



A NEW ILLEGAL GAMBLING BILL THAT AIMS TO TIGHTEN REGULATIONS AND INCREASE PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL GAMBLING IS SET FOR A VOTE IN THE LEGISLATIVE HOUSE

P4

DOCUMENTARY FILM 'HERITOPLE' DEPICTS MACAU'S CULTURAL FUSION

P6

TESLA UNVEILING ITS LONG-AWAITED ROBOTAXI AMID DOUBTS ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY

P7



Laos During ASEAN talks, China's Premier Li Qiang yesterday blamed "external forces" for escalating tensions in the South China Sea. Southeast Asian leaders, including the Philippines, criticized China's assertive actions, calling for adherence to international law and progress on a maritime code of conduct.



China Guangdong province aims to boost its biopharmaceutical sector, targeting over 1 trillion yuan in annual revenue by 2027, China Daily reported yesterday. The action plan includes accelerating clinical trials, expanding the Medicine and Equipment Connect program, and attracting investments to strengthen the industry's growth.

China will unify "correspondence" and "part-time" higher education into a single "non-full-time" category starting next fall. The new format, designed to enhance lifelong learning, aims to streamline education options, integrating online and offline teaching methods for adult learners, education authorities said.



Hong Kong A Hong Kong court yesterday rejected jailed activist Jimmy Lai's request for a jury trial in his libel case against a pro-Beijing newspaper. Lai, a prominent pro-democracy publisher, remains in custody, facing multiple charges under the national security law since 2020.

More on backpage

MARKET POTENTIAL 'REMAINS UNTAPPED'



MGM Resorts International CEO Bill Hornbuckle expresses confidence in Macau's tourism market at the G2E in Las Vegas

P4

TOURISM
CHINESE TRAVELERS ARE SPENDING LESS DESPITE STIMULUS MEASURES

P3



TASTE OF EDESIA

P15

COLUMBUS WHO?

DECOLONIZING THE CALENDAR IN LATIN AMERICA

ELENA JACKSON ALBARRÁN
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

This is the season of patriotism in Latin America as many countries commemorate their independence from colonial powers. From July to September, public plazas in countries from Mexico to Honduras and Chile fill with crowds dressed and painted in national colors, parades feature participants costumed as independence heroes, fireworks fill the skies, and schoolchildren reenact historical battles.

Beneath these nationalist displays ripples an uneasy tide: the colonial legacies that still tie the Americas to their Iberian conquerors. And as the calendar turns to October, another holiday highlights similar tensions – Columbus Day.

Since 1937, the U.S. has observed the holiday on the second Monday of the month, commemorating the explorer's 1492 arrival in the New World. It remains a federal holiday, even as many states and cities rename it "Indigenous Peoples Day," rejecting Christopher Columbus as a symbol of imperialism.

Most Latin Americans, meanwhile, know Oct. 12 as "Día de la Raza," or Day of the Race, which also celebrates Columbus' arrival in the New World and the tide of Iberian conquistadors that followed. But commemorating the event is all the more charged in these countries, home to the Spanish Empire's most lucrative territorial assets and sweeping spiritual conquests. Days before taking office in September 2024, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum reiterated her predecessor's demand that the king of Spain apologize for the genocide and exploitation of the conquest 500 years ago.

As a historian of Latin America, I've paid attention to the ways calendars signal a nation's "official" values and how countries wrestle with these holidays' meanings.

DÍA DE LA RAZA

The first encounter between Aztec emperor Montezuma and conquistador Hernando Cortés took place on Nov. 8, 1519 – the latter backed by an entourage of 300 Spaniards, thousands of Indigenous allies and slaves, and hundreds of Africans, free or otherwise.

This moment of contact began Mexico's 500-year transformation into a "mestizo" nation: a hybrid identity with largely European and Indigenous roots. During the colo-



onial period, racial differences were codified into law, and those with "pure" Spanish bloodlines enjoyed legal privileges over the racially mixed categories that fell below them. The 19th century ushered in independence from Spain and liberal ideas that promoted racial equality – in principle – but in reality, European influence prevailed.

It was Spain that first proposed the Día de la Raza, held on Oct. 12, 1892, to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas – implying a celebration of Spain's contributions to the mestizo racial mixture.

The celebration was part of a bid to fortify nationalism in Spain, as the waning colonial power continued its retreat from the hemisphere it controlled for the better part of four centuries. Spain also hoped to export the invented holiday to the Americas, strengthening trans-Atlantic cultural affinities tested by the United States' growing sway. Across the Americas, Día de la Raza came to be synonymous with celebrating European influence.

In Mexico, the 1892 commemoration empowered members of the political elite who promoted European investments and culture as the model for modernizing the country. They used the occasion to extol the civilizing influence of the "madre patria," or motherland, justifying the conquest and colonialism as a period of benevolent rule.

MESTIZO NATIONALISM

Only a few years later, however, the U.S. victory in the Spanish-American War swept the last vestiges of Spanish empire from the hemisphere. Spain's exit made way for

dual – and dueling – phenomena: rising patriotic spirit in Latin American countries, even amid increasing economic pressure and cultural influence from the U.S.

The 1910 Mexican Revolution ignited mestizo nationalism, which soon extended to other countries. In 1930s Nicaragua, Augusto Sandino started a revolution to oust the occupying U.S. Marines while calling for the unification of the "Indo-Hispanic Race." Meanwhile, Peruvian intellectual José Mariátegui envisioned a modern nation built upon the ideals of a collective, reciprocal society, modeled by the Incan ayllu system. And in Mexico, beauty pageants celebrating native features gained popularity among the social classes accustomed to perusing department stores for Parisian imports.

Yet a tendency to emphasize Spanish cultural ancestry rather than Indigenous ones persisted. In the late 1930s, for example, October issues of Mexican children's magazine Palomilla celebrated Columbus' arrival as a heroic entry that provided the region with a common language and religion.

PAN AMERICAN DAY

Meanwhile, the U.S. viewed Pan-Hispanic sentiments as a threat: Spanish economic goals, cloaked in racial and cultural solidarity.

To help shore up hemispheric allegiances, Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed a new holiday on April 14, 1930: Pan American Day, or Día de las Américas. The holiday sought to offset the narratives of both Columbus Day and Día de la Raza and marked the U.S. administration's Good Neighbor Policy pivot toward

Latin America – a softer form of imperialism that promoted solidarity and brotherhood, at least on the surface.

The Pan American Union, an inter-American organization headquartered in Washington, saw the new date as an opportunity to forge common traditions across the hemisphere. It vigorously promoted Pan American Day celebrations, primarily among schoolchildren, exhorting teachers to implement games, puzzles, pageants and songs created in Pan American Union offices.

The holiday met enthusiastic reception in the United States. Midwesterners donned sombreros for parades, and Spanish language clubs in California hosted pageants celebrating the flags of American nations.

But Latin American commemoration was tepid at best. The Organization of American States, the successor to the Pan American Union, still recognizes Pan American Day. However, it never gained traction in Latin America and faded in the U.S. during World War II.

RECENT SHIFT

Latin America's ambivalence toward holidays to commemorate the colonizers has taken a turn since 1992. The 500-year anniversary of Columbus' arrival corresponded with yet another form of colonialism, in many Latin Americans' eyes, as a new wave of multinational corporations colluded with heads of state to tap the continent's oil, lithium, water and avocados.

Activists used the commemoration to call attention to lingering economic, social, racial and cul-

tural inequities. In particular, the anniversary inspired Indigenous rights movements – some of which commemorated an "anti-quintecenary" to celebrate "500 years of resistance."

The Día de la Raza has since been renamed to reflect anti-colonial sentiments, similar to Columbus Day in the United States. Ecuador calls Oct. 12 the Day of Interculturalism and Ethnic Identity; Argentina celebrates it as Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity; Nicaragua now refers to it as the Day of Indigenous, Black and Popular Resistance; in Colombia it is the Day of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity; and the Dominican Republic celebrates it as Intercultural Day.

In some places, renaming the holiday has drawn attention to Indigenous rights and culture. Bolivians, for example, draped a statue of a European monarch in a traditional "aguayo" garment, transforming her into an Indigenous woman. However, critics suggest that removing the holiday's reference to the colonizers erases an important reminder of the conquest and its painful legacy.

As in the U.S., monuments to colonizers are coming down – including the monument to Columbus that occupied a conspicuous spot on La Reforma, one of Mexico City's most-traversed thoroughfares.

In its place is a new installation: a purple silhouette of a girl with her fist raised, in honor of Latin America's women activists. She heralds a new era of statues lining La Reforma, and heroes for the future – not mired in the colonial legacies of the past. **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



 MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
 ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
 CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Anabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

TOURISM

Domestic travelers spending less despite stimulus measures

NADIA SHAW

Domestic travelers in China, including the Macau and Hong Kong SARs, are exhibiting a notable trend of reduced spending during the recent Golden Week holiday, despite the government's various stimulus measures aimed at boosting the economy.

According to data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, while the number of trips taken during the week increased by 10.2% compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, overall spending rose only 7.9%. This discrepancy indicates a decline in per-trip expenditure of 2.1% from five years ago.

Nomura Banking Group has stated that it "firmly expects" the Chinese authorities to present a "fiscal stimulus package" soon, as the Ministry of Finance is set to hold a briefing on fiscal policy Oct. 12. Investors are eagerly



awaiting additional measures to stimulate the world's second-largest economy.

On Tuesday, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) held a press conference that many anticipated

would address economic policy measures relevant to Macau and Hong Kong. However, no such announcements were made, leading to a significant drop in Hong Kong stocks linked to Macau casino operators. The Hang Seng

Index closed 9.4% lower, marking its largest fall since 2008.

Despite NDRC's lack of concrete fiscal stimulus announcements, analysts from Nomura suggest that preventing stock market mania is crucial for successfully

jump-starting China's economy. The anticipated stimulus package may be capped at 3% of GDP per year, focusing on filling fiscal gaps faced by local governments.

"Low tourism spending per head and subdued services prices highlighted still weak domestic demand and continued consumption downgrading," Goldman Sachs Group Inc. economists, including Lisheng Wang, said in a note. The average daily expenditure during the holiday was approximately RMB131 per trip, up from RMB113 during the Labor Day holiday earlier this year.

While retail sales during the National Day holiday rose 9% compared to last year, indicating some improvement in consumer sentiment, experts caution that sustained confidence remains uncertain. Michelle Lam, a Greater China economist at Société Générale, emphasized that a stable labor market and rising house prices are crucial for long-term recovery.

