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MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

TASTE OF EDESIA P15

DESPITE WEATHER CONDITIONS, VENDORS AT THE TAP SEAC CRAFT MARKET REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE EVENT'S POTENTIAL TO BOOST THEIR SALES P3

GOV'T EXPECTS MOP240B IN GAMING REVENUE; BUDGET FOCUSES ON PEOPLE-CENTRIC INITIATIVES P5

STRONG OFF-SEASON TYPHOON TRIGGERS FURTHER EVACUATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES P11



XINHUA



Peru U.S. President Joe Biden will hold talks tomorrow with President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of an international summit in Peru, a face-to-face meeting that comes as Beijing braces for Donald Trump's return to the White House. White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the meeting will take place while the two leaders are in Lima for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

XINHUA



China Russian official Sergei Shoigu yesterday visited Zhuhai military exhibition to reinforce China-Russia ties amid Russia's stalled Ukraine invasion, days after meeting FM Wang Yi in Beijing. China displayed advanced military technology but has limited its support to dual-use sales, benefiting Russia while remaining noncommittal on direct military assistance.

XINHUA



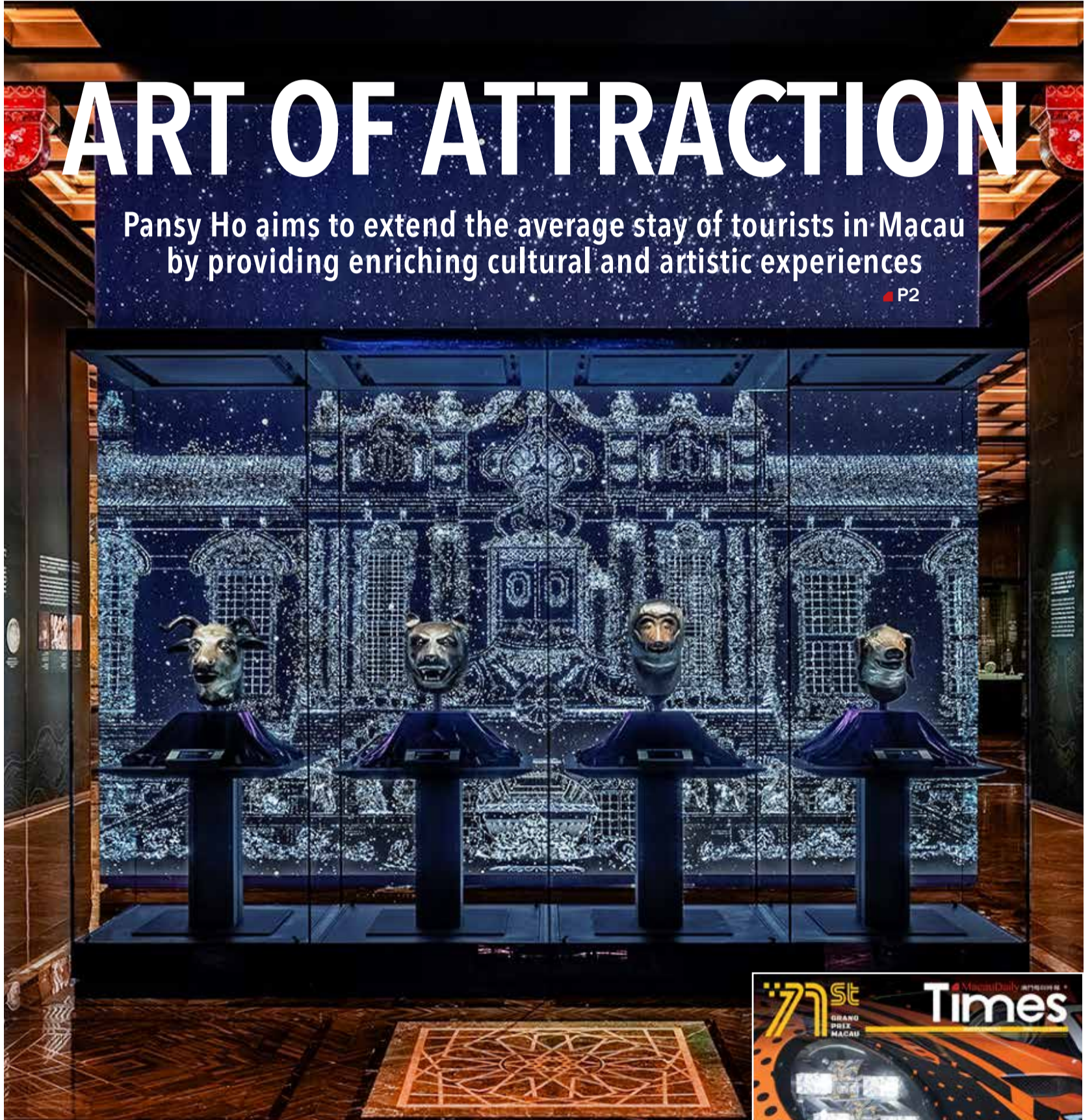
India's Modi expects stronger U.S.-India relations with Trump's return, favoring non-intervention in domestic policies. While trade and immigration issues could emerge, Trump's acceptance of India's stance on Russia and shared nationalist goals foster an alignment that could strengthen economic and defense ties, analysts say.

XINHUA



Sri Lanka This week's parliamentary election is crucial for President Dissanayake, whose party needs a majority to implement promised economic reforms. Amid a fragile IMF-led recovery, his National People's Power party aims to secure control, addressing post-crisis economic stability and governance reform.

More on backpage



ART OF ATTRACTION

Pansy Ho aims to extend the average stay of tourists in Macau by providing enriching cultural and artistic experiences

P2

GBA VIEWS

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS ESTABLISHES BASE IN THE COOPERATION ZONE IN HENGQIN

P8-9

77st GRAND PRIX MACAU

Times

ABSOLUTE RACING

GT WORLD CUP PORSCHE LEADS THE WAY

SUPPLEMENT



POLY MGM MUSEUM

PANSY HO EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF ENHANCING DIVERSE EXPERIENCES FOR OVERSEAS TOURISTS

NADIA SHAW

MGM China has underlined the need to enhance tourists' experiences in Macau through unique cultural offerings, as the city aims to expand its cultural image.

The gaming operator has its focus on art and culture after promising the government to help diversify the local economy by investing in non-gambling attractions.

In a media briefing yesterday, Pansy Ho, chairperson and executive director of MGM China, stated that Macau has the potential to encourage visitors to extend their stays, despite many not having ample time to explore the city.

"We must create more ways for tourists to enjoy their time here," said Ho.

"Many visitors do not have much knowledge about Macau. Now, through our efforts, they will be able to learn about our history, our role in the entire time, and our positioning,"

she said.

Recent data from the government shows that same-day visitors (13,834,674) and overnight visitors (12,086,240) grew by 42.8% and 18.1% year-on-year respectively during the first three quarters of the year.

However, the average length of stay of visitors shortened by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors remaining unchanged at 2.3 days.

For MGM, it hopes to extend stays by offering immersive and enriching cultural experiences.

"We aim to extend the average stay of tourists in Macau from 2.7 nights to longer by providing enriching cultural experiences," said Ho, who met with the press yesterday to discuss

the Poly MGM Museum. This museum is a cultural landmark dedicated to preserving China's invaluable intangible heritage while fostering global cultural dialogue.

Ho has expressed optimism that tourists would encounter a new perspective on Macau, in recognition of its cultural

Macau's position as a hub for multicultural exchange and cooperation, emphasizing Chinese culture while promoting interactions between Chinese and foreign civilizations.

Addressing tourism's geographical influence, Ho highlighted the necessity of overseas tourists being able to engage in diverse experiences.

"We aim to extend the average stay of tourists in Macau [...] by providing enriching cultural experiences"

PANSY HO

CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MGM CHINA

"Overseas tourists must have more experiences they can try," she explained.

She emphasized the importance of catering to a wider audience, including families and children, to provide varied experiences beyond traditional offerings. "This is not just an exhibition," she said regarding ongoing developments at MGM.

The Poly MGM Museum will

hold its official opening ceremony today, following its earlier opening to the public this month.

This state-of-the-art museum, which is a collaboration between MGM China and Poly Culture, celebrates traditional Chinese culture.

"We are not just creating an art museum; we are establishing a first-class national museum that reflects our cultural heritage," Ho said.

She noted the museum's role as a bridge connecting diverse cultures along the Maritime Silk Road, a historic trade route that has shaped global interactions for centuries.

The inaugural exhibition will open today, and is titled The Maritime Silk Road: Discover the Mystical Seas and Encounter the Treasures of the Ancient Trade Route. The exhibition is divided into four themed zones, which include Monsoon, Cultural Origin, Integrations, and Connections.

Each zone highlights both ancient cultural relics and contemporary art pieces. The exhibition features 228 artifacts and artworks from nearly 20 national museums and esteemed cultural institutions, including nearly 30 grade-one cultural relics such as the four Bronze Zodiac Heads from the Old Summer Palace.

"This exhibition is not just about displaying artifacts; it is about telling the story of our interconnectedness," Ho said. The museum's innovative design incorporates high-tech elements such as movable LED screens and interactive displays to enhance visitor engagement.

"We are actually building a multi-functional multimedia space next to it." Plans for a supporting activity space on the same floor as the museum are set to open in a few months to enrich visitor interactions.

Ho also noted that the museum is strategically positioned to promote cultural tourism in Macau, already known for its vibrant entertainment industry.

Reflecting on MGM's art initiatives' evolution, Ho stated, "We should remember that we actually opened an art gallery more than 10 years ago. At that time, it was just an art gallery. Now is the time for us to explore how to make full use of our unique advantages and our position in Macau."

The Poly MGM Museum is open daily and free of charge until September 2025.

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TAP SEAC CRAFT MARKET

Vendors remain optimistic despite unfavorable weather

VICTORIA CHAN

DESPITE less-than-ideal weather conditions, the vendors at the Tap Seac Craft Market remain optimistic about the event's potential to boost their visibility and sales.

