

Master Plan of the Development of Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin

A New Platform • A New Space
A New Showcase • A New High Ground

Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

The Cooperation Zone covers a total area of about **106** square kilometres

Perfecting the **new system** for mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration and shared benefits between Guangdong and Macao

Building a **new home** for Macao residents that is favourable for living and work

Developing **new industries** that facilitate economic diversification in Macao

Establishing a **new system** that is high-standard and open for integration with Macao

Source:
The Macao Special Administrative Region Government



Master Plan



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THE HEALTH BUREAU HAS APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE CITY'S YOUTH
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P4

A DEMOCRATIC GROUP IN HONG KONG SAID IT WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH POLICE CONDUCTING A NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATION
P7



Pakistan A suicide bomber detonated his explosives yesterday near a security checkpoint in restive southwestern Pakistan, killing at least three paramilitary troops and wounding 15 others, police said. Police said the attacker had walked toward the checkpoint manned by the paramilitary Frontier Corps on Quetta-Mastung Road, some 25 kilometers south of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province.



Middle East Top U.S. national security officials will see how the failed war in Afghanistan may be reshaping America's relationships in the Middle East as they meet with key allies in the Persian Gulf and Europe this week. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin are traveling to the Gulf separately, leaving today. Together, the Austin and Blinken trips are meant to reassure Gulf allies that President Joe Biden's decision to end the war in Afghanistan does not foretell an abandonment of U.S. partners in the Middle East.



The United Arab Emirates announced yesterday a major plan to stimulate its economy and liberalize stringent residency rules for expatriates, as the country seeks to overhaul its finances and attract foreign residents and capital. The nation's plan to lure foreign talent over the next decades reflects an emerging contrast with the other sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf that are growing increasingly protectionist as they try to diversify their oil-bound economies.

More on backpage

STRATEGIC PLANNING

China has issued a master plan for building a Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin that aims to boost Macau's economic diversification



REMOVAL OF PORTUGUESE STONES FROM ST. LAZARUS DISTRICT STREETS RAISES CONCERNS

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR BETWEEN CHINA AND BRAZIL CONTINUING IN ONLINE FORMAT

RENATO MARQUES

BEGINNING on August 30 and running until September 16, the International Trade Fair between China and Brazil is currently underway, making use of virtual tools to connect buyers and sellers from both sides of the globe.

The event is an initiative from the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries – Macao (Forum Macao). It aims to deepen the economic and commercial exchange between China, Brazil, and other Portuguese-speaking countries, as well strengthening cooperation in the field of trade in services between them.

This year, the event's central theme is "Opening the future with digitization and promoting development through services" — a theme not coincidental given

how the Covid-19 pandemic abruptly changed most of the ways that traders relate and do business around the world.

The fair features an online exhibition which includes an online forum focused on cooperation in areas such as technology transactions, commerce services, smart cities, intelligent medical treatment and cultural trade. The forum favors the construction of an international platform for trade in services, increasing bilateral economic and trade cooperation between China and Brazil.

On September 3, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Forum Macao, Ding Tian, was invited to participate in the Trade Services Forum, delivering a speech in which he outlined the solid cooperation of trade in services between China and Brazil and how it plays an exemplary role in fostering cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PLPs).

Ding also mentioned that Macau strengthens its various roles by establishing an "RMB Settlement Center for Portuguese-speaking Countries," a "Business Services Center for Small and Medium Enterprises of China and the PLPs" and a "Convention and Exhibition Center for the Economic and Commercial Cooperation between China and the PLPs." He indicated that these areas can and will benefit from more professional and diversified services — namely, in finance, business, interpretation, legal consultancy, tourism, conferences, exhibitions, and others.

He also stressed that the Forum Macao, as a multilateral mechanism for economic and trade cooperation between China and the PLPs, will continue to explore new areas and models to bolster Sino-Lusophone cooperation.



ELECTIONS2021

CAEAL warns lists about unlawful campaigning behavior

RENATO MARQUES

THE Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has once again warned that, during the electoral campaign period, candidate lists must follow the rules and guidelines issued by CAEAL.

The warning came after the CAEAL was made aware of several campaign activities that breached their regulations — namely the placing of electoral propaganda posters in private buildings and shops, and the use of campaign advertising vehicles outside of the period stipulated for campaigning.

In its statement, the CAEAL did not mention which lists were found to be breaching the rules.

Regarding the placement of posters and other



electoral propaganda, the CAEAL stated once again that in order to post materials on private buildings or units the lists must obtain the consent of the

owner or tenant, and that such materials must not be visible from the outside of the unit or building.

In the last few days, commercial stores, including

coffee shops, were found to be displaying campaign posters from lists running in the Legislative Assembly elections, a breach of the rules. So far, the CAEAL is not known to have dispensed any punishments for these cases.

The CAEAL has instead opted to issue a warning, in which it noted that "in the event of repeated violations of the rules and guidelines, CAEAL may cancel the qualification of candidates to continue using the sites."

Additionally, the Commission also reminded candidates that the use of vehicles broadcasting audio messages on the road is also subject to strict rules, and that, even with the sound broadcasting system turned off, propaganda vehicles should not circulate after 11 p.m.

SSM APPEALS FOR ATTENTION TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

LYNZY VALLES

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has appealed to the public to pay greater attention to the mental health of the city's youth, following the death of a 16-year-old student last week.

In a statement, the SSM urged the city to "pay more attention and listen more to young people."

"Pay attention to their opinions or emotions, to [mindsets that can be harmful] and can lead to suicide. Listening to them can allow them to express themselves and help to prevent any incidents," the bureau indicated.

On September 1, the first day of the 2021/2022 school year, a girl is believed to have climbed from the laundry window in her home and fallen to her death, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced.

The body of the 16-year-old girl was found on Avenida de Ouvidor Arriaga at about 6:25 a.m. by a pedestrian. After preliminary investigation, police believe that the girl climbed through the door of the safety cage and fell to the ground. A suicide note was found in the home of the deceased.

During the first quarter of 2021, the Macau SAR recorded a total of 10 suicide cases (seven men and three women) from January to March this year, a decrease of 44.4% compared to the same period last year. The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) encourages residents to be conscious of their psychological and emotional state, as well as those of their relatives and friends. For support, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525222) or IAS' counseling hotline (28261126).

