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AP PHOTO



**Japan** can now give defense equipment and technology to Vietnam under an agreement signed Saturday, as the two countries step up their military cooperation amid worries about China’s growing military influence. Japan’s Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said the deal elevates their defense partnership “to a new level” and that Japan and Vietnam plan to deepen defense ties through multinational joint exercises and other means. Details about the transfer of specific equipment, including naval vessels, will be worked out in subsequent talks, the ministry said.

**China** Typhoon Chanthu drenched Taiwan with heavy rain yesterday as the storm’s center passed the island’s east coast heading for Shanghai. On the Chinese mainland, the government issued a typhoon warning for Shanghai and warned of possible torrential rains. Airline flights and train service in Taiwan were suspended as the storm approached. The Central News Agency reported more than 2,000 people were evacuated from flood-prone areas of the east coast county of Hualien.

AP PHOTO



**Afghanistan** Women can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the higher education minister in the new Taliban government said yesterday. The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan’s new rulers formed an all-male government. On Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government. More on p7

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## ELECTIONS2021

# LOWEST TURNOUT EVER



## COUTINHO PAIRS WITH TOP GUNS

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|                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 得票 Votos obtidos<br><b>26593</b>                                                      | 得票 Votos obtidos<br><b>23760</b>                                                      | 得票 Votos obtidos<br><b>18232</b>                                                      |
|  |  |  |
| 施家倫<br>SI KA LON                                                                      | 李靜儀<br>LEI CHENG I                                                                    | 高天賜<br>JOSÉ MARIA PEREIRA COUTINHO                                                    |

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# editorial

Paulo Coutinho



## NUMBERS SAY IT ALL?

**Y**ESTERDAY'S AL elections, apart from winners and losers (a figure that wasn't available at the time of this writing) have one major distinction when compared to previous polls that is the lowest turnout ever not only in terms of percentage points (42.38%) but also in absolute numbers.

Whilst the universe of voters was the largest this year at around 329,000, the turnout was worse in absolute numbers: 138,000 in 2021 versus 174,000 in 2017, in round numbers.

It is impossible not to relate these statistics to the exclusion of lists, most led by former lawmakers in the pro-democracy camp. They were disqualified by local authorities on grounds of national security. We can admit other factors weighing in on this very low participation: I would elect one, the transformation of the electoral universe with the newcomers, being them youth coming of age or the profiling of the newest immigrants that attained the right to vote through the permanent residency law provisions.

The electoral commission chief was the first face showing live on TV and being confronted with questions, mostly, related to the low turnout. Tong Hio Fong discarded the exclusion of candidates matter, basically being numb about this, and pointed out to the pandemic, economic hardship, and unpleasant weather conditions in the aftermath of typhoons influencing the elements as of last week.

Be that as it may, it is not the duty of a bureaucrat as Judge Tong to draw conclusions or speculate on political issues affecting the direct-universal suffrage seats; that should be responded by the political leaders, namely Ho Iat Seng. And they should also look into the fact that the turnout at the indirect polls was also lower than four years ago.

In a crucial time for Macau – when both central and local governments are engaged in master plans for diversifying MSAR's economy with the goal of making it a sustainable one (and it seems the Hengqin Cooperation Zone has a real shot at it) these elections cannot be seen but a setback in the development of modern Macau and its fundamental characteristics, second to none, its diversity, tolerance and the rule of law.

Macau people are mostly pragmatic, never rebellious, but conscious. The signals sent in this voting from them should be taken into consideration.

# VOTER FINDS LAWMAKERS 'NOT FULFILLING PROMISES'

ANTHONY LAM

**A**voter told the Times, "I found some lawmakers to be 'slogan-yellers' and not fulfilling their promises made during the election."

The voter, surnamed Lei, said that before the election day he did a review on lawmakers' performances during the past four years. "They should have vetoed the policies that were bad for residents," he said.

For example, the transfer of the handling authority on civil assembly from the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) to the Public Security Police Force (PSP) was one of the many policy moments he remembered with clarity.

Before the enactment of the law, the IAM handled declaration of civil assembly. When the law review was discussed, concerns were raised that the transfer of authority may result in the PSP having excessive power to veto assemblies that would oppose the government's policies or administrative directions.

