



HENGQIN WILL LAUNCH ITS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM MACAU, PROVIDING 185 POSITIONS FROM MAY

P2

FLIGHT TICKET BOOKINGS FOR MAY GOLDEN WEEK SURGE 600% Y-O-Y

P4

US, FILIPINO FORCES SHOW POWER IN DRILLS AMID CHINA TENSIONS

P6



AP PHOTO



Singapore yesterday executed a man accused of coordinating a cannabis delivery, despite pleas for clemency from his family and protests from activists that he was convicted on weak evidence. Tangaraju Suppiah, 46, was sentenced to death in 2018 for abetting the trafficking of 1 kilogram of cannabis. Under Singapore laws, trafficking more than 500 grams of cannabis may result in the death penalty. Tangaraju was hanged Wednesday morning and his family was given the death certificate.

AP PHOTO



Japan Honda is gearing up for an electrification shift in North America with two models developed with General Motors going on sale next year and a bigger EV with a new platform in 2025, a year earlier than initially announced. "We believe that the value society places on being kind to the environment will only build in momentum," President Toshihiro Mibe said Wednesday in announcing a sprawling set of initiatives intended to put Honda on the global EV map.

AP PHOTO



Sudanese in the capital of Khartoum and the neighboring city of Omdurman reported sporadic clashes early yesterday between the military and a rival paramilitary force but said the intensity of fighting had dwindled on the second day of a three-day truce. Many residents of the capital emerged from their homes to seek food and water, lining up at bakeries or grocery stores, witnesses said. Some inspected shops or homes that had been destroyed or looted during the fighting. Others joined the tens of thousands who have been streaming out of the city in recent days.

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TO MASK OR NOT

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17 LOCAL RESTAURANTS AWARDED STARS P2

HO IAT SENG IN BELGIUM CE MEETS OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY P3

GOV'T TO ESTABLISH ANTI-FRAUD HOTLINE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The government is launching an anti-fraud publicity and education project aimed at university students following the increasing number of fraud cases. Nearly half of the telephone fraud cases opened by the Judiciary Police (PJ) in the first quarter of this year involved college students being defrauded. Kong Chi Meng, director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), said that the bureau will distribute anti-fraud information through email and pop-up windows on campus web pages among other strategies, as well as establish anti-fraud hotlines for college students by the PJ.

KINDERGARTEN APPLICANTS DROP BY 500

The number of applicants for the first year of kindergarten registered a drop of 500 enrollments for the next academic year. To Rádio Macau, Luís Gomes, head of the Department of Non-Higher Education, said that the decrease is related to several factors, namely the drop in the birth rate, which in 2022, was the lowest in the territory since 1985. Meanwhile, the five nurseries under Tung Sin Tong will provide nearly 1,000 slots. Data from the school shows that the number of applicants this year has dropped by about 10% compared to last year.

THREE MEN DETAINED FOR ILLEGALLY SELLING WTT CHAMPIONS TICKET

Three mainland men were suspected of selling tickets for the WTT Champions Macao 2023, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported. According to the PJ, the Sports Bureau reported that the mainland men were spotted selling tickets outside the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion. A total of five tickets worth MOP500, and one worth MOP300 were reportedly sold. They admitted that they hoped to sell them at a higher price, but denied that they had successfully sold them. The case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office.



MICHELIN GUIDE 2023

CITY BAGS 17 MICHELIN-STAR RESTAURANTS

LYNZY VALLES

THE highly-anticipated revelation of the Michelin Guide's 15th edition for the SARs culminated yesterday, announcing 17 Michelin-star awarded restaurants.

The ceremony at the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau and Grand Lisboa Macau is its first in-person ceremony in three years, due to the pandemic.

Including the Starred, Bib Gourmand, and Selected food establishments, the 2023 selection of the Michelin Guide features a total of 206 eateries in Hong Kong and 44 in Macau. Four restaurants, including one new venue, are also awarded the Michelin Green Star.

"Accompanied with the lift of travel restrictions, the culinary

scene in Hong Kong remains vibrant and passionate, while the hospitality industry is also picking up its pace. In fact, it has not been a quiet year in Hong Kong, with lots of new projects in town, catering to diners of different nationalities and taste buds," said Gwendal Poullennec, International Director of the Michelin Guides.

"Macau, on the other hand, flaunts the uniqueness of regional cuisine delicately presented in skillful hands with outstanding ingredients," the executive added.

The Huaiyang Garden at The Londoner is the only restaurant newly awarded One Michelin Star in Macau this year. Helmed by culinary master chef Zhou, the kitchen team excels in "sophisticated Huaiyang fare, incorpora-

ting fresh river fish shipped from the region twice a week, such as stir-fried shrimp with roe and tomalley, or Liangxi-style crispy eel."

MGM's Five Foot Road is promoted from a Michelin Selected to a One Michelin Star restaurant. With more than 30 years experience, the chef from Sichuan excels in presenting traditional Sichuan flavors and aromas with a variety of seafood.

With these new additions and

promotions, a total of 67 restaurants are recommended by the guide with One Michelin Star. 58 restaurants are in Hong Kong and nine in Macau.

This year, the Michelin Guide Hong Kong & Macau adds three Special Awards to highlight talented professionals from the restaurant industry, shining a light on the diversity of jobs and know-how, which together, contribute to create exceptional gastronomic experiences.

The award includes the Michelin Guide Service Award, which aims to highlight and encourage skilled and talented professionals who dramatically add to the customer experience. The award was given to Kit Li from two Michelin Star restaurant Sichuan Moon in Macau.

"Kit Li, who has been working in Sichuan Moon since its opening, is smart and passionate. Equipped with excellent product knowledge and a thorough understanding in the culinary concept that André Chiang holds, she anticipates the needs of guests and interacts with them at the right time with good serving pace," the guide noted.

The other two awards include the Sommelier Award and Young Chef award which was given to professionals from Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, in the Selected Category, Grand Lisboa Palace's Palace Garden and Wynn's SW Steakhouse have been added.

MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANTS 2023

- ★ ★ ★ Jade Dragon, Robuchon au Dôme, The Eight
- ★ ★ Alain Ducasse at Morpheus, Feng Wei Ju, Mizumi (Macau), Sichuan Moon, Wing Lei

- ★ Five Foot Road, Lai Heen, 8 1/2 Otto e Mezzo - Bombana, Pearl Dragon, The Huaiyang Garden, The Kitchen, Wing Lei Palace, Ying, Zi Yat Heen

GBA

Internship program in Hengqin launches in May

STAFF REPORTER

HENGQIN, will soon launch its summer internship program for university students from Macau, officially starting in May.

Launched in 2018, the program has been welcomed by university students from Macau,

providing about 185 internship positions in many sectors, such as financial services, law, high-tech, traditional Chinese medicine, culture, innovation, and tourism and related industries.

This internship program aims to "encourage and support Macau

youth to participate in the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," "better understand the country" and "integrate into the overall development of their motherland," according to the official statement.

Visits to patriotic edu-

cation establishments and local companies will be planned during the internships, with the aim of further enhancing Macau students' awareness and understanding of the country's political, social and economic development.

Government departments, state-owned

companies, joint ventures, organizations and private enterprises have already offered numerous internships to Macau students this year.

In addition to Hengqin, internship destinations include Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other major cities in the mainland.

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HO IAT SENG IN BELGIUM

CE meets overseas Chinese community in Belgium

RENATO MARQUES

ON the last stop from the 10-day European tour, the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng met yesterday in Brussels a group of leaders of the overseas Chinese community in Belgium.

At the reception, Ho said he hoped the community's leaders would strengthen ties with Macau businesses for mutual economic benefit.

Ho briefed overseas Chinese community leaders on the latest developments in, and prospects for, Macau, the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Also addressed in the meeting with the Chinese communities was the current promotional effort, in particular in overseas countries and regions, aiming to extend Macau's market reach to international visitors.

As at previous occasions and meetings, the CE also gave a briefing on the "1+4" approach to support Macau's appropriate economic diversification, as well as its expected outcomes.