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China issues plan for building Guangdong-Macau cooperation zone in Hengqin

CHINA'S central authorities have issued a general plan for building a Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin.

The plan, issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, was made public yesterday.

It said building the zone is a major arrangement to enrich the practice of "One country, two systems," and will be a significant driving force for the SAR's long-term development.

The total area of the cooperation zone will be about 106 square km, according to the plan.

The plan defines the strategic position of the zone as a new platform to boost Macau's appropriate economic diversification, a new space that provides convenience to Macau residents' life and employment, a new model to enrich the practice of "One country, two systems," as well as a new high ground for building the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.



The plan sets the goal for the zone to fully demonstrate the strong vitality and strength of "One country, two systems" by 2035, when the goal of Macau's appropriate economic diversification will be basically realized, according to Xinhua.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the SAR government calls on members of the public to "stay united to seize the opportunities brought by the master plan, and to realise joint the development goals outlined in it."

"These efforts boost driving

forces for Macau's long-term development, providing Macau with new space, new opportunities to enhance its people's welfare and livelihood, while ensuring Macau's long-term prosperity and stability and facilitating the city's closer integration with over-

rall national development," as cited in a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

The government said that it will spare no effort in realising the significant opportunities created under the master plan, in a bid to give fresh impetus for Macau's long-term development.

The master plan specifies its goal for the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is to assist Macau's adequate economic diversification, complement with four strategic positioning, and four major tasks. Promulgation of the master plan marks a new stage between Guangdong and Macau for of mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration and shared benefits.

"The SAR government will work in align with the central government's guidance and in accordance with the Master Plan, in order to push forward – jointly with Guangdong Government and Zhuhai Government – for the development of Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. **MDT/XINHUA**

928 CHALLENGE

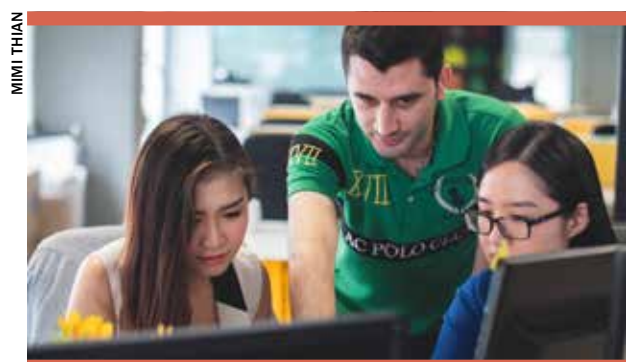
First start-up competition between China and Portuguese-speaking countries to kick off October

RENATO MARQUES

IN October this year, Macau will organize the first ever start-up competition dedicated to bringing together university students from China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The competition, which will have a theme of sustainability, is set to raise awareness about international business opportunities arising from Macau's role as a link between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. It also seeks to foster the development of young entrepreneurs with a global mindset.

Named the "928 Challenge Competition," the competition is co-organized by: the City University of Macau, Shenzhen University, the United Nations University Institute in Macau, and



the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries – Macao.

According to the organizers, the competition will be open to students from the nine cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), the two Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong, and from eight Portuguese-speaking countries.

All the students will also take part in a two-week boot-camp to gain

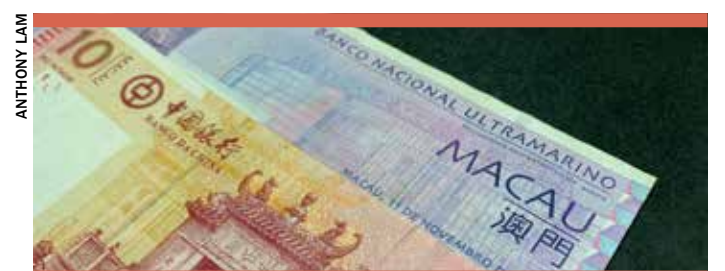
insight into opportunities between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, the two co-founders of the 928 Challenge Competition, José Alves and Marco Duarte Rizzolio, stated. They explained that the competition has a mission to deepen academic collaboration between universities in the GBA and the Portuguese-speaking countries, fostering the development of networks and collaboration between entrepreneurship ecosystems

from these regions, namely at the level of incubators, accelerators, universities, and public institutions.

Ultimately, the 928 Challenge Competition aims to identify startup projects with the potential to be implemented and supported by investors in Macau, GBA, or the Portuguese-speaking countries.

This year's competition is sponsored by: Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Fidelidade Seguros, CESL Asia, CEM, Millenium BCP bank, MdME law firm, and Bank of China. The final stage of the competition will take place on October 23, during this year's edition of the

Macau International Trade and Investment Fair, which will be held at The Venetian Macau Convention and Exhibition Center.



BROAD MONEY SUPPLY CONTINUES TO FALL IN JULY

MACAU'S broad money supply decreased 0.7% month-on-month to MOP690.2 billion in July with a stable share of patacas, the Special Administrative Region's monetary watchdog announced on Friday.

According to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macao, the currency in circulation rose 0.6%, whereas demand deposits dropped 0.3%.

M1 thus edged down by 0.1% from one month earlier. Meanwhile, quasi-monetary liabilities fell 0.8%. The sum of these two items — i.e. broad money supply or M2 — decreased 0.7% to MOP690.2 billion.

On an annual basis, M1 and M2 dropped 0.7% and 2.6%, respectively. The shares of the pataca, the Hong Kong

dollar, the renminbi and the U.S. dollar in M2 were 35.1%, 49.9%, 5.8% and 7.5%, respectively. Resident deposits fell 0.7% from the preceding month to MOP670.8 billion whereas non-resident deposits rose 1.6% to MOP365.8 billion.

Meanwhile, public sector deposits with the banking sector dropped 0.6% to MOP265.1 billion. As a result, total deposits in the banking sector shifted slightly down by 0.1% from a month earlier to MOP1,301.7 billion.

