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**IN WORKAHOLIC JAPAN, 'JOB LEAVING AGENTS' HELP PEOPLE ESCAPE THE AWKWARDNESS OF QUITTING** P7



AP PHOTO



**Israel** will buy 25 F-35 aircraft from the United States, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced yesterday, in a deal that increases Israel's arsenal of the stealth fighter jets by 50%. The F-35 is the world's most advanced fighter jet, and Israel is the only country in the Middle East to fly them. The \$3 billion purchase, which increases the Israeli fleet of F-35 jets from 50 to 75, is set to be finalized in the coming months, the ministry said.

AP PHOTO



**Israeli** drones struck targets in a militant stronghold in the occupied West Bank early yesterday and hundreds of troops were deployed in the area. Palestinian health officials said at least five Palestinians were killed. Troops remained inside the Jenin refugee camp, pushing ahead with the largest operation in the area during more than a year of fighting.

AP PHOTO



**Ukraine** After a relative lull, Russia launched a drone attack early Sunday on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, officials said. It was the first such attack of the war in 12 days. All of the Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones were detected and shot down, according to Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv city administration. In addition to the city itself, the surrounding Kyiv region was targeted. Kyiv regional Gov. Ruslan Kravchenko reported that one person was wounded by falling debris from a destroyed drone.

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# LOCAL PRODUCTION

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# ECONOMIC SECRETARY HIGHLIGHTS INTER-COMPLEMENTARY EFFORTS AT CONFERENCE

ANTHONY LAM

**Y**ESTERDAY morning saw the opening of the two-day World Cities Branding Conference at the MGM Cotai resort. Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong underlined the importance of making use of comparative advantages when discussing branding at the conference yesterday.

During his speech, Lei emphasized that mainland cities have increasingly identifiable branding and images, "showcasing the robust power of elevating towards impeccable brands in the world."

Cities should complement each other, for example, with traditionally well-established city brands sharing opportunities from the development of newer brands to expedite the city's renewal.

He concluded that building up new world-class city brands with a forward-thinking mentality and communicating them with an innovative mindset is the shared vision and direction for domestic and international cities.

"Actively promoting exchanges between world cities is a crucial path towards the realization of shared ideals," Lei added.

Lei described Macau as "a new path for the exploration of development in world city branding and



the ideal location for opening conversations between Chinese and foreign cities."

The organization of the conference is a critical action taken by Macau to underline its experience in the MICE environment, Lei said. The conference occurring in Macau is beneficial to translating these ambitions into reality and implementing agenda items.

Lei said the Greater Bay Area

was one of the world's most open groups of cities, further stating that the area would help China's appearance on the world stage.

At the same event, venue owner and operator Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, highlighted the conference's core message – the need for China's branding to have a clear image and values – and expressed her

agreement with using the conference as a platform for telling "good stories about China."

Ho added that the market had tired of traditional branding and marketing communications, which are abrupt and profit-oriented. Instead, the current market is leaning towards autonomous choice based on cultural acceptance.

She pointed out that culture and tourism brands that represent

national images "can only win widespread favorability and reputation only with cultural power that is gladly recognized by people."

Branding for China's tourism and culture should "exercise unprecedented vision to foster mutual representation and promotion of the two factors," she said. The more powerful the Chinese brand, the better the international environment for the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation, she added.

Under the scenario of tourism revival, the introduction of the conference in Macau is to promote cultural, industrial and resourceful interactions between cities, as well as highlighting the Chinese brand to the world.

At the conference, Zhang Hui, expert at a committee at the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism, suggested aspiring world tourism cities take the path of full-region tourism, facilitate convenient tourist experiences, utilize local culture and history, and exercise an innovative mentality.

Meanwhile, Sheng Ying, National Officer at the China Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), suggested that city pinpoint its core competitive advantages to cultivate brands.

## MICE

# MGTO's head satisfied with MITE results, sales over MOP2.5 million

**T**HE director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, said that the 11th edition of the Macao International Travel Industry Expo (MITE) surpassed expectations, with sales reaching around 2.5 million patacas, she said on the sidelines of the event's closure on Sunday.

Senna Fernandes added that the figure for sales of airline tickets and travel packages at the Expo is a very

positive sign, noting also that the total number of visitors to the event should have surpassed the 30,000 registered last year.

The same official added that over the weekend there were also 44 new contracts and partnerships signed, five of which are directly related to the "1+4" industries.

Senna Fernandes also commented on the current number of visitors to Macau,

stating that June had a daily average of about 70,000.

According to a revised macroeconomic forecast of the University of Macau (UM), it is expected the economy will continue to recover following a higher influx of visitors and better performance of the tourism-related operators.

The UM forecasts that by the end of this year, the broader economy should have reached about 70% of 2019 levels. **RM**



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ARTS

# IC opens Black Box Theatre, Hainan exhibition

ANTHONY LAM

**Y**ESTERDAY morning saw the opening of the Black Box Theatres at the Macao Cultural Centre, which cost about MOP100 million from design to construction.

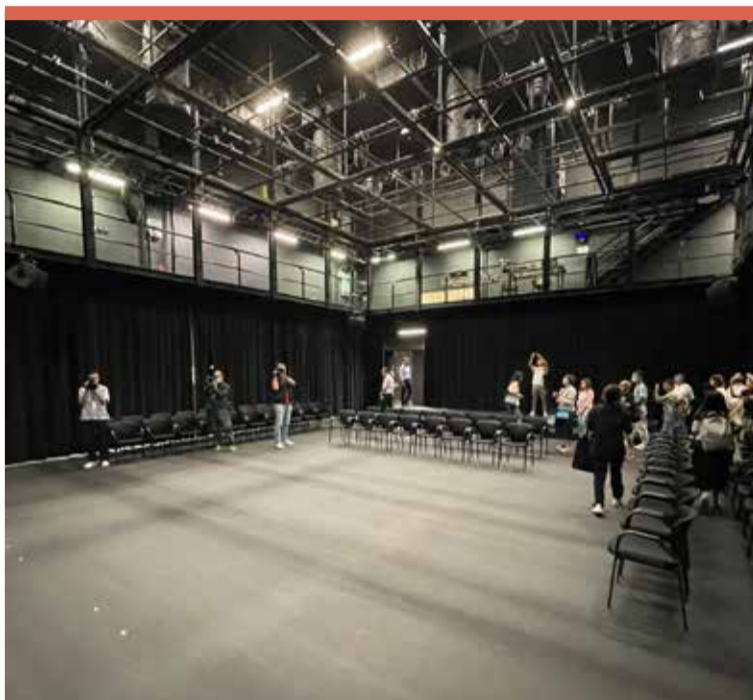
All shows that were booked for a similar venue at the Old Courthouse building will be relocated to this new venue. The new venue has a gross area of 3,110 square meters and features two theatres and a multi-purpose room spanning three floors.

Being an extension from the main building of the Cultural Centre, the Black Box Theatre building was designed by Architect Bruno Soares.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Leong Wai Man announced that a performance company has been invited from Shanghai to run a children's drama at the new facility in mid-July.

At the end of this month, the Black Box Theatres will see the annual drama presentation by students at the Macao Conservatory School of Theatre.

To emphasize that the new facility is not just open to government events, Leong said that the IC is now taking applications from private performers. The



application form is available on the Cultural Centre's website.

Tours have also been organized for local performance industry participants to familiarize themselves with the new venue.

For the time being, Leong believes that there should be sufficient facilities at the Cultural Centre, even with next year being the 25th anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region. The older theatres at the Cultural Centre will remain part and parcel of the music and the arts festivals.