The voter was also concerned with the fact that many lists in this election, as part of their election platforms, call on the government to issue more subsidies to people.

"But I consider otherwise, especially when during the [Covid-19] pandemic gambling income has plummeted," Lei said. "First and foremost, what have these lawmakers done except calling on the government to do something?"

His opinion is not completely negative. He pointed out that some lawmakers had done "real work", such as working for animal rights and the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) scheme.

Another voter, surnamed Ng, said that, although she liked lawmakers monitoring the government, she thinks lawmakers should "put their feet in residents' shoes."

She feels that lawmakers have not made changes to the city that they promised repeatedly. "Honestly, lawmakers from each legislative term



have made promises to solve these or those problems, but in the end it seemed that they did nothing,"

As such, she hoped that the new term of lawmakers would actually "do something for the residents."

She said she was more concerned with issues related to residence and transport, which affects people's daily life.

A voter and mother of three named Leong is concerned with housing problems in Macau. She disclosed that, although she has a relatively large nuclear family, she is still living with her parents.

"Property prices in Macau are too expensive," she said. When she finished schooling, she started applying for an economic housing apartment. However, she made a small mistake while filling out the application form and was eventually eliminated from the queue.

"Despite moving up in a queue, I don't see a chance of getting an apartment," Leong said. Her first successful application put her in the 9000s in the queue, while her most recent application was in the mid-5,000s.

As for the current queuing system, she found it more advantageous for people who had been born and raised, and had spent decades, in Macau. "Before, it was easy for many new-comers to get an apartment early. They simply needed to apply with an elderly [resident]," she explained.

She said she has lived in Macau for more than three decades, but she still could not get an economic housing unit.

In contrast to her personal housing concerns, another voter and father of three, also named Leong, was concerned with the overall economy and the city's

economic diversity.

"The tourism industry is crucial to the city. It concerns many people's livelihood and income," he said. "I think the new Hengqin plan will help diversify the city's economy. However, it's still a long way to go."

By this, he meant that the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will not provide an immediate boost to the economy. He found the revival of the local economy to be the most urgent issue for both the executive and the legislature.

He also discussed the cost of consumer goods. Excluding his mortgage, he revealed that his average household spending is about MOP10,000 per month. He hopes consumer goods prices will fall back to a more reasonable level. Although he has not been furloughed so far, he has a sense of impending doom.

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# Conservatives secure most seats at AL

LYNZY VALLES  
& ANTHONY LAM

**S**I Ka Lon was the most voted candidate at yesterday's low turn-out Legislative Assembly (AL) elections, with a total of 26,593 votes.

Leading the Fujian community in List 3, the Macau United Citizens Association managed to secure two more seats due to the high votes the association received.

List 3 secured AL seats for its second and third candidates Song Pek Kei and Lei Leong Wong with 13,296.5 and 6648.5 votes, respectively.

During the 2017 elections, Si ranked third, only gathering 14,887 votes.

The second candidate that garnered the highest vote was Ella Lei, from List 11, with 23,760 votes, which also secured a seat at the AL for the list's second candidate, Leong Sun Iok with 11,880 votes.

Both Lei and Leong have been representing the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) at the previous AL term.

As part of the platform, Lei has continuously pledged to defend the rights of civil servants and local workers, as well as improving housing policies.

Early this morning, Lei told the Times that they will work as hard in the parliament in the coming term to give better livelihood to residents in Macau.

Moreover, when questioned that professionals in Macau have not obtained as much recognition as they should have, Lei admitted



From left: Pereira Coutinho (center), newly-elected Ron Lam and Ella Lei with supporters

that more work must be done in this respect.

She wants the government to make concrete policies in nurturing and retaining internationally-accredited professionals in Macau.

In addition, she admitted that adopting international and national professional accreditation standards in many areas should be considered in Macau, given the small size of the city. Accreditations can progress faster, she said.

José Pereira Coutinho came in as a surprise for entering top 3. He also secured a second seat at the AL, allowing the list's number 2 Che Sai Wang to enter the assembly.

Garnering 17,668 votes, Coutinho is the only one left in the pan-democratic wing following the disqualification of former pro-democrats Ng Kuok Cheong and Sulu Sou.