The government's recent stimulus package, which includes interest rate cuts and cash handouts, has sparked some optimism in Chinese stocks but has yet to translate into consumer spending. Patterns observed during Golden Week may serve as indicators of consumer behavior and economic growth moving forward.

AD

A Journey of Michelin Delights

A symphony of exquisite flavours and culinary excellence.

LeDu · Nusara · Lahnyai × The Mews

13th – 27th October, 2024
MOP 2,588* / per person

Book Now
+853 8118 8822

The Mews, The Londoner Macao

Michelin Selected Restaurant 2024
The Mews
Nongnuch 'Nuch' Sae-eiw

Michelin-starred Chef
Thitid 'Ton' Tassanakajohn

*Price is subject to 10% service charge.



WANNASRICHAN LEADS THE WAY ON MACAO OPEN DAY 1

Thailand's Rattanon Wannasrichan delivered an exceptional performance on the first day of the SJM Macao Open, carding a flawless bogey-free nine-under-par 61 to take an early lead. The 27-year-old Thai golfer, seeking his breakthrough victory on the Asian Tour, demonstrated impressive form throughout the round, continuing the momentum from last week's Mercuries Taiwan Masters, where he secured a tied 4th finish. Reflecting on his spectacular start, Wannasrichan said, "I'm so happy and excited to be here. I have played in this tournament for about ten years and like the golf course. And the key with this golf course is you need to hit a good tee shot." Looking ahead to the rest of the tournament, Rattanon plans to keep things simple: "Play the same; just hit a good tee shot this week."

UM RISES 13 SPOTS IN WORLD RANKINGS

The University of Macau (UM) jumped 13 spots to rank 180th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025, reflecting "encouraging" progress, an official said. The list assesses 2,000 schools globally. Kong Chi Meng director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau hailed UM's higher education efforts. It also rose in the QS and U.S. News rankings to 245th and 262nd, respectively. The Macau University of Science and Technology held its 251st-300th place cohort for the fifth straight year, reaching as high as 151st-200th in 2023. The City University of Macau and the University of Saint Joseph made the list but were unranked. Oxford topped the rankings for a ninth year.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES BANNED DURING CE ELECTION

The government has announced a ban on all unmanned aircraft activities, namely drones, during the upcoming CE election, Sunday, Oct. 13. The measure aims to ensure the event's smooth and safe execution. The Civil Aviation Authority, under Article 66 of the Air Navigation Regulation, prohibits drone flights within 500 meters of the Complex of Commerce and Trade Cooperation Platform for China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. Only government operations are exempt. Violators face fines ranging from MOP2,000 to MOP20,000.

MGM CEO: MARKET POTENTIAL REMAINS UNTAPPED

NADIA SHAW

MGM Resorts International CEO Bill Hornbuckle has expressed confidence in Macau's tourism market during his remarks at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas. Despite recent economic stimulus efforts from China, Hornbuckle believes Macau's unique appeal to visitors remains largely untapped.

Hornbuckle said Macau attracts approximately 20 million visitors annually, with many returning multiple times each year. However, he said the penetration of Macau's services on the mainland is still modest, estimated at "less than one percent" of its market potential. This statistic underscores the significant opportunity for growth in attracting more premium mass gambling customers.

His comments, during an interview with CNBC, coincide with China's recent announcements regarding economic stimulus measures aimed at revitalizing growth in its Special Administrative Regions (SARs). Although there were expectations for specific policies targeting Macau during a recent press conference by China's National Development and Reform Commission, no details have been provided so far.

"I like to remind everybody



that the key focus for all of us is premium mass," Hornbuckle said. "Macau does more than 20 million visitors a year, but it is really the same people coming into the city three or four times a year, so it's less than 1% penetration into mainland China."

He said Golden Week revenue was up 20% compared to 2019, reflecting positively on Macau's economy. "We remain pretty excited by it all."

Hornbuckle said that while gaming revenues are still signi-

ficantly lower than pre-pandemic levels, much of this decline is attributed to the absence of junket-related revenues. He noted these were less profitable compared to the more common premium mass and direct VIP forms currently being generated.

Hornbuckle expressed optimism for 2025, particularly following the recent Golden Week holiday, which saw record gaming revenues for Macau's resorts. He emphasized that while China's overall eco-

nomic activity relies upon stimulus measures, it is Macau's distinct character that continues to attract visitors and potential investors.

The increase in Golden Week revenues serves as a "great indicator" of what Macau can expect over the next 18 months.

"MGM has enjoyed more than our fair share going into the end of the year - we've averaged in the mid-teens of market share," he said. "I have great hope for 2025."

New illegal gambling law ready for voting

NADIA SHAW

THE second standing committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) met yesterday to close the analysis and discussion of the bill that aims to tighten regulations and increase penalties for illegal gambling.

The committee has signed off on an opinion regarding the Law on Combating Illegal Gambling Crimes, which will be presented for detailed deliberation and voting by the AL after its plenary session resumes mid-month.

The proposed legislation seeks to enhance punitive measures for illegal gambling activities. Chan Chak Mo,

chairman of the committee, said the bill aims to extend the maximum detention period for offenders and introduce an "undercover system" to investigate illicit gambling operations. Additionally, it would allow law enforcement to conduct nighttime searches of residences suspected of harboring illegal gambling activities.

One significant aspect of the bill is its focus on criminalizing unauthorized currency exchange operations related to gambling. Chan said operating a currency exchange business without legal approval in amusement parks or affiliated facilities would be classified



as a crime. Furthermore, any street-level exchanges tied to gambling could also lead to criminal charges if evidence is found during investigations.

The legislation aims to address concerns

surrounding illegal money exchanges that facilitate gambling, particularly among mainland Chinese gamblers seeking to bypass strict capital controls. In recent months, Macau authorities have inten-

sified efforts against such operations, which have been linked to broader criminal activities including fraud and money laundering.

While the bill proposes stringent measures against illegal gambling, Chan clarified that lending money to friends for gambling purposes would not be penalized unless it constitutes running a related business - intending to target organized crime rather than individual social interactions.

Stakeholders await further developments as the AL prepares for its resumption and possible discussions on this matter later this month.

RENATO MARQUES



Areas to be revitalized include the Lai Chi Vun old shipyard in Coloane, Inner Harbour Piers 23 and 25, Mont Fortress, the areas surrounding A-Ma Temple, Taipa Houses-Museum, Patio da Eterna Felicidade and Rua das Estalagens, Inner Harbour Piers 14 and 16, the old floating casino known as Macau Palace, and Rua da Felicidade and its surroundings.

PEDESTRIANIZATION OF RUA DA FELICIDADE TO BE 'BALANCED'

Efforts to pedestrianize the Rua da Felicidade in Central Macau are to be adjusted, to take into account differing opinions, the director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Deland Leong, said on the sidelines of a meeting of the Cultural Development Consultative Committee. Questioned by the media, Leong said that IC had been collecting opinions among the residents and business owners and that there are contrasting opinions on the matter. "We will promote some amendments [to this plan] to satisfy everyone," Leong said. "There are businesses that want the plan to continue, others that don't. The government's position is to take decisions that can help to strike a balance between the conflicting ideas," she added. She said a complete plan outlining the changes would be revealed in due time.

REVITALIZATION OF HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Gov't to offer financial support, simplify bureaucracy

RENATO MARQUES

THE plan for the revitalization of six areas classified as historic neighborhoods will involve not only financial support for merchants and shop owners but also other forms of aid, such as the simplification of bureaucratic procedures, said Ieng Weng Fat, a member of the Cultural Development Consultative Committee, at

a press briefing after yesterday's committee meeting.

Speaking to the media on the contents of the meeting, Ieng said: "The goal is that, in these six areas that are the subjects of the revitalization project, the merchants can be supported in their businesses, many of which have unique characteristics." He added, "We will give financial support as announced through the Culture Development Fund, and we will also

simplify many bureaucratic procedures to align with merchants' needs."

This project revitalizing old community neighborhoods, which was launched by the government late last year, outlined six different areas within the Peninsula, Taipa, and Coloane that were to be beautified through revival efforts.

Each of these six areas has been assigned to a gaming concessio-

naire, as part of their non-gaming investments in Macau.

As part of the new gaming licensing contracts, the six operators have committed to investing MOP108.7 billion in non-gaming activities over 10 years, the same as the concessions last.

Now well into the first year of the package, each concessionaire has already announced their specific renewal projects for a designated area.

Winners of 'Kam Pek Market' tender finally unveiled

RENATO MARQUES

THE ten winners of the "Kam Pek Market" food stalls have finally been unveiled after a selection process that took longer than expected due to the high number of bids received, SJM Resorts, S.A. (SJM) has announced.

The winners were chosen from a pool of 67 proposals submitted for the "Kam Pek Market" project, nearly seven times the number of available slots. This overwhelming response highlights the strong local interest and confidence in the project, according to the tender organizers.

The "Kam Pek Market" is expected to open between mid-December and the Lunar New Year of 2025, offering a wide range of dining options for both locals and tou-



rists in the Central District.

Among the ten selected local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are new startups and established vendors serving popular Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean dishes, all chosen after a thorough evaluation.

The five main criteria that guided the final selection included an assessment of opera-

tional strategy, relevant experience and qualifications, operating hours, menu diversity, and payment options.

The winners are Time To Go Home Dessert, Ba Fang Ying Mian Cuisine, Goat Bakers, Zhen Dim Sum, Pratunam 1982, Linji Curry Noodles, Kinnokura, Lok Fu Chiu Chow Cuisine, Haeundae Korean Cuisine, and I Want Go.

Daisy Ho, managing

director of SJM, commented, "We are delighted to see the level of enthusiasm and confidence in our project. The successful bidders displayed a commendable mix of innovative spirit and management expertise that meets our crite-

ria for dynamic market offerings and quality excellence. We look forward to collaborating with these partners to deliver a diverse dining experience at 'Kam Pek Market,' merging tourism, gastronomy and culture."

The selection committee also included Ma Chi Ngai, President of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, and Chan Ka Leong, President of the Board of Directors of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau.