Domestic loans to the private sector grew 0.7% from a month ago to MOP557.7 billion, while external loans dropped 6.3% to MOP745.8 billion. As a result, total loans to the private sector were down by 3.5% from a month earlier to MOP1,303.5 billion. **MDT/XINHUA**

ENTRANTS FROM PARTS OF GUANGZHOU TO BE QUARANTINED UPON ARRIVAL

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has announced that entrants to Macau who were on Jianshe Street in the Yuexiu District of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province of China, on or after September 1 will be centrally quarantined upon arrival until 14 days after visiting said street. The quarantine period, however, must be no shorter than seven days. Meanwhile, those already in Macau will have their health code converted to yellow, signifying they must conduct health self-management until 14 days after visiting Jianshe Street. They are also required to take a maximum of five polymerase chain reaction tests.

HO CONGRATULATES CHINESE PARALYMPICS DELEGATION

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng extends his congratulations to the Chinese delegation for its effort in the 16th Paralympic Games held in Tokyo, following its cumulative wins of 96 gold medals, 60 silver medals, and 51 bronze. "On behalf of Macau and the residents, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you and [pay] my high respects," said Ho in a speech. "Your outstanding performance has inspired [many] people with disabilities to have self-esteem, self-confidence, self-reliance, [and the] courage to face challenges," the CE added.

UNION ANNOUNCES 38,500 SPECIES NEARLY EXTINCT

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has recently updated its Red List of Threatened Species. Out of the approximately 138,000 species evaluated by the entity, around 38,500 are considered at significant risk, stating they are now nearly extinct. The international body has also reevaluated the risks shark and batoid species — more commonly known as rays — currently face, and determined that 37% are nearly extinct. The IUCN also calls for more intense conservation of tuna, which is also on the Red List. Believed to be the closest surviving relative of the dinosaur, the Komodo dragon has also become more endangered.

GREATER CHINA NOW ON PHILIPPINES LOW-RISK LIST

The Green List of the Philippines, which outlines jurisdictions with low Covid-19 risk, has been updated and now includes all four jurisdictions on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Philippines noted that fully vaccinated visitors from the jurisdictions on the Green List will only be required to quarantine for seven days upon arrival in the Philippines. Some other countries on the Green List are Australia, the Falkland Islands, New Zealand, Poland and the Republic of Congo.

RENATO MARQUES



REMOVAL OF PORTUGUESE STONES FROM ST. LAZARUS DISTRICT STREETS SPARKS PUBLIC CONCERNS

ANTHONY LAM

A cultural scholar has called for an explanation regarding the removal of Portuguese stone pavement from the St. Lazarus District and its replacement with reinforced concrete and bricks.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has removed Portuguese stones along the slope next to the Albergue. The process did not generate much noise initially, but when residents and netizens began to notice it near the end of the works, they found that the IAM had converted the stone pavement into reinforced concrete, and a debate began.

Comments across several social media pages were divided. Some applauded the move, saying that they have slipped while riding motorbikes across the pavement on a rainy day. Others criticized the conversion as jeopardizing the overall landscape in the district. A social media user reminded those who claimed to have slipped on the road in question to use better-quality tires.

With the conversion of the road now concluded, the IAM has commenced the next phase of its work. It is now converting Rua de São Miguel, the slope symmetrically opposite the slope next to Albergue.

On September 1, the Times sent an email enquiry to the IAM on the matter. No reply has been received by press time.

Pan Lei, cultural scholar and enthusiastic traveler, hinted to the Times that the authority should explain the grounds on which they began the conversion.

He first pointed out that the stone pavement is a symbol of Macau's history of connecting the East and the West. "Although some say stone pavement is not a centuries-old thing, it is still something originating in Europe that was introduced to Macau," Lei said.

Commenting on the functional perspective of the stone pavement, the cultural scholar admitted that it may get slippery under certain conditions. "First, that street is a slope. Second, it's used by motor vehicles," he said. He implied that he was unsure if the IAM considered this the reason for the importance of the conversion.

Nonetheless, he immediately raised the question of whether there are upgraded versions or techniques of making the pavement which would prevent it from being slippery, even on rainy days.

"Let's say, when people refurbish their apartments, they have an option of non-slippery tiles that are more suitable for use in washrooms," Lei posited.

When asked about the possibility of decolonization, the cultural scholar sounded cautious and refrained from making any speculation in this direction.

Instead, Lei stressed that the

incident has highlighted Macau residents' concern for the cultural interactions between the East and the West.

"The quality of East-West cultural interaction is a cultural calling card of Macau," he said. "The winning of the World Heritage listing was also based on our history of having several hundred years of this quality."

He added that Macau, in its attempt to be a world tourism and leisure destination, must have qualities that define and distinguish itself from other tourist destinations. "Our character is [defined by having] something that is different from others," Lei said.

From the perspective of economics, the cultural scholar also sees the value in retaining Portuguese stone pavements in Macau.

SET OF URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES NEEDED

Urban planner Lam Iek Chit told local Chinese media Cheng Pou that, as per his understanding, the Cultural Heritage Protection Law requires a synchronized landscape within one single set of architecture.

While he admitted to the need for a non-slippery environment for traffic, the urban planner stressed that the converted road has become disconnected from the overall landscape in the district.

In addition, he thinks the government should compile a

set of urban design guidelines so that all entities will comply when they need to build or update architectural works.

He added that, if it is not a work of urgency, the government should think twice and liaise with the public to develop a suitable plan.

Local Portuguese media Hoje Macau reported in May last year that the IAM had been in touch with the Cultural Affairs Bureau, directly citing the IAM.

Back then, the two bureaus discussed converting some stone pavement to reinforced concrete so as to avoid the ground getting slippery on rainy days. It would also help rainwater drainage, the report went.

An online entity that translates Portuguese news reports to Chinese, Média José, posted its Chinese translation of the Hoje Macau report to its social media page. The translated story attracted, in its first 48 hours, nearly 300 "angry" reactions.

Some social media users feared that the conversion would leave Macau with no character to distinguish it from other cities in the Greater Bay Area.

The next day, the IAM issued a statement stressing that it would continue paving roads with Portuguese stones to connect various districts and tourism attractions. It admitted that Portuguese stone pavements are a special urban design feature of Macau.

HONG KONG

Group behind Tiananmen vigil denies foreign ties

THE group behind the annual Tiananmen Square memorial vigil in Hong Kong said yesterday it will not cooperate with police conducting a national security investigation into the group's activities, calling it an abuse of power.