Meanwhile, Zheng Anting from the Macao-Guangdong Union

won 16,808 votes.

In the last AL election, the union was led by former legislator Mak Soi Kun, who had the highest number of votes with 17,207.

However, earlier, Mak surprisingly announced that he will not be running to give way to the younger candidates.

The union, List 1, also secured a second seat for Lo Choi In with 8,404 votes.

To represent the General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macao (UGAMM), candidate Leong Hong Sai and Ngan Iek Hang both secured a seat.

UGAMM now has three seats at the AL as former number 1 candidate for the list, Ho Ion Sang, was indirectly-elected in this election.

Wong Kit Cheng and Ma Io Fong from List 11 were also elected with 14,232 and 7116 votes.

Alliance for a Happy Home's first-ranked candidate is a senior board member of the Macao Women's General Association – one

of the city's biggest community associations.

The list aims to focus on safeguarding the rights and benefits of women and children and campaigning for family-friendly workplace policies.

Another new face in the assembly is Ron Lam, who secured a seat with 8,763 votes.

Early this morning at his office, he reviewed that in the past four years, even without being elected, the group has done a lot of work,

which he sees as receiving approval from the general public.

With the chance of working in the parliament, he believes the group will have a larger stage on which to work. However, it will mean greater expectations from the general public. As such, the group will carry on with its effort used outside the parliament to serve the public in it.

This year's elections saw a total of 132,056 valid votes, 3,141 blank ballots and 2,082 void ones.



## AL2021 with the lowest turnout rate ever

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE elections for the seventh Legislative Assembly (AL2021) have registered the lowest turnout rate ever with only 42.38% of the voters showing up at the polling stations. The previous record low was recorded precisely 20 years ago in the year 2001 when the turnout was almost 10% higher (52.34%).

In a press briefing held last night after the closing of the polling stations, president of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), Tong Hio Fong blamed the pandemic for the low turnout.

"This [situation] has



never happened before. This election took place under the pandemic situation and I believe it has brought an impact to the [turnout] result," Tong said.

"We have preliminarily analyzed that the epidemic has severely affected

this election because many people could not return to Macau [to vote] due to the pandemic and the measures enforced to control the pandemic also affected the voting intention of the voters and so these are the main factors."

Questioned specifically whether the disqualification of several groups from the election could have contributed to the low turnout since people decide not to vote as their preferred candidates have been disqualified, Tong said, "Each voter has the right to decide and vote according to their intention. According to CAEAL's understanding this is not the main factor [for the low turnout]," but adding, "We believe that there might be citizens who had such thought but we also still believe that the pandemic is the main cause."

The president of CAEAL took the opportunity to thank all voters who have participated in the elec-

tions despite the prevention and control measures at the polling stations.

### 7,000 VOTERS IN INDIRECT ELECTIONS

On the indirect elections, a total of 7,000 voters have exercised their right to elect the 12 candidates running to an equal number of seats. In this election, the turnout was far higher reaching 87.33%, the second-highest turnout for

indirect elections after the elections of 2017 when the turnout was 91.67%.

The Labor sector was the one that scored a higher turnout with a total of 1,101 voters out of 1,127 (97.69%) exercising this right.

The most voted candidate was Chan Chak Mo, representing the Cultural and Sports sector with 2,317 votes, followed by Ho Ion Sang, elected in representation of Social and Education sector with 1,775 votes.

### VOTER TURN OUT

| Date       | Votes   | Registered voters |
|------------|---------|-------------------|
| 2021/09/12 | 137,279 | 323,907           |
| 2017/09/17 | 174,872 | 305,615           |
| 2013/09/15 | 151,881 | 276,034           |
| 2009/09/20 | 149,006 | 248,708           |
| 2005/09/25 | 128,830 | 220,653           |

# CHINA, MACAU, HONG KONG BANKS TO OFFER REGIONAL INVESTMENTS

**BANKS** in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong province are preparing to launch regional investment products soon.

The investment options, dubbed the Wealth Management Connect program, are part of a plan to allow residents to invest privately between cities in the Greater Bay Area, which encompasses those areas.