ABOUT THE WINNERS:

Time To Go Home Dessert	A start-up dessert shop serving ice cream, waffles, macarons, tiramisu and idol-themed meals.
Ba Fang Ying Mian Cuisine	A Chinese noodle shop serving shark fin soup noodles, Portuguese sardine buns, as well as a variety of dishes and buns.
Goat Bakers	Pastries, Portuguese tarts, handmade breads, Italian breakfasts, homemade desserts, and a variety of single-origin coffee or specialty blended coffee.
Zhen Dim Sum	Dim Sum specialty shop.
Pratunam 1982	Boat noodles, Tom Yum Kung, red and green curries, and Thai snacks and desserts.
Linji Curry Noodles	Macanese and Malaysian-style curries.
Lok Fu Chiu Chow Cuisine	Handcrafted dim sum and distinctive snacks.
Kinnokura	Japanese set meals, sashimi, rice bowls, tempura, and others.
Haeundae Korean Cuisine	Korean cuisine, including a la carte dishes and selected set menus.
I Want Go	Fresh crab dishes with crab meat and roe.

FORUM PROMOTES REGIONAL COOPERATION OVER COPYRIGHT LAW

VICTORIA CHAN

COLLECTIVE management organizations specializing in music copyright law strengthened their ties at the Second Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) Collective Management of Copyright in Music Works Forum.

Around 150 attendees from the mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau discussed protecting creators' rights through collaboration.

With support from the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC), the forum brought together government officials, industry leaders, legal experts, academics, and other stakeholders to address key issues facing music creators in the digital age.

Wang Zhicheng, Director of China's National Copyright Administration, emphasized the importance of protecting intellectual property rights to drive innovation. He said it is crucial to continuously develop and improve China's distinctive copyright collective management system.

He outlined key priorities: accurate positioning of copyright organizations, extensive communication with rights holders and users, balancing the interests of rights holders and users, strengthening cross-regional cooperation, and proactive promotion of regulatory improvements.

"Protecting intellectual property rights protects innovation," said Wang. "It is crucial to continuously develop and improve China's distinctive systems of copyright collective management."

The forum featured the premiere of an original song titled "Remember," that celebrated



creators' passions for music and the vital role of copyright protection. Keynote speakers from the event's organizers – the Music Copyright Society of China, the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong, and the Macao Association of Composers, Authors, and Publishers – highlighted how collective management helps solve challenges rights holders face in tracking the usage of their creations, as well as negotiating licenses.

Chan Tze Wai, Deputy Director of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of the Macau SAR government, described the GBA as "the most vibrant, innovative, active and

vital region," with the culture industry being essential to its industrial development. He acknowledged the importance of music as both a core cultural product and a driver of sustainable economic growth, identifying it as a crucial industry for economic and social development.

According to Chan, the purpose of the summit was to promote music copyright development and the original music culture industry whilst also addressing the changes in music creation and dissemination due to globalization and digitalization. He saw the summit as a valuable communication platform for local and interna-

tional representatives, focused on promoting cooperation and innovation in music copyright management.

Chan emphasized the importance of intellectual property as a key driver of local creativity and innovation, with the Macau government committed to protecting intellectual property across all industries. He stressed the need to ensure effective copyright protection and balance the interests of copyright holders and users, with an emphasis on promoting intellectual property rights to stimulate creative industries.

Chan encouraged participants to share experiences and promote progress in music

and copyright management and expressed a commitment to strengthening cooperation with the mainland and Hong Kong. He aspired for Macau to become an innovative hub for cultural and copyright industries, with continued support for the health of institutional copyright management systems.

"The development of the GBA offers extensive opportunities for cooperation, and the results of their collaboration will undoubtedly contribute to the prosperity and international dissemination of Chinese music and culture," said a keynote from the event's organizers.

A panel discussion examined the impact of artificial intelligence and the internet on music creation, with creators and experts exchanging views on the value of music, the protections afforded by collective management, and the evolving digital landscape.

"Collective management organizations provide a convenient channel for music users to legally use a large volume of music works more efficiently through centralized licensing," said a representative.

The successful forum has strengthened cross-regional ties among the copyright organizations, aligning their efforts with international standards and laying a solid foundation for the long-term development of the music industry and related cultural sectors in the GBA.

"This has sparked the social effectiveness of copyright collective management for music works, playing an important role in safeguarding the legal rights and interests of music creators and promoting the lawful use of music works," said the press release.

By fostering greater cooperation and public awareness around copyright protection, the forum aims to help Chinese culture reach a wider global audience.

Documentary film depicts Macau's cultural fusion

VICTORIA CHAN

THE documentary Heritople will premiere Saturday, Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. at Cinematheque Passion located at Travessa da Paixão near the Ruins of St. Paul's. The trilingual documentary, produced by International Institute of Macau (IIM) and sponsored by the Macau Foundation, features a series of interviews with



prominent Macau citizens, delving into the importance of cultural preservation and the

harmonious coexistence of Eastern and Western influences in the city.

Directed by António

Salas Sanmarful, a Macau-born filmmaker with extensive experience in various media, Heritople aims to expand the public's understanding and appreciation of Macau's cultural legacy. The documentary includes interviews with key figures: Ip Tat, president of the Na Tcha Temple Association; Harry Kwah Hou Ieong of the Macao Cultural Heritage Reinventing Studies Associa-

tion; and Jorge Rangel, president of IIM.

Sanmarful has a cinema and photography degree from Madrid, Spain, and worked in various media for eight years before returning to Macau in 2014 as a camera technician and later director of photography.

The documentary aims to promote an understanding of Macau's cultural legacy and the

harmony of East-West coexistence, exemplifies Macau's ongoing efforts to celebrate its cultural diversity, and ensure the continued vitality of its intangible heritage.

The premiere will offer limited seating for the public. Tickets can be obtained through the IIM office, with interested parties encouraged to contact the organization at 2875 1727 for more information.

AUTOMAKER

Tesla is unveiling long-awaited robotaxi amid doubts about the tech it runs on

TOM KRISHER, DETROIT

EXPECTATIONS are high for the long-awaited unveiling of Tesla's robotaxi at a Hollywood studio last night. Too high for some analysts and investors.

The company, which began selling software it calls "Full Self-Driving" nine years ago that still can't drive itself, is expected to show off the so-called "Cybercab" vehicle, which may not have a steering wheel and pedals.

The unveiling comes as CEO Elon Musk tries to persuade investors that his company is more about artificial intelligence and robotics as it struggles to sell its core products, an aging lineup of electric vehicles.

Some analysts are predicting that it will be a historic day for the Austin, Texas, company as it takes a huge step toward a long-awaited robotaxi service powered by AI.

But others who track self-driving vehicles say Musk has yet to demonstrate Tesla's system can travel safely without a human driver ready to step in to prevent crashes.

"I don't know why the headlines continue to be 'What will Tesla announce?' rather than 'Why does Tesla think we're so stupid?'" said Bryant Walker Smith, a University of South Carolina law professor who studies autonomous vehicles.

He doesn't see Tesla having the ability to show off software and hardware that can work



without human supervision, even in a limited area that's well-known to the driving system.

"We just haven't seen any indication that that is what Tesla is working toward," Walker Smith said. "If they were, they would be showcasing this not on a closed lot, but in an actual city or on an actual freeway."

Without a clear breakthrough in autonomous technology, Tesla will just show off a vehicle with no pedals or steering wheel, which already has been done by numerous other companies, he said.

"The challenge is developing a combination of hardware and software plus the human and digital infrastructure to actually safely drive a vehicle even without a steering

wheel on public roads in any conditions," Walker Smith said. "Tesla has been giving us that demo every year, and it's not reassuring us."

Many industry analysts aren't expecting much from the event either. While TD Cowen's Jeff Osborne expects Musk to reveal the Cybercab and perhaps the Model 2, a lower-cost electric vehicle, he said he doesn't expect much of a change on self-driving technology.

"We expect the event to be light on details and appeal to the true long-term believers in Tesla," Osborne wrote in a note. Musk's claims on the readiness of Full Self Driving, though, will be crucial "given past delays and ongoing scrutiny" of the system and of Tesla's less-sophisticated Autopi-

lot driver-assist software.

Tesla's model lineup is struggling and isn't likely to be refreshed until late next year at the earliest, Osborne wrote. Plus, he wrote that in TD Cowen's view the "politicization of Elon" is tarnishing the Tesla brand among Democrat buyers in the U.S.

Musk has endorsed Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and has pushed many conservative causes. Last weekend he joined Trump at a Pennsylvania rally.

Musk has been saying for more than five years that a fleet of robotaxis is near, allowing Tesla owners to make money by having their cars carry passengers while they're not in use by the owners.

But he has acknowledged

that past predictions for the use of autonomous driving proved too optimistic. In 2019, he promised the fleet of autonomous vehicles by the end of 2020.

However, Wedbush analyst Dan Ives, who is bullish on Tesla stock, wrote in an investor note that robotaxi event, dubbed "We, Robot," by the company, will be a new chapter of growth for Tesla.

Ives expects many updates and details from Tesla on the robotaxi, plus breakthroughs in Full Self Driving and artificial intelligence. He also is looking for a phased-in strategy for rolling out the robotaxis within the next year, as well as a Tesla ride-sharing app, and demonstrations of technology "designed to revolutionize urban transportation."

Ives, whose organization will attend the invitation-only event at the Warner Bros. studio, wrote that he also expects updates on Tesla's Optimus humanoid robot, which the company plans to start selling in 2026.

"We believe this is a pivotal time for Tesla as the company prepares to release its years of Robotaxi R&D shadowed behind the curtains, while Musk & Co. lay out the company's vision for the future," Ives wrote.

The announcement comes as U.S. safety regulators are investigating Full Self Driving and Autopilot based on evidence that it has a weak system for making sure human drivers pay attention. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

MGM debuts state-of-the-art Poly MGM Museum



MGM China Holdings Ltd is preparing to launch the Poly MGM Museum, a new state-of-the-art exhibition space located at MGM Macau, to promote Chinese culture. The museum is

a collaboration between MGM China and Poly Culture Group Corporation Ltd and will open in November, utilizing innovative technology to showcase treasures from 20 na-

tional museums. Spanning nearly 2,000 square meters, the Poly MGM Museum will feature works by Chinese and international artists with flexible LED displays to create a dynamic space. MGM China chairperson Pansy Ho said the museum highlights Macau's role in cultural exchange along the Maritime Silk Road. Wang Bo of Poly Culture stated the goal is to foster dialogue between civilizations. The new museum is part of MGM China's pledge to invest in non-gaming attractions as Macau's gaming operators diversify under new concession terms.