During her speech, Leong re-

capped that the Black Box Theatre extension is a critical project in the Macau government's second Five-Year Plan. It is aimed at helping Macau consolidate its role as the base for interactions and exchanges between Chinese and other cultures.

Over the weekend, the IC also opened an exhibition at the Macao Museum to celebrate the cultural heritage from Hainan Province.

Titled Genesis and Spirit, the exhibition will be held until Oct. 8. With the themes "Cradle of Coconut City," "Spirit of Li Ethnicity," and "Lifestyle of Li People," the exhibition showcases works of Hainan coconut carving and traditional Li textile techniques of spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering as well as cultural and creative products featuring intangible elements of the cultural heritage of Hainan. The exhibition will introduce both residents and tourists to the unique crafts of Hainan's cultural heritage and its practice of the concept of cultural heritage transmission "through people, their items and their lives."

Complementing the exhibition is a series of activities that include arts and crafts demonstrations and interactive workshops, in which the essence of the techniques embedded in the intangible cultural heritage of Hainan will be presented.

At the opening ceremony, a plaque presentation ceremony was held to confer accreditation from the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism upon guardians of several local elements of cultural heritage: Macanese gastronomy, Patuá Theatre, and the belief and customs of Tou Tei.

Meanwhile, the IC will also announce this year's Art Macao - Macao International Art Biennale tomorrow. Started in 2019, the event attempts to garner interest and publicity for art in Macau.

Meanwhile, the IC will also announce this year's Art Macao - Macao International Art Biennale tomorrow. Started in 2019, the event attempts to garner interest and publicity for art in Macau.

## UM HOLDS SYMPOSIUM ON BIG DATA

The University of Macau (UM) recently held the inaugural Big Data Analytics in Law Enforcement Symposium to provide an academic platform for senior law enforcement officers in Macau and Hong Kong to exchange views on state-of-the-art research findings and practical experiences informed by empirical evidence. Representing the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), Associate Dean Cai Tianji said that the symposium aimed to "facilitate the exchange of professional knowledge in the conceptualisation of theories and cutting-edge computational and quantitative analysis techniques."

## NON-RESIDENT WORKERS CONTINUALLY INCREASE

The number of non-resident workers in Macau is still on the rise as the city recorded an increase of 3,306, data from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) shows. May figures stood at 161,508, slightly lower than last year's 165,253 imported workers. The majority of the workers hail from mainland China and the Philippines. Recently, batches of workers for the integrated resorts have been arriving in the city to meet the shortage of manpower in the hotel sector.

## HENGQIN PORT HAS SEEN OVER 7.1 MILLION PASSENGERS SO FAR

Hengqin Port has seen over 7.1 million inbound and outbound passengers so far this year, according to the statistics released by Hengqin Border Inspection Station last week. The total passenger flow of the port is estimated to exceed 10 million by the end of this year, hitting a record peak since the port's operation. In addition to the increasing passenger flow, the vehicle flow has also reached 920,000, of which about 660,000 were Macau single-plate vehicles, a year-on-year increase of about 77.1%, 61.4%, and 73.7%, respectively.

## 2025 NATIONAL CONGRESS OF APAVT TO BE HELD IN MACAU

The National Congress of the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies (APAVT) 2025 will be held in Macau. Officially announced at the 11th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo, the annual event is considered the main gathering of the Portuguese tourism industry. "The congress is set to provide an opportunity to showcase Macau's new "tourism +" offerings and help to boost the diversification of visitor source markets," organizers said in a statement. APAVT held its annual congress in Macao in 1982, 1990, 1996, 2008 and 2017.

TOURISM

# Hotel occupancy to level up to pre-pandemic this summer, Andy Wu says

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE hotel occupancy rate in Macau is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels this summer, the president of the Travel Industry Council of Macau (TICM), Andy Wu, said on the sidelines of the closing of the 11th edition of the Macao International Travel Industry Expo (MITE).

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Wu noted that this will be the first summer since the return to normality with respect to travel restrictions being lifted. According to

Wu, projections are optimistic, with a potential return of the hotel occupancy rate and visitors' figures seen in 2019 in sight.

Wu noted that some destinations in Asia (such as Japan) are already reporting a full recovery, adding that this should happen in Macau too over summer. He further advanced that the tour operators already have bookings for a large number of tour groups from the mainland. These could reach a number ranging between 150 and 200 per day.

The president of the TICM also stated that, taking all the previous factors into account, it is expected that over the same period, the number of visitors may reach an average of 70,000 per day.

Wu noted that the prices of the tours for both visitors to Macau and residents touring abroad have increased by about 20% to 30% when compared to pre-pandemic times, due to the limited capacity of the airlines, which has resulted in rising airfares.

He says that among the residents going abroad



for the holidays, there is 50-50 distribution among those who opted for individual trips and those

on organized visits, with the favorite destinations continuing to be Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

**OVER 100,000 REGISTERED TO E-ID ON FIRST DAY**

Some over 100,000 residents have completed the binding of their electronic identity in the Macao One Account mobile application on the first day after the service entered into operation, the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) informed in a press statement. According to DSI, the service attracted high interest among the public. By 9 p.m. on June 30, the service had already recorded over 100,000 electronic identity linkages from local residents. Since the service became available, residents can use the electronic identity for border crossing.

**PJ WARNS PUBLIC TO REFRAIN FROM CLICKING SUSPICIOUS LINKS**

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has recently discovered that offenders randomly send SMS messages embedded with unknown links. The message claims victim's instant messaging (IM) account is restricted because of a user policy violation and advises the victim to click on the embedded link to resolve the issue. PJ advises members of the public to stay vigilant and refrain from clicking suspicious links in SMS messages.

**EDUCATION**

# KIANG WU NURSING COLLEGE SEES 130 GRADUATES, ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LAUNCH NEW DEGREES

STAFF REPORTER

**A**BOUT 130 students of three different higher education programs and the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) accredited course have graduated from the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau (KWNC).

The 2022/2023 Graduation Ceremony was recently held at the Conference Centre of the Islands District Medical Complex Campus.

As the "Professional Qualification and Registration of Health Practitioners" and related regulations are in effect, the Islands District Medical Complex will commence operations in phases this year.

KWNC plans to launch the Master of Applied Gerontology and the Doctor of Philosophy (Nursing) programs in the new academic year "to provide necessary high-level nursing and health science talents to the community," according to the institution.



Van Iat Kiom, president of the college, said that it has been collaborating with a number of local and overseas medical and academic institutes this academic year, including the undergraduate exchange program with the School of Nursing Peking Union Medical College and the School of Nursing of Shenzhen

University, the 2+2 collaborated cultivation program with Guangzhou Medical University, and the Guangdong-Macao joint training program for nursing cadres with Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine and Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

In addition, more than 10 groups

of teachers and students will be travelling to Lisbon, San Francisco, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen this summer for professional and clinical studies, which will continue to deepen exchange and cooperation between Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Portuguese-speaking countries.

**TRANSPORTATION**

# DSAT amends HZMB parking rules, allows parking without pre-booking



**T**HE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has issued some amendments to the regulations of the car parks of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Port, allowing cars to enter the East Car Park without pre-booking.

The measure is justified by the recovery of the economic and tourism activities in Macau and in neighboring regions, allowing drivers to travel to Macau

more conveniently.

From now on, pre-booking will be only requested when the parking lot is filled with capacity to hold fewer than 600 cars.

The procedures for advance booking have also been simplified. Users are now able to provide the registration number of their vehicle and their mobile phone number to receive a message by SMS.