"We hope to have many more customers come to know our brand and our handmade products," said the Patricia, a representative from "Soul Made".

Nearby, the "Corner DIY" stall offered a glimpse into the passion that drives these small businesses. "This is my hobby," the vendor shared. "I enjoy making bracelets and other items, and I hope people will like what I create." Despite the competition, they remained optimistic about the event's potential to grow their brand.

"I think this is a good activity in Macau," said another merchant.

"Many people will come here to search for something they want to know about in Macau, and they can also discover handmade products from different countries like Taiwan and Malaysia."

Despite the unfavorable weather, vendors are optimistic that the sunny weekend days will draw larger crowds and lead to increased sales.

"The weather is not great, but I have hope that it will be



better," said the Soul Made representative. "So far, so good – we're getting customers."

The Tap Seac Craft Market, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), kicked off yesterday and will run for two consecutive weeks until Nov. 24.

The biannual cultural and creative market features over 220 handicraft and gastronomy stalls from Macau, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and South Korea. Visitors can explore a wide range of original cultural and creative products, including daily necessities, clothing and accessories, handicrafts, and natural or handmade goods.

In his opening speech, Cheang Kai Meng, acting president of the Cultural Affairs Bu-

reau, said, "The Tap Seac Craft Market has grown from Macau's signature cultural and creative market to be a key project in the Cultural and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area."

"This success is due to the participation and support of creative individuals from Macau and beyond, alongside the wider public, who have all played a part in witnessing the birth of numerous creative brands from Macau," the official added.

The two-week market aims to provide a platform for cultural and creative practitioners to showcase and sell their products, while fostering creativity, innovation, and cultural ex-

change within the Greater Bay Area.

"In recent years, the IC has actively arranged for local cultural and creative entities to hold market events in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," Cheang said.

"The aim is to gradually establish the 'Craft Market' as a signature cultural and creative fair in the region."

In addition to the market stalls, the event also includes various music performances and over 60 creative handicraft workshops.

The Tap Seac Craft Market is held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

RESIDENTIAL RENTS RISE WHILE COMMERCIAL RATES DECLINE

The average rent per square meter for residential units in the SAR reached MOP137 in the third quarter of 2024, marking a 1.6% increase from the previous quarter according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). In contrast, shop rents decreased by 1.1% to MOP491, largely due to lower average rents for new leases. Regionally, rents in NATAP (MOP168), NAPE & Aterros da Baía da Praia Grande (MOP141), and Baixa da Taipa (MOP136) increased, while Coloane (MOP147) saw a slight decline. Comparatively, residential rents rose by 4.4% year-on-year, while office, shop, and industrial rents fell.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES DECLINE TO MOP229B

The Monetary Authority of Macao announced that the preliminary estimate of Macau SAR's foreign exchange reserves was MOP228.7 billion (USD28.56 billion) at the end of October 2024. This represents a 0.8% decrease from the revised figure of MOP230.6 billion (USD28.81 billion) in September. At the end of October, these reserves were 11 times the currency in circulation and accounted for 88.9% of pataca M2 as of September 2024. Additionally, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 1.55 points month-on-month but fell 1.78 points year-on-year to 103.9 in October 2024.

FILM ON MENTAL HEALTH WINS AWARD AT ASIA INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

A short film produced by the University of Macau (UM) has won the Best Director Award in the University Student Film category at the 2024 Asia International Film Festival. Titled *The Invisible Self*, the film was previously screened at UM and various secondary schools in Macau, prompting important discussions about mental health among students. With a focus on self-acceptance, the film explores the journey of embracing both the positive and negative facets of oneself while connecting with one's inner self, aiming to raise awareness about mental health in the community.

USJ SCHOLARSHIPS EXCEED MOP9.3 MILLION

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) yesterday held its community scholarship and bursary award ceremony, where 19 organizations and individuals contributed 175 scholarships and bursaries. For the 2024/2025 academic year, the total funding exceeds MOP9.3 million, marking a significant increase of approximately MOP6 million from the previous year. Currently, the university offers discounts for different students, including full-time staff of designated firms.

F&B

Association urges gov't to regulate alarming rise in takeout platform charges

STAFF REPORTER

THE Macao Catering Industry Association is calling on the government to regulate takeout platform charges.

Aeson Lei, president of the Macao Catering Industry Association, pointed out that fees charged by takeout platforms have skyrocketed from 18% in 2016 to between 30% and 50% today, placing immense strain on local businesses.

"From 18% at the beginning, the charge now ranges from 30% to 50%. This alarming figure has made it very difficult for restaurants in the district to operate," said Lei, speaking on the sidelines of the 9th iFood Award ceremony yesterday.

Lei shared that local firms are frustrated over the lack of effective government intervention.

"We have consistently raised this issue with the officials of the current

government, and they have been proactive in engaging with the platforms. However, despite initial improvements in the first one or two months of communication, the situation inevitably returns to what it was before," he said.

Lei lamented that the absence of a dedicated e-commerce law in Macau leaves food delivery platforms unregulated, and urged the new government to prioritize legislation addressing

these issues.

In light of next year's fiscal budget, which promises ongoing measures to benefit the public, the association president was optimistic about potential impacts on the industry.

He expressed hope that government policies would "strengthen the foundation of the catering sector, cultivate talent, and effectively address the challenges posed by takeout platforms."

Lei said that this arguably would create more opportunities for local restaurants and encourage new investments.

The 9th iFood Award saw the participation of nearly 3,000 restaurants, garnering over 80,000 votes across various categories.

A total of 133 awards were presented, celebrating the resilience and creativity of Macau's culinary scene despite ongoing challenges.

CRIME

PJ ARRESTS SIX SUSPECTS IN ILLEGAL CURRENCY EXCHANGES

VICTORIA CHAN

JUDICIARY Police (PJ) have detained four suspects, including three mainland residents and one local resident, for their alleged involvement in an illegal foreign exchange operation targeting casino gamblers.

The investigation began Nov. 13 when police were alerted to suspicious activity at a hotel in Taipa about several individuals suspected of engaging in illegal foreign exchange activities.

Upon arriving at the scene, officers apprehended the four individuals – three men and one woman – who are alleged to have been exchanging large sums of Hong Kong dollars for mainland Chinese RMB.

According to the police, the suspects are all mainland Chinese residents aged between 28 and 37. In the hotel room, the police seized a mobile phone, a total of HKD1.456 million in cash, HKD3,300 in casino chips, and a notebook used to record daily transactions. Through the investigation, the police found

VICTORIA CHAN



that the four suspects had traveled from the mainland to Macau with travel documents to engage in illegal currency exchange activities, primarily targeting gamblers at major casinos in Cotai and those who needed to exchange currency in casino ancillary facilities.

According to the investigation, the group had been opera-

ting the illegal exchange service for at least two months, earning an estimated HKD430,000 in illegal profits.

The police have transferred the four suspects to the public prosecutor's office for operating an illegal foreign exchange group for gambling, in violation of Law No. 2024 on Combating Illegal Gambling Crimes, imple-

mented Oct. 29, 2024.

In a separate case, PJ announced another case of illegal currency exchange for gambling, involving a middle-aged male non-resident witness and two suspects. The investigation, conducted by the police, uncovered a scheme where the suspects were engaged in unauthorized foreign exchange activities wi-

thin the premises of a large hotel in Cotai.

The first suspect is a 43-year-old mainland resident, while the second suspect is a 46-year-old mainland resident reported to be a receptionist. On Nov. 13, 2024, at around 4 p.m., the officers conducted an investigation at the hotel and discovered the suspects behaving suspiciously.

During the inspection, the officers observed the second suspect handing over casino chips to the first suspect, who then conducted a currency exchange with the witness. The first suspect showed the witness a QR code to receive the payment, and after the transfer, he confirmed the corresponding RMB had been received and handed the HKD50,000 chips to the witness.

The investigation subsequently revealed that the two suspects were engaged in illegal foreign exchange activities in Macau. The first suspect was responsible for finding customers and negotiating the exchange, while the second suspect handled the transactions and profited from the exchange rate differences.

The officers seized various tools used in the illegal activities, including mobile phones and a significant amount of cash and casino chips.

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IN MACAU (2023)



FINANCE

Gov't expects MOP240b GGR in 2025

VICTORIA CHAN

THE government has projected gross gaming revenues (GGR) of MOP240 billion for 2025, an increase of approximately 11% compared to the current year's budget estimate of MOP216 billion.

This forecast is detailed in the 2025 fiscal budget submitted to the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The government anticipates continued recovery in the integrated tourism and leisure sector, expecting an uptick in visitor numbers. However, it acknowledges that "the tourism and consumption model may change."

In 2025, the government plans to invest MOP25.78 billion in various initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of the population. This includes a pecuniary participation plan and an extraordinary distribution of budget surpluses amounting to MOP7,000 under the non-mandatory central pension scheme.

The 2025 budget proposal includes a cash sharing plan, estimated at MOP8.564 billion, which will



provide direct financial support to the people.

Additionally, the government has allocated resources to medical subsidies and residential electricity subsidies, intended to alleviate the financial burden on households. This budget places an emphasis on investing in the long-term growth and development of the local population, with a significant allocation of MOP13.94 billion towards the continuing education development plan.

The budget also includes provi-

sions for free education subsidies, tuition fee subsidies for Macau resident students, study supplies subsidies for college students, and support for private education institutions. In addition, the budget seeks to address the needs of seniors and the disadvantaged within society, with seniority allowances, pensions, disability pensions, disability allowances, and special subsidies for three types of disadvantaged families, as well as regular assistance.

The proposed budget law for

next year retains a range of tax deduction and exemption measures totaling approximately MOP4.8 billion. Estimated budget expenditure for the Investment and Development Expenditure Plan (PIDA) is set at MOP19.7 billion for the economic year 2025.