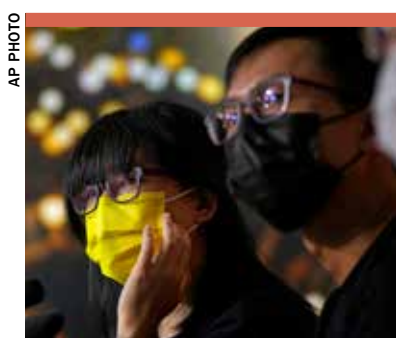
Police notified the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China last month that it was under investigation for working for foreign interests, an accusation the group denied.

"This is a really bad precedent of the national security (police) abusing the power by arbitrarily labelling any civil organization as a foreign agent," Chow Han Tung, vice chairwoman of the alliance, said at a news conference called to address the police investigation.

"The alliance strongly denies that we are any foreign agents," Chow said. "We are an organization that was founded during the 1989 democratic movement, it was founded by the Hong Kong people."

The investigation is part of a broad crackdown on Hong Kong civil society following mass pro-democracy protests in 2019. Authorities have tightened control over the city with a sweeping national security law imposed by China's ruling Communist Party that effectively criminalized opposition to the government. The law and other changes have forced several civil organizations to disband or seen their leaders arrested.

The annual candlelight vigil honors the students who died when China's military violently suppressed massive pro-democracy pro-



Chow Han Tung (left), vice chairwoman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, and other group members attend a news conference

tests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Authorities responded in the afternoon to the group's announcement with a warning and reiterated they needed information about "certain foreign agents" although they did not name anyone specifically.

"Endangering national security is a very serious crime. The damage is serious," said the city's Security Bureau in a statement. They added that not handing over information could lead to fines or imprisonment.

Police had asked the alliance to hand over any information about groups they had worked with overseas or in Taiwan, as well as contact information. They did not mention what specific incidents prompted the investigation.

Chow said the alliance has not been able to reach a consensus on whether to disband. It plans to hold a general meeting on Sept. 25 to discuss the matter again. **MDT/AP**

LITHUANIA RECALLS BEIJING AMBASSADOR OVER TAIWAN SPAT

LITHUANIA this weekend recalled its ambassador to China following the Baltic country's decision in July to allow self-governing Taiwan to open an office in its capital under its own name.

The Foreign Ministry said Ambassador Diana Mickeviciene had been recalled from Beijing for consultations "following the Chinese government statement on August 10."

Last month, China recalled its ambassador to Lithuania and told the Baltic nation to "immediately rectify its wrong decision, take concrete measures to undo the damage, and not to move further down the wrong path."

The statement referred to "potential consequences" for Lithuania if it allowed the office to open but gave no details.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry expressed regret over China's action and stressed that while respecting

the "one China" principle, it stands ready to develop mutually beneficial ties with Taiwan, just as many other countries in the world do.

China says Taiwan is part of its territory and doesn't have the right to diplomatic recognition, although the island maintains informal ties with all major nations through trade offices that act as de facto embassies, including in the United States and Japan. Chinese pressure has reduced Taiwan's formal diplomatic allies to just 15.

Taiwan and Lithuania agreed in July that the office in the capital, Vilnius, set to open this fall, will bear the name Taiwan rather than Chinese Taipei — a term often used in other countries in order not to offend Beijing.

The Lithuanian ministry said that diplomats from the European Union — of which Lithuania is a member — expressed solidarity with Mickeviciene. **MDT/AP**

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MGM Extends its Craftsmanship Training Series to Promote Talent Development in Lingnan Culinary



Recognizing the importance of nurturing and passing on of the craftsmanship to promote cultural tourism, MGM, the Guangdong Federation of Trade Union and Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) co-organized the "Best of Lingnan Culinary Series", an extension to the craftsmanship training program which the three parties kicked off last year. This series featured an array of events that focus on the culture of Lingnan cuisine, including sharing sessions and family-friendly cooking workshops hosted by experienced chefs, enabling team members of MGM's Food and Beverage Department, as well as Macau citizens, to appreciate the craftsmanship spirit that is intrinsic to Lingnan culture and to leverage gastronomy as a mean to tell the great story of Lingnan culture.

Kenneth Feng, President, Chief Strategic and Financial Officer of MGM, said: "MGM always incorporates craftsmanship spirit into its talent development strategies. Recognizing gastronomy is an important vehicle of cultural soft power, MGM is utilizing it as an entry point to exchange skills, preserve tradition and encourage innovation to embrace the spirit of craftsmanship, which we aim to share with our team members, the industry and the local community. This year marking the second year that we have cooperated with the Guangdong Provincial Federation of Trade Unions and FAOM, MGM will continue working together to promote the craftsmanship spirit of cultural inheritance and nurture more skilled craftsmen in the GBA."



Renowned Chefs to Share Insights on Lingnan Culture and its Cuisine

The key event of the two-day training series, "Sharing Session on Nanyue Craftsmanship – Lingnan Cuisine and Demo" was hosted by two renowned Cantonese chefs of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), Wu Yuqing, Vice Chairman of Young Professional Chefs Committee of Guangdong Catering Service Association, and Tsui Wai Ho, Chef de Cuisine of Imperial Court at MGM MACAU. They brought up the dialogue of Lingnan food culture, the preservation and innovation of Cantonese cuisine based on their own experiences, as well as ways to support the recovery of the

cultural tourism industry. They also demonstrated Lingnan cooking techniques in front of 150 MGM team members, members of FAOM and guests.

Nurturing Next Generation Culinary Talent

Following the sharing session were a fundamental craftsmanship course and a community workshop, the "Lingnan Cuisine Sharing with MGM F&B Kitchen Team", tailored for MGM team members, and the "Nurturing Little Craftsman Series – Lingnan Culinary Workshop" for local youth. The former enabled chefs from both Macau and Guangdong to share their insights in the culinary field in their city, ranging from restaurant operations, guest preferences, innovation and inherent of Lingnan cuisine, all the way to sharing each of their views on how to promote the culture with its cuisine. The latter, led by Wu Yuqing, introduced the specialties of Lingnan cuisine to participating parents and children and shared his experience in demonstrating the essence of craftsmanship in his field of profession, which allowed the younger generation to gain an in-depth understanding of the craftsmanship spirit.