Registered vehicles can

enter the car park within three hours from registration.

This registration cannot be modified, but can be canceled at any time.

Regarding car park rates, the East Car Park continues to be exempted from payment up to a maximum period of 8 consecutive days.

These amendments, published yesterday in the government's official gazette, are effective from 4 a.m. today.

More information can be found at the website ([https://www.dsat.gov.mo/hzmb/carpark\\_east.aspx](https://www.dsat.gov.mo/hzmb/carpark_east.aspx)) or from the official DSAT WeChat account (macaudsat). **RM**

# WING HANG BECOMES HISTORY, REBRANDED AS OCBC BANK

ANTHONY LAM

**S**INGAPOREAN banking corporation OCBC Bank has terminated the historical mission of Wing Hang Bank, eliminating the reference from its operations in Macau and Hong Kong.

The rebranding took place yesterday. From now on, OCBC Wing Hang Bank Macau will be officially referred to as OCBC

Bank Macau, the corporation said in a statement. The same happened to its Hong Kong operations as well.

The acquisition of the then Wing Hang Bank occurred in July 2014 for the price of HKD38.7 billion. All Macau and Hong Kong operations were rebranded as OCBC Wing Hang in October the same year.

The purchase was the

largest cross-border bank deal in Asia, excluding Japan, in the preceding decade.

In an earlier letter sent to its customers and clients, the bank assured them that no update whatsoever to their statuses was required to continue using the bank's services.

Founded in Guangzhou in 1937 and originally called Wing Lung Money

House, Wing Hang entered Hong Kong in 1945 as a money house, before being granted a bank license as Wing Hang Bank in 1960.

The change of branding has prompted the Transport Bureau (DSAT) to rename a bus stop right in front of the bank's headquarters on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro from Wing Hang to OCBC.



LABOR

# Thousands of hotel workers in Southern California are on strike, demanding better pay and benefits

**T**HOUSANDS of hotel workers in Southern California walked off the job on Sunday, demanding higher pay and better benefits in what the union is calling the largest strike in its history.

Cooks, room attendants, dishwashers, servers, bellmen and front desk agents at hotels were picketing outside major hotels in Los Angeles and Orange counties just as the summer tourist is ramping up.

Last month, members of Unite Here Local 11 voted 96% in favor of authorizing the strike. The union is seeking better wages, improved health care benefits, higher pension contributions and less strenuous workloads.

In addition, the union wants to create a "hospitality workforce housing fund" to help workers deal with the soaring costs of living in greater Los Angeles. Many employees report commuting hours to work because they can't afford to live near their jobs.

"Our members were de-



Striking hotel workers rally outside the Intercontinental Hotel after walking off their job, Sunday, in downtown Los Angeles

vastated first by the pandemic, and now by the greed of their bosses," union co-president Kurt Petersen said in a statement. "The industry got bailouts while we got cuts."

Contracts expired midnight on Friday at more than 60 hotels, including properties owned by major chains such as Marriott and Hilton. The strike

affects about half of the 32,000 hospitality workers the union represents across Southern California and Arizona.

Last week, a deal was reached with its biggest employer, the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in downtown Los Angeles, which has more than 600 union workers. Union officials described the tentative

agreement, which provides higher pay and increased staffing levels, as a major win for workers.

Talks with other hotels were at a stalemate. A coalition of more than 40 hotels involved in talks accused union leaders of canceling a scheduled bargaining session and refusing to come to the table. The hotels have offered wage increases of \$2.50 per hour in the first 12 months and \$6.25 over four years, the group said.

"From the outset, the Union has shown no desire to engage in productive, good faith negotiations with this group," the hotel coalition said in a statement Sunday. "The Union has not budged from its opening demand two months ago of up to a 40% wage increase and an over 28% increase in benefit costs."

The work stoppage was expected, and the properties are "fully prepared to continue to operate these hotels and to take care of our guests as long as this disruption lasts," said Keith Grossman, a spokesperson for the coalition. **MDT/AP**



AUTOMOBILE

## TESLA SALES JUMP 83% FROM A YEAR AGO AS TAX CREDITS DRIVE SALES

**T**ESLA'S second-quarter deliveries rose 83% from a year ago after the company cut prices several times on its four electric vehicle models and buyers took advantage of U.S. government tax credits.

The Austin, Texas, producer of EV, solar panels and batteries said Sunday that it sold a record 466,140 vehicles worldwide from April through June, nearly doubling the 254,695 it sold during the same period a year earlier. The vast majority of the sales were Tesla's popular Model 3 and Model Y versions.

But the price cuts, both for special orders and on existing inventory, raised questions from analysts who expect the cuts to reduce Tesla's profit margins when it announces second-quarter earnings on July 19.

Tesla's sales were better than Wall Street expectations. Analysts polled by data provider FactSet expected deliveries of 445,000 for the quarter.

The company produced 479,700 vehicles from April through June, about 13,000 more than it sold, indicating that inventories may be building.

The second-quarter sales bring Tesla to nearly 900,000 vehicles for the first half of this year. The company sold 422,875 vehicles from January through March.

CEO Elon Musk has predicted that sales will grow about 50% per year for the near future. To reach that number for the full year, the company would have to sell 1.97 million vehicles. Analysts expect Tesla to fall a little short, delivering 1.82 million vehicles for the year. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Aaron Kwok kicks off grand finale of Melco Residency Concert Series



Asia's "King of the Stage" Aaron Kwok kicked off the grand finale of the Melco Residency Concert Series in 2023 with the opening show of his performance, "Aaron Kwok Amazing Dream Live

on Stage in Macau 2023". The series will have a total of ten performances in July.

Being his third time performing at Studio City Event Center, the opening show of Melco Residency Con-

cert Series featured Kwok and his team who purposely incorporated new special lighting effects and advanced technology into this exclusive Melco series.

Costing nearly MOP50 million in production to create an elaborate stage set up, the show combines virtual effects and reality by using high-tech projections with three-dimensional lighting effects. Six giant transparent LCD screens were used to match a 3D sci-fi spaceship along with dynamic projection backdrops synced together to create the appearance of a giant moving castle.

The show will be held every Saturday and Sunday in July for a total of ten shows.

### MGM wins awards in Vocational Skills Competition



MGM Golden Lion Team has once again achieved excellence in the 5th Macao Integrated Tourism and Lei-

sure Enterprises Vocational Skills Competition.

The team has attained an extraordinary achievement,

winning 10 awards across eight categories, and has "become the best performing team in the categories of Facilities Maintenance and Chinese Cuisine by sweeping up most of the top awards in both categories," according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

This year, a total of 29 MGM team members participated in the competition.

The participating team members are from four different departments. Through encouraging team members to compete against the best in the industry, MGM hopes to enhance the vocational skills and professionalism of its team members.

# Putin will speak with leaders of China and India in his first summit since Wagner insurrection

KRUTIKA PATHI, NEW DELHI

**P**RESIDENT Vladimir Putin will participate this week in his first multilateral summit since an armed rebellion rattled Russia, as part of a rare international grouping in which his country still enjoys support.

Leaders will convene virtually today for a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security grouping founded by Russia and China to counter Western alliances from East Asia to the Indian Ocean.

This year's event is hosted by India, which became a member in 2017. It's the latest avenue for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to showcase the country's growing global clout.

The group so far has focused on deepening security and economic cooperation, fighting terrorism and drug trafficking, tackling climate change and the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over in 2021. When the foreign ministers met in India last month, Russia's war on Ukraine barely featured in their public remarks but the fallout for developing countries on food and fuel security remains a concern for the group, analysts say.