Attending the reception was



also the Ambassador of China to Belgium, Cao Zhongming. In turn, Cao noted the special advantages attributed to Macau by the central government authorities, noting that following such strategies, the local economy should recover fast from the effects of the pandemic.

Like others before him, Cao also put the Embassy in Belgium at the availability of all Macau people aiming to seek to deepen cooperation between Macau and Belgium as

well as with other European countries, noting that the Embassy in Belgium will be able to collaborate further in terms of cultural affairs and the tourism sector.

Brussels was the last stop of the tour of the CE and Macau delegation who traveled to Portugal, Luxembourg, and Belgium before returning to Macau today.

Initially, the trip to Belgium was planned primarily for a visit to the European Union (EU)

headquarters in Brussels and to meet some EU officials.

It was also expected that while in Brussels, the Macau delegation would meet Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Employment, Pierre-Yves Dermagne, as well as the Minister-President of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, Rudi Vervoort, although as at press time there was no information available on these visits and meetings.

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST REQUIRED FOR TRAVELERS TO MAINLAND VIA MACAU

FROM April 29, travelers from Macau with a history of travel to Taiwan or foreign countries are required to present a negative nucleic acid test (NAT) or rapid antigen test when traveling to mainland China.

Meanwhile, Beijing announced that travelers entering China will no longer need to provide a negative NAT result starting Saturday, in another easing of China's zero-Covid policies.

Travelers can instead show a negative antigen test result taken within 48 hours before boarding.

Over the last three years, China imposed an array of anti-virus controls to try to eliminate the coronavirus from the country, including lockdowns and regular mass testing. However, the government suddenly rolled back the strict measures in December and made a major step to drop its quarantine rule in early January.

At a briefing yesterday, He Qinghua, an official of the National Health Commission, said the number of Covid-19 cases in early April had dropped to the lowest level since December. Although the figures have risen slightly since mid-April, massive outbreaks in the short term are unlikely, he said. **MDT/AP**

HEALTH

GOV'T AMENDS MASK RULES IN LINE WITH NATIONAL GUIDELINES

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL health authorities have amended the guidelines for wearing facemasks in line with the new national recommendations on the matter.

The new guidelines divide the wearing of facemasks into three categories, from situations where masks should be worn to those where there is no need to wear them, with a mid-range category of circumstances in which mask-wearing is recommended.

Following this guideline that enters into force on April 28 (Friday), it is recommended that people wear masks while on public transport (both drivers and passengers), as well as senior citizens, the pregnant, and those who have not been vaccinated



against the novel coronavirus or influenza viruses.

It is also recommended that people attending indoor events in crowded venues wear a mask, although as stated, this is not mandatory.

The guidelines also grant discretionary power for entities in charge of private vehicles or venues

to decide whether to require individuals entering to wear masks by taking into account the current epidemic situation, air circulation in the space, the number and density of people, and the nature and duration of activities, among other aspects.

Masks should be worn as standard practice when

people develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, myalgia, sore throat, cough, and runny nose; when testing positive on a Covid-19 antigen or nucleic acid test; and when clusters of influenza-like illnesses appear in workplaces, nurseries, and non-higher education institutions.

It is also requested that people wear masks when entering medical facilities and nursing homes for the elderly; other situations might be included by the authorities depending upon changes to the epidemic situation of infectious disease.

Questioned by a Chinese media outlet on the topic, the director of the Health Bureau, Alvis Lo, said that the new guidelines aim to unify the existing guidelines across different jurisdictions, namely between

Macau and the mainland. These guidelines are not limited to Covid-19 but also take into account the current situation of seasonal flu and other infectious diseases.

According to Lo, the public hospital is seeing some 800 to 900 visits per day, slightly lower than the pre-

vious 1,000 to 1,100 daily visits.

Also, the government will also be announcing the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases on a daily basis once again. Yesterday, the government reported that two babies, both less than a year old, have tested positive for Covid-19.

10 CASES OF OMICRON SUBVARIANT XBB.1.16 DETECTED

ACCORDING to the government's monitoring data, the city has recorded 10 cases of the new Omicron subvariant XBB.1.16, referred to as "arcturus." However, Lo urged the public not to worry as it is "less likely to cause severe illness." For those who have fever or respiratory symptoms,

Lo recommends undergoing antigen tests for three consecutive days. He also assured that there is sufficient stock for medicines for the new virus. The World Health Organization is monitoring XBB.1.16, which is contributing to a recent surge of Covid-19 cases in India.

38 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL WORKERS IN MARCH

A total of 38 suspected illegal workers have been detected across the city, according to the data from the Public Security Police. In a statement, the bureau said that, along with the Labour Affairs Bureau's operations, they inspected 414 locations in March to combat illegal workers. Last month, 48 workers were found following inspections in 509 sites.

UM TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH SINGAPORE UNIVERSITIES

A delegation from the University of Macau (UM), led by Rector Yonghua Song, recently visited three universities in Singapore, making a first stop at the National University of Singapore, where it was announced that the universities will strengthen their collaboration in areas such as student exchange, joint training of doctoral students and research. The delegation then visited the Singapore University of Technology and Design, and a memorandum of understanding was signed to undertake joint academic and research projects, establish exchange programs for faculty and students, co-organize academic seminars and share academic resources. UM will also deepen its cooperation with Nanyang Technological University in technology and innovation.

GOV'T RECOVERS 94,000 SQM LAND IN COTAI

The government has recovered land located in Cotai with an area of 94,000 square meters, which had been illegally occupied. Located next to Avenida do Aeroporto and Rua de Ténis, where a large amount of construction materials and machinery were stored, the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) has started procedures for vacating the land, demanding that the illegal occupants vacate it and return it to the government within the established period.

MGTO PREPARING FOR CROWDS ON 'MAY DAY' HOLIDAYS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is preparing for an expected influx of tourists over the Labor Day holidays this year from April 29 to May 3.

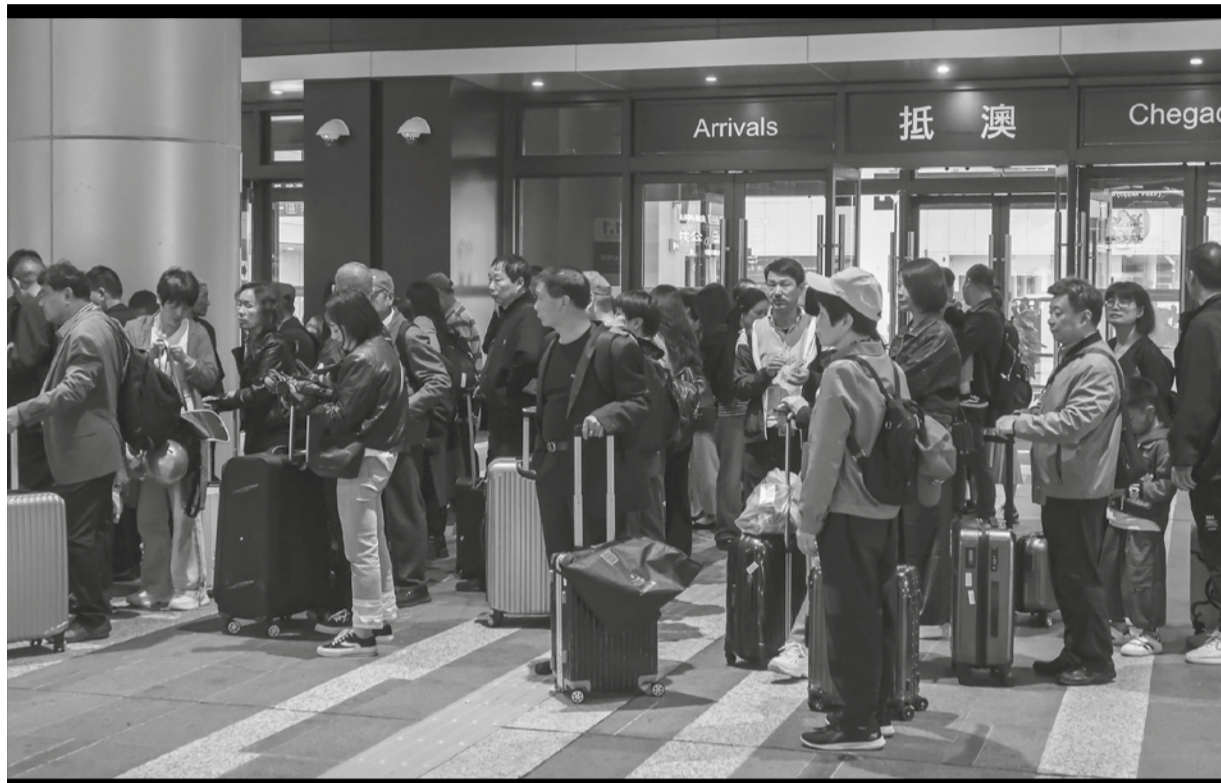
The preparation aims to ensure smooth operations from the departments involved as well as the tourism operators, as the MGTO forecasts that some 70,000 visitors per day will enter Macau during this newly established golden week.