Overall, the budget is projected to yield a surplus of MOP7.7 billion, with anticipated revenues of MOP121 billion against expenditures of MOP113.3 billion. Contributions from gaming taxes are expected to reach MOP84 billion.

BUDGET EXECUTION RATE AT 53%

The Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs of the AL yesterday reported that the fiscal reserve balance stood at MOP602.47 billion as of June 30, reflecting a 3.8% increase of MOP22 billion from the end of 2023.

Committee chairman and lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng reported that actual revenue from the budget in the first half of the year was MOP57.22 billion, with an implementation rate of 53.4%.

Expenditures totaled MOP46.32 billion, achieving an implementation rate of 43.7%. This resulted in a budget execution surplus of MOP10.9 billion for first half of the year, as revenues surpassed expenditures.

Wong noted that there were 233 projects during this period, with 26 projects reporting a budget utilization rate of zero. The Cultural Affairs Bureau, Financial Services Bureau and University of Macau each had four projects lacking utilization, while the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) had three.

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RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES

THIS year's Greater Bay Area (GBA) GT Cup race will present a 28-car field. This year's event, which has been part of the local Grand Prix program for some time, has finally been stabilized and will be run under GT4 specification cars, following past editions that featured mixed cars with different specifications, sometimes detracting from the event.

The lineup this year features racers from the GBA but also other countries and regions, giving the race a more international appeal and allowing competitors from various Asian championships to participate in the local event.

The race also features a wide variety of automobiles from prestigious marques that, as GT4 specifications provide, are much closer to the road vehicles we see every day, which is also an attractive feature.

Brands such as Aston Martin, Audi, BMW, Ginetta, KTM, Lotus, McLaren, Mercedes, Porsche and Toyota are part of this year's GBA GT Cup, with some well-known names and even internet celebrities. One example is Malaysian racing star Leona Chin, who gained



international notoriety for a series of prank videos in collaboration with a motorsports channel in Malaysia.

But her driving skills are no joke, and she is prepared to give her best, despite this being the first time she races in Macau on the Guia Circuit. Chin will be driving a Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS from the Z.SPEED team, alongside

teammate Alessandro Ghiretti at the wheel of a similar car.

Local racer Kevin Leong will be competing in a BMW M4 GT4. In a similar car will be Lo Ka Chun, a driver with extensive experience and strong past performance around the streets of Macau, particularly in his former Ginetta G55.

The Ginetta models will also be back on track with

good numbers, showcasing the trust in and potential of this car. This time, they will be in the hands of Brian Lai, Lou Cheok In, Ho Ka Meng, Kenny Chung, and Lao Kim Hou. Mercedes-AMG cars have also been very successful in both GT4 and GT3 categories. Eight of these cars will be featured this year. Notable among these entries this year are Team

TRC's Terence Tse and Kevin Tse.

In previous editions, the Guia Circuit's technical challenges combined with the inexperience of certain drivers have led to red flags and long Safety Car periods. The hope is for a smoother race this year without such interruptions, allowing fans to experience a good racing show.

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F&B

Japan's sake brewers hope UNESCO heritage listing can boost rice wine's appeal

YURI KAGEYAMA, OME

DEEP in a dark warehouse the sake sleeps, stored in rows of giant tanks, each holding more than 10,000 liters (2,640 gallons) of the Japanese rice wine that is the product of brewing techniques dating back more than 1,000 years.

Junichiro Ozawa, the 18th-generation head of Ozawa Brewery, founded in 1702, hopes sake-brewing will win recognition as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, when the decision is made next month.

"We always think about the people who're enjoying our sake when we make it. I'm now so excited, imagining the faces of all the people around the world," he told reporters Wednesday evening during a tour of his brewery on the pastoral outskirts of Tokyo.

Sake, the drink of choice for the nobility in "The Tale of Genji" — Japan's most celebrated work of literature — has been widening its appeal, boosted by the growing international popularity of Japanese cuisine.

Sake exports from Japan total more than 41 billion yen (\$265 million) a year, with the biggest destinations being the U.S. and China, according to the Japan Sake and Shochu

AP PHOTO



Bottles of Sawanoi, a Japanese sake brand by Ozawa Sake Brewery

Makers Association.

That's up from about 22 billion yen in 2018. But exports still make up a tiny fraction of overall sake production in Japan. Brazil, Mexico and Southeast Asia, as well as France and the rest of Europe, all places where Japanese restaurants are gaining popularity, are starting to take a liking to sake.

What's key to sake-making, which takes about two months, including fermentation

and pressing, are the rice and the water.

For a product to be categorized Japanese sake, the rice must be Japanese. The relatively soft quality of freshwater in Japan, like the supplies provided by the two wells at Ozawa Brewery, is also critical.

Among Ozawa's sake is the full-bodied aromatic Junmai Daiginjo, one of the top offerings, with 15% alcohol content and costing about 3,630

yen (\$23) for a 720 milliliter bottle.

Karakuti Nigorizake is unrefined sake, murky and not clear like usual sake, with 17% alcohol content and a rugged no-nonsense taste. It sells for 2,420 yen (\$16) for a 1,800 milliliter bottle.

The religious connotations of sake are evident at the brewery. The big cedar-leaves ball hanging under the eaves is a symbol of a shrine for the god of sake-making. In Japan,

sake is used to purify and to celebrate. Sips from a cup signify the sealing of a marriage.

"Sake is not just an alcoholic beverage. It is Japanese culture itself," said Hitoshi Utsunomiya, director of the Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association.

The UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage designation is given to not just historical monuments but also practices passed down generations, such as oral traditions, performing arts, rituals and festivals.

It's not meant to be used for commercial purposes. But sake officials make no secret of their hope that it will boost global sales, helping the tradition stay alive amid competition from beer, wine and other modern beverages.

Among previous Intangible Cultural Heritage inclusions are Kabuki theater and Gagaku court music from Japan, as well as Sona, which are drawings on sand in Angola; the Chinese zither called guqin and Cremonese violin craftsmanship from Italy. Washoku, or Japanese cuisine, won the honors in 2013.

One reason for sake's growing popularity around the world is that its smooth flavor goes well with varieties of food, including sushi, spicy Asian and Western dishes, says Max Del Vita, a certified sake sommelier and co-founder of The Sake Company, an import and distribution retailer in Singapore.

"These brewers are cultural stewards, passing down techniques through generations and blending ancient practices with quiet innovation," he told The Associated Press. "Sake is more than a drink. It is a living embodiment of Japan's seasonal rhythms, community values and artistic heritage." **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China to host outdoor concert series



Sands China is launching an outdoor concert series titled "Classics Reimagined: Golden Hour Harmonies", scheduled for November 30 and December 1 at the Macao Cultural Centre Plaza. This event features performances by the Janoska En-

semble, Niu Niu, and Gordon Lee, along with a special masterclass by the Janoska Ensemble.

The Janoska Ensemble will perform on November 30, showcasing their innovative "Janoska Style."

On December 1, Niu Niu

will present his first solo concert in Macau, while Gordon Lee will offer an interactive harmonica performance.

Free tickets are available at select locations from November 16, with limited quantities on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Sands China remains dedicated to facilitating cultural exchange through its ongoing commitment to the arts. Launched in 2023, the Sands China Performing Arts Programme aims to broaden the scope of performing arts in Macao by introducing and promoting premier national, local, and overseas projects," the gaming operator said in a statement.

Wynn collaborates with EHL Hospitality Business School to launch management program



Wynn has partnered with Switzerland's EHL Hospitality Business School to launch a certified hospitality management program aimed at nurturing future professionals in Macau's

hotel and tourism sector.

This course has attracted 20 local youths, providing them with valuable vocational training and insights into hotel operations and essential hospitality skills.

EHL, recognized as the world's leading hotel management school, offers a team of international experts to ensure a high-quality educational experience.

In addition to this program, Wynn is developing its own training courses focused on personal effectiveness, leadership skills, luxury brand management, and hospitality data analytics, designed to enhance local talent's professional knowledge.

The curriculum will include event planning and management, equipping participants with practical skills through training and case studies, according to a statement released by the gaming operator.

BRIEFS

HONG KONG: SEVEN NEW NURSING HOMES OPEN TO RETIREES FROM HK

Seven new government-subsidized nursing homes in Guangdong now serve Hong Kong retirees. The homes, located in Guangzhou, Foshan, and Zhongshan, are operated by mainland institutions or joint ventures with Hong Kong organizations. The program, launched in 2014, now includes 11 facilities, offering more options for elderly citizens awaiting care.

GUANGZHOU: CONSTRUCTION OF FLYING CAR MANUFACTURING BASE STARTS

Guangzhou has begun building the world's first flying car manufacturing base, marking progress in the low-altitude economy. The XPENG AEROHT project will produce up to 10,000 flying cars annually. The base, covering 180,000 square meters, will assemble components for the Land Aircraft Carrier, a modular flying car in development.

SHENZHEN: MARINE ECONOMY EXPO ATTRACTS INDUSTRY LEADERS

The 2024 China Marine Economy Expo in Shenzhen drew over 400 marine sector representatives. The event spotlighted innovations such as unmanned vessels and semisubmersible platforms. With over 150 experts and ambassadors discussing maritime technologies, shipping, and ocean sustainability, the expo highlighted Shenzhen's role in advancing the marine industry.

ZHUHAI: NEW DRONE DELIVERY ROUTE TO SHENZHEN IN SERVICE

SF Express launched a new drone delivery route between Zhuhai and Shenzhen to meet high-demand needs during the Double 11 shopping festival. The route mainly transports time-sensitive goods like fresh produce and seafood. With peak season manpower shortages, Zhuhai is enhancing automation with unmanned forklifts to streamline operations.

FOSHAN: TOURIST NUMBERS GO UP AS NEW INITIATIVES BEAR FRUIT

Foshan's tourism sector saw a strong performance in 2024, with 45.57 million visitors and a 17.49% increase in revenue to 46.66 billion yuan. The city is attracting tourists with diverse cultural, sports, and heritage events, and leveraging old building revitalization to further boost tourism spending and interest.