The forum is more important than ever for Moscow, which is eager to show that the West has failed to isolate it. The group in-

AP FILE PHOTO



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, gestures while speaking to Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Sept. 16, 2022

cludes the four Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, in a region where Russian influence runs deep. Others include Pakistan, which became a member in 2017, and Iran, which is set to join on Tuesday. Belarus is also in line for membership.

"This SCO meeting is really one of the few opportunities globally that Putin will have to project strength and credibility," said Michael Kugelman, director of the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute.

None of the member countries has condemned Russia in

U.N. resolutions, choosing instead to abstain. China has sent an envoy to mediate between Russia and Ukraine, and India has repeatedly called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

For Putin personally, the summit presents an opportunity to show he is in control after a short-lived insurrection by Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin.

"Putin will want to reassure his partners that he is very much still in charge, and leave no doubt that the challenges to his government have been crushed," said Tanvi Madan, a senior fellow

at the Brookings Institution.

India announced in May that the summit would be held online instead of in-person like last year in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where Putin posed for photographs and dined with other leaders.

For New Delhi at least, the optics of hosting Putin and China's leader Xi Jinping just two weeks after Modi was honored with a pomp-filled state visit by U.S. President Joe Biden would be less than ideal.

After all the fanfare Modi received from American leaders on his recent visit, "it would have been too soon (for India) to be welcoming Chinese and Russian leaders," Kugelman said.

India's relationship with Moscow has stayed strong throughout the war; it has scooped up record amounts of Russian crude and relies on Moscow for 60% of its defense hardware. At the same time, the U.S. and its allies have aggressively courted India, which they see as a counterweight to China's growing ambitions.

A key priority for India in the forum is to balance its ties with the West and the East, with the country also hosting the Group of 20 leading economies' summit in September. It's also a platform for New Delhi to engage more deeply with Central Asia.

"India glorifies in this type of foreign policy where it's wheeling and dealing with everybody at

the same time," said Derek Grossman, an Indo-Pacific analyst at the RAND Corporation.

New Delhi, observers say, will be looking to secure its own interests at the summit. It will likely emphasize the need to combat what it calls "cross-border terrorism" — a dig at Pakistan, whom India accuses of arming and training rebels fighting for independence of Indian-controlled Kashmir or its integration into Pakistan, a charge Islamabad denies.

It may also stress the need to respect territorial integrity and sovereignty — a charge often directed towards its other rival, China. India and China have been locked in an intense three-year standoff involving thousands of soldiers stationed along their disputed border in the eastern Ladakh region.

Analysts say China, seeking to posture itself as a global force, is becoming a dominant player in forums like the SCO, where interest for full membership from countries like Myanmar, Turkey and Afghanistan has grown in recent years.

"The limitation with the SCO is that China and Russia are trying to turn it into an anti-Western grouping, and that does not fit with India's independent foreign policy," said Madan.

The SCO could also prove challenging for Washington and its allies in the long run.

"For countries uncomfortable with the West and their foreign policies, the SCO is a welcome alternative, mainly because of the roles Russia and China play. ... I think that highlights just how relevant and concerning this group could be for a number of Western capitals, especially if it keeps expanding," said Kugelman. **MDT/AP**

## WEATHER

# Flooding displaces 10,000 as Beijing gets a relative respite from sweltering heat

AP PHOTO



**H**EAVY flooding has displaced thousands of people around China as the capital had a relative respite from sweltering heat.

Beijing reported 9.8 straight days when the temperature exceeded 35 C (95 F), the National Climate Center said yesterday.

Such a streak was last recorded in 1961 — decades before most Beijing residents had air conditioning or even fans. A lack of rainfall may be contributing to the heat,

with the typically dry capital receiving even less than usual this year.

While temperatures have since moderated — Monday's temperature at midday was 33 C (91 F) — they are expected to rise again this week to as high as 39.6 Celsius (103 Fahrenheit) in Beijing and other parts of the country, authorities said.

Meanwhile, more than 10,000 people were urgently moved to safety due to flooding in the central province of Hu-

nan, the Xiang'xi Emergency Management Bureau on Sunday.

Around 70 houses collapsed, 2,283 were damaged and farm fields were flooded. Losses so far have been estimated at least 575 million yuan (\$79 million).

To the north in Shaanxi province's Zhenba county, authorities reported the worst flooding in 50 years had washed out roads and damaged homes.

No deaths have been reported from the floods

thus far.

The heat this year has been unusual, although China has regular summer flooding. Eleven provinces — around half of China's land area — were expected to receive heavy rains in coming days, mainly in the humid south.

In 2021, more than 300 people died in the central province of Henan. Record rainfall inundated the provincial capital of Zhengzhou on July 20 that year, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line.

China's worst floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Lawyer Akiko Ozawa

# In workaholic Japan, 'job leaving agents' help people escape the awkwardness of quitting

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

**I**N Japan, a nation reputed for loyalty to companies and lifetime employment, people who job-hop are often viewed as quitters. And that's considered shameful.

Enter "taishoku daiko," or "job-leaving agents." Dozens of such services have sprung up in the last several years to help people who simply want out.

"Imagine a messy divorce," says Yoshihito Hasegawa, who heads Tokyo-based TRK, whose Guardian service last year advised 13,000 people on how to resign from their jobs with minimal hassles.

People often stick with jobs even when they're unhappy, feeling as if they are "kamikaze" sacrificing their lives for the greater good, he said, comparing his clients to pilots sent on suicide missions in the closing days of World War II.

"It's the way things are done, the same way younger people are taught to honor older people," he said. "Quitting would be a betrayal."

Founded in 2020, Guardian, a taishoku daiko service, has helped various people, mostly in their 20s and 30s, escape less painfully from jobs they want to quit. That includes people who worked in a Shin-to shrine, a dentist's office and law firm to convenience store and restaurant staff.

Nearly half of Guardian's clients are women. Some work for a day or two and then discover promises of pay or work hours were false.

Guardian charges 29,800 yen (\$208) for its service, which includes a three-month membership in a union that will represent an employee in what can quickly turn into a delicate and awkward negotiation process in Japan.

Generally, Guardian's clients have worked for the small and medium-sized businesses that employ most Japanese. Sometimes people working for major companies seek help. In many cases, bosses have a huge say over how things are run and sometimes simply refuse to agree to let a worker leave, especially since

many places are shorthanded to begin with, given the Japan's chronic labor shortage.

Japanese law basically guarantees people the right to quit, but some employers used to an old-style hierarchy just can't accept that someone they have trained would want to walk away. Those tackling the quitting battle who were interviewed for this story used terms like "fanatics," "bullies" and "mini-Hitlers" to describe such bosses.

Conformist "workaholic" pressures in Japanese culture are painfully heavy. Workers don't want to be seen as troublemakers, are reluctant to question authority and may be afraid to speak up. They may fear harassment after they quit. Some worry about the opinions of their families or friends.

Although most of Guardian's clients prefer to be anonymous, a young man who goes by the online name of Twichan sought help after he was criticized for his sales performance and became so depressed he thought about

killing himself. With Guardian's help he was able to quit in 45 minutes.

Taku Yamazaki, who went to a different taishoku daiko, said his former employer was a subsidiary of a major IT vendor and he knew his departure would be complicated and time-consuming because he was doing well there.

"I felt a certain amount of gratitude toward the place I was leaving, but I wanted to switch gears mentally and move forward as soon as possible," he said.