The Office has said that historically the May 1 holidays are one of the busiest periods of the year, competing directly with the Lunar New Year.

Considering the results obtained during the Easter holidays when Macau exceeded expectations, reaching an average of 80,294 visitors per day during the holidays that put together the Ching Ming Festival and Easter, it is likely that for the five-days of Labor Day, the figure will be similar or even higher.

MGTO is said to be actively preparing in a variety of ways, including a promotional campaign for visitors and the travel industry, to provide practical information, and raise awareness through publication as well as conducting patrols.

The Office is also said to be in close communication with mainland tourism authorities to safeguard tourism service quality and reinforce Macau's image as a destination.



One of the methods to facilitate the trips of the visitors and locals will be the "Smart application for visitor flows" that allows real-time checking and forecasting of visitor flows at over 117 tourist attractions in Macau.

This smart app is available on the website: <https://poimonitor.macaotourism.gov.mo>.

A series of promotional street campaigns are also being prepared for the Guia Lighthouse and Pátio do Espinho on April 29 and 30, and Praia do Manduco from May 1 to 31.

Other promotional events are also scheduled to take place at the Macao Grand Prix Museum starting April 26 and extending all summer until the end of August.

Special offers will also be in place at the Macao Museum which will have some special offers at the gift shop from May 1 to 14.

As the director of MGTO, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said on Tuesday, the hotel occupancy is expected to be high, reaching over 80% and up to 90% during the holiday.

Prompted by these rates, the MGTO sent letters to industry operators to raise their awareness of the desirability of ensuring a safe and pleasant experience for visitors.

During the period, cross-departmental inspections and supervision will be in place at various ports of entry, tourist attractions, and shopping areas in collaboration with the Public Security Police Force, Labour Affairs Bureau, Consumer Council, and Macao Customs Service.

TOURISM

Flight ticket bookings for May Golden Week surge 600% y-o-y

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU is bracing itself for tourists swarming the city as air ticket bookings between April 29 and May 5 from the mainland to Macau increase by 621.83% year-on-year, according to Ctrip.

The top five tourist source cities for the May Golden Week were Shanghai, Beijing, Wuxi, Nanjing and Hangzhou, as cited in a report by Macao Daily News.

In addition, according to data from Ctrip, from January to April 10, flight bookings from the mainland to Macau increased by 128.38% year-on-year.

Among them, the top



five tourist source cities were Shanghai, Hangzhou, Beijing, Nanjing

and Xiamen.

During the same period, hotel reservations in

Macao increased by 49.6% year-on-year, and the top five tourist source cities

were Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing, Shenzhen and Foshan.

According to the data from Trip.com, from the beginning of 2023 to April 10, global flight bookings to Macau increased by 2,002.98% year-on-year, and flight bookings from Singapore surged 105 times.

Last year, Macau welcomed a cumulative volume of 137,000 visitor arrivals during the May Golden Week.

For the upcoming holidays, Andy Wu, president of the Macao Tourism Industry Association, expects the number of tourists to exceed 90,000. During the Easter holiday period, the daily average of tourists arriving in Macau stood at 80,294, 16% higher than the average registered during CNY (69,215 visitors per day).

Wu stated that it could set a new record for post-pandemic entries.

MARKETING & BRANDING

Bud Light fumbles, but experts say inclusive ads will stay

DEE-ANN DURBIN

BUD Light may have fumbled its attempt to broaden its customer base by partnering with a transgender influencer. But experts say inclusive marketing is simply good business — and it's here to stay.

"A few years from now, we will look back on this 'controversy' with the same embarrassment that we feel when we look back at 'controversies' from the past surrounding things like interracial couples in advertising," said Sarah Reynolds, the chief marketing officer for the human resources platform HiBob, who identifies as queer.

On April 1, transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney posted a video of herself cracking open a Bud Light on her Instagram page. She showed off a can with her face on it that Bud Light sent her — one of many corporate freebies she gets and shares with her millions of followers.

But unlike the dress from Rent the Runway or the trip to Denmark from skincare brand Ole Henriksen, the backlash to the beer can was fast and furious. Three days after Mulvaney's post, Kid Rock posted a video of himself shooting cases of Bud Light. Shares of Bud Light's parent, AB InBev, temporarily plunged.

This week, Anheuser-Busch — AB InBev's U.S. subsidiary — confirmed that Alissa Heinerscheid, its vice president of marketing, and her boss, Daniel Blake, are



AP PHOTO

taking a leave of absence. The company won't say when they will return or whether they're being paid.

For some, the partnership went too far at a time when transgender issues — including gender-affirming health care and participation in sports — are a divisive topic in state legislatures.

"Whether the issue is trans people or anything else, the majority of consumers are pretty vocal about the fact they don't want brands lecturing them or stuffing politics or social issues down their throat," said John Frigo, the head of digital marketing for Best Price Nutrition. "If you sell beer, just

make beer and leave it at that."

But others — including Heinerscheid herself — say reaching out to younger and more diverse consumers is crucial. According to a 2021 Gallup poll, 21% of people in Generation Z identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, compared to 3% of Baby Boomers. Gallup has also found that younger consumers are the most likely to want brands to promote diversity and take a stand on social issues.

"I had a really clear job to do when I took over Bud Light. And it was, this brand is in decline. It's been in decline for a very long time. And if we do not attract you-

ng drinkers to come and drink this brand, there will be no future for Bud Light," Heinerscheid said last month in an episode of Apple's "Make Yourself at Home" podcast.

Bud Light and Mulvaney declined requests to talk to The Associated Press for this story.

Bud Light has long been America's best-selling beer. But its U.S. sales are down 2% so far this year, part of a long-running decline as younger consumers flock to sparkling seltzers and other drinks, according to Bump Williams Consulting. Those sales declines accelerated rapidly in April. The week ending April 15, Bud Light's sales dropped 17% compared to the same week a year ago. Meanwhile, rivals Miller Lite and Coors Lite both saw their sales jump more than 17%.

Marketing experts say it's possible Bud Light's experience will cause other brands to rethink using transgender people in their advertising. Joanna Schwartz, a professor at Georgia College and State University who teaches a course on LGBTQ+ marketing, said companies will still want to reach transgender consumers and their supporters, but might shift to social media and more targeted ads.

"They're walking an extremely fine line. They want to appeal to everyone, but that includes people who don't like each other," Schwartz said of Bud Light.

Still, Schwartz said, there are plenty of brands that have successfully featured transgender or non-binary people in their marke-

ting. In 2016, Secret deodorant ran an ad featuring a transgender woman in a bathroom stall, debating whether to walk out and face other women at the sink. Pantene shampoo has run ads and short films supporting transgender people in 2021 as part of its Hair Has No Gender project. And Coca-Cola's 2018 Super Bowl ad featured young people using different pronouns to describe themselves.

Thomas Murphy, an associate professor of branding at Clark University, said he tells brands that want to be inclusive to run ads with real people who can talk about the company's efforts.

"They can have employees who say, 'I love Bud Light. I have worked here for 20 years, there are inclusive programs and I came here because I wanted a company that would embrace me,'" he said. "Who couldn't see and hear that person and say, 'What a great company?'"

