to call "a cautionary tale" — a story about what could happen if we don't address a problem — in Mexico's case a news media under attack and not widely respected, and therefore easy for unscrupulous politicians and government



"In the Mouth of the Wolf: A Murder, a Coverup, and the True Cost of Silencing the Press," by Katherine Corcoran (Bloomsbury)

power to control.

Could that happen in the U.S.? Think back to a recent president's characterization of the American news media as "the enemy of the people."

As Corcoran observes: "A society without truth is a scary place to live."
JEFF ROWE, MDT/AP

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MDT TASTING

Sniff and savor the 'diamond of the kitchen'

LYNZY VALLES

CHEF Michele has done it again.

It is the time of year when several city restaurants showcase their truffle menus to coincide with the white truffle season that runs from September to December.

With the truffle only available for the short time of the year, Executive Sous Chef Michele Dell' Aquila of The St. Regis Macao's The Manor ensures his guests leave the restaurant with a happy face and a full stomach.

For this year's "Diamond of the Kitchen" event, the Italian chef has curated a six-course Alba white truffle menu to delight guests with the earthy and woody flavors of this rare gem.

Majority – if not all – dishes are showstoppers.

One of the menu highlights is the amadai, a Japanese tile fish that is moderately fatty but light and fascinatingly sweet, resting on a bed of Italian white polenta with French heirloom pickled beetroot, watercress, nashi pear and topped with generous shavings of the Alba white truffle.

If anything, the Chef has

made a savory to sweet dish that ensures all elements add a dash of the woods to flavor the seafood.

This dish will be a reason to return sooner rather than later to the restaurant.

Everything in the bowl makes sense as the subtly sweet dish prepares the palette for the transition to the upcoming Miyazaki Wagyu Beef Striploin, accompanied by a cannellini bean purée, chanterelles, Tokyo turnip and the pièce de résistance of each dish, Alba white truffle shavings.

The dinner ends on an exemplary note with the Piedmont hazelnut, a dessert mousse made from the hazelnut and comprised of Italian chocolate from Domori, gianduja chantilly, Ferrero Rocher ice cream and Alba white truffle essence, fine-tuned by Chef Michele to present a wonderful mix of flavors.

Simple divine, I would say.

Just when what I thought I had savored all that was on offer with the "diamond of the kitchen" – another surprise arrived: a last curation by Chef Michele that ensured guests departed a tad more satisfied – the white truffle ice cream. It. Is. To. Live. For.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE MACAU MINI FANS CLUB 20TH ANNIVERSARY CHARITY CUP 1500M TURF 2022-11-13|Sun|16:05

YUANNO ticks a number of boxes here. L.Corrales's booking is a strong push for his connection. This N. Moore charge is carrying a light weight of 122 lb to face the field. The number eight gate should not bother him, although his jock Corrales might have a bit of work early, but with his pair of hands he should steer **Yuanno** into a good position right from the start all the way to the straight to a good firing position. Expect a decent each way price from **Yuanno** and he's worth your money taking on a win and place bets of the day.

Race 4 Horse no.6 Yuanno Win & Place



OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

ASIAN WISDOM OFFERS SOLUTION TO WORLD'S WOES

With many having paid a heavy cost in the conflicts of the previous century, Asian countries today have been demonstrating a strong collective will to maintain peace and pursue development.

The meetings being held in Southeast Asia this and next week provide an opportunity to strengthen that consensus by focusing on the Asian values of inclusiveness, balance, trust and consultation.

On his arrival in Phnom Penh, on Tuesday, to attend the 25th China-ASEAN Summit, the 25th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the 17th East Asia Summit that Cambodia is hosting, Premier Li Keqiang said that countries in the region have been making concerted efforts to strengthen their cooperation and inject new impetus into regional economic integration and that they will continue to do so.

China is playing its part in this, as shown by the fact that Li, who is also paying an official visit to Cambodia, will witness the signing of cooperation documents between China and Cambodia, and attend events to mark the inauguration of the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, among other things.

Thanks to the efforts of all parties in the region, not only has major progress been made in regional economic and trade cooperation and consultations on a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea, but also overall stability and the momentum of development have been maintained in the region despite the global volatility.

But regional countries are well aware that the United States will not stop trying to turn Southeast Asia into the frontline for its China containment strategy.

They also know that the region will pay a heavy price if they allow Washington to sow the seeds of discord in this series of meetings that continues next week with the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday and Wednesday and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday and Saturday.

The lack of wisdom demonstrated by the self-proclaimed world leaders from the West has compounded and in some cases created the uncertainties and instabilities, and unprecedented challenges facing global development.