ZHUHAI AIRSHOW

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS ESTABLISHES BASE

ANALYSIS

AIRBUS Helicopters, a division of European aircraft giant Airbus and the world's largest helicopter manufacturer, has launched its new China headquarters in the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. According to China Daily, this move signals Airbus Helicopters' strong commitment to expanding within China's burgeoning general aviation market.

Airbus Helicopters stated that the new headquarters, located across the sea from Macau, demonstrates its dedication to developing China's general aviation sector, particularly in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The company also sees this as a step toward supporting China's low-altitude economy. This announcement was made during the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as the Zhuhai Airshow, which started Tuesday and will continue through Sunday.

In a related development, Airbus Helicopters signed a contract with China Southern Airlines General Aviation (CSAGA) to provide two H175 helicopters for offshore energy missions. CSAGA, which currently operates three Airbus helicopters, is expected to receive the new H175s in 2025 and 2026. Additionally, CSAGA signed a letter of intent with SKYCO International Financial Leasing Co., Ltd., a state-owned enterprise specializing in aircraft financing, to lease six Airbus H175 helicopters. SKYCO plans to purchase an additional six H175s from Airbus Helicopters, intending to use the aircraft in offshore energy operations.

CSAGA, a subsidiary of China Southern Airlines Group Co., Ltd., is one of the country's leading providers of offshore oil and gas operations and emergency rescue services. Known for its high standards in operational safety, CSAGA holds the record for the longest safety hours in China's general aviation sector.

China Daily reports that these agreements mark a significant milestone for the Chinese aviation industry. For the first time, a helicopter developed in China and completed in Europe will enter China's energy market. Colin James, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters in China, remarked on the importance of collaboration to drive the low-altitude economy forward: "Now more than ever, it is of critical importance for the development of the low-altitude



PAULO COUTINHO/MDT



AP PHOTOS

economy, and all stakeholders to work together on pro-Chinese solutions to promote the low-altitude economy," he said.

As of the end of 2023, China's registered general aviation fleet reached 5,016, reflecting an increase of 160 from the previous year, according to a recent report by the China Air Transport Association (CATA). General aviation in China includes a broad range of activities beyond commercial air transport, including agricultural and forestry protection, industrial patrols, emergency rescue operations, and the use of drones. "General aviation refers to all civil aviation activities other than commercial air trans-

port," said Sun Weiguo, General Manager of the general aviation department of CATA.

In 2022, China's general aviation sector set records for flight hours, aircraft numbers, and operating companies. Traditional general aviation aircraft recorded 1.37 million flight hours, up by 12.4% from the previous

Air freight's future: capacity and consumption

ON THE AGENDA BY NADIA SHAW, MDT, HONG KONG

A panel discussion at the Hong Kong International Airport Super Terminal Expo last week focused on the evolving air freight industry in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and globally, particularly in the context of e-commerce and operational capacity. The panel's participants included Paul Cheng, Executive Director of Operations at Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited; Cao Yunchun, Director of the Civil Aviation University of China; Cissy Chan, Executive Commercial Director of the Hong Kong Airport Authority; and David West, Vice President of Cargo at IBS Software. Each panelist brought their unique insights to the challenges and opportunities facing the air freight industry today.

Paul Cheng opened the discussion by emphasizing the importance of capacity within air freight operations.

"As a cargo terminal, we always focus on our material handling systems," he said.



NADIA SHAW

Cheng said Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl) has two major, fully-automated container storage facilities capable of handling 3.5 million tons of freight annually. He noted that in 2023, Hactl processed 1.6 billion tons of freight, indicating significant room for growth.

"We can support the development of Hong Kong International Airport and handle more freight when our three-way systems become fully operational by the end of this month," he said.

Cao Yunchun discussed the efficiency of ground-based aviation logistics. He suggested that while many believe only

10% of the human brain is efficiently utilized, it might be closer to 60-70%.

"The tranquility of customs processes, as well as the coordination among various links—like unloading and storage—are critical," he explained.

The Director of the Civil Aviation University of China stressed that as automation and digitalization improve, management practices must evolve accordingly, keeping pace with technological advancements.

The discussion then shifted to the impact of e-commerce on air freight operations. David West provided an industry perspective, noting that while capa-

SE IN COOPERATION ZONE IN HENGQIN



year. By July, China had 465 general aviation airports, with Heilongjiang, Guangdong, and Jiangsu provinces hosting the largest numbers. Additionally, 712 general aviation companies were operating in China.

Airbus Helicopters operates over 340 helicopters in China, accounting for 34% of the coun-

try's civil helicopter market share. Since entering the Chinese market in 2006, Airbus Helicopters has established multiple branches in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and several other major cities across the country. Other major players in China's helicopter industry include Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. of the

U.S., Italy's Leonardo SpA, and Russian Helicopters.

The 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, commonly known as Airshow China or the Zhuhai Airshow, opened on Tuesday in Zhuhai. This year's show includes air displays by the PLA's latest stealth fighters and Russian

military aircraft. The event has drawn 1,022 companies from 47 countries and regions, with the number of foreign exhibitors increasing to 159 from 78 last year. The six-day exhibition showcases advanced aerospace and military technologies from around the world and will conclude on Sunday. **PC**

mer trends

city utilization might be around 50%, it varies significantly based on operational efficiencies and access points.

"It's not just about how much you can store but how quickly you can turn over inventory," he said.

He said e-commerce has transformed consumer expectations, leading to shorter delivery times and increased pressure on logistics providers.

Cheng echoed these sentiments, stating that e-commerce has become a "new norm" in the industry.

"It supports growth across the entire aircraft industry," he remarked. However, he also acknowledged that this shift places additional demands on freight handlers to ensure efficient processing and timely deliveries.

"Consumers want shorter delivery times, which means we need to be prepared for peak demands," he noted.

Cao characterized e-commerce as a consumer revolution that has fundamentally changed purchasing behaviors.

"We can now buy goods from anywhere in the world at any time," he said. He said that while this has enhanced consumer

welfare, it also poses challenges such as increased packaging waste and reverse logistics pressures.

DIVERSE NEEDS

Cissy Chan highlighted the necessity for tailored solutions within air freight operations to meet diverse customer needs driven by e-commerce.

"One size does not fit all," she asserted, explaining that different products require different handling processes.

For instance, luxury items like watches, necessitate express services for visibility and security, while general merchandise may be shipped via standard freight practices.

Chan also mentioned ongoing developments at Hong Kong International Airport to accommodate these varying requirements.

"Alibaba's Cainiao has established a premium logistics center here primarily for e-commerce fulfillment," she revealed, underscoring the airport's commitment to adapting its infrastructure for future demands.

Located in the South Cargo Precinct of Hong Kong International Airport, Cainiao Smart Gateway is developed by a joint venture led by Cainiao Network, a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, which includes China Aviation

Group and Yantong Express as major stakeholders.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the discussion concluded, panelists agreed on the importance of collaboration across sectors to navigate the complexities introduced by e-commerce. Cheng said adapting to these changes requires not only robust infrastructure but also innovative business models.

"We started a new model 24 years ago called one-stop-shop solution services," he explained. This model integrates various aspects of freight handling to ensure efficiency across operations.

West added that as e-commerce continues to evolve, so too will its challenges and opportunities for air freight operators.

"With problems come opportunities," he noted optimistically.

The insights shared during this panel reflect a dynamic air freight industry poised for growth amid evolving consumer expectations and technological advancements. As stakeholders work together to enhance operational efficiencies and adapt to new market realities, the future of air freight in Hong Kong appears promising yet challenging.

Speaking to the Times at the opening ceremony of the expo, Michael Duck, Executive Vice President of Commercial De-

velopment at Informa Markets, emphasized the significance of the Asia-Pacific region.

"This event encompasses all countries and regions within the Asia-Pacific area, and my company is based in Hong Kong to leverage this strategic location." He highlighted the importance of Hong Kong as a hub for trade shows, noting, "We host numerous trade shows here, catering to markets throughout the region."

Duck also acknowledged Macau's pivotal role in regional connectivity, asserting that "Macau has always been, and remains, a vital hub for tourism, banking, and leisure activities." He further elaborated on the operational significance of the Macau airport, stating, "The Macau airport plays a crucial role in facilitating the movement of people in and out of the city."

In discussing collaboration between airports in the region, Duck remarked, "If you speak with the Hong Kong International Airport Authority, they'll outline the various agreements in place to collaborate on air traffic control and passenger movement." He concluded by expressing optimism about future developments: "As these connections expand in Hong Kong, they will similarly enhance connectivity with Macau."

BRIEFS

HUIZHOU: ECONOMY SHOWS GOOD

PERFORMANCE JAN-SEPT

Huizhou's GDP grew 4.7% year-on-year in the first three quarters of 2024, reaching 420 billion yuan. Industrial output rose by 8.8%, while retail sales increased by 2.5%. Foreign trade surged by 17.5%, positioning Huizhou as a leader in Guangdong for retail growth and underlining the city's strong economic foundation.

DONGGUAN: IP-BASED LOANS OPENED TO APPLY FOR TOY COMPANIES

Dongguan introduced a new loan program for toy companies, allowing intellectual properties to be used as collateral. The Bank of Dongguan offers loans up to 30 million yuan. Three toy manufacturers have secured 55 million yuan in loans, supporting the growth and innovation of Dongguan's toy industry.

ZHONGSHAN: SHENZHEN-ZHONGSHAN LINK EXTENDED TO NANSHA

The Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link now connects to Nansha, cutting travel time to Shenzhen Baoan International Airport to 20 minutes. The 24-kilometer expressway, which opened in June, facilitates cross-river travel and has registered over 10 million vehicles. The extension enhances connectivity across the Pearl River estuary, boosting regional transportation efficiency.