MotoSurf Championship Finals Coming to Macau



Hac Sa Beach will host the 2024 Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) Macao Grand Prix MotoSurf World Championship Finals from Nov. 22 to 24, marking the event's Macau debut. The

finals are co-organized by Melco Resorts & Entertainment and the Macau MotoSurf Association and presented by UIM and Wuling Technology Ltd. Over 120 elite racers from

more than 22 countries will compete in seven categories, showcasing incredible speed and skill on the electrically or fuel-powered surfboards. The women's champion will qualify as the first representative for MotoSurf, making its debut at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China.

The racing will be held daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. before sunset and offers Macau audiences their first chance to experience the growing international water sport. MotoSurf, officially recognized by UIM in 2019, has become a global phenomenon since emerging in 2012. It demands exceptional talent from its athletes.

MEDICAL TOURISM & GBA INTEGRATION

MACAU HEALTH INDUSTRY HAS POTENTIAL, BUT MU

INTERVIEW

BY RENATO MARQUES, MDT

WITH a long career and extensive experience in both the public and the private health sectors, Dr Rui Furtado, a specialist in General Surgery, has a unique vantage point on the local health industry's current state and future development.

As the local government prioritizes 'Big Health', Dr. Furtado shared his insights, opinions and suggestions in an exclusive interview with the Times, which started with his take on Macau and Greater Bay Area integration in the health field.

MDT - We often speak about the GBA and the regional integration. How do you see this integration regarding the health sector, since you mentioned earlier the significant differences in creating and maintaining a business of this kind in different places?

Dr. Rui Furtado (RF) - I can imagine GBA integration from a political standpoint, but economically and financially it is more complex.

At the moment, if I go to Hong Kong to transfer a patient (which has happened many times in the past when I worked in the public sector), I would go on ferry with the patient. But upon arriving in Hong Kong, I am immediately informed that

I don't qualify as a doctor there, and so I cannot do anything from there.

They are airtight with this, and the same happens with Macau and with the mainland. There is no easy way of practicing our profession among even the neighboring cities.

Even within Macau this happens. A doctor from a public hospital cannot work at a private one. A surgeon from Conde de São Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ) who has completed the CHCSJ specialty who wants to go to Kiang Wu Hospital must go as a general practitioner, not as a surgeon because they will not recognize you as such. There is a lot of work to be done. I would hazard to say that for the health sector, everything still needs to be built from the ground up.

MDT - One of the perceived advantages of the new medical complex (Macao Union Hospital) is its potential to provide services related to medical tourism. What is your opinion on this?

RF - Health or medical tourism does not just depend on the hospital; it depends on several factors. One of the most important factors is the region's political decisions. There are two main types of medical tourism. The first is treatment-based, where people seek out treatment at facilities with higher technical capacity or better prices. Fundamentally,

I would say that this type is not so much about the price, but more about the technical quality that different places, hospitals and regions can offer people.

The second type is preventive medicine, which includes services such as medical check-ups. While the new hospital could serve both purposes, it is not currently part of any specific preventative medicine scheme. However, being a very large facility, it has the capacity to provide both treatment-based services and preventative medicine.

The main focus of this new hospital appears to be providing Macau with advanced and modern medical services, operating as a well-equipped unit with a medical team that offers guarantees and backed by accreditation from international entities.

As such, it almost certainly can offer treatments and other medical services beyond preventative medicine. To provide medical check-ups is possible, but ultimately means it will need to offer this service to the public. That is not currently on offer, and I don't know when it will be.

MDT - Do you believe this unit can attract patients from other regions to be treated in Macau?

RF - I believe so, but the Macau SAR and Health Bureau must understand two funda-



Dr. Rui Furtado, Macau-based physician

mental things. Firstly, medical advances must be honest and well-regulated, and overseen by a governing entity. Secondly, there must be close cooperation between the private and public sectors.

On my first point, take services such as in vitro fertilization, stem cell treatments, sex changes, and cosmetic surgery as examples. These are common practices everywhere abroad, with places in Asia specializing in these services. Why has this been possible? Because governments looked for opportunities to support this.

Macau has been doing the opposite of that and I don't know why exactly.

I give you one example: for in vitro fertilization, Macau requires that the unit for carrying out in vitro fertilization must have a newborn unit for newborn care. Why is this required when the two procedures are completely separate? In a sense, it is a form of protectionism as it restricts the procedure to just one or two big hospitals. In contrast, elsewhere in the world, IVF can be performed in a small clinic. The same goes for stem cells.

From roads to railways, China builds up strength in transport sector

ON THE AGENDA

As a Chinese saying goes, if you want to get rich, build roads first. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country has been committed to building a robust transport network, connecting remote villages with bustling metropolises and facilitating the smooth flows of people and goods.

In its latest efforts to boost regional connectivity, China put into operation two sections of railway in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in May, marking the opening of the longest intercity railway route in the area.

The 258-kilometer-long line, linking cities like Hui Zhou, Dongguan, Guangzhou,



A bullet train pulls into Yiwu Railway Station of the Hangzhou-Wenzhou high-speed railway in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province

Foshan and Zhaoqing, underscores China's dedication to enhancing transport across its vast expanse.

From underdeveloped in-

frastructures to a sprawling network, China's transport sector has now evolved into a multi-faceted and integrated system over the past 75 years, featu-

ring high domestic and international connectivity.

STRETCH AFAR

China's railways set a new

record in daily railway passenger trips, with over 21 million passenger trips handled on Tuesday, the first day of the weeklong National Day holi-

CH WORK REMAINS, FURTADO SAYS



Macau Union Hospital, in the islands

The application of stem cells is a basic therapeutic principle. Of course, I know this opens the door to potential fraud and wrongdoing, but that is why we need to have a supervisory body that monitors these activities.

Further to this, the lack of cooperation between the private and public sectors has caused public healthcare systems to become overwhelmed. There is no system allowing patients with minor illnesses to be treated in private clinics with some form of financial support. Instead, they go to

the emergency room, which instead of having 50 cases that need attention, now has 400 cases that must be triaged.

Cooperation between public and private healthcare services would ease the burden on public healthcare systems and improve overall healthcare quality. The public service should not fear competition from the private sector. They have a lot more resources to navigate by themselves, and they should only seek cooperation to improve and complement their services. Some private services are resourceful enough to do

this, but a uniform approach would be ideal.

There is no need to prohibit activities for the private sector and make everything difficult for private doctors. It's bad for the territory.

MDT – Does Macau have the ability to be a medical tourism destination?

RF – I believe that medical tourism needs to exist here. But first, the government needs to want health practitioners to provide medical tourism services. We have had examples before, for instance, the Maló

Clinic at the Venetian. He had an idea, and it was brilliant. In this case, the services provided were mostly preventive medicine, but it also provided surgery and curative medicine.

In this clinic, they had everything organized for the person to come, get their tests done, and receive any treatments or procedures within a day.

Some patients would attend for an initial consultation and elect to have a treatment on site, while others merely wanted their results. But it proves that medical tourism within Macau is possible and that there is a market for such services.

To make Macau a destination for medical tourism, there is work to be done in the background with physicians and additional work to raise the credibility of Macau in this field. Of course, for the market, this is not a problem, as we are in an area of an almost endless demand.

We can see from Thailand as an example, which started to promote medical tourism and packages as early as the 1960s. As they progressed, they started to specialize.

I also mentioned earlier that those who travel for medical services are either driven by price or quality. As Macau does not have the conditions to compete on price, we must focus on quality to attract patients.

In Zhuhai, for example, if I wanted to open a clinic to do check-ups, everything from

reagents, facilities, staffing costs would be a tenth of the price. Even the suppliers of materials sell them at different prices between Macau, Zhuhai, and Hong Kong. Everything is much more expensive here.

Nonetheless, curative medicine is a very profitable business when done properly and with appropriate quality standards. But being an industry that moves a lot of money also attracts a lot of players and competition, so there is a need to make our product consistently more appealing than our competitors.

MDT – How about other services that are more related to wellness tourism?

RF – This is a completely different thing and not medical tourism anymore. It's more of a business, and interestingly is controlled and regulated by the Health Bureau in Macau. I can't perform Botox injections here or fillers, but beauty centers or institutes next door can without much oversight. Anyone brave enough can start a business to inject fillers, Botox, and similar procedures, and will find it profitable.

In the example I gave you before, Maló Clinic also offered these services. They had different services operating under one roof under different sections, and there were a lot of people primarily from the mainland coming for those. Again, the services were organized for that, so the clients would also come.

But medical tourism is a much more serious thing, and we are missing some important management aspects.

day, highlighting the country's impressive capacity and reliability.

Roads remain the most popular mode of transportation in China, and the country's road network has witnessed an outstanding growth. From a mere 80,700 kilometers in the early days when the country was founded, its total road length has now surged to over 5.4 million kilometers.

In particular, the length of roads in rural areas reached about 4.6 million kilometers by the end of 2023, accounting for 84.6 percent of the total. With more roads built, travel has no longer been a luxury for residents in isolated and remote areas, greatly boosting their mobility and bringing more job opportunities.

China now also has the world's busiest operational railway network, stretching over

160,000 kilometers. This represents a phenomenal leap from the 21,000-kilometer-long railways back when the country was founded.

Rapid urbanization has turbocharged the expansion of the comprehensive transportation system in Chinese cities. With over 10,000 kilometers of operational urban railways and 259 certified civil aviation airports, Chinese cities have built robust transport capacities to cater to the growing needs of their urban population.

Logistics has been made more efficient with the fast growth of its multimodal transport, which has propelled China to become the world's leading express delivery hub for the past 10 years, with per capita express delivery parcels in the country exceeding 90 pieces in 2023.

GREEN, SMART TRANSPORT

China has pursued the high-quality development of its transport sector, prioritizing sustainability and intelligent transformation.

The country has promoted the use of new energy vehicles, with data showing that over 530,000 electric buses and 1 million logistics vehicles were operating in urban areas as of the end of 2023.

New energy vehicles (NEVs) have gained great popularity among Chinese car owners. Industrial data showed that the penetration rate of NEVs in the country stood at 44.8 percent in August, meaning that two out of every five cars sold in China are now powered by new energy.

Smart and digital technologies are transforming the sector. China has stepped up efforts to make railways, roads,

shipping lanes, civil aviation and postal services more intelligent.

The country leads the world in the scale of automated container terminals already built or under construction. Digital transport services have become part of people's everyday life, with online taxi booking services handling over 30 million orders daily and bicycle rental services available in more than 400 cities.