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NEW ZEALAND

Extremist stayed in the country despite immigration fraud

THE Islamic State-inspired extremist who attacked shoppers in a New Zealand supermarket had been fighting deportation for immigration fraud, leaving the nation's leader expressing frustration at the process.

The new details about the attack Friday in Auckland emerged as the condition of some of those injured in his attack improved.

Three critically injured patients remain in intensive care but are in stable condition, Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said yesterday. Police added that the condition of one of the critically injured patients had improved. Bloomfield said a fourth person still hospitalized is in stable condition, while the three others have been released and are recovering at home.

The attacker, Ahamed Samsudeen, 32, arrived in New Zealand 10 years ago on a student visa. A Tamil Muslim, he applied for refugee status on the basis of being persecuted in Sri



New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson

Lanka, where a civil war ended in 2009 with the defeat of a Tamil rebel group.

Immigration New Zealand declined his application, but he won his appeal, gaining permanent residency in 2014.

Police first noticed Samsudeen's online support for terrorism in 2016 and by the following year, immigration agents knew he wanted to fly to Syria to join the Islamic State insurgency. They began reviewing his immigration status, fearing he could be a threat.

In 2018, Samsudeen was

jailed after he was found with Islamic State videos and knives, and the following year, his refugee status was canceled after authorities found evidence of fraud.

"My understanding is that in the process of investigation into the terrorist, it was discovered that some of the documents that he had used in order to get his refugee status looked to have been fabricated," Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson said.

But Samsudeen appealed, triggering a lengthy process that automatically allowed him

to stay in New Zealand until his appeal was heard.

Immigration authorities tried to argue he should remain behind bars, but in July, Samsudeen was set free.

Police trailed him around the clock, fearing he would launch an attack, but unable to do more. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has said her government will change the laws this month to enhance penalties for terrorist plots.

Undercover officers just outside the supermarket were able to shoot and kill Samsudeen within a couple of minutes after he charged at them with the knife.

His appeal against deportation was due to be heard later this month — until coronavirus restrictions delayed the hearing to a date that had not yet been set.

"At the time of the terrorist attack, the offender's attempt to overturn the deportation decision was still ongoing," Ardern said. "This has been a frustrating process." **MDT/AP**

INDIA

KASHMIR LEADER'S FAMILY CHARGED UNDER ANTI-TERROR LAW

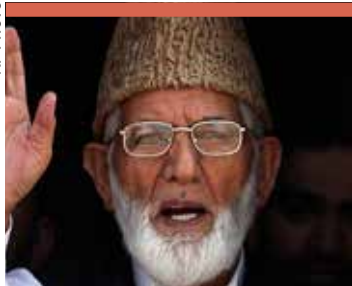
POLICE in Indian-controlled Kashmir charged family members of late resistance leader Syed Ali Geelani under a harsh anti-terror law for raising anti-India slogans and wrapping his body in the Pakistani flag, officials said yesterday.

Geelani, who died Wednesday at age 91, was the emblem of Kashmir's defiance against New Delhi and had been under house arrest for years.

His son, Naseem, said Indian authorities buried Geelani's body in a local cemetery without any family members present after police snatched his body from the home. Police denied that and called it "baseless rumors" by "some vested interests."

A video widely shared on social media purportedly showed Geelani's relatives, mostly women, frantically trying to prevent armed police from forcing their way into the room where his body, wrapped in a Pakistani flag, was being kept. It showed women wailing and screaming as police took the body and locked his family and relatives inside the room.

Police said unspecified family members and some others were charged Saturday under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They have not yet been taken into custody.



Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani waves to the media before his arrest in Srinagar in Sept. 2010

The anti-terror law was amended in 2019 to allow the government to designate an individual as a terrorist. Police can detain a person for six months without producing any evidence, and the accused can subsequently be imprisoned for up to seven years. Rights activists have called the law draconian.

Geelani's son Naseem said yesterday that a police officer visited the family on Saturday and informed them a case had been registered. Naseem did not provide further details about the meeting, but said there were scuffles as the police removed his father's body.

"Amid the chaos, we didn't really know what was happen-

ing. We were mourning," said Naseem.

Kashmir has long been a flashpoint between India and Pakistan, which administer parts of the Himalayan region while claiming it entirely.

Geelani spearheaded Kashmir's movement for the right to self-determination and was a staunch proponent of merging Kashmir with Pakistan. For many in Kashmir and beyond, he was an enduring icon of defiance against India.

India describes the armed rebellion as Islamabad's proxy war and state-sponsored terrorism. Most Muslim Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle and support the rebel goal that the territory be united, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

Rebels have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989. The region is one of the most heavily militarized in the world. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the raging conflict.

Tensions flared in the region in 2019 after New Delhi stripped

Kashmir's semi-autonomy, scrapped its statehood and removed inherited protections on land and jobs. Authorities have since brought a slew of new laws, which critics and many Kashmiris fear could change the region's demographics.

Meanwhile, authorities eased some restrictions that had been imposed since Geelani's death, allowing private vehicles on roads and vendors to operate in some parts of Srinagar. However, most shops and businesses stayed closed as government forces patrolled roads and streets in the city.

Mobile phones were restored late Friday, but mobile internet and restrictions on the assembly of people continued in many parts of the Kashmir Valley.

Paramilitary soldiers remained stationed outside the graveyard where Geelani was buried.

Ruwa Shah, Geelani's granddaughter, wrote on Twitter they were horrified by "what followed after our old man passed away." His "home was a jail for over a decade and now his graveyard is a jail too," she said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1997 DIANA'S FUNERAL WATCHED BY MILLIONS



Britain and the world have said farewell to Diana, Princess of Wales, at the end of an unprecedented week of mourning.

A four mile procession brought her coffin to Westminster Abbey, where politicians and celebrities joined the Royal Family in a subdued congregation.

Over a million people lined the route of the funeral cortege to the abbey and along her final journey to the Spencer family home in Northamptonshire.

The day began at 0908 BST, when the coffin left Kensington Palace on a gun carriage.