JIANGMEN: CITY SEALS TRADE PACT WITH INDONESIAN CONGLOMERATE

Jiangmen's commerce bureau signed a trade agreement with Indonesia's Kawan Lama Group at the 136th Canton Fair to boost exports. This deal follows previous successful collaborations, with the group sourcing 300 million yuan of Jiangmen goods. The partnership further strengthens trade relations and expands Jiangmen's market presence in Indonesia.

ZHAOQING: ESG ACCOUNTS TO SPEED UP COMPANIES' GREEN PUSH

Zhaoqing launched ESG accounts for 314 companies in its high-tech industrial zone to monitor green and digital transformation. These accounts streamline loan access and support sustainability goals. Firms lagging behind can use the accounts to secure funding for transformation, accelerating progress toward a greener, more digital economy in Zhaoqing.

BELT AND ROAD

President Xi will unveil a megaport in Peru, but locals say they're being left out

SABEL DEBRE & FRANKLIN BRICEÑO, CHANCAY

ON the edge of Peru's coastal desert, a remote fishing town where a third of all residents have no running water is being transformed into a huge deep-water port to cash in on the inexorable rise of Chinese interest in resource-rich South America.

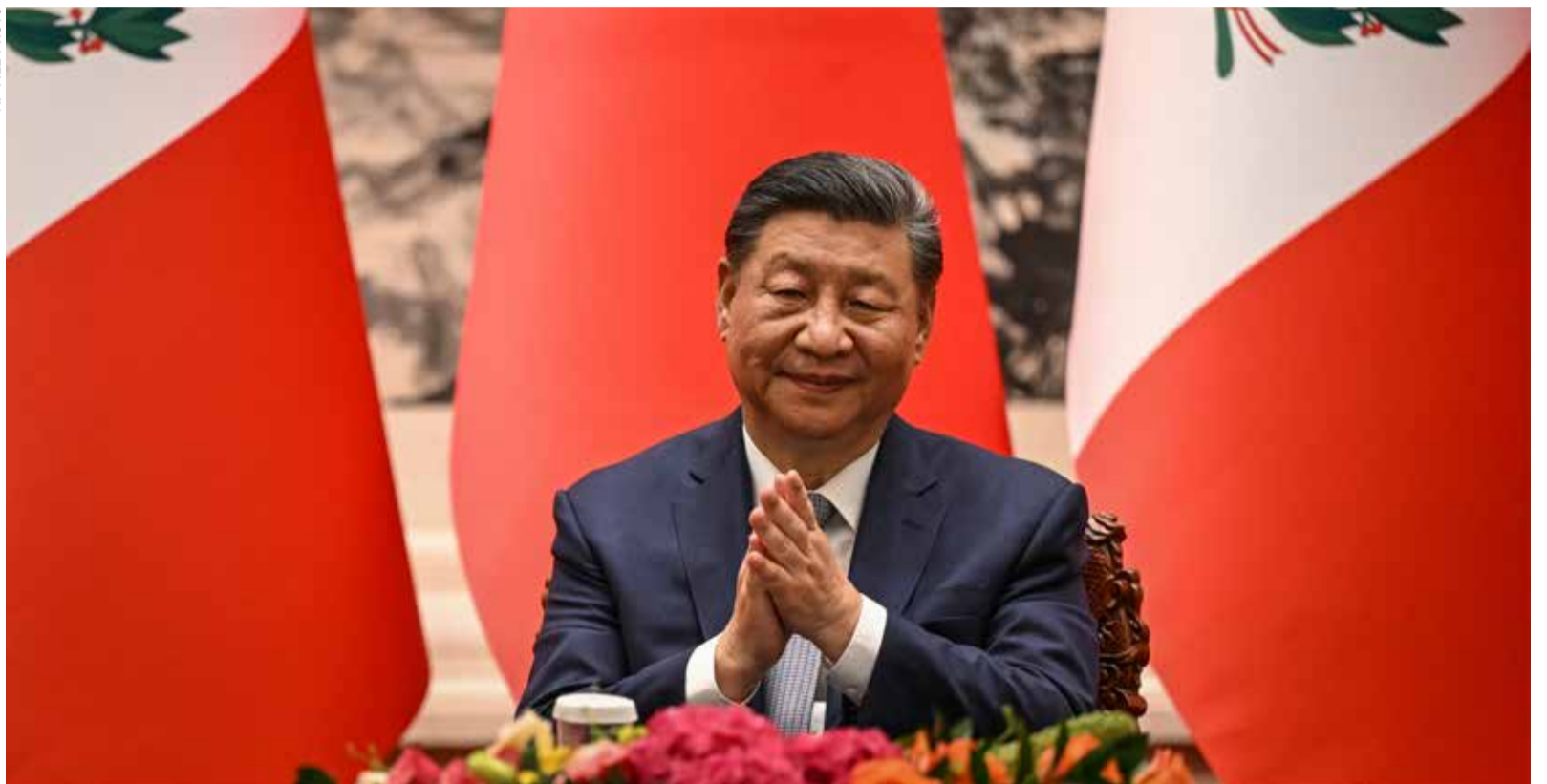
The megaport of Chancay, a \$1.3 billion project majority-owned by the Chinese shipping giant Cosco, is turning this outpost of bobbing fishing boats into an important node of the global economy. China's President Xi Jinping inaugurates the port today [Macau time] during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Peru.

The development — expected to encompass 15 quays and a large industrial park drawing more than \$3.5 billion in investment over a decade — has met a skeptical response from impoverished villagers, who say it is depriving them of fishing waters and bringing no economic benefit to locals.

"Our fishing spots no longer exist here. They destroyed them," said 78-year-old fisherman Julius Caesar — "like the emperor of Rome" — gesturing toward the dockside cranes. "I don't blame the Chinese for trying to mine this place for all it's worth. I blame our government for not protecting us."

The Peruvian government hopes the port 60 kilometers north of Lima will become a strategic transshipment hub for the region, opening a new line connecting South America to Asia and speeding trade across the Pacific for Pe-

AP FILE PHOTO



ru's blueberries, Brazil's soybeans and Chile's copper, among other exports. Officials cite the port's potential to generate millions of dollars in revenues and turn coastal cities into so-called special economic zones with tax breaks to lure investment.

"We Peruvians are focused primarily on the well-being of Peruvians," Foreign Minister Elmer Schialer told The Associated Press.

But many of Chancay's 60,000 residents are unconvinced. Fishermen returning to port with smaller catches complain that they have already lost out.

The dredging of the port — which sucked sediment from the seabed to create a shipping channel 17 meters (56 feet) deep — has ruined fish breeding grounds, locals said.

"I've been out in the water all day and I'm always needing to venture farther," said Rafael Ávila, a 28-year-old fisherman with sand in his hair, returning to shore empty-handed and exhausted.

"This used to be enough," he said, pointing at his painted dinghy. "Now I need a larger, more expensive boat to reach the fish."

To make extra cash, Ávila started offering occasional joyrides to selfie-taking visitors wanting to get a glimpse at the hulking Chinese ships.

With some of the world's largest container ships to berth at Chancay Port in January 2025, residents also fear the arrival of pollution and oil spills. In 2022, a botched tanker delivery at La Pampilla refinery nearby sent thousands of barrels of crude oil spilling into

Peru's famously biodiverse waters, killing countless fish and putting legions of fishermen out of work.

Today a glance at the moribund town center, featuring mostly empty seafood restaurants, tells the story of diminished fishing stocks and decimated tourism even without the port being operational.

The port's breakwater changed the currents and destroyed good surfing conditions, locals said, affecting everyone from ice vendors to truckers to restaurant owners. "No to the megaport" is spray-painted on a wall overlooking the waterfront.

"This port is a monster that's come here to screw us," said 40-year-old Rosa Collantes, cleaning and gutting slimy drum fish on the shore. "People come to the

port and they say 'Wow, tremendous!' but they don't see the reality."

Port authorities say they're aware of the stark contrast between the sleek modern port and the surrounding village of Chancay, where many live on unpaved roads lined with ragged shacks and littered with trash.

"You cannot build a state-of-the-art port and have a city next to it that has no drinking water, no sewage, a collapsing hospital and no educational centers," said Mario de las Casas, a manager for Cosco in Chancay, adding that the company had already launched studies to determine how the port could help reduce inequality and spur local growth.

"The port should not be a blemish," De las Casas said. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Mastermind of foiled bomb plot to target police is jailed for nearly 24 years

THE mastermind behind a foiled bomb plot during anti-government protests in Hong Kong in 2019 has been jailed for nearly 24 years in the city's first case brought under a United Nations anti-terrorism law.

Ng Chi-hung, who had previously pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit the bombing of prescribed

objects under the anti-terrorism law and possession of arms or ammunition with intent to endanger life, was sentenced to 23 years and 10 months by a Hong Kong court yesterday.

He was among seven convicted defendants who appeared in court for their roles in the plot to plant two bombs and shoot officers along a rally route on

Dec. 8, 2019, during a time when accusations of police brutality in handling protesters were widespread.

The seven are not well-known activists in the semi-autonomous Chinese city's pro-democracy movement, but their case has drawn attention because the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance was invoked.

Hong Kong enacted the law to implement a U.N. Security Council resolution passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

According to local media, prosecutors said most of the defendants in the case were members of two groups — one led by Ng and another called "Dragon Slaying Brigade." The

prosecution said members of the brigade planned to lure police officers onto an area where bombs would be detonated and a sniper would target them.

Wong Chun-keung, leader of the brigade, was sentenced to more than 13 years. Five other defendants received prison terms ranging from nearly six years to 12 years.

In August, six other defendants, who had pleaded not guilty, were acquitted by a panel of jurors.

The 2019 protests marked the most concerted challenge to the Hong Kong government since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Following the protests, more than 10,000 people have been arrested in connection with the often-violent social unrest sparked by a now-withdrawn extradition bill, which would have allowed suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China. **MDT/AP**

PHILIPPINES

Strong typhoon prompts more evacuations, the fifth major storm to hit in three weeks

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

THE fifth major storm in three weeks slammed into the northeastern Philippines yesterday, prompting more largescale evacuations and a United Nations call for emergency funds to help the government address the plight of hard-hit rural villagers.