Another force reshaping the transport landscape is autonomous driving technologies.

At a transport expo last month, China's ride-hailing platform Didi Chuxing showcased their latest autonomous driving technologies. With remote sensors on car roofs and powered by software, the company's innovative system can automate the entire driving process from order dispat-

ching, passenger pickup to navigating routes.

Supported by multiple intelligent operation centers, the system could meet the needs of autonomous driving vehicles, according to Li Jian, who heads Didi's autonomous driving operations.

Looking forward, the development of China's transport network will be guided by clear roadmaps. According to an over-arching plan on transport unveiled in 2021, the country aims to establish a modern, high-quality, and comprehensive national transport network that is convenient, cost-effective, green, intelligent and safe.

The network will feature higher domestic and international connectivity, multi-channel access to major cities, and effective coverage of county-level nodes, the plan said.

MDT/XINHUA

TRADE

Beijing will lift 4-year ban on Australian lobster imports, Albanese says

ROD MCGUIRK,
MELBOURNE

CHINA will resume importing Australian live lobsters by the end of the year, removing the final major obstacle to bilateral trade that once cost Australian exporters more than 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year, Australia's prime minister said yesterday.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made the announcement after meeting Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of a Southeast Asian summit in Vientiane, Laos.

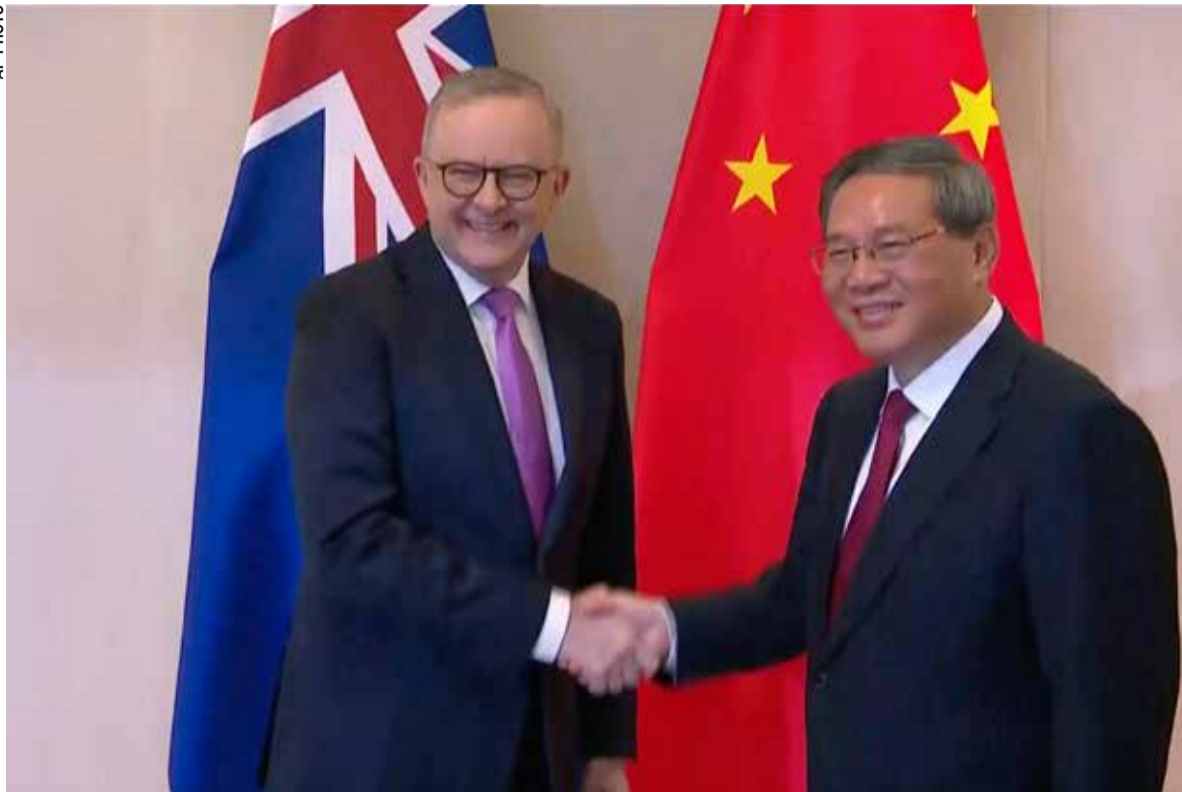
The ban on lobsters was the last of a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that Beijing has agreed to lift since Albanese's center-left Labor Party government was elected in 2022.

"I'm pleased to announce that Premier Li and I have agreed on a timetable to resume full lobster trade by the end of this year," Albanese told reporters.

"This of course will be in time for Chinese New Year and this will be welcomed by the people engaged in the live lobster industry," he added.

Albanese has given assurances that relations with China have been improved without compromising Australian in-

AP PHOTO



Australia's PM Anthony Albanese meets Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of summit talks of the ASEAN in Vientiane, yesterday

terests. Beijing is unhappy with restrictions Australia has placed on some Chinese investments because of security concerns.

"What's important is that friends are able to have direct discussions. It doesn't imply agreement, it doesn't imply compliance and I'll always represent Australia's national

interest. That's what I did today; it was a very constructive

"What's important is that friends are able to have direct discussions."

ANTHONY ALBANESE

meeting," Albanese said.

"I'm encouraged by the progress that we have made be-

tween Australia and China's relationship in producing stabilization to the benefit of both of our nations and with the objective of advancing peace and security in the region," Albanese added.

China's Embassy in Australia did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Australian lobster exports to China had been worth

AU\$700 million (\$470 million) in 2019.

Beijing ended trade with Australia in 2020 on a range of commodities including lobster, coal, wine, barley, beef and wood as diplomatic relations plumbed new depths.

Conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison had angered Beijing that year by demanding an independent investigation into the origins of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom Ryan, a manager at lobster exporter Five Star Seafoods at Port MacDonnell in South Australia state, said he was disappointed that his trade would be the last to resume with China.

"It's been a long time coming," Ryan told Australian Broadcasting Corp. of Albanese's announcement.

"Between myself and other people in Port MacDonnell, it's an absolute relief," he added.

The industry had found new markets for lobster products but at lower profit margins, Ryan said.

Li said during a state visit to Australia in June that he had agreed with Albanese to "properly manage" their nations' differences.

Beijing had severed minister-to-minister contacts during the conservatives' nine years in power. **MDT/AP**

DIRE STRAIT

Taiwan celebrates its anniversary against a background of Chinese threats

TAIWAN celebrated its "National" yesterday against the background of threats from China, which claims the self-governing island as its own territory.

Yesterday's commemorations included military displays, but no heavy military equipment such as those seen in years past.

Addressing the threat from China, Lai Ching-te took a firm but measured line while offering cooperation on areas from fighting infectious diseases to maintaining "regional peace and stability."

"We hope that China will live up to the expectations of the international community, that it will apply its influence and work with other countries toward ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine and end conflicts in the Middle East," Lai said.

"And we hope that (China) will take up its international responsibilities and, along with Taiwan, contribute to the peace, security and prosperity of the region and the globe," the president added.

The celebration marks

AP PHOTO



the establishment of the Republic of China, which overthrew the Qing Dynasty in 1911 and relocated to Taiwan as Mao Zedong's Communists

swept to power on the mainland during a civil war in 1949. Taiwan was run under martial law until transitioning to full democracy in the 1980s

and 1990s but maintains the original constitution brought from China and the ROC flag.

Lai took office in May, continuing the eight-year rule of the Democratic Progressive Party that rejects China's demand that it recognize Taiwan as a part of China. The Nationalists adhere to a unification stance that recognizes both sides of the Taiwan Strait as a single nation.

Maintaining its military pressure on Taiwan, China's People's Liberation Army sent 15 planes across the median line in the Taiwan Strait, prompting Taiwan to scramble jets, dispatch ships and activate missile systems.

At the same time, Taiwan faces economic threats from China ranging from a possible blo-

ckade of the trade-dependent island to an undermining of its financial system. China routinely states that Taiwan independence is a "dead end" and that annexation by Beijing is a historical inevitability.

Lai appeared to address such issues in his address, saying: "We must strengthen resilience throughout Taiwan in national defense, economic livelihoods, disaster prevention and democracy."

Lai also irked Beijing when he said the "PRC is not Taiwan's motherland."

Zhu Fenglian, spokeswoman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, rejected Lai's remarks, saying they could not alter "the fact that the two sides of the strait belong to the same China." **MDT/AP**

HAN KANG

Nobel Prize in literature awarded to S.Korean author for her 'intense poetic prose'

DANIEL NIEMANN,
STOCKHOLM

SOUTH Korean author Han Kang was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature yesterday for what the Nobel committee called "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

Nobel committee chairman Anders Olsson praised Han's "physical empathy for the vulnerable, often female lives" of her characters.

"She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in a poetic and experimental style, has become an innovator in contemporary prose," Olsson said.

Nobel literature committee member Anna-Karin Palm said Han writes "intense lyrical pro-



South Korean author Han Kang

se that is both tender and brutal, and sometimes slightly surrealistic as well."

Han becomes the first Asian woman and the first South Korean writer to win the Nobel literature prize. She also becomes the second South Korean nation-

al to win a Nobel Prize, after late former President Kim Dae-jung won the peace prize in 2000. He was honored for his efforts to restore democracy in South Korea during the country's previous military rule and improve relations with war-divided rival

North Korea.

Han wins the Nobel at a time of growing global influence of South Korean culture, which in recent years has included the success of films like director Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-winning "Parasite," the Netflix survival drama "Squid Game" and the worldwide fame of K-pop groups like BTS and BLACKPINK.

Han, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for "The Vegetarian," an unsettling novel in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences.

At the time of winning that award, Han said writing novels "is a way of questioning for me."

"I just try to complete my questions through the process of my writing and I try to stay in the questions, sometimes painful, sometimes - well - sometimes demanding," she said.

With "The Vegetarian," she said, "I wanted to question about being human and I wanted to describe a woman who desperately didn't want to belong to the human race any longer."

Her novel "Human Acts" was an International Booker Prize finalist in 2018.

Han made her publishing debut as a poet in 1993; her first short story collection was published the following year and her first novel, "Black Deer," in 1998. Works translated into English include "The Vegetarian," "Greek Lessons," "Human Acts" and "The White Book," a poetic novel that draws on the death of Han's older sister shortly after birth. Her most recent novel, "We Do Not Part," is due to be published in English next year.