Some of the crowd wept, some applauded quietly, but most watched in silence.

On top of the coffin was a poignant reminder that this woman loved by millions was also a mother - a card to "Mummy" from one of her sons.

The two princes, William and Harry, joined their father, grandfather and the princess's brother walking behind the coffin.

Other members of the Royal Family watched the funeral cortege pass from the gates of Buckingham Palace.

The union jack on top of the palace was lowered to half mast for the first time ever.

Both Diana's sisters read tributes to her at the funeral service and Elton John played his re-worked version of Candle in the Wind.

Her brother, Lord Spencer, made a funeral address in which he described as Diana the "very essence of compassion, of duty, of style, of beauty".

He used the speech to blame the media for her death, calling her the "most hunted person of the modern age".

The grieving earl also pledged to protect William and Harry and prevent them suffering a similar fate.

The sometimes controversial oration was greeted with spontaneous applause.

A very public day of mourning ended with a private ceremony when Diana was finally buried on an island in the heart of her family estate at Althorp.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Diana's death resulted in an outpouring of grief never before seen in the UK.

It was estimated that a total of 2.5 billion people watched the princess's funeral, a testament to her global celebrity.

Her image remained as iconic in death as it had been in life, and within weeks of her funeral there was worldwide demand for memorabilia of the princess.

The French authorities concluded their investigation into the crash two years later.

It found the driver, Henri Paul, to be three times over the drink-drive limit and breaking the speed limit.

The photographers chasing the car were severely criticised for their behaviour, but no criminal action was taken against them.

An inquest into the princess's death was opened in the UK in 2004. It has been adjourned while the Metropolitan police carry out an investigation into the crash.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This energizing lunation brings fresh opportunities to your craft, job environment, and current work/life balance. This is the best moment of the year to launch a new health or diet regimen.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

New horizons are beginning to open up. You need only be open-minded towards cultivating a fresh start. Today's skies see the arrival of the new moon in practical and efficient Virgo.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This stimulating lunation brings new developments in the weeks ahead around family connections, your home environment, and opportunities to heal old wounds.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Cancer people are well-acquainted with their rich emotional life. Monday's skies work to expand a new frontier within you - that of your mental and communication world.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This lunation forms a strong connection with innovative Uranus, which brings revitalized energy to your sense of self-confidence and the execution of your skills in the weeks to come.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

This lunation forms a smooth connection with innovative Uranus, imbuing the weeks ahead with a fresh approach to travel plans and educational endeavors.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

The universe has been pushing you to release outgrown elements of your being, Libra. While that process isn't always comfortable, it's critical at this stage to let go to gain.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You've been tirelessly pushing ahead when it comes to your goals, Scorpio. Monday's skies work to lend a helping hand as the new moon emerges in hardworking Virgo.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This lunation's supportive connection with change-bringer Uranus sends a wave of revitalizing energy towards your craft and work environment. Don't be shy about aiming your arrow high!



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Important questions are arising regarding what you value career-wise, and you may be forced to grapple with what needs release and renewing in that arena.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's not always easy to let your feelings flourish. Monday's skies work to deepen your relationship to your emotional nature and make room for healing as the new moon emerges in reflective Virgo.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Monday's skies herald the arrival of the new moon in your opposite sign of realistic Virgo, which brings new developments to your close personal relationships in the weeks to come.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	25	rain
Harbin	15	27	cloudy
Tianjin	20	23	rain
Urumqi	17	30	fine
Xi'an	18	24	rain
Lhasa	10	20	rain
Chengdu	20	26	showers
Chongqing	23	27	rain
Kunming	17	25	cloudy
Nanjing	25	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	32	rain
Wuhan	22	29	overcast
Hangzhou	25	32	rain
Taipei	26	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	34	thunderstorms
Hong Kong	28	33	showers

WORLD

Moscow	6	12	rain
Frankfurt	13	28	cloudy
Paris	18	28	showers
London	16	27	cloudy
New York	21	27	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- ____, poor Yorick; 5- Heston's org.; 8- Contented sighs; 12- Essence; 13- Unfettered; 15- Junk e-mail; 16- Buck follower; 17- Honshu port; 18- Table d'____; 19- Keep cold; 22- Bee follower; 23- Samuel's teacher; 24- Writer Bornbeck; 26- Edit; 29- Historical records; 31- ____ de guerre; 32- Threads; 34- Exodus origin; 36- If ____ be so bold...; 38- Clear; 40- Pentathlon need; 41- Religious doctrine; 43- Swellings; 45- Nor. neighbor; 46- Word of the hour?; 48- Resounds; 50- Apple player; 51- Occupational suffix; 52- Paranormal letters; 54- Pathfinder; 61- With "eye," unerring aim; 63- Actor Davis; 64- ____ contendere; 65- Group of individual facts; 66- Dense element; 67- Diploma holder; 68- North Sea feeder; 69- ____ anglais (English horn); 70- Mozart's " ____ kleine Nachtmusik";

DOWN: 1- Food thickener; 2- Italian bread?; 3- Beginning; 4- Hoarded; 5- Centrepiece of the human face; 6- Laugh loudly; 7- ____ silly question...; 8- Powdery residue; 9- Prophetic revelation; 10- Can't stand; 11- "Peter Pan" pirate; 13- Reasonable; 14- Taken in; 20- Now ____ me down...; 21- Sea eagle; 25- Merlin, e.g.; 26- Lower of Juliet; 27- Free from bondage; 28- Main stem of a tree; 29- Parenthetical remark; 30- Erupts; 31- It may be picked; 33- Sgt., for one; 35- Driver's aid; 37- Quick sharp bark; 39- Acoustic power unit; 42- Horn warning; 44- Author Silverstein; 47- PC storage medium; 49- Citrus fruit; 52- Swirl; 53- Wet septet; 55- Wait ____!; 56- Ratio words; 57- Yarn spinner; 58- Japanese sandal; 59- Gusto; 60- Got on; 62- ____ es Salaam, Tanzania;

Friday's solution

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

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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	
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980 ft² 2 1 1

FOR RENT
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Ref: 2108 1002
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1,510 ft² 3 2 1

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Property of the Week



Kinglight Garden

HKD 6,680,000 980 ft² 2 1

The unit was completely renovated 5 years ago to a modern and high standard. From kitchen to bedrooms, there is excellent storage throughout the apartment. The guest bedroom is now being used as a walk-in wardrobe with floor storage cabinets. The master and guest bedrooms both have an open view of Macau tower, which means new owners will be able to enjoy the occasional fireworks from their own home.