When people fill out taishoku daiko online forms, an automated reply comes within minutes, with a more personal reply promised within one working day.

Lawyer Akiko Ozawa, whose law firm advises job-leavers although usually it represents companies, acknowledged it may be hard to believe people can't just pick up and leave.

"But switching jobs is a major challenge in Japan that requires tremendous courage," said Ozawa, who has written a book on taishoku daiko. Given

the shortage of workers in Japan, finding and training replacements is tough and bosses sometimes erupt in outrage when someone resigns.

"As long as this Japanese mindset exists, the need for my job isn't going away," said Ozawa, who charges 65,000 yen (\$450) for her service. "If you are so unhappy that you're starting to feel ill, then you should make that choice to take control over your own life."

Another quitting service, Albatross, offers a "MoMuri," or "can't stand it anymore" service, charges a 22,000 yen (\$150) fee for full-time workers, and a bargain 12,000 yen (\$80) fee for part-time workers.

Workplace problems have existed all along, but people now realize they can get help online, said its founder, Shinji Tanimoto.

"They tell us they couldn't sleep at all before, but they can finally sleep all they want," he said of MoMuri's customers. "Users thank us all the time. Some cry tears of joy."

One person wanted to quit working at a pet salon where workers were secretly kicking the animals. Another wanted to quit job in a dental office where the staff weren't using new gloves for each patient.

Many are women working as nurses or caretakers who are asked to stay until a replacement is found, but end up still working in the jobs a year later, he said.

Toshiyuki Niino founded Exit Inc., a frontrunner in the taishoku daiko sector, in 2018, after encountering a boss who constantly yelled at him. Another threatened to kill him.

He quit both jobs, and saw an opportunity.

"I am proud I started this genre of work," he said.

Exit charges 20,000 yen (\$140). Now that employers understand what taishoku daiko is, it can be over in 15 minutes, once resignation papers are on their way.

Niino, who says he never once expressed an opinion in school, blames the Japanese educational system for turning out obedient workers who are unable to assert themselves.

He's thinking about branching out to include mental health counseling, job referrals and perhaps an overseas expansion.

Niino laughs, recounting how one of his own employees used a rival agency to resign and then went on to set up his own taishoku daiko company.

"It's best if you yourself can say you want to quit," he said.

MDT/AP

US

# Biden's upcoming European trip to boost NATO against Russia as the war drags on

SEUNG MIN KIM,  
WASHINGTON

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden will head to Europe at week's end for a three-country trip intended to bolster the international coalition against Russian aggression as the war in Ukraine extends well into its second year.

The main focus of Biden's five-day visit will be the annual NATO summit, held this year in Vilnius, Lithuania. Also planned are stops in Helsinki, Finland, to commemorate the Nordic country's entrance into the 31-nation military alliance in April, and Britain, the White House announced Sunday.

Biden will begin his trip next Sunday in London, and will meet with King Charles III at Windsor Castle the next day, according to Buckingham Palace. The president did not attend Charles's coronation in May, sending first lady Jill Biden to represent the United States. In June, Biden hosted British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the White House, where the two leaders pledged continued cooperation in defending Ukraine.

Sunak's office said he looked forward to welcoming Biden and that their meeting would build on earlier visits.

The NATO meeting comes at the latest critical point in the war. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, says counteroffensive and de-



President Joe Biden meets with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in the Oval Office of the White House, June 13, 2023

fensive actions against Russian forces are underway as Ukrainian troops start to recapture territory in the southeastern part of the country, according to its military leaders.

Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary-general, visited the White House on June 13, where he and Biden made clear that the Western alliance was united in defending Ukraine. Biden said during that meeting that he and other NATO leaders will work to ensure that each member country spends the requisite 2% of its gross domestic product on defense.

"The NATO allies have never been more united. We both worked like hell to make sure that happened. And so far, so good," Biden said as he sat alongside Stoltenberg, who is expected to extend his term for another year. "We

see our joint strength in modernizing the relationship within NATO, as well as providing assistance to defense capabilities to Ukraine.

When Finland joined NATO in April, it effectively doubled Russia's border with the world's biggest security alliance. Biden has highlighted the strengthened NATO alliance as a signal of Moscow's declining influence.

Sweden is also seeking entry into NATO, although alliance members Turkey and Hungary have yet to endorse the move. Biden will host Sweden's prime minister, Ulf Kristersson, at the White House on Wednesday in a show of solidarity as the United States presses for the Nordic nation's entry into NATO.

Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has said Sweden is too lax on terrorist

groups and security threats. Stoltenberg has said Sweden has met its obligations for membership through toughening anti-terrorist laws and other measures.

Hungary's reasons for opposing Sweden have been less defined, complaining about Sweden's criticism of democratic backsliding and the erosion of rule of law. Hungary, while providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine, has also sought to balance its relations between NATO and Russia. Budapest is heavily reliant on Russia for its energy requirements.

All nations in the alliance have to ratify the entry of a new member country.

The White House has stressed that Sweden has fulfilled its commitments to join NATO and has urged that it join the alliance expeditiously. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1968 ALEC ROSE SAILS HOME



Yachtsman Alec Rose received a hero's welcome as he sailed into Portsmouth after his 354-day round-the-world trip.

The 59-year-old was escorted into Portsmouth harbour by 400 motor-boats, yachts, catamarans and canoes blowing sirens and whistles.

A crowd of more than 250,000 people had gathered to congratulate the Portsmouth greengrocer on his 28,500-mile solo trip around the globe.

A gun was fired as Mr Rose crossed the finishing line in his 36ft pale blue ketch 'Lively Lady' at the Royal Albert Yacht Club, Southsea, at 1152BST today.

And as the weary sea-farer stepped ashore at 1233 BST the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor F A Emmery-Wallis, presented him with a telegram from the Queen.

It read: "Warmest congratulations on your magnificent voyage. Welcome home - Elizabeth and Philip."

Prime Minister Harold Wilson also sent a message of congratulations.

Mr Rose and his wife, Dorothy, were then taken by Rolls Royce to the Guildhall where the couple spoke to waiting reporters.

Mr Rose revealed how at one point during his journey he had lain unconscious below deck for two hours after being overcome by fumes as he tried to repair an exhaust pipe.

He said: "I said my prayers quite often on this trip.

"I felt there wasn't much difference between me and eternity. At times my prayers were answered and the yacht and I got through."

When Mr Rose and his wife arrived home at their greengrocery shop in Osborne Road later this evening they were again met by jubilant crowds singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Alec Rose, who set sail on 16 July last year, made stops in Australia and New Zealand during his trip.

He had saved for many years to undertake this epic voyage and was given no extra financial help.

Courtesy BBC News

US-CHINA

## TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN IS MAKING A LONG-AWAITED TRIP TO CHINA THIS WEEK

**T**REASURY Secretary Janet Yellen will travel to Beijing Thursday as part of an ongoing Biden administration effort to thaw U.S.-China relations, a senior Treasury official said Sunday.

Yellen, who has called the notion of an economic decoupling from China "disas-

trous," has frequently said in the past year that she would like to visit China.

She says the two nations "can and need to find a way to live together" in spite of their strained relations over geopolitics and economic development.

Yellen will meet this week

with Chinese officials, U.S. companies doing business in China and with Chinese people and will stay through July 9, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the trip.

The goal of her visit is to deepen and increase the fre-

quency of communication between U.S. and China, the official said.

While there are clear areas of common interest where Yellen can make progress, the official said, there are also significant disagreements that will not be resolved through a single trip **MDT/AP**.

## IN CONTEXT

A day after his home-coming Alec Rose received a knighthood.