The series of meetings being held over the coming days provides an opportunity for those in Asia to offer a sensible counterbalance to their paranoid reaction to the tremendous wave of change that is transforming the world.

By focusing on shared development and common security and joining hands to address the immediate pandemic and climate challenges, countries in the region can show that a sense of community is a vital stabilizer in troubled times.

The effort to legalize sports betting in California ran headlong into a typical challenge for competing ballot measures as each was battered in a torrent of negative advertising that doomed both to spectacular failure in the most expensive ballot race in U.S. history.

Anytime voters face two measures at odds with each other, they tend to reject both, said professor David McCuan, chairman of the political science department at Sonoma State University.

"Whenever we have dueling ballot measures, and the competitors have an arsenal of dollars ... the competitors will go nuclear. And in a nuclear war everybody loses," McCuan said. "The most powerful money in California politics is on the 'No' side of ballot measures."

The result was a pasting at the polls for both.

Full story on macaudailytimes.com



AP PHOTO

WHO REPORTS 90% DROP IN WORLD COVID-19 DEATHS SINCE FEBRUARY

JAMEY KEATEN, GENEVA

The World Health Organization chief yesterday [Macau time] said a nearly 90% drop in recent COVID-19 deaths globally compared to nine months ago provides "cause for optimism," but still urged vigilance against the pandemic as variants continue to crop up.

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that last week just over 9,400 deaths linked to the coronavirus were reported to the WHO. In February of this year, he said, weekly deaths had topped 75,000 globally.

"We have come a long way, and this is definitely cause for optimism. But we continue to call on all governments, communities and individuals to remain vigilant," he said at a virtual news conference from the WHO's Geneva headquarters.

"Almost 10,000 deaths a week is 10,000 too many for a disease that can be prevented and treated."

The WHO chief said

testing and sequencing rates remain low globally, vaccination gaps between rich and poor countries are still wide, and new variants continue to proliferate.

The U.N. health agency said the tally of newly registered COVID-19 cases worldwide came in at over 2.1 million for the week ending Sunday, down 15% from the previous week. The number of weekly deaths fell 10% compared to a week earlier.

"We have come a long way, and this is definitely cause for optimism."

TEDROS A. GHEBREYESUS

Overall, the WHO has reported 629 million cases and 6.5 million deaths linked to the pandemic.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, cited a "substantial underestimate" of the true circulation of the virus because surveillance and testing

have declined along with a drop in case counts. She said the coronavirus outbreak is "still a pandemic, and it's still circulating quite rampantly around the world" — and a key focus now was on hospitalizations and deaths.

The highest number of newly reported cases over the week came in Japan, with more than 401,000, an increase of 42% from the previous week. That was followed by Korea, the United States, Germany and China, which counted more than 219,000 new cases over the week — a drop of 15% from the previous week.

China still saw 539 deaths linked to COVID-19 during the week, an increase of 10% from the previous week.

While its numbers have remained relatively low, China has relentlessly pursued a strict "zero-COVID" policy of quarantines, lockdowns and daily or near-daily compulsory testing that has fanned protests and clashes between residents and authorities at times. **MDT/AP**

Iran Protests raged on streets into yesterday with demonstrators remembering a bloody crackdown in the country's southeast, even as the nation's intelligence minister and army chief renewed threats against local dissent and the broader world. Meanwhile, a top official in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard claimed it had "managed to achieve" having so-called hypersonic missiles, without providing any evidence.



AP PHOTO

UAE The group owning long-haul carrier Emirates saw record-breaking half-year profits of \$1.2 billion this year, the company announced yesterday, as global travel resumes after the lockdowns of the coronavirus pandemic. The results from the Emirates Group represent a major turnaround after posting a \$1.6 billion loss in the same period last year.



AP PHOTO

Canada A toddler is thriving after doctors in the U.S. and Canada used a novel technique to treat her before she was born for a rare genetic disease that caused the deaths of two of her sisters. Ayla Bashir, a 16-month-old from Ottawa (pictured) is the first child treated as fetus for Pompe disease, an inherited and often fatal disorder in which the body fails to make some or all of a crucial protein. Today, she's an active, happy girl.



AP PHOTO

USA A man already in custody in last month's attack on the husband of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was indicted yesterday [Macau time] by a federal grand jury on charges of assault and attempted kidnapping. The charges against David DePape (pictured) stem from the Oct. 28 break-in at the Pelosis' San Francisco home are the same as but supersede those in an earlier federal complaint that was filed on October 31.