Instead, Bud Light wound up alienating even transgender customers because it didn't support Mulvaney after the boycott calls began, Schwartz said. Anheuser-Busch CEO Brendan Whitworth issued a statement on April 14 but it didn't specifically mention the controversy.

"We never intended to be part of a discussion that divides people," Whitworth said.

By comparison, Nike — which also faced some boycott threats after sending workout clothes to Mulvaney — supported the transgender community in an Instagram post, encouraging followers to be kind and inclusive. Nike didn't respond to requests for comment.

Manveer Mann, an associate professor of marketing at the Feliciano School of Business at Montclair State University, said Bud Light should have anticipated the backlash and had a plan in place to handle it. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

BNU reopens main branch



BNU Macau reopened its main branch yesterday with hopes to "keep up with the design trends of the digital age."

"BNU has renovated its

main branch and is pleased to bring Macau citizens a new space, with a modern and functional layout, which, combined with BNU's team professionalism and know-

ledge, will certainly provide the best banking experience," the bank said in a statement.

The reopening ceremony brought together the usual traditional elements of an opening, combining them with digital notes, such as virtual MCs and digital lion dancing.

And this hybrid experience is what Carlos Cid Alvares, CEO of the bank, highlighted in his speech, adding that BNU works in parallel on these two strategic vectors, and while keeping a strong investment in innovative and more comprehensive solutions for the digital channels, the bank is equally committed to improving the physical service spaces.

Sands Resorts Macao's The Huaiyang Garden, Zi Yat Heen Receive Michelin Stars



The Londoner Macao's The Huaiyang Garden and Four Seasons Hotel Macao's Zi Yat Heen restaurants have been awarded one-star ratings in the Michelin Guide Hong

Kong & Macau 2023.

Tom Connolly, senior vice president of Food and Beverage Operations, Sands China Ltd., said: "These honors underline the excellence of

our Food and Beverage team and will inspire us to continue to create the ultimate dining experience for our guests."

Curated by "The Godfather of Huaiyang Cuisine" Zhou Xiaoyan, The Huaiyang Garden showcases the sublime flavors of timeless Huaiyang cuisine. The restaurant became a popular fine-dining option immediately following its opening.

A Michelin-starred restaurant since 2009, Zi Yat Heen has been the jewel in the crown of the hotel from its very first day. With his wealth of experience, Executive Chinese Chef Charles Cheung mesmerizes guests with refined Cantonese classics that stay true to the essence of the cuisine.

DEFENSE

US, Filipino forces show power in drills amid China tensions

JIM GOMEZ & AARON FAVILA,
SAN ANTONIO

AMERICAN and Filipino forces pummeled a ship with a barrage of high-precision rockets, airstrikes and artillery fire in their largest war drills yesterday in Philippine waters facing the disputed South China Sea that would likely antagonize China.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. watched the American show of firepower from an observation tower in the coastal town of San Antonio in northwestern Zambales province — the latest indication of his strong backing of the Philippines' treaty alliance with the U.S.

Marcos has ordered his military to shift its focus to external defense from decades-long anti-insurgency battles as China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea become a top concern.

The shift in the Philippine defense focus falls in sync with the Biden administration's aim of reinforcing an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to better counter China.

China has angered the Philippines by "repeatedly harassing its navy and coast guard patrols and chasing away fishermen" in the waters close to Philippine shores but which Beijing claims as its own.

The Philippines has filed more than 200 diplomatic protests against China since last year, including at least 77 since Marcos



A U.S. M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System fires a missile during a Combined Joint Littoral Live Fire Exercise at the joint military exercise called "Balikatan in a Naval station in Zambales province, yesterday

took office in June.

Sitting beside U.S. Ambassador MaryKay Carlson and his top defense and security advisers, Marcos used a pair of binoculars, smiling and nodding, as rockets streaked into the blue sky from the U.S. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, a multiple rocket and missile launcher mounted on a truck that has become a crucial weapon for Ukrainian troops battling Russian invasion forces.

The coastal clearing in front of Marcos resembled a smoke-shrouded war zone, which thudded with artillery fire as AH-64 Apache attack helicopters flew overhead.

A private light plane flew by during the exercises, briefly interrupting them, and was asked to

move away, said Col. Mike Logico, a Philippine military spokesman for the drills. Fishermen have been advised to stay away from the area.

"This training increased the exercise's realism and complexity, a key priority shared between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. military," Lt. Gen. William Jurney, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, said.

"Together we are strengthening our capabilities in full-spectrum military operations across all domains," said Jurney, the U.S. director for the annual joint exercises called Balikatan, Tagalog for "shoulder-to-shoulder."

About 12,200 U.S. military personnel, 5,400 Filipino forces and 111 Australian counterparts were

taking part in the exercises, the largest since Balikatan started three decades ago. The drills have showcased U.S. warships, fighter jets as well as Patriot missiles, HIMARS and anti-tank Javelins, according to U.S. and Philippine military officials.

The ship targeted by the allied forces was a decommissioned Philippine navy warship, which was towed about 18 to 22 kilometers out to sea.

Smaller floating targets, including empty drums tied together, were also used as targets to simulate a battle scene where a U.S. Marine Corps command and control hub enabled scattered allied forces to identify and locate enemy targets then deliver precision rocket and missile fire.

Philippine military officials

said the maneuvers would bolster the country's coastal defense and disaster-response capabilities and were not aimed at any country. China has opposed military drills involving U.S. forces in the region in the past as well as increasing U.S. military deployments, which it warned would ratchet up tensions and hamper regional stability and peace.

Washington and Beijing have been on a collision course over China's increasingly assertive actions to defend its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and Beijing's goal of annexing Taiwan, by force if necessary.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said this week that China's Shandong aircraft carrier group was also conducting training 120 nautical miles southeast of the island's southernmost tip.

In February, Marcos approved a wider U.S. military presence in the Philippines by allowing rotating batches of American forces to stay in four more Philippine military camps. That was a sharp turnaround from his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte, who feared that a larger American military footprint could antagonize Beijing.

China strongly opposed the move, which would allow U.S. forces to establish staging grounds and surveillance posts in the northern Philippines across the sea from Taiwan and in western Philippine provinces facing the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

China has warned that a deepening security alliance between Washington and Manila and their ongoing military drills should not harm its security and territorial interests or interfere in the territorial disputes.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has said that such military cooperation "should not target any third party and should be conducive to regional peace and stability." **MDT/AP**

DIRE STRAIT

Beijing opposes Taiwan-US defense and military exchanges

CHINA warned against continued U.S.-Taiwan cooperation yesterday, responding to reports that the U.S. military was sending officers to help train Taiwan's counterparts and that a delegation of defense contractors would visit the self-ruled island next week.

"We resolutely oppose the U.S. having any form of official or military contact with China's Taiwan region," Zhu Fenglian, spokeswoman for China's



Taiwan Affairs Office, said at a weekly press briefing in Beijing.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war. Taiwan never has been part

of the People's Republic of China, but the Communist Party says it is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

President Xi Jinping's government has flown fighter jets and bombers near Taiwan in increasing numbers and fired missiles into the sea in an attempt to intimidate the island.

Taiwanese media reported this month that the U.S. had sent 200 military personnel, mostly Marines, to help train Taiwan troops.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry has neither denied nor confirmed the report.

Meanwhile, a delegation of around 25 defense contractors is visiting the island next week, hosted by the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council. Nikkei Asia reported that the weapons manufacturers will discuss joint production of drones and ammunition in Taiwan.

"U.S. defense contractors intentionally provoke confrontation between the two sides, taking the opportunity to make a profit," Zhu said.

She accused the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which has been in power for six years, of colluding with the U.S. to

press for the island's formal independence.

The U.S. doesn't formally recognize the Taiwan government but is Taipei's most vital provider of weapons and other security assistance as well as political support.