The Greater Bay Area plan is part of a broader move to integrate the Chinese mainland more closely with Hong Kong and Macau. It will have a quota of 300 billion yuan (\$47 billion) in combined fund flows.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced on Friday that the Macau SAR government will maintain sound communication and cooperation with supervisory bodies in the mainland and Hong Kong, to ensure effective operation of the Wealth Management Connect pilot scheme in the Greater Bay Area.

The scheme is a policy breakthrough to facilitate individuals in the Greater Bay Area making cross-boundary investment, and an important move and innovative arrangement for promoting mutual access between the financial markets in the area, Ho said at a virtual ceremony launching the scheme.



The scheme is expected to allow Hong Kong and Macau's investors to invest in the mainland markets, and vice versa.

Individuals can invest up to 1 million yuan (\$155,000) each in the scheme, which was first announced by China's central bank on Thursday.

The Greater Bay Region has a population of over 70 million and a gross domestic product of nearly \$1.7 billion, comparable to South Korea's economy.

According to Ho, the local government will make good use of the advantages of 'One country, two systems,' to fulfil Macau's

unique role, put in place the central authorities' major preferential policies for the city, and consolidate and enhance the competitiveness of Macau's financial market.

According to the Monetary Authority of Macao, supervisory bodies in the mainland, the Macau SAR and the Hong Kong SAR have established mechanisms for coordinating their work and communication to ensure smooth operation of the pilot scheme.

"Realistically speaking, we're expecting banks to launch their products under the wealth management connect scheme in a

month or two," Edmond Lau, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said in a news conference Friday.

The announcement comes days after Beijing announced plans to include Qianhai, a special co-operation zone in Guangdong's Shenzhen, and Hengqin, an island in the southern city of Zhuhai, as part of the Greater Bay Area's long-term development.

The Chinese government launched the Greater Bay Area development plan in 2017, aiming to create a global economic, innovation and technology hub. **MDT/AGENCIES**

## ELECTIONS2021 CCAC FOLLOWING UP ON 'A FEW' ELECTORAL OFFENSES

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) is following up on complaints received concerning election-related offenses, commissioner Chan Tsz King said yesterday while voting in the Legislative Assembly elections.

Chan noted that, since the beginning of the election, the CCAC has carried out over 8,000 inspections, and are generally pleased that this year there has been, for the time being, a reduced number of registered offenses.

So far, the CCAC has initiated 25 criminal investigation processes, including three cases which the corruption watchdog says demonstrate strong signs of irregularities, involving electoral corruption and violation of neutrality. Chan remarked that the investigations on such cases are ongoing.

Responding to questions from the media regarding the value of some items offered as electoral propaganda, Chan said that the CCAC will evaluate each case individually and according to the specific circumstances. He added that, in some cases, warnings were immediately issued by the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) to stop the distribution of such items.

Regarding the case in which a person is suspected of offering money in exchange for votes, the Commissioner said that he has received the complaint from the CAEAL, along with other complaints that will be dealt with according to the proper legal procedures.

Chan also remarked that a portion of the complaints received by the CCAC lack concrete evidence in the facts stated, and thus an in-depth investigation is necessary to ensure if the cases occurred.

# CE: Cooperation zone a 'major move' to promote SAR in development plan

**C**HIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng announced on Friday that the SAR government would advance work as a part of building the Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin in a pragmatic and orderly manner.

The general plan for building the Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin, issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, was made public last Sunday.

Ho said, at a press conference, that building the cooperation zone is of great significance to: promote Macau's appropriate economic diversification; facilitate Macau residents' living and working in Hengqin; push for the quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area;



and enrich the practice of "One country, two systems."

"It is also a major move to promote Macau's better integration into overall national development," he told reporters.

Ho said that the Macau SAR government has been in close contact with the Guangdong provincial government and the Zhuhai municipal government, seeking quality development of the cooperation zone.

In talks, the governments reached agreement on the institutional structure in the cooperation zone, Ho said. He added that the SAR government has appointed young, capable civil servants to the cooperation zone's executive body.

Ho said that the Macau SAR government will thoroughly study the plan and make arrangements for its future work accordingly.

The SAR government will pool resources to-

ther to help various sectors in Macau capitalize on the favorable policies made by the central authorities.

He also promised that the SAR government will create an environment in Hengqin similar to Macau that will be agreeable for either dwelling or working — as is required by the plan — so as to expand quality living space for Macau's residents.