Olsson, the committee chair, called "Human Acts" a work of "witness literature." It is based on the real-life killing of pro-democracy protesters in Han's home city of Gwangju in 1980.

The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers of style-heavy, story-light prose. It has also been male-dominated, with just 17 women among its 119 laureates until this year's award. The last woman to win was Annie Ernaux of France, in 2022. MDT/AP

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha ° 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues ° 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata ° 趙魯 Zhao Lu * 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Icília Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陳芷喬 Joana Chan

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

陳健雄 Eurico Chan
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家及外地註冊律師

JURISTS AND LAWYERS
QUALIFIED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:
林思潔 Jessie Lin
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
伍福賢 Domingos Ng
許栢桓 Rui Fernandes Brás

WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642/ 2837 2623

° 私人公證員 Notary Public * 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER
"DEIGNAN AWARD"
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN MACAU (2023)



UNITED NATIONS

Tribunal orders ex-official to repay \$58.8 million lost in bad deals while getting perks

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

A U.N. tribunal has ordered a former high-ranking official to repay the United Nations \$58.8 million lost in deals he made with a British businessman who showered him with interest-free loans, a Mercedes for his wife and perks for his sons.

The three-judge United Nations Dispute Tribunal ruled that evidence “clearly and convincingly” shows that Vitaly Vanshelboim’s misconduct “caused massive financial losses” by the U.N. Office for Project Services, which says it provides infrastructure, procurement and project management services and is known as UNOPS.

The Geneva-based tribunal said last week that Vanshelboim facilitated multiple financial deals between the U.N. office and British businessman David Kendrick focusing on renewable energy, sustainable housing and the oceans.

At the same time, the tribunal said Vanshelboim entered into a series of private arrangements with Kendrick and his businesses stretching back to 2017 — which he never disclosed to the U.N. as required — and “obtained direct financial and material benefits for himself and his family in the amount of at least \$3,133,186.10.”

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “is pleased by this judgment,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday.

“The U.N. continues to pursue recovery of the funds through other avenues,” he said. “We are fully committed to ensuring criminal accountability for crimes that may involve U.N. personnel,” he said, adding it would cooperate with national authorities on any investigations. Dujarric did not elaborate.

Vanshelboim’s lawyer, George Irving, said in an email yesterday [Macau time] that his client is appealing the decision, and declined to comment.

Emails sent to three com-



Vitaly Vanshelboim, seen in a meeting in 2014

panies that the tribunal says are connected to Kendrick were not immediately returned, and his previous lawyers in London said he was no longer a client. Other contact information for Kendrick could not be found.

The New York Times first reported the ruling.

Vanshelboim, a Ukrainian, had been an assistant secretary-general, serving either as UNOPS deputy executive director or director of its sustainable infrastructure impact investments program. He was fired in January 2023 following an internal investigation.

The investments by UNOPS, which lost millions of dollars, became public in 2022 with media reports followed by the resignation of Grete Faremo, a former Norwegian minister of justice and public security, as the head of Copenhagen-based UNOPS.

The Dispute Tribunal was ruling on Vanshelboim’s appeal of the fine on his dismissal of 12 months’ salary and an order for him to pay the U.N. over \$63.6 million in losses incurred from the deals, with his U.N. pension withheld until the sum was paid.

The judges ruled that Vanshelboim’s failure to disclose any of his financial dealings with Kendrick constituted “blatant misconduct”

and said he “committed fraud against the organization by leading it into multiple business partnerships with the Kendrick entities, with which he engaged in undisclosed and unauthorized outside activities.”

The judgment said Vanshelboim was tasked with identifying potential partners and that UNOPS allocated money “with the specific intention to develop projects that would attract private investors.”

The judges said Vanshelboim did not disclose that his wife was being paid by Kendrick for services, including helping the businessman locate, purchase and renovate an apartment in Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv. Vanshelboim did not disclose that in July 2017 he entered into a tennis sponsorship agreement with Kendrick for his youngest son. The U.N. said the amount was \$1.2 million, which Vanshelboim called “grossly exaggerated.”

Nonetheless, the judges said when Vanshelboim’s son was told what Kendrick was going to pay him, he wrote: “this is insane, how is this possible. I’m not even a good tennis player yet.” In reply, his father wrote part “of my job is to make insane things happen.”

The judgment also revealed that Kendrick granted Vanshelboim “an interest-free

revolving loan facility” for five years, with a limit of \$500,000 per year and a total cap of \$2 million. It said Vanshelboim used Kendrick’s credit cards for his personal expenses between October 2018 and December 2020.

In addition, Kendrick paid for repairs to Vanshelboim’s property in Mamaroneck, New York, and for custom furniture and home accessories — half for his apartment in Kyiv and half for his son’s apartment, the judgment said.

Vanshelboim also purchased a Mercedes Benz luxury vehicle for his wife with funds from Kendrick and his entities, it said.

The tribunal said Vanshelboim “misled the organization by both omitting his blatant conflict of interest with Mr. Kendrick and ‘pushing’ UNOPS to enter into highly risky deals with the Kendrick entities, while minimizing concerns and concealing relevant information.”

It said he can be held responsible for \$58.8 million, the amount that UNOPS lost, minus nearly \$4.83 million in interest and fees that it said were less clear.

“However, he may seek contribution elsewhere from any others deemed responsible as well,” the tribunal said. MDT/AP

this day in history

1976 CHINA'S 'GANG OF FOUR' ARRESTED

The new chairman of China's Communist Party, Hua Guofeng, has ordered the arrest of four leading radicals in Peking.

It is a sign that China is changing political direction following the death last month of Chairman Mao Zedong.

The so-called Gang of Four is led by Chairman Mao's widow Jian Qing, and includes Wang Hongwen, Yao Wenyuan, and Zhang Chunqiao.

They were active proponents of the Cultural Revolution instigated ten years ago by Chairman Mao.

This was a political and ideological campaign aimed at reviving revolutionary fervour and resulted in enormous social, economic and political upheaval.

Ideological cleansing began with attacks by young Red Guards on so-called “intellectuals” to remove “bourgeois” influences. It is believed millions were forced into manual labour, and tens of thousands were executed.

Mr Zhang rose up the ranks during the first year of the Cultural Revolution in Shanghai and was until recently chief political commissar of the armed forces.

Mr Wang had less power but was regarded a wonderboy - he rose to number three in the party in 1973 while still only in his late thirties, relatively young by Chinese standards.

Mr Yao, also a member of the Politburo standing committee, is regarded as dedicated, if not fanatical, in his belief in Maoist ideals of social development.

Jian Qing, formerly an actress, became Chairman Mao's third wife in 1939. She is regarded as a radical and active proponent of Maoist principles but in the years before his death, had led an independent life from her husband.

News of the arrests have not been confirmed by China's officials but it is believed the four were attempting a coup in the wake of the death of Chairman Mao on 9 September.

Some reports say Jian Qing was in the process of forging Chairman Mao's will placing her as Mao's successor, when she and her associates were surrounded by Hua Guofeng's personal bodyguards and placed under house arrest.

They are being questioned about their campaign against former prime minister Zhou Enlai, who died in January.

Commentators say the arrests might lead to a liberalisation of foreign, cultural and economic policy - the Times newspaper editorial calls this latest move “the most potent sign of a new political direction” following 27 years of Maoist dogma.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Gang of Four were kept under house arrest and, following a propaganda campaign against them, were expelled from the Communist Party in July 1977.

By the end of 1978 reformist Deng Xiaoping had effectively wrested power from Hua Guofeng - although he did not assume the title of premier of China and chair of the CCP until 1982.

On 20 November 1980 all members of the Gang of Four were put on trial charged with attempting to overthrow the government and establish a hardline Communist dictatorship.

They were sentenced to death, later commuted to long-term imprisonment. After a period of political indoctrination Jian Qing was released in 1991 and died soon after - some reports say she committed suicide.

Wang Hongwen died in 1992, Zhang Chunqiao died in April 2005 and Yao Wenyuan died in December 2005.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Career challenges require attention. This could conflict with romantic plans. Keep a cool head and provide leadership. Study options. Lay groundwork for later action.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Complications, chaos or traffic could present roadblocks to your investigation. Prepare alternate routes. Backup plans let you adapt with ease. Develop your research.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Collaborate for shared financial gain. Prioritize sales, invoicing and marketing. Research for durability, quality and value before purchasing. Budget to both buy and sell.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Collaborate creatively. Tempers could spark. Avoid misunderstandings or arguments with your partner. Find out what they want. Hunt for a compromise. Love triumphs.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Take a refreshing pause. Slow to avoid accidents. Prioritize health and work. Don't talk back or try to force something that's stuck. Relax and wait.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Listen to your heart. Relax and take time to consider before making a romantic move. Unexpected clouds may have a silver lining. Love wins.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Household issues demand attention. Avoid impulsive purchases. Research materials and options for repairs and improvements. Decide in favor of durable structure. Find what's needed nearby.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Don't get distracted by a heckler or react without thinking. Adapt to unplanned deviations. Uncover the solution to a mystery.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Make financial plans, budgets and strategies. Unexpected expenses take you by surprise. Don't buy toys. Avoid conflict or controversy by keeping things frugal.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Focus on personal changes. Wait for better conditions to take action. Avoid unnecessary upsets. Postpone shopping or spending. Take extra care of yourself.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Get out of the chaos, hum and bustle. Find a peaceful retreat. Private tranquility soothes and comforts. Consider recent changes. Make adaptation plans.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Review team strategies. Chaos levels could interrupt productivity. Exercise restraint and grace with frustrations. Stick to familiar routines. Handle regular tasks despite shifting conditions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	8	23	fine
Changchun	5	19	fine
Chengdu	16	19	rain
Chongqing	19	20	rain
Fuzhou	19	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	21	31	cloudy
Guiyang	15	21	overcast
Haikou	25	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	26	cloudy
Harbin	5	16	fine
Hefei	12	27	fine
Nanjing	14	26	fine
Shanghai	17	25	cloudy
Taipei	22	24	cloudy
Wuhan	14	29	fine
Hong Kong	25	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	8	16	sunny
Frankfurt	4	13	cloudy
Paris	8	14	cloudy
London	3	16	sunny
New York	14	22	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Grasp; 5- Brewery kilns; 10- Crooner Perry; 14- ___ about; 15- Fortune tellers; 16- Neat as ___; 17- Withered; 18- Cafeteria items; 19- Course listing; 20- German physicist; 22- Pennies; 23- Kingly address; 24- Former Russian ruler; 26- Glossy fabric; 29- Capable of being endured; 33- Mindless; 34- Tip off; 35- Fam. reunion attendee; 36- Circular band; 37- Imitating; 38- Actor Brad; 39- TV Tarzan Ron; 40- Young rabbit; 41- No-no; 42- Numb; 44- First American to orbit Earth; 45- Legendary singer James; 46- Et ___ (and other men); 48- Wahine's welcome; 51- Unable to hear and speak; 55- Whodunit hero Wolfe; 56- Eats to a plan; 58- In the blink ___ eye; 59- Not e'en once; 60- Praying figure; 61- Seward Peninsula city; 62- British prep school; 63- Gumbo pods; 64- River of Flanders;