China has turned up the heat by sending fighter jets and navy vessels near the island on a near daily basis, especially in response to political meetings between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Earlier this month, China held large-scale military exercises simulating a strike on key targets in Taiwan in response to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Yellow caution tape lines an area of Waikiki beach in Honolulu during the Covid-19 pandemic

HAWAII

'Almost authoritarian:' Cold War speech law may go

AUDREY MCAVOY, HONOLULU

A Cold War-era law in Hawaii that allows authorities to impose sweeping restrictions on press freedoms and electronic communications during a state of emergency could soon be repealed by lawmakers over concerns about its constitutionality and potential misuse.

Those who are worried about the law, which allows a governor or mayor to suspend "electronic media transmissions" during a crisis, say that language could now also be interpreted to include social media posts, text messages and emails, as well as reporting by media outlets.

The Hawaii Association of Broadcasters says the existing law appears to be unique among all 50 states and violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

"We get into a situation where ... somebody could suspend electronic media because they don't like what's being said about them," said Chris Leonard, the association's president, who also operates a radio station on the Big Island.

Current state leaders haven't invoked the law, but "Who knows who's in office tomorrow?" he added.

Lawmakers in the state House and Senate have each passed versions of legislation to eliminate the decades-old rule and have a deadline this week to agree on language so the bill can move forward.

Christian Grose, a professor of political science and public policy

at the University of Southern California, said the law "gives shockingly large amounts of power to the governor and mayors in ways that might be afoul of constitutional freedoms."

"That's sort of an unusual, almost authoritarian law that would allow such powers to be given to the governor or mayor," Grose said.

Some do support leaving the law on the books.

The Association of Broadcasters says the existing law appears to be unique among all 50 states and violates the Constitution's First Amendment

James Barros, the head of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, said the law might still be needed to restrict electronic transmissions "that could trigger an explosive device or ignite volatile chemicals."

The bill would eliminate the executive branch's authority to take action that could save lives "based on a hypothetical restriction of free speech rights," Barros said in written testimony.

The law appears to date to 1951, when the Cold War pitted the U.S. against the Soviet Union. There were concerns about radio frequency transmitters being used to identify bombing targets, said Leonard.

The law was revised about a decade ago to its current form, which allows a governor or mayor to: "Shut off water mains, gas mains, electric power connections, or suspend

other services, and, to the extent permitted by or under federal law, suspend electronic media transmission."

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency spokesperson Adam Weintraub said yesterday [Macau time] the agency agrees technology has evolved beyond what existed when the law was originated. He said the agency hopes to get to a compromise that addresses the broadcast-

ers association's concerns about speech restrictions.

The Hawaii County Council on the Big Island discovered the law last year when it was reviewing its own county code to align it with state law.

Information has helped calm people and make decisions during the 2018 eruption of Kilauea volcano and the COVID-19 pandemic, Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz, a county council member, explained in testimony to state legislators.

"In times of emergency and natural disasters, the public needs more information — not less — and communication should flow through all possible channels as frequently as possible," she said in written testimony.

It's notable that Hawaii's lawmakers are considering taking away executive power because the trend in the U.S. government and in some other states has been for the executive to amass power without legislators stopping them, Grose said.

"So the fact that Hawaii's is doing this is big," he said. MDT/AP

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Return of the Sushi Master to SUSHIDAN at MGM

RENOWNED sushi chef Hiroyuki Sato is making a return to SUSHIDAN at Rossio, MGM MACAU for a limited-time refined omakase experience from May 9 to 11 with his ultimate craftsmanship.

Recognized as the "Craftsman of the Next Generation" in Japan, Hiroyuki Sato is well-known with his innovative sushi creations that showcase his boldness and creativity. Born into a sushi family, Sato-san broke away from tradition. He took a different path by founding his own sushi restaurant and spending time travelling the world for chef pop-ups. He has earned a Michelin star for the sushi restaurant in Ginza, Tokyo and eventually become a one-of-a-kind sushi master.



In this exclusive omakase journey, you will witness Chef Sato's mastery over his craft of exquisite edomae sushi up close, and indulge in the rich umami and ultimate craftsmanship in each piece of nigiri. To complete and complement the experience, Chef Sato selects fresh ingredients sourced directly from Japan and curates his own akazu seasoning in making his artisanal edomae sushi, also you can elevate the umami taste with the curation of Japanese sake pairing in different flavors and richness.

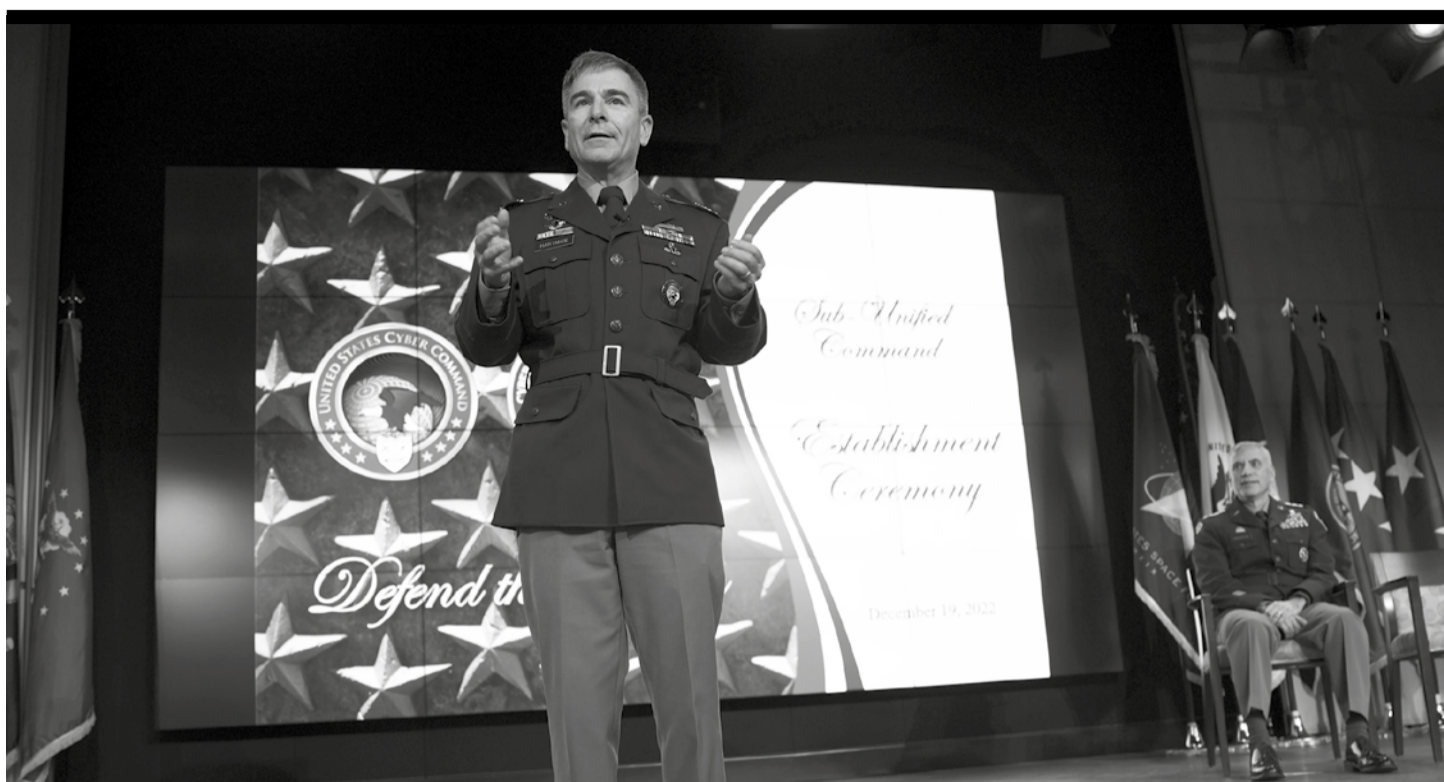


The limited-time culinary experience is available for three nights only, with limited seats. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an interactive omakase experience with the sushi master.



More information please visit mgm.mo

AP PHOTO



Army Major Gen. William Hartman, commander of U.S. Cyber Command's Cyber National Mission Force

this day in history

1984 LIBYAN EMBASSY SIEGE ENDS



The siege of the Libyan Embassy in St James's Square in London is over.