With the plan, the SAR government will also seek innovation to improve the

mechanism of extensive consultation, joint construction, joint management and shared benefits between Guangdong and Macau. This will be done in order to promote new practices and trials for the principle of "One country, two systems," added Ho.

The CE said priority will be given to the developing industries of health, modern finance, hi-tech, exhibitions and trade, and culture and sports in the Hengqin cooperation zone. This will start with the research and development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

The central authorities' upgraded preferential policies on fiscal taxation will help attract high-quality businesses to Hengqin and invigorate the market, he said.

"In the future, we will continue to promote mutual access of infrastructure in the cooperation zone to gradually link it with Macau's public service and social security systems, covering education, medical care and social services," Ho said. **MDT/XINHUA**

CRIME

# Man arrested for rape and murder of woman; buried body at Hac Sa beach

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed on Saturday afternoon (September 11) that they have arrested a 36-year-old mainland man suspected of raping and murdering a 29-year-old woman, also from the mainland.

The PJ said that the murder occurred when the man tried to rob the woman of HKD200,000 under the guise of a currency exchange.

According to police information, when the woman found out that she was being scammed, the suspect hit her over the head with an ashtray twice.

The woman fell to the ground unconscious, and the man sexually abused her.

After confirming that the woman was dead, the suspect then carried her body from the hotel room, where the murder was committed, to Hac Sa beach and buried it in the sand.

The investigation of the case

began on Thursday (September 9) when another man from the mainland reported to the PJ that his girlfriend had gone missing in Macau.

After investigation from the PJ, the suspect was intercepted and arrested at a hotel in the Central District.

When taken into questioning, he confessed to killing the woman.

He told the PJ that he had come to Macau earlier this month to gamble and, when he lost all his money, he decided to perform a currency exchange scam to recoup his losses, which is how he met the victim.

He told the police that he met the woman on Wednesday (September 8) and, while trying to rob her, she resisted. He responded by hitting her repeatedly with the ashtray until she was unconscious. He admitted to then sexually abusing her.

Afterwards, the man confirmed that the woman had died because of his attack, and had used



a suitcase to transport her corpse by taxi to Hac Sa beach. He used a frying pan to dig the hole where he buried the body.

He then took another taxi back to the casino and continued to

gamble, using the money he had stolen from the victim.

The PJ investigators found the body at Hac Sa beach on Saturday, buried about 1.5 meters deep in the sand.

A large amount of blood was also found in the hotel room where the incident occurred.

The PJ uncovered that the man has a criminal record in the mainland for several cases of robbery.

ELECTIONS2021

# Police investigating 44 electoral illegalities

**T**HE police forces are currently investigating a total of 44 cases that involve electoral irregularities, the president of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), Tong Hio Fong, informed yesterday evening during the CAEAL briefing yesterday.

According to Tong, such irregularities involve mobile phones use inside the voting booths (26 cases), filming (11 cases) and unlawful electoral propaganda (six cases), among others.

The cases involving propaganda are related with the posting of propaganda materials on buses as well as disclosing on the internet voting intentions on a certain candidate or list.

Earlier the day, while voting, the commissioner-general of the Unitary Police Service (SPU) Leong Man Cheong referred to some of these cases, noting that all suspected cases would be



investigated.

He added that the police will proceed with investigations to verify whether mobile phone usage within the polling station — and the purpose(s) behind their usage — did or did not violate the law.

The SPU commissioner-general also revealed that 25 cases of electoral

irregularities have been already forwarded by the police force to the Public Prosecutions Office including cases in which candidate lists have failed to remove electoral propaganda from the Internet, as well as from candidacy headquarters, restaurants, and other public venues, among others. **RM**

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



Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

### Overview

#### Innovative Financial and Taxation Policies

##### Goods:

- Except for the goods and articles clearly stipulated by the State as items not exempted from tax (not bonded), all other goods and articles can **enter the Cooperation Zone from Macao free from tax (bonded)**.
- **Tax will be exempted** for goods that are processed in the Cooperation Zone to achieve an **added value of up to or more than 30%** of the original value when they enter the mainland territory from the Cooperation Zone.