He was also given the Freedom of Portsmouth in 1968 and made Freeman of the City of London in 1969.

Sir Francis Chichester was the first to prove that small boats could sail round the world when he completed the voyage in Gypsy Moth IV in 1967. In June 1968 Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to circumnavigate the world non-stop & single handed.

On his return Sir Alec Rose wrote a book about his adventure entitled My Lively Lady. He died on 11 January 1991 aged 82.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Deception is probable if you don't use discrimination. Your willingness to help others can and will lead to fatigue if you don't learn to say no.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. You will feel better about yourself and you may also meet potential lovers.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. You should be doing something special with children. Don't bother retaliating, just walk away.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Don't blow situations out of proportion. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. You must be careful not to trust just anyone.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts. Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor ailments. You'll find it easy to charm members of the opposite sex today.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 This could be a serious relationship. You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. You will be in the mood to socialize.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Don't try to get even without having all the facts. You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Be diplomatic when dealing with in-law. Not the best day for business trips. Don't believe everything you hear. Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. Cutbacks at work will be a cause for worry. You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Realize that you don't have to do everything yourself. You may have the opportunity to get involved in some interesting conversations.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

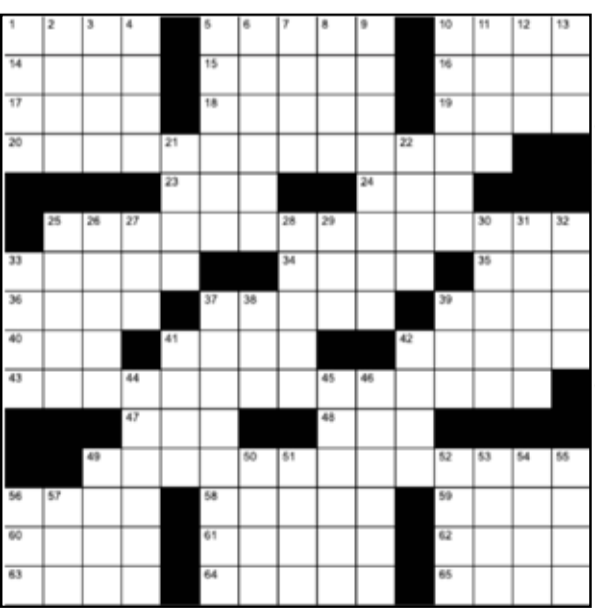
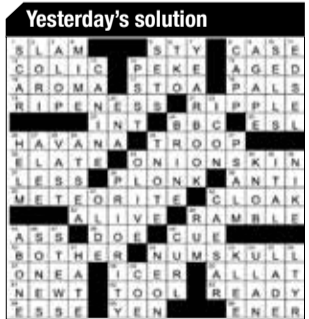
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	23	32	rain
Changchun	20	29	thunderstorms
Chengdu	20	35	fine
Chongqing	24	28	overcast
Fuzhou	27	36	overcast
Guangzhou	26	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	22	24	showers
Haikou	25	35	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	28	36	thunderstorms
Harbin	20	30	thunderstorms
Hefei	27	31	thunderstorms
Nanjing	27	33	thunderstorms
Shanghai	27	35	rain
Taipei	25	32	overcast
Wuhan	27	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	26	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	26	overcast
Paris	14	23	rain
London	12	19	rain
New York	22	29	thunderstorms

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Reflected sound; 5- Poles for sails; 10- Dutch name of The Hague; 14- Hew; 15- Body of values; 16- Competent; 17- Ready to eat; 18- Fang, e.g.; 19- Meat dish; 20- Unplanned; 23- Clod chopper; 24- Suffix with ball; 25- Comprehensible; 33- Strike \_\_\_\_; 34- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 35- Occupational suffix; 36- Primer pet; 37- Inhibit; 39- Bygone Dodge; 40- Loser to DDE; 41- Hoist; 42- "Steal This Book" author Hoffman; 43- Fate; 47- Polish off; 48- Bee; Prefix; 49- Clandestine; 56- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 58- Writer Loos; 59- Latvia's capital; 60- Slight; 61- Type of sanctum; 62- Inwardly; 63- Due; 64- Weeping; 65- The \_\_\_\_ the limit!

**DOWN** 1- Beige cousin; 2- Lower jaw; 3- Snake dancers; 4- Ready for business; 5- Shooting star; 6- Observes Yom Kippur; 7- Ammo; 8- South American monkey; 9- Sailing vessel; 10- Capital of Cuba; 11- Son of Adam and Eve; 12- After; 13- Hair goo; 21- For whom the bell tolls; 22- Agrees tacitly; 25- Higher; 26- Snare; 27- "Spring ahead" abbr.; 28- All, musically; 29- Corroded; 30- Inept person; 31- Russian revolutionary leader; 32- Cleveland's lake; 33- Quickly, quickly; 37- Absent-minded; 38- Salamander; 39- Kimono accessory; 41- Regan's dad; 42- Busy; 44- Confounded; 45- Jaw; 46- Place for beehives; 49- Foal's father; 50- Feminine ending; 51- \_\_\_\_ colada; 52- Pupil's place; 53- Pen sound; 54- Unattractive; 55- Simon \_\_\_\_; 56- Comedian Philips; 57- Sunday seat;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

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**Manhattan**  
 HKD 2,500/mth CARPARK

AD

FILM

# INDIANA JONES' BOX OFFICE DESTINY? A LUKEWARM \$60 MILLION DEBUT IN NORTH AMERICA

LINDSEY BAHR

**I**NDIANA Jones, and executives at the Walt Disney Co. and Lucasfilm, made a somewhat dispiriting discovery this weekend. Moviegoers didn't rush to the theater in significant numbers to see "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" and say goodbye to Harrison Ford as the iconic archaeologist.

The film, reportedly budgeted north of \$250 million, came in on the lower end of projections with \$60 million in ticket sales from 4,600 North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Including \$70 million from international showings in 52 markets, "Dial of Destiny" celebrated a \$130 million global opening. It easily earned the No. 1 title but was not the high-rolling sendoff for one of modern cinema's most iconic actor/character pairings that anyone hoped. Disney is projecting that it will make \$82 million domestically through the fourth of July holiday and \$152 million globally.



"Dial of Destiny" is the long-delayed fifth installment in the Steven Spielberg/George Lucas-created adventure series that began in 1981, and the first Spielberg himself hasn't directed. Veteran James Mangold stepped in to take the reins overseeing the Spielberg-approved script, which finds an older Dr. Jones retiring from his university job and swept

up on a new adventure with his goddaughter Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge).

"It's impressive that a franchise that's over 40 years old is No. 1 at the box office. But there's no question there were higher hopes for the debut of this movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is Indiana Jones. This is a

summer movie icon."

The film made its splashy premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, with a fitting celebration of Ford, who has said this was his last time playing the character.

But then it was hit with lukewarm reviews. This was an unexpected and unwelcome hurdle, considering it was coming after the maligned fourth film, 2008's "Indiana Jones and Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." Another contributing snag was that a significant portion of the target audience, older viewers, don't tend to buy many tickets on opening weekend for big blockbusters. But even "Crystal Skull," budgeted at a reported \$185 million, managed to gross over \$790 million.

"Sometimes reviews don't matter, but the sentiment coming out of Cannes was very powerful," Dergarabedian said. "It set off a narrative where people were already feeling disappointed and they hadn't even seen it."

Second place went to "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" with \$11.5 million, bringing its

domestic total to around \$340 million. "Elemental" landed in third place with \$11.3 million.