In the end, the diplomats, holed up in the building for 11 days since the shooting death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher which began the siege, simply walked out.

The first indication that a major development was under way came at 0847 BST (0747 GMT), when a group of neutral observers and two Libyan intermediaries walked into the Square and entered the building.

Half an hour later, a white van drove up to the door. Four diplomatic bags were loaded on to the vehicle by observers. They were followed by an assortment of suitcases, hand baggage and plastic carrier bags.

In groups of five, led by the Libyan intermediary who has talked to them throughout the 11-day siege, the 30 diplomats made their way out of the embassy in single file.

They showed no emotion, even as they passed the spot where WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot. Her hat, which had lain where she fell, was removed by one of her colleagues during the night.

The shooting, during a demonstration against the Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi, was believed to have been carried out from inside the embassy. It began a tense stand-off between police and the diplomats inside.

Just over a week later, at the inquest into the 25-year-old policewoman's death, witnesses spoke of seeing smoke and a flaming gun at a first floor window of the building.

The Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, countered with a siege of the British embassy in Tripoli. Negotiations between the two countries have been slow and tortuous, with politicians and the police frustrated by the lack of progress.

Finally on Sunday, diplomatic ties were severed, and those inside the embassy were given seven days to leave the country. The British ambassador to Libya was given the same deadline to leave Tripoli.

The Libyan diplomats have now been escorted to Heathrow and onto a plane out of the country.

Police have reluctantly had to accept that whoever shot WPC Fletcher will probably escape justice by claiming diplomatic immunity.

The Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, has said the government will press for changes in the Vienna Convention controlling diplomatic relations.

Courtesy BBC News

USA

Cyberwarriors thwarted 2020 Iran election hacking attempt

CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY & FRANK BAJAK

IRANIAN hackers broke into a system used by a U.S. municipal government to publish election results in 2020 but were discovered by cyber soldiers operating abroad and kicked out before an attack could be launched, according to U.S. military and cybersecurity officials.

The system involved in the previously undisclosed breach was not for casting or counting ballots, but rather was used to report unofficial election results on a public website. The breach was revealed during a presentation this week at the RSA Conference in San Francisco, which is focused on cybersecurity. Officials did not identify the local government that was targeted.

"This was not a system used in the conduct of the election, but we are of course also concerned with systems that could weigh on the perception of a potential compromise," said Eric Goldstein, who leads the cybersecurity division at the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

If not expelled from the site, the hackers could have altered or otherwise disrupted the public-facing results page — though without affecting ballot-counting.

"Our concern is always

that some type of website defacement, some type of (denial of service) attack, something that took the website down or defaced the website say on the night of the election, could make it look like the vote had been tampered with when that's absolutely not true," Major Gen. William J. Hartman, commander of U.S. Cyber Command's Cyber National Mission Force, told conference attendees this week.

Hartman said his team identified the intrusion as part of what he termed a "hunt-forward" mission, which gathers intelligence on and surveils adversaries and criminals. The team quickly alerted officials at the U.S. cybersecurity agency, who then worked with the municipality to respond to the intrusion.

Hartman said his team then acted "to ensure the malicious cyber actor no longer had access to the network and was unable to come back into the network in direct support of the elections."

No details were released on how or from what country the Iranian intrusion was detected.

Its successful thwarting highlights the stealthy, largely classified, efforts of U.S. military cyberwarriors to prevent a repeat of 2016, when a Russian hack-and-leak operation targeting Hillary Clinton's campaign

avored former President Donald Trump's election.

Asked in a recent interview about his accomplishments since he was promoted to U.S. Cybercom and National Security Agency chief in 2018, Gen. Paul Nakasone pointed to election security.

"We said if you are going to come and try to influence or interfere in our elections, we're going to take you on, and we did," he said.

Election and national security officials have been increasingly focused on cybersecurity threats since the 2016 election. Locally, they have been trying to heighten protections for voting machines, vote tabulators, voter registration databases and electronic pollbooks, which are used to check in voters at polling locations.

Some of the non-voting systems present security challenges because they have internet connections. As the use of electronic systems has grown, they have proved an attractive target for those seeking to meddle in elections.

In 2016, Russian hackers scanned state voter registration systems looking for vulnerabilities and accessed the voter registration database in Illinois, although an investigation later determined no voter data was manipulated. In 2020, Iranian hackers obtained confidential voter data and used it to send mis-

leading emails, seeking to spread misinformation and influence the election.

Beginning in 2018, the National Defense Authorization Act let the U.S. "take down infrastructure" and "take on adversaries" outside the country, Nakasone said. So by 2020, when Russian and Iranian actors attempted to interfere with the U.S. election, U.S. cyber operators were able to thwart them, he added.

Under Nakasone, Cybercom has sent small teams to 22 countries to help hunt on their networks — "to identify malware, tradecraft, techniques that adversaries are using and then broadly publicize that," he said. That includes Ukraine, where he said a team arrived on Dec. 3, 2021, more than two months ahead of the Russian invasion.

In a March statement ahead of a congressional hearing, Nakasone said Cybercom had deployed its teams 40 times to work on 59 networks, generating insights and "imposing costs on common adversaries." He said the missions "exposed malicious cyber activity by China, Russia, Iran and cyber criminals," helped make other nation's networks more secure and "led to the public release of more than 90 malware samples for analysis by the cybersecurity community." MDT/AP

IN CONTEXT

Nobody has yet been charged with the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

In 1999, Libya admitted "general responsibility" for her killing, and agreed to pay compensation to her family. The authorities in Tripoli also agreed to cooperate with detectives from the anti-terrorist branch investigating the case.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were resumed later that year.

Police re-opened the file into the murder, and in May 2002 officers from Scotland Yard flew to Libya to further the investigation.

Their talks with the authorities were described as "useful", although newspaper reports suggested that their attempts to interview potential suspects were fruitless.

In 2004 it was announced that Libyan and British police would conduct a joint investigation into the killing.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Look after financial transactions today. Try to control your irritability if you're experiencing emotional problems with your partner. Overindulgence may be a problem.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Jealousy may be a contributing factor to your emotional ups and downs. Money can be made if you are willing to take a chance. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You can make new connections through friends or relatives. Get friends to help you with the preparations. Work quietly behind the scenes.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Social events will be favorable. Catch up on your correspondence and reading. Networking will be a necessity. Be careful not to hurt the ones you love.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Your best results will come through business trips. You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Be sure to take care of the needs of youngsters. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. A new you could help your attitude.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Opportunities for travel must be carefully considered. Get down to business and do the work yourself. Put your time and energy into travel, philosophy, and soul-searching.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Be ready to explain your actions. Don't count your chickens before they hatch. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Uncertainties are still prevailing. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	24	cloudy
Changchun	6	17	cloudy
Chengdu	14	24	cloudy
Chongqing	16	26	cloudy
Fuzhou	14	23	overcast
Guangzhou	16	26	cloudy
Guiyang	10	24	cloudy
Haikou	20	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	12	24	cloudy
Harbin	5	18	cloudy
Hefei	11	23	overcast
Nanjing	12	24	cloudy
Shanghai	13	22	fine
Taipei	17	24	overcast
Wuhan	10	19	rain
Hong Kong	23	24	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	10	21	overcast
Frankfurt	7	16	overcast
Paris	13	18	rain
London	11	14	rain
New York	9	16	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- ___ silly question...; 5- Donkey; 8- Agitate; 12- ___ arms (angry); 13- Attach, as a patch; 15- Dominion; 16- Conked out; 17- "All My Children" vixen; 18- Met highlight; 19- Examine in detail; 22- For each; 23- Appropriate; 24- Burn soother; 26- French dance; 29- White rat, e.g.; 31- Involuntary muscular contraction; 32- Reposes; 34- Clipped conjunction; 36- Pink-slips; 38- Brown; 40- [Oh, well]; 41- Monetary unit of the former Soviet Union; 43- Like marshes; 45- ___ de guerre; 46- Convention; 48- Having a rim; 50- Checked out; 51- For shame!; 52- Seed of a legume; 54- Plotter; 61- Inquires; 63- Living in flowing water; 64- Arizona river; 65- Capital of Calvados, in NW France; 66- Rock; 67- Building wings; 68- Peseta replacement; 69- Chow down; 70- Harvest;