Typhoon Usagi had sustained winds of up to 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph) when it slammed into the coastal town of Baggao in Cagayan province at the northern tip of Luzon, the country's most populous agricultural region. Locally named Ofel, the typhoon was barreling northwestward and was forecast to blow away overnight toward southern Taiwan.

Another storm was brewing in the Pacific and may hit the nor-



AP PHOTO

Residents arrive at a school used as a temporary evacuation center as they evacuate their homes at Santa Ana, Cagayan province, yesterday

thern Philippines this weekend, according to forecasters.

The country's weather agency warned of life-threatening tidal surges of more than 3 meters in coastal areas of Cagayan and se-

ven other nearby provinces and clusters of islands, and urged all ships to remain in port or immediately take shelter.

Typhoon Toraji blew away from the northern Philippines

just two days ago after unleashing floods, knocking down power lines and forcing more than 82,500 people to evacuate their homes.

The government has struggled to deal with the impact of the last four major storms, which left at least 160 people dead, displaced millions and devastated farmland and infrastructure, mostly in the northern Luzon region.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration has spent more than 1 billion pesos (\$17 million) for food and other aid for hundreds of thousands of storm victims, Welfare Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, who oversees disaster-response efforts, sought the help of neighboring countries, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, in providing additional aircraft to transport food, water and other aid to

villages isolated by the storms. The United States, Manila's longtime treaty ally, deployed cargo aircraft with food and other assistance.

The U.N. Humanitarian Country Team in the Philippines said it was raising \$32.9 million to help the government provide assistance to about 210,000 people in critical need of aid and protection, especially women, children and people with disabilities, in the next three months.

"The Philippines is facing an exceptionally challenging tropical cyclone season, with successive cyclones reaching unprecedented locations and scales," the U.N. team said in its emergency plan. "Local authorities, who are often impacted themselves, are overwhelmed as they simultaneously respond to the crisis and coordinate rescue efforts for affected families."

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year. It is often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest recorded tropical cyclones, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages and caused ships to run aground and smash into houses in the central Philippines. **MDT/AP**

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USA

Trump's picks for top foreign policy posts could reassure allies - and worry China

ELLEN KNICKMEYER & DIDI TANG, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump is famously unconventional, but he made conventional picks for his two top foreign policy positions. That could be reassuring to American allies, while China and Iran have reasons to be wary.

Trump yesterday (Macau time) announced his choice of Sen. Marco Rubio for secretary of state. Two days earlier, he picked Rep. Mike Waltz for national security adviser.

Both men share Trump's hard-line stance on China and Iran. They have shown themselves willing to adapt their foreign-policy positions to echo aspects of Trump's more isolationist "America First" approach — a requirement for anyone serving under a president who demands absolute loyalty.

But both are fairly mainstream conservatives with foreign policy experience who have previously differed with Trump on Russia, NATO and other issues.

They've also been open to working with Democrats — a point underscored when Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Rubio would be a "strong voice for American interests" abroad.

U.S. allies may be relieved that Rubio was selected over Richard Grenell for secretary of state. Grenell is an ardent and combative Trump advocate and former diplomat and intelligence official, with a reputation for favoring autocratic strongmen abroad.

Rubio, a 14-year veteran of the Senate, is a senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and Foreign Relations Committee. His roots as the son of Cuban immigrants who worked as a bartender and a hotel maid after coming to the United States helped shape his tough positions on the leftist governments of Cuba and Venezuela.

While Trump has alarmed U.S. allies in Europe with his



Sen. Marco Rubio: New Secretary of State of Trump administration

criticism of the NATO military alliance and praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose war on Ukraine has galvanized European fears of Russian expansionism, Rubio is instrumental in the Senate in securing the U.S. position in NATO. He and Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine spearheaded legislation to bar any president from pulling the U.S. out of NATO without Senate approval or an act of Congress.

But Rubio, like Waltz in the House, has altered his public statements and legislative votes to more closely align with Trump's criticism of the Biden administration's backing of Ukraine as it battles invading Russian forces. After early votes and supportive statements for Ukraine after Russia's 2022 attack, Rubio and Waltz more recently voted against additional military aid to Ukraine. Rubio, like Trump, has increasingly stressed the need to end the war.

That's in contrast to Ukraine supporters in both parties who say the U.S. must support Ukraine's fight so it gets the best possible terms in any eventual cease-fire.

"I don't think he (Trump) puts people in positions that are going to disagree with him. He wants people to be loyal, and I don't think he's looking for people that are going to challenge his belie-

fs," said Kelly Grieco, a senior fellow at the Stimson Center, a Washington-based research institute. "So I think this is actually quite revealing, probably, of what the direction of U.S. policy will be, that it will be really hawkish on China in particular. And I think also on Iran."

In China, analysts consider Rubio and Waltz to be "ultra-hawkish" toward Beijing and have taken to calling them part of the "Florida faction" in foreign policy, since both are from the state. Trump piled tariffs on China in his first term and promises more tariffs in his next one.

Rubio has argued for a more confrontational approach toward China, and he has been a vocal supporter of Taiwan, which Beijing sees as Chinese territory.

Rubio is known in China as the "anti-China vanguard" for his ideologically driven, anti-communism stance. He landed on Beijing's blacklist in 2020 over his support for the minority Uyghurs in China's far western region of Xinjiang and for Hong Kong activists. He co-chaired the bipartisan Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which focuses on human rights, and introduced and supported numerous bills on China's rights issues.

The sanctions Beijing imposed on Rubio bar him

from visiting the country. It's unclear if China's foreign minister will meet with him given the ban, or how the ban will otherwise affect his dealings with Chinese officials.

For his part, Waltz is a former Green Beret with combat tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East, a former defense policy director in the Pentagon, and a senior member of the House committees for armed services, intelligence and oversight.

He's supported Western backing for Ukraine, saying doing nothing would invite further Russian aggression in Europe and draw in U.S. troops. But Waltz increasingly emphasizes the importance of Ukraine's neighbors stepping up, saying Europeans should be spending as much on Ukraine's defense as the United States does.

Robert Manning, a China expert at the Stimson Center, said Trump is not as ideologically driven as Rubio but he raised concerns that Trump's foreign policy could be more disruptive than President Joe Biden's.

"I think some in the Trump camp want to get rid of the Communist Party of China, which I think is a fool's errand, but nonetheless I think they're more focused on a different endgame than achieving a stable balance of power," he said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1951 MURDER ON MALAY RUBBER ESTATE



Anti-government rebels have ambushed and killed 11 people in an attack on a rubber plantation in Malaya.

The dead include a London director visiting the area, the manager of the estate and nine special constables on a foot inspection.

The attack is the latest in a long campaign by Communist forces opposed to British control of the Federation of Malaya.

It began with the murder of three British rubber planters in June 1948 - which led to the British declaring a state of emergency.

There have been more terror attacks in the Malay peninsula in the past few weeks than at any time since 1948.

On average, about 100 police officers have been killed every month this year.

The guerrillas' latest tactics include threatening to nail rubber tappers to the trees unless they go on strike.

Work on over 50,000 acres (202 square kilometres) of estates has now stopped - representing a daily loss of about 60,000 lbs (27,216 kg) of rubber.

Most of the estates affected are in the south-western states of Negri Sembilan and Malacca.

Workers on four other estates have defied the Communists and returned to work after they were given increased protection from security forces.

Intimidation by the rebels has led to problems recruiting labour to work on the plantations, even for higher wages in areas prone to attack.

This latest surge in guerrilla activity suggests the British government's expensive Briggs plan has failed.

The scheme - which has also proved very unpopular with locals - involved moving many of them from their jungle homes to new villages in areas more easily protected from the rebels.

It seems clear many local people are still afraid to co-operate with the security forces for fear of reprisals from the guerrillas.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Rubber Producers' Council admitted later the Communists were stealing 20% of rubber tapped on Malayan plantations and using the proceeds to finance their terrorist activities.

The British changed their tactics to win more local support and began addressing political and economic problems with the distant promise of independence. A government amnesty was offered to terrorists in 1955 and from then on the guerrilla campaign began to peter out. It was finally defeated in 1960.