Viewings by appointment.

Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



Ref: 2108 6006

Property Hotlist



Wa Seng San Chong

HKD 4,500,000

800 ft²

2
1



Ref: 2108 6005



Kingsville

HKD 14,900/mth

1,510 ft²

3
2
1



Ref: 2108 1002



Jardim Lamerias

HKD 11,200/mth

747 ft²

2
2



Ref: 2106 1003

More Listings

For Sale

- NEW** [Macau] Centro Internacional 2 1 800 ft² **HKD 4,200,000** Ref: 2108 6003
- [Macau] Macau, ZAPE 2 1 720 ft² **HKD 7,450,000** Ref: 2101 6002
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 2 2 1,707 ft² **HKD 10,880,000** Ref: 2107 6005
- REDUCED** [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 3 1,979 ft² **HKD 12,380,000** Ref: 2104 6001
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft² **HKD 15,980,000** Ref: 2005 6001

For Rent

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 470 ft² **HKD 7,800/mth** Ref: 2106 1004
- [Taipa] Soi Cheung 1 1 650 ft² **HKD 9,900/mth** Ref: 2107 1002
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 2 1,325 ft² **HKD 13,500/mth** Ref: 2107 6003
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 2 1,112 ft² **HKD 15,500/mth** Ref: 2102 1004
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2005 1002

Rain Dance Property "WE DANCE UNTIL IT'S SOLD!"



Traditional apartment
HKD 2,680,000

788 ft²

2
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Ref: 2103 6001

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ANDREW DAMPF

FOOTBALL | WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

UKRAINE 1, FRANCE 1

REIGNING champion France missed the injured Kylian Mbappé in a 1-1 draw at Ukraine in World Cup qualifying yesterday [Macau time] but still stayed atop Europe Group D.

Mykola Shaparenko scored his first international goal for Ukraine just before halftime by smashing in a shot from 20 meters.

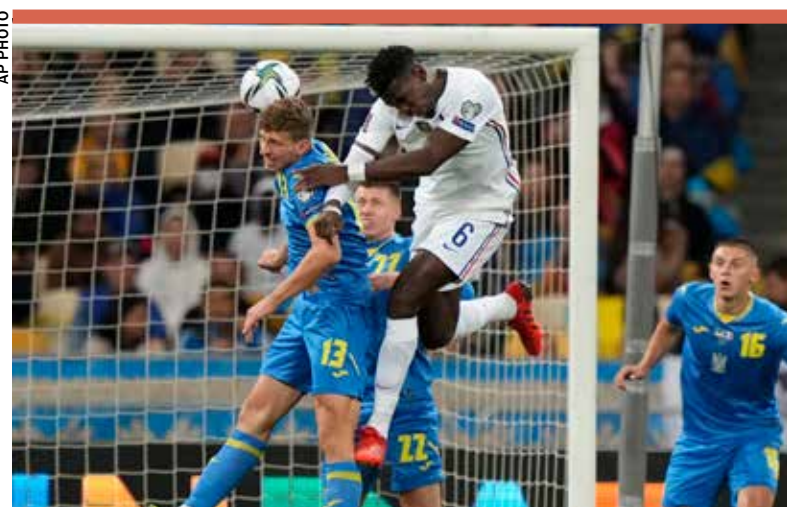
Anthony Martial leveled after the break following a setup from Kingsley Coman and Adrien Rabiot. It was Martial's second international goal and it came five years and three days after the Manchester United forward's previous strike in a friendly against Italy.

Mbappé left France's squad with a calf problem after playing most of a 1-1 draw with Bosnia and Herzegovina on Wednesday.

Ukraine also drew at France in March.

France has nine points from five matches and Finland is next with five points from three matches after a header from Joel Pohjanpalo earned a 1-0 win over Kazakhstan.

Ukraine also has five points from five matches, while Bosnia



Ukraine's Ilya Zabarnyi (left) challenges for the ball with France's Paul Pogba

and Kazakhstan have two points each.

Only the group winners directly qualify for the World Cup. Second-place finishers face a playoff.

Also, Portugal beat 2022 World Cup host Qatar 3-1 in a friendly despite missing Cristiano Ronaldo.

Here's a look at the action in other groups:

GROUP A

Aleksandar Mitrovi scored twice as Serbia beat Luxembourg 4-1 to move level with Portugal atop the group with 10 points. Mitrovi has scored 43 goals for Serbia in 65 appearances.

Ireland and Azerbaijan earned their first points with a 1-1 draw in which Shane Duffy headed in a late equalizer for Ireland.

GROUP F

European Championship semifinalist Denmark extended its perfect start to qualifying with a 1-0 win at the Faroe Islands following a goal from Jonas Wind.

Israel beat visiting Austria 5-2 and Scotland edged Moldova 1-0.

Denmark has 15 points, Israel 10, Scotland eight and Austria seven, while the Faroe Islands and Moldova trail with one point each.

GROUP G

Memphis Depay scored a brace and the Netherlands outclassed Montenegro 4-0 to stay second in the group behind Turkey, which beat Gibraltar 3-0. It was the first home game for

Louis van Gaal in his third spell as the Netherlands' coach. Erling Haaland converted an early penalty in Norway's 2-0 win at Latvia to raise his total to nine goals in 14 games for his national team — exactly a year after his first goal for Norway. Turkey has 11 points, the Netherlands and Norway 10 each, Montenegro seven, Latvia four, and Gibraltar zero.

GROUP H

Marcelo Brozovic scored late for Croatia to beat Slovakia 1-0 and remain level on points with Russia atop the group. Russia is ahead on goal difference after beating Cyprus 2-0 with goals from Aleksandr Yerokhin and Rifat Zhemaletdinov. Also, Slovenia edged Malta with a first-half penalty from Sandi Lovric. Russia and Croatia each have 10 points, Slovenia has seven, and Slovakia six. Malta and Cyprus have four each. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

**NEW EXCHANGE
WILL BETTER SERVE
INNOVATION**

In his remarks via video links at the Global Trade in Services Summit on Thursday as part of this year's China International Fair for Trade in Services, President Xi Jinping announced that a Beijing Stock Exchange will be set up. This is intended to be the primary platform to serve the leading innovation-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises.