DOWN 1- Autobahn auto; 2- Whirl; 3- Capital of the Ukraine; 4- Like llamas; 5- Ethereal; Prefix; 6- Gulp from a flask; 7- Caribbean dance music; 8- Madrid Mrs.; 9- Oil derived from the resin of pine trees; 10- Netman Nastase; 11- The back end of something; 13- Lounges; 14- Pertaining to birth; 20- Boot attachment; 21- Exile isle; 25- Lubricates; 26- State of confusion; 27- Opening remark to ease tension; 28- Former Russian ruler; 29- Late bloomer; 30- 1977 George Burns film; 31- Pitch; 33- Calendar abbr.; 35- Unit of electrical resistance; 37- Knock off; 39- Building; 42- Corp. VIP, briefly; 44- Primordial giant in Norse myth; 47- Graven images; 49- Scanty; 52- Step; 53- Biblical birthright seller; 55- Brief letter, paper money; 56- Portico; 57- Pub quantity; 58- One with a glazed look, perhaps; 59- Earthen pot; 60- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 62- ___-Cat;

Yesterday's solution

R	O	O	K	I	E	M	S	U	T	P	S		
A	R	T	I	S	T	I	S	T	S	H	E	A	P
G	R	O	T	T	O	T	E	E	A	N	N	A	
C	O	N	T	R	A	D	I	C	T	E	D		
M	A	C	H	O	R	I	D	S	E	A	L	E	
A	B	L	E	T	A	G	A	S	S	E			
C	H	A	N	G	E	D	G	N	U	P	E	A	
R	O	N	E	R	E	A	G	E	T	E	M	U	
O	R	G	M	S	E	R	E	D	W	O	O	D	
A	C	T	O	N	T	O	E	R	A	S	V	E	T
P	A	S	S	I	O	N	F	R	U	I	T		
C	A	R	R	A	T	E	S	E	N	S	E	S	
E	L	S	A	Y	E	N	R	E	G	E	N	T	

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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HILLEL ITALIE

ENTERTAINMENT

HARRY Belafonte, the civil rights and entertainment giant who began as a groundbreaking actor and singer and became an activist, humanitarian and conscience of the world, has died. He was 96.

Belafonte died early yesterday [Macau time] of congestive heart failure at his New York home, his wife Pamela by his side, said publicist Ken Sunshine.

With his glowing, handsome face and silky-husky voice, Belafonte was one of the first Black performers to gain a wide following on film and to sell a million records as a singer; many still know him for his signature hit "Banana Boat Song (Day-O)," and its call of "Day-O! Daaaaay-O." But he forged a greater legacy once he scaled back his performing career in the 1960s and lived out his hero Paul Robeson's decree that artists are "gatekeepers of truth."

Belafonte stands as the model and the epitome of the celebrity activist. Few kept up with his time and commitment and none his stature as a meeting point among Hollywood, Washington and the Civil

AP PHOTO



Harry Belafonte, and Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., listen to a speaker during an anti-apartheid demonstration on Capitol Hill in Washington on Aug. 12, 1985

Rights Movement.

Belafonte not only participated in protest marches and benefit concerts, but helped organize and raise support for them. He

worked closely with his friend and generational peer the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He risked his life and livelihood and set high standards for young

Black celebrities, mentoring Usher, Common, Danny Glover and many others. In Spike Lee's 2018 film "BlacKkKlansman," he was fittingly cast as an elder statesman schooling young activists about the country's past.

Belafonte was a major artist since the 1950s. He won a Tony Award in 1954 for his starring role in John Murray Anderson's "Almanac" and five years later became the first Black performer to win an Emmy for the TV special "Tonight with Harry Belafonte."

His "Calypso," released in 1955, became the first officially certified million-selling album by a solo performer, and started a national infatuation with Caribbean rhythms (Belafonte was nicknamed, reluctantly, the "King of Calypso").

Belafonte befriended King in the spring of 1956 after the young civil rights leader called and asked for a meeting. They spoke for hours, and Belafonte would remember feeling King raised him to the "higher plane of social protest." Then at the peak of his singing career, Belafonte was soon producing a benefit concert for the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, that helped make King a national figure. By the early 1960s, he had decided to make civil rights his priority.

"I was having almost daily talks with Martin," Belafonte wrote in his 2011 memoir "My Song." "I realized that the movement was more important than anything else."

The Kennedys were among the first politicians to seek his opinions, which he willingly shared. John F. Kennedy, at a time when Black voters were as likely to support Republicans as they would Democrats, was so anxious for his support that during the 1960 election he visited Belafonte at his Manhattan home.

When King was assassinated, in 1968, Belafonte helped pick out the suit he was buried in, sat next to his widow, Coretta, at the funeral, and continued to support his family, though they later became estranged.

"Much of my political outlook was already in place when I encountered Dr. King," Belafonte later wrote. "I was well on my way and utterly committed to the civil rights struggle. I came to him with expectations and he affirmed them."

King's death left Belafonte isolated from the civil rights community. He was turned off by the separatist beliefs of Stokely Carmichael and other "Black Power" activists and had little chemistry with King's designated successor, The Rev. Ralph Abernathy. But the entertainer's causes

extended well beyond the U.S.

He coordinated Nelson Mandela's first visit to the U.S. since being released from prison in 1990. A few years earlier, he had initiated the all-star, million-selling "We Are the World" recording, the Grammy-winning charity song for famine relief in Africa.

He made news years earlier when he compared Colin Powell, the first Black secretary of state, to a slave "permitted to come into the house of the master" for his service in the George W. Bush administration. He was in Washington in January 2009 as Obama was inaugurated. But Belafonte would later criticize Obama for failing to live up to his promise and lacking "fundamental empathy with the dispossessed, be they white or Black."

He was married three times, most recently to photographer Pamela Frank, and had four children. He is also survived by two stepchildren and eight grandchildren.

A New York City native, Belafonte began performing on stage in the 1940s and by the following decade was also singing, finding gigs at the Blue Note, the Vanguard and other clubs — and becoming immersed in folk, blues, jazz and the calypso he had heard while living in Jamaica. Belafonte made history in 1968 by filling in for Johnny Carson on the "Tonight" show for a full week. Later that year, Belafonte performed on a pre-taped TV special and was joined by British singer Petula Clark for a performance of the anti-war song "On the Path of Glory." At one point, Clark placed a hand on Belafonte's arm. The show's sponsor, Chrysler, demanded the segment be reshot. Clark and Belafonte resisted, successfully, and for the first time a white woman touched a Black man's arm on primetime television.

Mindful to the end that he grew up in poverty, Belafonte did not think of himself as an artist who became an activist, but an activist who happened to be an artist.

"When you grow up, son," Belafonte remembered his mother telling him, "never go to bed at night knowing that there was something you could have done during the day to strike a blow against injustice and you didn't do it." **MDT/AP**

AD

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FOOTBALL

Leicester plots great escape seven years after EPL title triumph

JAMES ROBSON, MANCHESTER

LEEDS 1, LEICESTER 1

SEVEN years after producing the biggest shock in Premier League history, Leicester is now trying to pull off a great escape.

The Foxes stunned the world of soccer by winning the league title in 2016 as a 5000-1 outsider. Now they are attempting to beat the odds once again by securing top-flight survival in a season when the threat of relegation has never been far away.

While a 1-1 draw with relegation rival Leeds yesterday [Macau time] did little to ease Leicester's concerns, it showcased a fighting spirit that will be essential if the club is to avoid the drop.

"It's optimistic because they are good players. We can be a good team," manager Dean Smith said. "If we cut out the lapses



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring to 1-1

of concentration from set-pieces we'll be fine."

Veteran striker Jamie Vardy rolled back the years by equalizing in the 80th minute after Luis Sinisterra had put Leeds in front.