Aside from "Dial of Destiny," the weekend's other main new opener was the animated "Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken," which debuted in sixth place with \$5.2 million.

"Dial of Destiny's" underwhelming debut comes just a few weeks after both Warner Bros.' "The Flash" and Disney/Pixar's "Elemental" had lackluster openings in North America. "Elemental," like Indy 5, also premiered at Cannes to middling reception.

And yet, "Elemental" in its three weeks in theaters has held on much better than "The Flash," which plummeted again to \$5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$99.3 million. Disney also saw similarly promising holds with "The Little Mermaid," now at over \$280 million domestically and "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" which has grossed over \$345 million. After the holiday, Disney will be responsible for nearly half of the summer box office earnings. **MDT/AP**

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IN MACAU (2023)



# Shane van Gisbergen wins his NASCAR Cup Series debut in memorable finish to series' 1st street race

JAY COHEN, CHICAGO

**W**HEN Shane van Gisbergen got the call from Justin Marks, it reignited his interest in the NASCAR Cup Series. He studied the races, the drivers and the cars.

Turns out he is a pretty good student.

Van Gisbergen won his Cup Series debut on a rainy Sunday in downtown Chicago, chasing down Justin Haley and Chase Elliott in a memorable finish to the series' first street race.

After passing Elliott, van Gisbergen duelled with Haley in the final laps before the three-time Supercars champion moved in front for good. Haley held on for second, and Elliott was third.

"The racing, the battles were really fun," van Gisbergen said. "But everyone was respectful and clean. It was really cool."

The 34-year-old van Gisbergen,



Shane Van Gisbergen celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at the Grant Park 220 Sunday

a New Zealand native, became the first driver to win his Cup Series debut since Johnny Rutherford in the second qualifying race at Daytona in 1963.

He got a chance to drive the No. 91 Chevrolet in Chicago as part of Trackhouse Racing's Project 91. Trackhouse is owned by Marks, and the goal for the Project 91 program is to give international drivers a shot at NASCAR.

"This was a shower idea," Marks

said. "I mean it was me thinking I'm a huge fan of all different kinds of motorsports and I've raced in all different kinds of motorsports. I wanted to bring my love global motorsport to NASCAR."

When van Gisbergen was credited with leading Lap 25, it was the first lap led for Project 91 in three starts. He became the sixth driver born outside the United States to win a NASCAR Cup Series race, joining Marcos Ambrose, Mario

Andretti, Juan Pablo Montoya, Earl Ross and Daniel Suárez.

"He's going to go home and tell all his friends how bad we are," Elliott cracked.

Van Gisbergen won his first Supercars championship in 2016 and added two more the past two years. He was helped in his NASCAR debut by Darian Grubb, who was the crew chief for Tony Stewart when he won the Cup Series championship in 2011.

Trackhouse Racing also won last weekend's Cup Series race with Ross Chastain at Nashville Superspeedway.

"I was a big Tony Stewart fan, so working with Darian was pretty special," van Gisbergen said.

Kyle Larson finished fourth in Chicago, followed by Kyle Busch and Austin Cindric. Christopher Bell won the two stages and led a race-high 37 laps, but faded to 18th.

The race was scheduled for 100 laps and 220 miles, but it was shortened because of fading sunli-

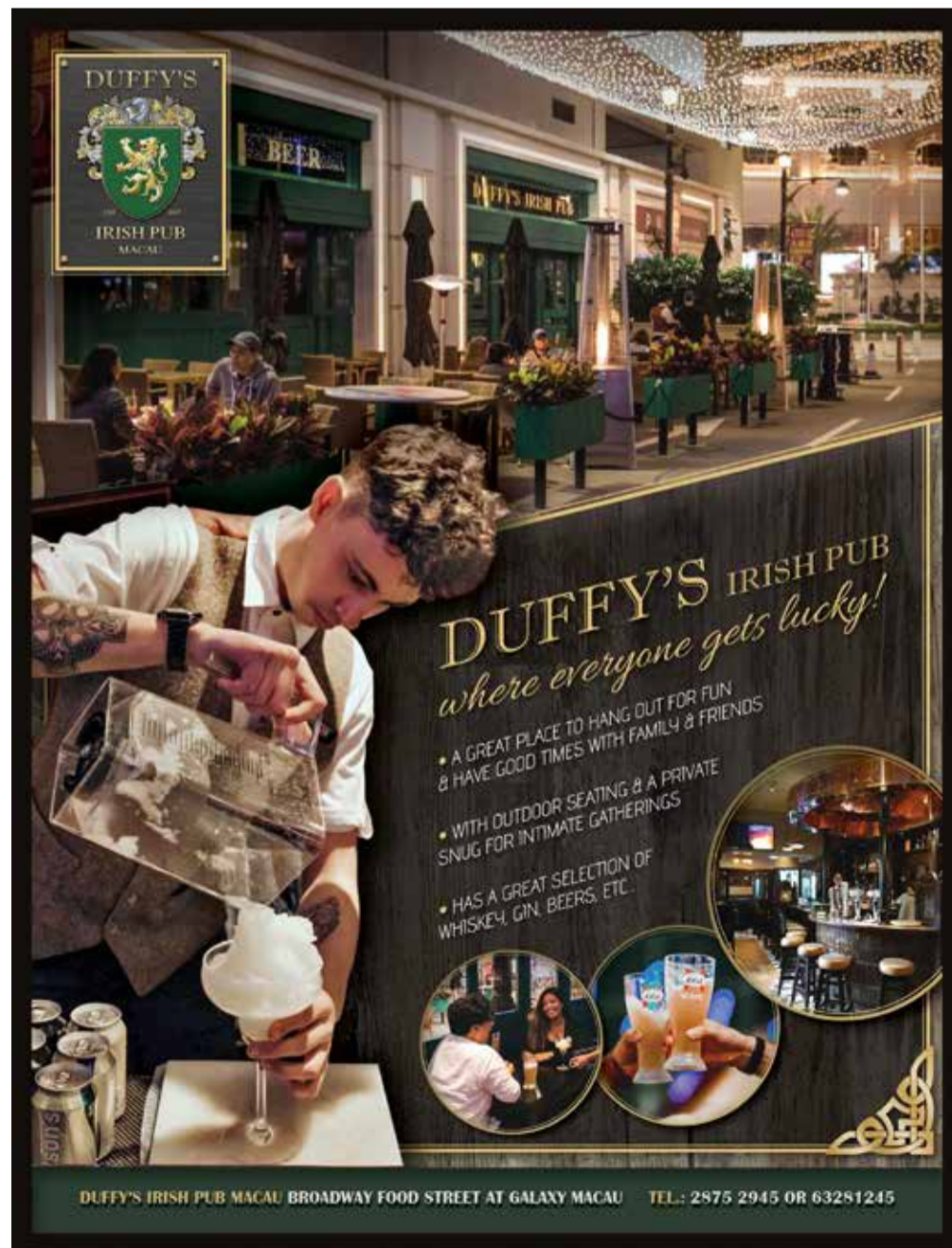
ght after the start was delayed for more 90 minutes because of a historic rainfall that flooded the course. The last half of the Xfinity Race, set to resume after it was suspended Saturday because of lightning, was canceled.

Right before the scheduled start, as the rain persisted, pole-sitter Denny Hamlin took to Twitter to lobby for a delay, and Noah Gragson posted video of one of his tires floating on pit road. NASCAR then decided to allow the drivers to return to their haulers.

Steve O'Donnell's NASCAR's chief operating officer, said they never planned to start at that point.