DOWN 1- Flexible tube; 2- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 3- Forsaken; 4- Salad sauce; 5- Blender maker; 6- High home; 7- Actor Connery; 8- Endeavor; 9- Conspiration org.; 10- Photographic device; 11- Dentist's request; 12- Money maker; 13- Blame; 21- Fork prong; 22- Wagon; 24- Itty-bitty; 25- Puppeteer Tony; 26- Begat; 27- Old-womanish; 28- Country singer Tucker; 29- Unable to see; 30- Influential offering; 31- Divulge; 32- Rocker John; 34- Sleep disorder; 37- Parent's sister; 38- Unmarried remittance; 40- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 41- End-of-workweek shout; 43- Remove the antlers; 46- MetLife competitor; 47- Wears well; 48- Green Gables girl; 49- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 50- Cream-filled cookie; 51- Expensive; 52- ET transports; 53- Domesticated; 54- Cabinet dept.; 56- ___ wop; 57- Peeve;

Yesterday's solution

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

It's prime time to BUY & RENT!

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty

Hoi Wan Retail (Taipa)
HKD 12,980,000

Tou Un (Taipa)
HKD 2,750,000 1 bed 1 bath

Jade Garden (Taipa)
HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

DRIVE IN

HOW DID TRUMP BECOME TRUMP? 'THE APPRENTICE' HAS A THEORY

JOCELYN NOVECK, MDT/AP

DECADES before he hosted "The Apprentice," Donald Trump was ... an apprentice.

His mentor: Roy Cohn, the ruthless attorney who was a prominent New York power broker in the '70s and '80s after famously serving as a top aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

The Trump-Cohn connection is well known. But in "The Apprentice," his provocative if not quite shocking, entertaining if not quite illuminating, impeccably acted and inherently controversial film, Ali Abbasi takes it farther.

It's this relationship, posits the Danish Iranian director, that essentially made a young real estate heir — inexperienced but wildly ambitious — into the man who would become the 45th U.S. president, smashing the norms of American politics along the way.

Speaking of unlikely paths: The mere route of "The Apprentice" to the big screen is fodder for its own movie.

Written by Gabriel Sherman and starring an ingeniously cast trio of Sebastian Stan as Trump, Jeremy Strong as Cohn and Maria Bakalova as Ivana Trump, the film failed to get picked up at Cannes in May. That was surely due at least in part to a cease and desist letter from Trump lawyers.



Jeremy Strong (left) and Sebastian Stan in a scene from the film "The Apprentice" (Briarcliff Entertainment)

Trump's campaign spokesman called the movie "pure fiction" (the filmmakers call their script "fact-based"). One of the film's investors — Trump supporter Dan Snyder, former owner of the Washington Commanders — saw it and wanted out. It was only weeks ago that Briarcliff Entertainment announced it would open "The Apprentice" this Friday — less than four weeks before the U.S. election.

So, what kind of movie do we

have here?

Contrary to some descriptions, Abbasi says his film isn't a biopic at all, but a look at a relationship — and at a system that's about winning at any cost.

He's also not, he says, trying to be political.

But the core of the film is his relationship with Cohn, whom a young Trump, son of Queens developer Fred Trump, meets in the '70s. "Anybody who's anybody comes

here," he tells an uninterested date in an exclusive Manhattan club. "They say I'm the youngest person ever admitted."

He's invited to Cohn's table. Trump hopes the brash attorney will help his family fight a federal case alleging they discriminate against Black tenants.

Most importantly, Cohn imparts to Trump his three most important rules. First, "Attack, attack, attack." Then: "Admit nothing, deny every-

thing." And finally: "No matter what happens, you claim victory and never admit defeat."

The younger Trump is portrayed here as a bit of a charmer — there are even comparisons to Robert Redford. Although familiar mannerisms and speech patterns emerge as Trump ages, this is no "Saturday Night Live" skit.

As for Strong, who better to play Cohn than the exquisitely tortured Kendall Roy of "Succession"? Strong, famous for losing himself in roles, seems to have heard the word "reptilian" and, through sheer force of will and talent, found a way to actually resemble a snake.

Ivana has turned cold and bitter by the time she informs Cohn, now dying of AIDS, that a bejeweled gift Trump just gave him is a mere cheap imitation. "Donald has no shame," she says.

Soon, the mentor is gone. And 30 years after the film ends, Trump will become president. This film's biggest lack is the connective tissue — we don't ever really understand, alas, how young Trump became President Trump.

But we do at least see the power of Cohn's lessons. As Trump sits down at the end with the writer he's hired to co-author his 1987 "Trump: The Art of the Deal," he recites for him his three most important rules.

Guess what they are?

"The Apprentice," a Briarcliff Entertainment release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association for sexual content, some graphic nudity, language, sexual assault, and drug use. Running time: 120 minutes. ★★☆☆

AD

New Rugby Season

Saturdays, 9-11am, Taipa Stadium

BOYS AND GIRLS, AGES 6 – 18

- Team working
- Co-operation
- Fitness and FUN



SIGN UP NOW!!



**MACAU
BATS
RUGBY**

BOOK IT

Paula Hawkins returns with psychological thriller

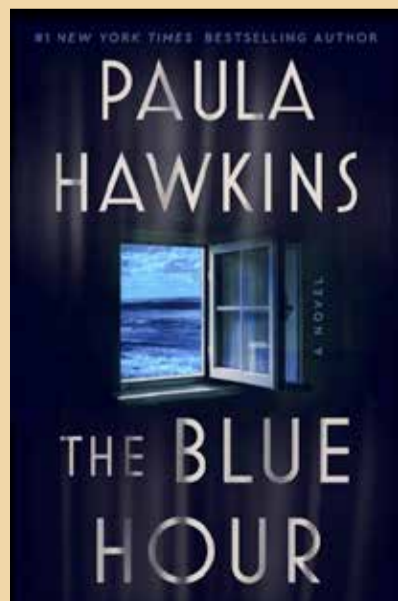
SINCE bursting on the scene in 2015 with “The Girl on a Train,” Paula Hawkins has established herself as a reliable writer of psychological thrillers set in the U.K. “The Blue Hour” doesn’t plow any new ground on that front, but it’s a tight story with interesting characters that keeps you engaged until the end.

Set mostly on an isolated Scottish island named Eris, where a famous painter and ceramicist named Vanessa Chapman once lived and worked, the story begins with a discovery. A bone in one of Chapman’s sculptures, now owned by an estate, may be human. That revelation links together the three main characters — Chapman’s longtime companion Grace Winters, a Chapman scholar who works for Fairburn Estate named James Becker, and Julian, Chapman’s ex-husband who went missing 20 years ago.

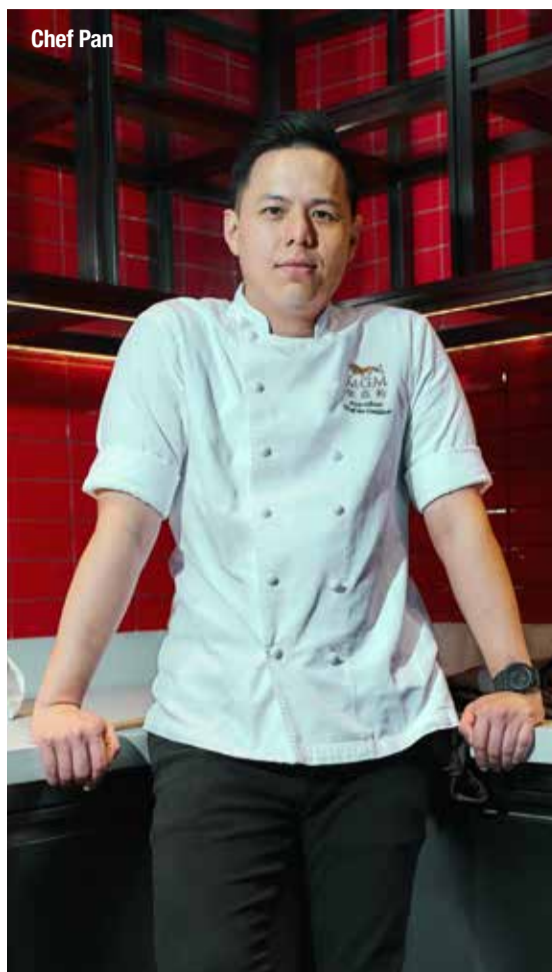
Told in the present, in flashbacks from two decades ago, and via excerpts from Chapman’s diary, the plot moves along steadily. It’s not really a keep-the-reader-guessing type of thriller, but more of a slow build that culminates in a shocking ending.

Hawkins weaves artistic themes and the creative process through the novel. Chapman’s diary entries are filled with references to the landscape that inspires her — the “terrible chaos” of waves, the sky “miraculous azure or threatening gunmetal.” The title refers to a time at dusk before the stars come out when the color leaches from the day but it’s not yet full dark. Hawkins’ prose often mirrors Chapman’s artistic eye. Here’s Becker’s first glimpse of Grace: “Her face is soft, cheeks relaxing gently into jowls, and her colors are muddled: from her bowl of hair to her slightly protuberant eyes... she is painted in varying shades of brown.”