Vardy was the talisman of Leicester's title success, scoring 24 goals. As a substitute at Elland Road, he looked as lethal as ever when he swept a shot past Illan

Meslier, but at the age of 36 he has become an increasingly peripheral figure.

Vardy's goal was his first in the league since October.

How Leicester could do with a peak Vardy to help fire it to safety in the closing stages of the season.

"Pleased for him as it's not been a fruitful season, but (it's)

nice to have him scoring with five games to go," Smith said.

The draw against Leeds leaves Leicester one point and one place above the relegation zone, with the bottom three teams all having played a game fewer.

But Leicester can take comfort from the fact that it does have history when it comes to pulling off an escape act.

While the title success is rightly considered the greatest in the league's history, the Foxes' achievement the season before was remarkable in its own right when a run of seven wins in their last nine games saw them rise from the bottom of the table to avoid relegation.

Leeds is also in the thick of the battle to stay up, in 16th place, one point ahead of Leicester.

"The dressing room is really disappointed but we have a point and we have to play five games, being ready to be at our best," manager Javi Gracia said.

VILLA IN FIFTH

Aston Villa had looked in danger of relegation when Unai Emery took over in October.

His predecessor Steven Gerrard had left the club after securing just two league wins, with the team one place above the bottom three.

Emery has turned Villa's fortunes around in spectacular fashion, with a 1-0 win against Fulham moving it up to fifth and in contention to qualify for the Europa League.

Villa's rise has come on the back of a run of 10 games without defeat, including eight wins.

Tyrone Mings scored the only goal of the game against Fulham.

"We are in the top 10. We are in the Europa position," Emery said.

WOLVERHAMPTON FEARS EASE

Wolverhampton is up to 13th after a 2-0 win against Crystal Palace, and top flight safety is within reach.

Joachim Andersen scored an own goal after three minutes and Ruben Neves struck from the penalty spot in stoppage time to secure the three points.

Julen Lopetegui's team is now nine points ahead of the relegation zone after recovering from the setback of losing to relegation rival Leicester over the weekend. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

NEW DELHI SHOULD SHUN GEOSTRATEGIC PITFALLS

China and India held the 18th round of Corps Commander Level talks on Sunday. Unlike the previous round held in December, the Sunday meeting did not conclude with a joint statement but that is reportedly because the focus of the meeting was on confidence-building measures in the coming months and avoiding confrontation at the border.

In spite of the absence of substantial progress on frontline disengagement, what matters is the talks took place and both sides have signaled their desire for de-escalation. This has further consolidated the shift from frictions and standoffs to management of the border tensions. A little more peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control is expected as a result, with the two sides apparently agreeing to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels with a view to working out a mutually-acceptable resolution of the remaining issues.

Sunday's talks were to set the stage for the likely meeting between Chinese and Indian defense ministers on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization defense ministers' meeting in New Delhi this week.

As the two most populous nations in the world, China and India are both keenly conscious of the critical importance of good-neighborly ties for their respective development aspirations. China's experience over the past decades underscores the value of a peaceful international environment for domestic prosperity.

There have been obvious external attempts to stoke tensions and sow discords in the "Indo-Pacific", especially as Washington sees India as a convenient tool in its efforts to contain China. And clearly some in India also want to exploit their country's new-found role as a geopolitical counterweight in dealing with China.

Such opportunist calculations, however, will do no good in the end, because they misread both China's sincerity for good, peaceful bilateral ties and underestimate its determination when it comes to safeguarding its territorial integrity.

Not to mention they only sink India deeper into a geostrategic pitfall. Outsiders left behind a legacy of disputed borders, and outsiders are now using it to create greater security dilemmas for India.

The two neighbors are the world's largest developing countries with a combined population of 2.8 billion, and both are committed to national development and rejuvenation. Both countries are members of the SCO and BRICS and have great potential for exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, social development, education, and science and technology. They also share similar positions on many regional and international issues, and have extensive common interests in South-South cooperation. There is great potential to be tapped if New Delhi can remain clear-sighted and keep outside interference at bay.

U.S. President Joe Biden will visit Japan and Australia next month to huddle with allies on their continued response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as ways to confront China's assertive economic and military moves in the Indo-Pacific region, the White House announced yesterday [Macau time].

Biden will attend a summit of the leaders of the Group of Seven advanced democracies in Hiroshima, Japan, on May 19-21, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Then he will make his first trip as president to Australia, which will include the third in-person meeting of the so-called "Quad" leader-

ship of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India.

"The President and G7 leaders will discuss a range of the most pressing global issues, including the G7's unwavering support for Ukraine, addressing the dual food and climate crises, securing inclusive and resilient economic growth, and continuing to lead a clean energy transition at home and for our partners around the world," she said.

At the Quad meeting on May 24 Biden will gather with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia. The group was formed in 2007.



U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves for the District of Columbia, with Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson speaks during a press conference

TOBACCO COMPANY SETTLES WITH US OVER BUSINESS IN NORTH KOREA

ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

A British tobacco company has agreed to pay more than \$629 million to settle allegations that it did illegal business with North Korea in violation of U.S. sanctions, the Justice Department said yesterday [Macau time].

British American Tobacco, one of the largest tobacco companies in the world, entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, while the company's Singapore subsidiary pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit bank fraud and violate sanctions.

The London-based BAT said in its own statement that the settlement concerns sales from 2007 through 2017 and that the company has since taken steps to improve its business practices.

North Korea faces stringent U.S. and international sanctions going back nearly two decades for its nuclear weapons program and development of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Pyongyang has continued to research and test more nuclear weapons. It has also worked to evade sanctions with the cooperation of allies like China

and illicit trade with barred countries and companies.

Smuggled tobacco products are regarded as a major source of revenue for North Korea's nuclear and weapons of mass destruction programs, the Justice Department said.

The penalty is the largest arising from North Korea sanctions violations in the Justice Department's history, said Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen.

"This case and others like it do serve as a warning shot to companies, companies that support rogue regimes like North Korea through their activities — that they have to have compliance programs, compliance programs that prevent these kinds of activities from taking place," he said.

BAT admitted as part of the settlement that it continued to do tobacco business in North Korea despite stating publicly in 2007 that it no longer had operations with the repressive regime. Prosecutors say a third-party company operating under the control of a BAT subsidiary sold more than \$400 million in tobacco products between 2007 and 2017.

That money was then funneled back to BAT, the

Justice Department said. North Korean purchases of the tobacco companies that concealed the connections from U.S. banks that processed the transactions.

In a statement, BAT chief executive Jack Bowles said the company regrets "the misconduct arising from historical business activities that led to these settlements, and acknowledge that we fell short of the highest standards rightly expected of us."

He said the company, whose brands include Lucky Strike, Kent and Pall Mall, had since transformed its ethics and compliance programs.

Separately, federal prosecutors disclosed a cigarette trafficking scheme that raised money for North Korea's nuclear weapons program, announcing charges against three men — a North Korean banker and two Chinese facilitators. The State Department has announced a reward for information leading to their arrest.

British American Tobacco agreed in 2017 to take over Reynolds American Inc., which owned brands like Newport and Camel, creating the world's largest publicly traded tobacco company. MDT/AP



Ukrainian government is launching an initiative to streamline and promote innovation in the development of drones and other technologies that have been critical during Russia's war in Ukraine. As part of the initiative dubbed BRAVE1, the government hopes to bring state, military, and private sector developers working on defense issues together into a tech cluster that would give Ukraine a battlefield advantage.



EU New rules requiring airlines to use more sustainable fuels across the European Union have been agreed by negotiators from member countries and the EU Parliament in a bid to help decarbonize the sector. The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said yesterday that the deal reached by member states and the European Parliament demands that suppliers blend sustainable aviation fuels with kerosene in growing amounts from 2025.



Vatican The spiritual priorities of Pope Francis will be on display during a trip this week to Hungary, where the populist government will seek to downplay its diverging views on matters like immigration and minority rights while focusing instead on points where it aligns with the pontiff. Francis will meet with children with disabilities, refugees and those living in poverty on the three-day trip that begins Friday. He will also have an audience with Hungary's president and its nationalist prime minister, Viktor Orban.