"What we wanted to do was get all the things that needed to happen to be able to fire the engines and get us going taken care of," he said. "So that when we knew hey, the track is ready to go, you know we're not going through the anthem and driver introductions and those sort of things." **MDT/AP**

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**The Conversation**

Joseph Jones, West Virginia University

**"WE THE PEOPLE" INCLUDES ALL AMERICANS - BUT JULY 4 IS A REMINDER THAT DEMOCRACY REMAINS A WORK IN PROGRESS**

The United States' founders firmly rejected King George III and the entire idea of monarchy 247 years ago, on July 4, 1776.

Political power does not come from some absolute authority of a king over people, the founders argued. Rather, political power comes from the people themselves. And these people must agree to any authority governing their society.

This is why the U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People," and not "I, the ruler."

I am a historian, ethicist and media scholar and have studied how people build communities.

America's founders did not trust everyone's ability to equally participate in the new democracy, as laws at the time showed.

But, because of policy changes on issues like voting, the idea of who actually is represented in the phrase "We the People" has changed over time.

**First steps**

In 1776, only white men who owned property had the right to vote.

"Few men, who have no property, have any judgment of their own," as former President John Adams wrote in 1776.

As activists – including some women and Black Americans – proclaimed their equality, public education spread, and social thinking shifted.

By about 1860, all state legislatures had lifted property requirement for voting. Allowing only wealthy property owners to vote did not align with the democratic notion that "all men are created equal."

While some states, like Vermont, eliminated the property voting requirement in the 18th century, this shift became more popular in the 1820s and the 1830s.

Congress passed the 15th Amendment in 1870, giving Black men and others the right to vote, regardless of race.

But that amendment still excluded some people, chiefly Native Americans and women.

**An unfinished history**

Despite the 15th Amendment, violence and intimidation in some states still prevented Black men from voting.

State lawmakers also used bureaucratic measures, such as a poll tax, renewed attempts at a property requirement and literacy tests, to prevent African Americans from voting.

The fight over African American suffrage continued for decades, and many courageous Americans protested and were arrested or killed in the struggle to exercise their voting rights.

Thanks to the work of civil rights activists – including John Lewis, Fannie Lou Hamer and Martin Luther King Jr. – public opinion shifted.

In the 1960s, Congress passed additional legal measures to protect the voting rights of Black Americans. This included the 24th Amendment, which outlawed the use of poll taxes, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which prohibited any racial discrimination in voting.

**Women's turn**

In 1920, women gained the right to vote with the addition of the 19th Amendment, following another decadeslong struggle.

Women's rights activists made the first organized call for female suffrage at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

In the following years, suffragists pushed for constitutional amendments, state laws and a change in public thinking to include women in "We the People."

**Native American rights**

Having self-governed for centuries, Native Americans were not legally recognized with voting rights until Congress approved the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924.

While that supposedly gave Native Americans the same rights as other Americans, Native Americans faced the same tactics, like violence, that white racists used to prevent Black Americans from voting. [Abridged]

Leon Gautier, the last surviving member of an elite French unit that joined U.S. and other Allied forces in the 1944 D-Day invasion to wrest Normandy from Nazi control, has died. He was 100.

The death was announced Monday by Romain Bail, the mayor of Ouistreham, an English Channel coastal community where Allies landed on June 6, 1944, and where Gautier lived out his last years. Details were not released. A special tribute

ceremony is expected.

Gautier was a nationally known figure and met with President Emmanuel Macron as part of commemorations for the 79th anniversary of D-Day last month.

He and his comrades in the Kieffer Commando unit were among the first waves of Allied troops to storm the heavily defended beaches of Nazi-occupied northern France, beginning the liberation of western Europe.



AP PHOTO



Hong Kong activist Nathan Law takes part in a protest during a meeting of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi with Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, in Rome, Aug. 25, 2020

**HONG KONG**

**POLICE OFFER REWARDS FOR ARRESTS OF 8 OVERSEAS PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS**

**ZEN SOO, HONG KONG**

HONG Kong police yesterday accused eight self-exiled pro-democracy activists of violating the territory's National Security Law and offered rewards of 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$127,600) each for information leading to their arrests.

The rewards are the first for suspects accused of violating the Beijing-imposed legislation since it took effect in June 2020. It outlaws subversion, secession, collusion with foreign forces and terrorism.

The eight activists are former pro-democracy lawmakers Nathan Law, Ted Hui and Dennis Kwok, lawyer Kevin Yam, unionist Mung Siu-tat and activists Finn Lau, Anna Kwok and Elmer Yuen, police announced at a news conference.

They are currently living in the U.S., Britain, Canada and Australia after some were earlier accused of various other offenses.

Steven Li, chief superintendent of the police's National Security Department, said arrest warrants have been issued for the eight under the National Security Law. He acknowledged that police will not be able to arrest them if remain overseas but urged them to return to Hong

Kong and surrender for a reduction in their sentences.

Li said the new charges and rewards are not intended to spread fear but are merely "enforcing the law."

He cited articles of the security law which state that police have extraterritorial jurisdiction, and said they would pursue people overseas who endanger Hong Kong's national security.

The news conference came less than two weeks after the state-owned Ta Kung Pao newspaper issued an editorial stating that the National Security Law applies to people outside Hong Kong, and that China, as a member of Interpol, could request assistance from other countries in arresting fugitives.

Authorities have cracked down on dissent with over 260 people, including many pro-democracy figures, arrested under the National Security Law.

The police force said it has evidence that the eight violated the National Security Law.

According to the warrants, lawyer Yam, former legislator Dennis Kwok and activists Yuen, Lau and Anna Kwok are accused of foreign collusion for allegedly calling for sanctions against Hong Kong officials.

Former lawmaker Hui is accused of inciting secession, subversion and foreign collusion for allegedly calling for Hong Kong and Taiwan's independence on social media, as well as for sanctions against city officials.

Law, who is currently living in Britain, is also accused of foreign collusion and inciting secession for allegedly calling for sanctions and the city's separation from China in meetings with foreign officials and in open letters, petitions, social media posts and media interviews.

Unionist Mung is accused of inciting secession for allegedly advocating Hong Kong's separation from the mainland.

The New York-based group Human Rights Watch condemned the targeting of overseas pro-democracy activists.

"These arrest warrants are not an indictment of these activists, but of Hong Kong's once well-regarded law enforcement and judiciary," said Sophie Richardson, the group's China director. "Democracies should not only flatly reject the warrants, which authorities want upheld internationally, but they should also increase protections to those threatened by Beijing." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



France Unrest across the country sparked by the police shooting of a 17-year-old appeared to slow on its sixth night, but still public buildings, cars and municipal trash cans were targeted nationwide by fires and vandalism overnight. In all, according to the Interior Ministry, there were 157 arrests overnight, out of a total of 3,354 arrests in all since June 27, and two law enforcement stations were attacked, among other damage.

AP PHOTO



UK New and expanded powers for British police took effect on Sunday, including measures targeting activists who stop traffic and major building works with protests. Authorities have repeatedly condemned environmental protest groups, including Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, which have sought to raise awareness about the urgency of climate change by staging multiple high-profile protests at the busiest highways and roads.

AP PHOTO



Guatemala's highest court has suspended the release of official election results, granting a temporary injunction to 10 parties that challenged the results of the June 25 vote. The Constitutional Court late Saturday called for a new hearing to review the contested tallies in no more than five days. Sandra Torres and Bernardo Arévalo had emerged from a field of nearly two dozen presidential hopefuls in the first round of voting.