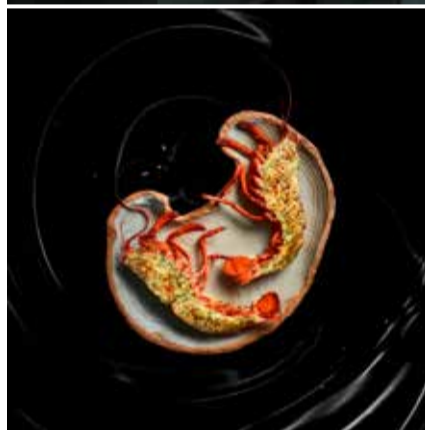
The novel’s setting is a character unto itself. Eris is reachable from the mainland only when the tide is out, in two six-hour chunks each day, and so it’s a fine place to bury secrets — physical and psychological. Learning those secrets is the fun of the novel, and there are few authors writing today who drip them out, page by excruciating page, like Hawkins. **ROB MERRILL, MDT/AP**



“The Blue Hour” by Paula Hawkins (Mariner)



Chef Pan



TASTE OF EDESIA

Aji's Asian Bistronomy

IRENE SAM, MDT

NOT long ago, **Aji at MGM Cotai** unveils its new dining experience to us with a refreshed menu that embraces a concept of “Asian Bistronomy” — contemporary take on authentic Asian flavours with a touch of Western culinary technique. Set against the dramatic backdrop of the spectacle, the restaurant invites us on an epicurean journey through a spectrum of bold flavours and visually captivating presentations.

“Bistronomy” is a culinary style that combines casual bistro style with gastronomic menu offerings. “Asian Bistronomy” redefines modern bistro cuisine with a series of carefully crafted dishes, each a testament to Chef de Cuisine Pan Sihui’s extensive global culinary expertise. Born and raised in Singapore, Chef Pan has a deep understanding of the ingredients and flavors indigenous to Southeast Asian cultures. A graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, Chef Pan has skillfully blended

Western cooking techniques with Asian flavors, bringing us a one-of-a-kind dining experience. His accolades, including recognition from the prestigious “Global Delicacy – Excellent Chef Cooking Contest”, three consecutive years of Black Pearl Restaurants, and being named one of only the chefs with the greatest contributions to the industry by MINGCHU China, position him as a leading culinary talent in the region.

For those seeking a culinary adventure, the menu offers a selection of signature dishes that underscore the restaurant’s innovative approach to Asian Bistronomy. From the Smoked Salmon with pickled beet and mango turmeric to the Aji Lobster Thermidor with salted egg and comté cheese, each dish is prepared using the finest seasonal ingredients from around the world. The richly flavored Foie Gras with five-spice caramel is another must-try dish that food enthusiasts are sure to enjoy. In addition, the A4 Wagyu with hand-pulled refreshing yuzu somen noodles, infused with gril-

led maitake mushrooms, offers a unique interpretation of Japanese sukiyaki with a modern twist. Chef Pan’s culinary creations reflect his deep respect for the natural properties of ingredients, using his exceptional culinary techniques to bring out the authentic essence of each dish, embodying a seamless fusion of East meets West.

The ambience at Aji enhances the dining experience in the restaurant and enables diners to enjoy sweeping views of the Spectacle. This stunning setting features a blend of digital art and natural plants that create a vibrant atmosphere. The open kitchen invites guests to engage with Chef Pan and his team providing an up-close look at the dynamic process behind each dish. In addition, the restaurant features an extensive wine cellar and bar, which offers a variety of innovative cocktail creations with Asian influence. These thoughtfully selected beverage options complement the bold flavors on the menu and ensure an elevated dining experience that appeals to every palate.

OPINION

The Conversation

Virginia Raguin, College Holy Cross



A REALISTIC STATUE OF MARY GIVING BIRTH WAS CRITICIZED, THEN VANDALIZED

A sculpture of the Virgin Mary showing her giving birth to Jesus was recently attacked and beheaded. Called "Crowning" by the artist Esther Strauss, the sculpture had been part of a temporary exhibition of art outside the Catholic St. Mary Cathedral in Linz, Austria.

The sculpture was controversial for its explicit depiction of birth; an online petition seeking its removal received more than 12,000 signatures. Strauss' work was part of a project that sought to look at gender equality and the role of women, designed to honor the 100th anniversary of the cathedral's consecration to the Virgin Mary. The exhibition opened on June 27, 2024, and the statue was vandalized a few days later.

My research as a historian of art has shown me that there has never been only one way of depicting the birth of Christ.

Early Christian writings reveal that the birth of Christ was of keen interest and reflected ideas of the day.

A widely read text from the mid-second century, called the The Protoevangelium of James, gives details about the life of the Virgin and infancy of Christ. As women of that time gave birth with the aid of midwives, the text explained that the Mother of God also was helped in her labor. Sections 19-20 of the text give details about Joseph contacting two midwives.

One woman is said to have doubted the virgin birth. After she inserted her finger into Mary's vagina, her hands withered. An illustration in a French prayer book from Paris dating to about 1490-1500 shows the midwife with missing hands. The story explained that her hands grew back after she touched the child Christ.

The representation of midwives, as seen in an 11th-century manuscript from Constantinople, is still common in the Eastern church.

New modes of spirituality in later centuries brought changes in art. St. Bridget of Sweden, who founded a new order of nuns, left a large body of writing, including what she believed were revelations from God. One of her revelations included a vision of Christ's birth she experienced in Bethlehem in 1371-72.

Although Bridget had given birth eight times, she described Mary's delivery as "in the twinkling of any eye."

Many paintings between the 15th and 16th centuries adopted her vision and showed the child surrounded by light and the Virgin calmly worshipping him.

A painting by Belgian artist Hugo van der Goes, in about 1475, follows Bridget's vision of the birth. Instead of being "wrapped in swaddling clothes," Christ lies naked, perfectly clean, in the "great and ineffable light" that Bridget described.

Each era and community produces art that speaks to its own priorities. Fifteenth-century Italy introduced traditions of a miraculous childbirth that were different from a realistic tradition cherished by early Christians of the second century. I would argue that "Crowning" is but one more example of such cultural change. Here, Mary is an inspiration for other women, physically strong and capable even in the difficult process of giving birth.

The sculpture, when intact, was barely 15 inches tall, a clear indication that it was not made for large-scale public veneration. It was a meditative image designed for a one-on-one encounter – for those who decided to engage. [Abridged]

FOREX: THE GREENBACK EDGES DOWN AGAINST YEN AFTER UPTICK IN US INFLATION

THE BUZZ

The U.S. dollar edged lower against the yen yesterday after data showed a higher-than-expected rise in U.S. inflation in September even though prices were on a downward trend, allowing the Federal Reserve to keep cutting interest rates, Reuters economic agency has reported.

Labor Department data yesterday showed that the consumer price index increased 0.2% in September. In the 12 months through September the CPI climbed 2.4%, which was the smallest year-on-year rise since February 2021.

According to Reuters, the greenback was down 0.54% at 148.50 yen after rising to as high as 149.58 yen for the first time since Aug. 2.

The dollar index (=USD), which measures the currency against six key rivals including the yen and euro, was down 0.09% to 102.780 after hitting its highest since August 16.

Meanwhile, U.S. stocks were edging back from their records yesterday, while Treasury yields spin after a pair of reports showed inflation failed to improve as much as expected last month and more workers filed for unemployment benefits last week.



Chinese fugitive identified only by his initial LQ wears a mask escorted by Immigration officers before a news conference in Jakarta, yesterday

INDONESIA ARRESTS A SUSPECT WANTED BY CHINA FOR RUNNING A \$14 BILLION INVESTMENT SCAM

ANDI JATMIKO, JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S immigration officers on the tourist island of Bali have arrested a Chinese suspect sought by Beijing for helping run over \$14 billion investment scam to clients in China, officials said yesterday.

The 39-year-old man, identified only by his initial, LQ, was arrested on Oct. 1, when an immigration auto-gate in Bali's Ngurah Rai international airport denied him departure for Singapore.

The biometric data in the computer registry at the airport identified him as a suspect wanted by Beijing, which led to his arrest, according to Silmy Karim, the immigration chief at Indonesia's law and human rights ministry. He had been listed on an Interpol warrant since late September.

The suspect first arrived in Bali from Singapore with a Turkish passport as Joe Lin on Sept. 26, just a day before Interpol released a so-called Red Notice for him, a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to detain

or arrest a suspect wanted by a specific country.

Indonesian authorities brought the suspect, wearing a detainee's orange shirt and a facemask, before reporters to a news conference yesterday in Jakarta. The suspect did not make any statements and was not asked any questions.

"He was wrong to use Indonesia as a transit country, let alone as a destination country to hide," Karim said, lauding technological advances and cooperation between immigration and the national police.

Krishna Murti, the chief of the international division of the National Police, said the decision to deport or to extradite the suspect to China will take some time. Indonesia needs to confirm whether he has truly become a Turkish citizen in the meantime or if he used a fake passport to enter Indonesia.

"We have to respect the suspect's rights," Murti said, adding that the suspect has not committed any violations inside Indonesia.

The man was named as a suspect by Beijing, which requested the Red Notice from Interpol, after he allegedly collected more than 100 billion Chinese Yuan (\$14 billion) from more than 50,000 people in a Ponzi scheme.

Indonesia, an archipelago nation on the crossroads between Asia and the South Pacific, is attractive to local, regional and global organized crime because of its geographical location and its multi-cultural society.

Last month, Indonesia arrested Alice Guo, a fugitive former mayor of a town in the Philippine accused of having links to Chinese criminal syndicates. She has since been deported to the Philippines.

In June, Chaowalit Thongduang, one of Thailand's most wanted fugitives was escorted back to Thailand on a Thai air force plane after being arrested in Bali following months on the run in connection with several killings and drug trafficking charges in his homeland. **MDT/AP**



Switzerland The World Trade Organization slightly raised its 2024 global trade forecast to 2.7%, up from 2.6%. However, the WTO warned of significant risks, including geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, which could affect global energy prices and shipping routes.



United Kingdom The new Labour government introduced major reforms to workers' rights, including stronger sick pay rules, parental leave, and bans on "fire and rehire" practices. Yesterday, unions praised the measures, set to be implemented by 2026, as the largest overhaul in a generation.



Poland tightened visa regulations following revelations of a cash-for-visas scandal under the previous government. The scheme, revealed yesterday involved consulates in Asia and Africa accepting bribes for work visas, damaging public trust and resulting in tightened scrutiny of visa applications.



Lithuanians will vote this weekend in a general election that may see the center-right coalition ousted by the opposition Social Democrats. Despite economic successes, dissatisfaction over pandemic measures and immigration policies could lead to a shift in power.



Mozambique yesterday [Macau time] began counting votes after a presidential election in which the ruling party faces allegations of fraud. Independent candidate Venancio Mondlane challenges the governing Frelimo party, which has been in power since independence in 1975.