The decision to set up a Beijing Stock Exchange caught widespread attention as it will become the main financing provider for innovation-driven SMEs.

The move is the latest deepening reform of the National Equities Exchange and Quotations, known as the New Third Board — which comprises the Shenzhen Stock Exchange as the growth enterprise board and the Shanghai Stock Exchange as the science and technology innovation board.

The reforms and development in this field over recent years have laid a solid foundation for the Beijing Stock Exchange, which will channel funds to a selection of the most capable firms traded on the New Third Board, to promote the development of innovation-driven SMEs.

Once the Beijing Stock Exchange is set up and running, the reform of the New Third Board will embark on a new journey, according to the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Intended to be tailored for select innovation-driven enterprises, it will be a financing channel for companies at an earlier development stage than those listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen. The Beijing Stock Exchange will be mainly based on the innovation-driven SMEs selected from the New Third Board, implement the New Third Board's institutions, and pilot the registration system in securities issuance.

That said, the Beijing Stock Exchange will be a part of the New Third Board, or an upgraded version of the New Third Board to be precise.

The planned stock exchange will definitely improve the New Third Board's capacity to serve these enterprises, which in turn will help stimulate market vitality.

As such, after the Beijing Stock Exchange is founded, the three stock exchanges in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen will form a three-pillar framework for the country's capital market, and with their differentiated focuses, they can meet the diverse demands of different kinds of enterprises.

With President Xi also announcing in his speech a series of reforms to further open up and boost the trade in services, the deepening reform of the capital market represents part of the combination blow the country is delivering to tackle the complicated challenges it faces in economic, financial and trade sectors.

To find the best remedies for these challenges, the country has been progressing from the easiest to the hardest, and adjusting the measures to suit local conditions. This has been and remains the underlying logic behind its reforms.

The process of refining China's capital market also follows that logic, with the founding of the new stock exchange aimed at meeting the challenges of the current stage and taking another stride forward.

**PRINCE CHARLES' EX-AIDE QUILTS CHARITY
ROLE AMID HONOR CLAIMS**

A former close aide to Prince Charles stepped down temporarily from his role as chief executive of a royal charity amid reports that he helped secure an honor for a Saudi donor.

The Sunday Times and Mail on yesterday's newspapers reported that Michael Fawcett coordinated support for an honor for Saudi businessman Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz.

The Times said the businessman donated sums of more than 1.5 million pounds (\$2.1 million) to The Prince's Foundation to fund heritage restoration projects of interest to

Charles, including residences Charles used.

The report said Charles gave Mahfouz an honorary CBE, or Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, at a private ceremony in 2016. The Saudi denies wrongdoing.

The Prince's Foundation said in a statement that Fawcett offered to temporarily step down from active duties as the organization's chief executive while an investigation takes place. It said Fawcett will assist the investigation.

Fawcett began his royal service in 1981 as a footman to Queen Elizabeth II and later became Charles' assistant valet.

THE
BUZZ

AP PHOTO



CLIMATE CHANGE

**MORE SHARKS, RAYS
THREATENED WITH
EXTINCTION: REPORT**

THE world's sharks and rays have seen declines in their populations since 2014 and more and more are now threatened with extinction, according to a new red list released this weekend at a global conference aimed at protecting dwindling species.

The Komodo dragon is now listed as endangered, notably because of rising sea levels and rising temperatures in its Indonesian habitat. Ebonies and rosewoods threatened by logging were among trees put on the list for the first time this year.

There are signs of hope, too — fishing quotas have allowed several tuna species to be put on the "path to recovery," according to the announcement from The International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Some 37% of the world's sharks and rays are considered in danger as of 2021, up from 33% seven years ago, the IUCN announced. Overfishing, a loss of habitat and climate change explain the upward trend, it said. Oceanic shark populations have dropped by 71% since 1970.

But the progress in reviving tuna populations and some other species "is the demonstration that if states and other actors take the right actions ... it is possible to recover," IUCN director

Bruno Oberle told reporters in the southern French city of Marseille.

The IUCN Red List Unit reassesses hundreds of species each year. Of the some 138,000 species the group tracks, more than 38,000 are threatened with extinction.

Several recent studies have shown that many of the planet's ecosystems are severely strained by global warming, deforestation, habitat degradation, pollution and other threats.

More than half of all bird of prey species worldwide are declining in population, and 18 species are critically endangered. Warming temperatures and melting ice are projected to imperil 70% of Emperor penguin colonies by 2050 and 98% by 2100.

Actor Harrison Ford made an impassioned plea to safeguard biodiversity at the opening of the World Conservation Congress in Marseille on Friday.

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO



Vatican Pope Francis is encouraging countries to welcome Afghan refugees who are seeking a new life. During his appearance to the public in St. Peter's Square yesterday, Francis also prayed that displaced persons inside Afghanistan receive assistance and protection. "In these tumultuous moments, in which Afghans are seeking refuge, I pray for the most vulnerable among them," Francis said.

AP PHOTO



El Salvador The top court and its election authority have tossed aside what seemed to be a constitutional ban on consecutive presidential reelection, setting the stage for President Nayib Bukele to potentially seek a second term in 2024. The Supreme Court's Constitutional Chamber told the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to permit a second term, and the electoral authority announced Saturday it would accept what it called a ruling that cannot be appealed.

AP PHOTO



Tens of thousands protested in Switzerland yesterday [Macau time] for the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Alpine country. The protests came ahead of a national referendum on Sept. 26 on the legalization of gay marriage, which has already been introduced in many other European countries including Germany, Austria, France and the Netherlands.

AP PHOTO



Montenegro Riot police used tear gas against protesters who fired gunshots in the air and hurled bottles and stones yesterday morning in Montenegro before and during an inauguration of the new head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the country. Police and media reports said at least seven police officers and several protesters were injured in the clashes, while at least 14 people were detained.