Independence was granted in August 1957 and the state of emergency lifted in July 1960.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Emotional barriers dissolve upon discovery with Saturn stationing direct. Complete past issues. Release excess baggage. Nurture elders, antiques and heirlooms. Envision the future. Make plans.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Practice together for valuable skills. Teamwork flows easier with Saturn stationing direct in Pisces for the next seven months. Pool resources to get farther.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Take bold action for what you want. Now that Saturn is direct, professional challenges seem to dissolve. Advance your career by leaps and bounds.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Prepare to expand your exploration. Travels and studies get farther with less effort now that Saturn is direct. Disciplined actions reap extra benefits.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Collaborate to grow your shared assets. Cash flow increases with Saturn stationing direct. Review legal, insurance and tax matters. Financial discipline earns higher returns.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Explore the possibilities. Collaboration comes easier now that Saturn is direct. Romance can spark anew. Complete old projects and begin bold ventures. Work together.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your physical labors, services and work get farther, faster with Saturn direct now. Steady fitness routines produce extraordinary results over time. Practice your moves.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Follow your heart. Your game thrives on disciplined practice with Saturn direct now. Persistence pays with romance, art and creative projects. Develop your craft.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Home renovation projects surge ahead with Pisces Saturn direct. Enact dreams into plans. Disciplined, steady actions get results. Renovate to adapt to domestic changes.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Get the word out! Communication channels flow with greater velocity with Saturn direct. Launch campaigns, writing and recording projects. Disciplined action can realize creative dreams.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Discipline with finances generates savings growth. With Saturn direct for the next seven months, it's easier to make money. Expect solid gains with steady action.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Expand your territory with Saturn direct in your sign. It's easier to get farther. Consistent focus develops your studies and travels in fascinating directions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Changchun	2	12	cloudy
Chengdu	13	19	rain
Chongqing	17	22	cloudy
Fuzhou	21	28	overcast
Guangzhou	22	27	rain
Guiyang	15	25	overcast
Haikou	22	30	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	21	rain
Harbin	-3	5	cloudy
Hefei	15	22	overcast
Nanjing	17	24	cloudy
Shanghai	18	23	rain
Taipei	23	27	overcast
Wuhan	16	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	1	cloudy
Frankfurt	6	9	cloudy
Paris	7	12	cloudy
London	6	11	cloudy
New York	5	11	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Sarcastic; 6- Labyrinth; 10- Rat-___; 14- Andrea Bocelli, for one; 15- La Scala highlight; 16- Attire; 17- Conger catcher; 18- Juniors, perhaps; 19- Furthermore; 20- Orange drink; 21- An organization; 24- Afternoon performance; 26- Flammable gas; 27- Banned insecticide, for short; 28- "Peter and the Wolf" bird; 30- Airline to Ben-Gurion; 33- Serenaded; 35- Invite; 38- Lucy's landlady; 40- Formerly named; 41- Chip dip; 43- Old vitamin bottle abbr.; 44- Bear witness; 47- Take five; 48- Light ___; 49- Thanks, I already ___; 51- Two-time U.S. Open champ; 54- Capable of being healed; 58- Combine; 61- Armed conflict; 62- Fit to ___; 63- Fail to mention; 64- Become less intense, die off; 66- RR stops; 67- Four-star review; 68- Part of a military uniform; 69- Sailors; 70- Surgery souvenir; 71- Meager;

DOWN 1- Water vapor; 2- ___ lift?; 3- Cove; 4- Her partner would be a buck; 5- Run chore; 6- Pool stroke; 7- Buck follower; 8- Bluish white metallic element; 9- Least difficult; 10- Christie of mystery; 11- Actress Shire; 12- Burning of another's property; 13- Steak order; 22- Tennis matches are divided into these; 23- Dumas dueler; 25- Twiddling one's thumbs; 28- Scornful look; 29- Gets older; 30- Ballad ending; 31- Old Ford; 32- There you are!; 34- Opposed to; 35- Pub drink; 36- Puncture sound; 37- Crazy ___; 39- Dogie catcher; 42- Neighborhood; 45- Suit makers; 46- Lacking slack; 48- Evaluate; 50- Picks up the check; 51- With ___ of thousands!; 52- Must, informally; 53- Lend ___ (listen); 54- Provide food for; 55- African sir; 56- Caesar's tongue; 57- Set up; 59- Apple computer; 60- Prima donna; 65- Tampa Bay player, for short;



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



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DRIVE IN

A LUMINOUS SLICE OF MUMBAI LIFE IN 'ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT'

LINDSEY BAHR,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

THE rhythms of bustling, working-class Mumbai are brought to vivid life in "All We Imagine as Light." The stunning narrative debut of filmmaker Payal Kapadia explores the lives of three women in the city whose existence is mostly transit and work. Even that isn't always enough to get by and pay the rent. One of the women, a widow, recently retired from working her whole life at a city hospital, Parvaty (Chhaya Kadam), is even facing eviction.

The other two, roommates and co-workers in the maternity ward are in different parts of life. Prabha (Kani Kusruti) has a husband from an arranged marriage who she doesn't see and rarely speaks to. His life, we learn, is in Germany. She gets an occasional, ominous physical reminder of his existence in objects, like a fancy rice maker, that arrives one day. But she carries the weight of her arrangement everywhere, an invisible anchor on her being.

Anu (Divya Prabha) is even younger, trying to figure out what her life is going to look like and already in something of an impossible situation: She's fallen in love with Shiz (Hridhu Haroon), who is Muslim. She's Hindu. But in a



Kani Kusruti (left) and Divya Prabha in a scene from "All We Imagine As Light" (Janus and Sideshow Films)

city of over 20 million, a secret relationship can have some room to grow. Yes, they're hiding this from their families, a burden in and of itself, but in the night markets with the city glimmering and moving around them, they're able to just be.

Prabha is a little judgmental of her more carefree (possibly care-

less) younger housemate. More companions by circumstance than friends exactly, these women have different ideas about life, but we watch as they grow closer and understand one another more. Prabha even allows herself to go for a walk with a doctor who is clearly interested in her. A small act of agency and rebellion

against her circumstances.

These are not easy lives, either: Their apartment is drab and small, their activities mundane, their conversations ordinary. But even as hard as it is to exist in a place that not only doesn't love you back, it barely even notices you, something is always happening. How can anything be truly

dull in a place always thrumming with life? Far from being a maudlin, bleak affair, Kapadia makes the banal cinematic. There is a dreamlike incandescence to it all, not a rejection of reality so much as a poetic detachment from it.

And like a dream, this is a film that washes over you. The mechanisms of the plot are not really the point, we're just moving in time with Anu and Prabha. And while Anu's forbidden love and Prabha's existential longing will surely come to a head at some point in their journey, the most urgent of realities is Parvaty's unexpected housing crisis. The city is making way for more luxury high rises and pricing out the people who make everything run and work. So, they go to the sea.

"All We Imagine as Light," in theaters Friday, has been widely celebrated since its Cannes premiere, and Kapadia heralded as a major new talent to watch, which is just as it should be. The film is a reminder of the transcendent power of cinema, even, and perhaps especially, when not all that much is happening.

"All We Imagine as Light," a Sideshow/Janus Films release in select theaters Friday, has not been rated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 118 minutes. ★★★★★

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**MACAU
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TASTE OF EDESIA

Whimsical Holidays

IRENE SAM, MDT

THE year-end holiday season is coming and W Macau is one of the best places to be. Perfect for those seeking a traditional celebration during the holidays, **DIVA** offers an immersive and contemporary Cantonese dining experience in December. To honour the holiday spirit, it will serve an exclusive eight-course menu, featuring a harmonious blend of local Macau flavours, all crafted to perfection. Highlight dishes include Applewood-Smoked Wok-fried A5 Kobe Beef with White Porcini, Double-boiled Ningxia Lamb in Superior Broth, and Cuttlefish in Garlic Chili Oil.

As part of Macallan's 200th anniversary celebration, W Macau's destination bar **Blind Tiger**, will be hosting a special 'Blind Tiger X Macallan Litha Night' from November 22 to 23 for guests to experience 'The Macallan Serve When Craft Meets Class'. The hotel's head mixologist, Samio and guest mixologist Sasha Wijidessa, from Singapore's renowned innovative drinking destination, Fura, one of the Asia's 50 Best Bar 2024, will craft

a unique selection of cocktails that highlight the rich flavors of the Macallan Litha, with a twist of sustainable food ingredients.

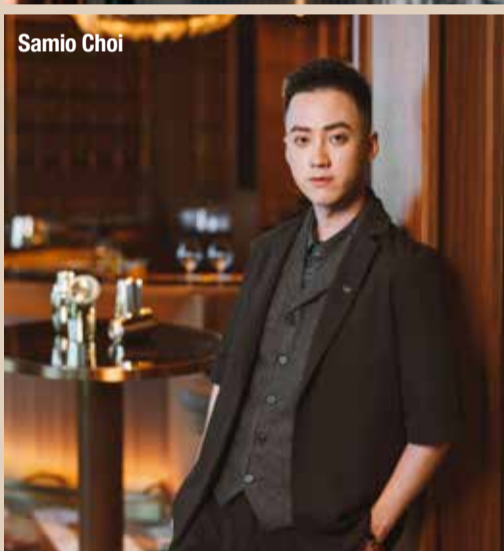
The two mixologists will work together to bring a range of exclusive cocktails that highlight notes of the Macallan Litha, enhanced by advanced fermentation techniques to set a festive mood. The menu includes Samio's "Error Tomato", a combination of three types of fermented tomatoes that redefine the tomato flavor. His "Error Beetroot" balances earthy beetroot with Macallan Litha's vanilla-caramel notes, creating a richly layered drink. Sasha's highlight drinks will be the "New Yuck City," with seaweed, pineapple, lemon, grapefruit, and white chocolate foam.

Overseeing the drinks at Fura, Sasha strives to find creative ways to make the ingredients work, ensuring the drinks are both flavorful and environmentally friendly. With a relentless commitment to his craft, W Macau - Studio City's Samio (masterfully designs awe-inspiring beverages that captivate and delight guests, turning every drink into a memorable experience.

Sasha Wijidessa



Samio Choi



BOOK IT

A mystery drenched in cruelties of colonial French Indochina

IT'S not often that a historical novel is set in the Vietnam of the 1920s, a period when the land in Indochina was occupied and exploited by French colonizers. It's also unusual that such a novel would be a whodunit murder mystery.

"Those Opulent Days," the debut novel of Jacquie Pham, is both — and a grim coming-of-age story as well.

Pham, who grew up in Vietnam before moving to Australia, ably describes the land of her youth, its history and culture, including the well-heeled Vietnamese who were complicit in the French plunder of resources a century ago.

"The French ruled the colony," she writes in the novel, "but they didn't understand

its people — they needed locals, rich enough, corrupt and ambitious enough, to supply them with insight and cash."

She vividly describes the Vietnamese peasants working long hours in rice paddies, bare feet in muddy water, pale yellow conical hats to block the harsh sun. "The fields were a vast, luscious green carpet," Pham writes, "always filled with the fresh, intoxicating scent of young shoots." But little of this bounty went to impoverished, starving peasant families. "They would pay ground rent on a monthly basis, with hardly anything to call their own," Pham writes.

As a mystery novel, "Those Opulent Days" is well-plotted,

with a tangled web of possible outcomes. But the allure of the book's guessing-game narrative and its historical context does not carry over into a fully satisfying reading experience.

The story is beset in part by a cast of vile characters and an overdose of melodramatic scenes. The French rulers and their prosperous Vietnamese collaborators, while living in regal splendor, partake of casual cruelty and horrid murders to such an extent they resemble cardboard cutouts of villains.

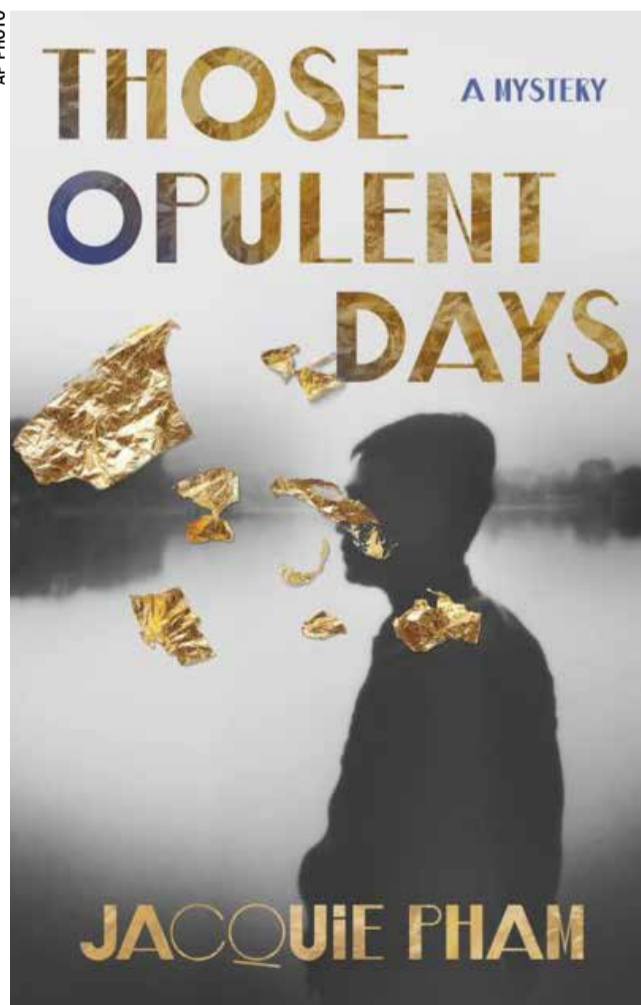
This extends partly to the four boys whose fate growing up is at the core of the coming-of-age story. The four are Duy, Minh and Phong, sons of well-to-do families in Annam, as the

region then was known, and Edmond, a French youth who met them at a boarding school. They are a mix of friends, rivals and would-be lovers. They binge on opium and alcohol. When they reach their early 20s, they near a dreaded, deadly end predicted by a fortune teller years earlier.

The author understandably wants to convey the reality of the raw power held by the occupying masters over helpless underlings in the French Indochina era. But she has done so at the expense of solid storytelling.

Pham is a young writer with a lot to offer. She succeeds admirably in laying out an enticing mystery. **KENDAL WEAVER, MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



"Those Opulent Days" by Jacquie Pham (Atlantic Monthly Press)

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

STABLE SINO-JAPANESE TIES SERVE BOTH SIDES

Shortly after Shigeru Ishiba's reelection as Japanese prime minister on Monday, he proposed a plan that the Japanese government will provide at least 10 trillion yen (\$64.5 billion) of support before the 2030 fiscal year to promote the development of the country's semiconductor and artificial intelligence industries.

The move clearly indicates the Japanese leader is well aware that whether or not his government can consolidate the backbone industries of Japan to help the country address its long-term economic woes will decide his political future.

That Ishiba was reelected hours after he and his Cabinet resigned demonstrates the division in Japan's political circle as well as the fact that neither side has the confidence that it can help the world's fourth-largest economy weather through its long-term structural problems that were aggravated during the Fumio Kishida government's time in office.

In addition to 10 trillion yen to support AI and semiconductor research and development, the new economic countermeasures proposed by the Ishiba Cabinet include financial support for low-income families to help them cope with rising prices.

During Kishida's initial tenure, although his Cabinet advocated the promotion of "new capitalism" policies, promising a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution, the yen experienced historic depreciation against the dollar and the euro, which, while good for export companies, increased the price pressure at home, where people's real wage growth has actually been negative.

These economic issues are closely related to Japan's one-sided pro-United States diplomacy, which comes at a high cost to Japan's ties with its major trading partner, China. To please the US, the Japanese government is raising large amounts of debt to cover the government's fast rising expenditure on security.

The high defense spending has forced the government to resort to printing excessive amounts of banknotes that has fueled inflation, affecting ordinary people the most, which explains the low support rate for the Kishida government. Since it is difficult for the government to overhaul its foreign policy, it is almost impossible for it to make breakthroughs in addressing the country's weak economy in the near future as evidenced by the failure of the Ishiba-led ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito to win a majority in the country's legislature.

Japan's outbound economy, limited natural resources and aging population mean its economy relies on relations with its major trading partners, particularly China. Reducing its economic and trade cooperation with China further squeezes the policy and financial space for Japan to overcome pressures from its labor shortage and rising labor costs caused by an aging population and a declining birthrate.

What Japan lacks most for its AI and high-end chip industries is not government subsidies or stimulus packages but international cooperation.

China is ready to work with Japan to further leverage their respective comparative advantages, explore more new growth poles of cooperation, and jointly safeguard the stability and smooth flow of their industry and supply chains.

Meanwhile, the upcoming APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, capital of Peru, followed by the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro should provide Ishiba an opportunity to reevaluate Japan's gains and losses over the past few years and ensure Japan plays its due role as a key member of the Asia-Pacific economic community promoting free trade and economic globalization.

[Abridged]

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SAYS IT WON'T HELP THOUSANDS OF ILLEGAL MINERS INSIDE A CLOSED MINE

THE BUZZ

South Africa's government says it will not help an estimated 4,000 illegal miners inside a closed mine in the country's North West province who have been denied access to basic supplies as part of an official strategy against illegal mining.

The miners in the mineshaft in Stilfontein are believed to be suffering from a lack of food, water and other basic necessities after police closed off the entrances used to transport their supplies underground.

It is part of the police's Vala Umgodi, or Close the Hole, operation, which includes cutting off miners' supplies to force them to return to

the surface and be arrested.

North West police spokesperson Sabata Mokgwabone said information received from those who recently helped bring three miners to the surface indicated that as many as 4,000 miners may be underground. Police have not provided an official estimate.

In the past few weeks, over 1,000 miners have surfaced at various mines in North West province, with many reported to be weak, hungry and sickly after going for weeks without basic supplies.

Police continue yesterday to guard areas around the mine to catch all those appearing from underground.



AP PHOTO

AUSTRALIA

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS REQUIRED TO ACT TO PREVENT ONLINE HARM TO USERS

ROD MCGUIRK,
MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA plans to require social media platforms to act to prevent online harms to users such as bullying, predatory behavior and algorithms pushing destructive content, the government said yesterday.

"The Digital Duty of Care will place the onus on digital platforms to proactively keep Australians safe and better prevent online harms," Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said in a statement.

The proposed changes to the Online Safety Act were announced before the government next week introduces to Parliament world-first legislation that would ban children younger than 16 from platforms including X, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.

Critics have argued that removing children from social media reduced incentives for platforms to provide safer online environments.

Social media has been blamed for an increase in children taking their own lives and developing eating disorders due to bullying and exposures to negative body images.

Rowland said making

tech companies legally responsible for keeping Australians safe was an approach already adopted by Britain and the European Union.

Digital businesses would be required to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harms on their platforms and services. The duty of care framework would be underpinned by risk assessment and risk mitigation, and informed by safety-by-design principles, the minister said.

Legislating a duty of care would mean services can't "set and forget." Instead, their obligations would mean they need to continually identify and mitigate potential risks, as technology and service offerings change and evolve, she said.

The categories of harm in the legislation include harm to young people and mental well-being, promotion of harmful practices and illegal activity.

The government has not said when the duty of care legislation will be introduced to Parliament or outlined the punishment for breaches.

The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia better known as DIGI, welcomed govern-

ment efforts to "future-proof" the Online Safety Act.

"DIGI's members together represent some of the safest sections of the Internet, and their work to keep people safe on their services never stops," DIGI managing director Sunita Bose said in a statement.

"While we wait for further details about this announcement, DIGI's members will continue to deliver safety-by-design on their services and work constructively with the government to keep Australians safe online," Bose added.

Swinburne University digital media expert Belinda Barnet described the duty of care as a "great idea."

"It's quite pioneering to expect that platforms that host Australian users would have a duty of care responsibility in terms of the content they show and the experiences they offer," Barnet said.

"It's making the platforms take responsibility and that just simply doesn't happen at the moment. There's an assumption that they're a neutral third party. They're not responsible for the impact of that content," Barnet added. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

South Korea's Supreme Court yesterday upheld a suspended prison sentence for former lawmaker Yoon Meehyang for embezzling funds intended for wartime sexual slavery survivors. Yoon, defending her actions as beneficial, plans to return affected subsidies, though controversy persists over fund mismanagement claims.



AP PHOTO

United States Republicans have secured yesterday [Macau time] the House of Representatives control, supporting Trump's sweeping agenda to reshape federal government operations, taxes, and immigration policy. House Speaker Mike Johnson's endorsement indicates strong alignment, enabling Trump to implement his vision as he re-enters office.



AP PHOTO

Ukrainian troops yesterday brace for Trump's return as the potential shift in U.S. policy looms. Amid escalating Russian attacks, Biden's administration speeds military aid deliveries, while Ukrainian soldiers prepare to defend gains in an unpredictable geopolitical environment.



AP PHOTO

Azerbaijan At COP29 in Baku, nations struggle to address climate action gaps, with projected warming stuck at 2.7°C. Developing countries demand \$1.3 trillion in climate funding amid divisive discussions, while major emitters face criticism for stalling on emissions cuts, straining progress.