##### Businesses:

- Eligible industries and enterprises in the Cooperation Zone are subject to a tax rate of **15% on business income tax, benefiting all industries that facilitate Macao's adequate economic diversification**.
- The capital expenditure of businesses that meets the criteria will be allowed for a one-off deduction before tax for the taxation period in which the expenditure occurred, or accelerated depreciation and amortisation.
- The newly added earnings from foreign direct investment of the **tourism, modern services and high technology businesses** set up in the Cooperation Zone will be exempted from income tax.

##### Macao residents:

- **Subject to Macao's personal income tax rate.**

##### High-end talented people:

- **Subject to a maximum personal income tax rate of 15%.**



Master Plan (full version)



Corresponding Contents

AD

# FM WANG OFFERS AID AND FRIENDSHIP ON CAMBODIA VISIT

SOPHENG CHEANG,  
PHNOM PENH

**C**AMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday that China has agreed to provide the Southeast Asian nation with grant aid of 1.75 billion yuan (\$272 million), announcing the assistance during a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Wang met with Hun Sen and other officials for bilateral talks on combating COVID-19, trade and investment, education and security issues. Cambodia's foreign ministry said earlier that Wang's meetings on Sunday and Monday also would include discussions of regional and international issues of shared interest.

China is Cambodia's biggest investor and closest political partner whose assistance largely underpins the Southeast Asian nation's economy. Hun Sen did not detail what the aid from Beijing would be used for.

Hun Sen spoke on a live television broadcast in which he praised China for its aid at a handover ceremony for a new 60,000-person capacity stadium built on the



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi listens to his Cambodian counterpart Prak Sokhonn during a meeting in Phnom Penh yesterday

outskirts of the capital, Phnom Penh. The Chinese government provided the \$160 million funding for the project, Cambodia's state news agency AKP reported. Tourism Minister Thong Khon as saying.

"Before, we could not imagine that Cambodia would have such a large stadium here, but China helps make it happen for us," AKP

quoted Hun Sen saying at the ceremony. He called the stadium "the fruit of the ironclad Cambodian-Chinese friendship."

Speaking to the press after meeting separately with Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, Wang made a similar point, saying, "Let Chinese-Cambodian friendship be steadier than iron and stronger than steel."

Hun Sen pointed out other assistance from China for the construction of more than 2,000 kilometers of roads and seven big bridges across the Mekong, Tonle Sap and Bassac rivers. He noted as well that vaccines sold and donated by China had helped Cambodia battle the pandemic.

Hun Sen added, however, that Cambodia is not reliant solely on

China but makes friends with all the world's countries, and welcomes their aid for development. The U.S. has also donated COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia.

Washington's relations with Hun Sen's government are frosty, as Beijing's support allows Cambodia to disregard Western concerns about its poor record in human and political rights, and in turn Cambodia generally supports Beijing's geopolitical positions on issues such as its territorial claims in the South China Sea.

In recent months, the U.S. has expressed concern about their ties and urged Cambodia's leaders to maintain an independent and balanced foreign policy that would be in its people's best interests.

The concerns have focused partly on China's construction of new facilities at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia and the potential for its military to have future basing rights there.

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand that lies adjacent to the South China Sea. Holding basing rights in Cambodia would extend Beijing's strategic military profile considerably.

Wrapping up a visit to neighboring Vietnam on Saturday, Wang said China planned to donate 3 million vaccine doses to that country, which is under a lockdown to contain a COVID-19 surge. **MDT/AP**

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 23.07-03.10  
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**Linz: City of Media Arts**  
 The Art of Interface  
 23.07-24.10  
 Mong-Ha Villas

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澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局  
 DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO  
 MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

協辦單位: 新濠影匯集團  
 Co-organização: City Entertainment Group

協辦單位: 新濠  
 Co-organização: MGM

協辦單位: 金沙中國  
 Co-organização: Sands China Ltd.

協辦單位: 澳門新濠影匯有限公司  
 Co-organização: MGM

協辦單位: 永利  
 Co-organização: Wynn

AP PHOTO



AFGHANISTAN

# Women can study in gender-segregated universities: Taliban

KATHY GANNON, KABUL

**W**OMEN in Afghanistan can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the Taliban government's new higher education minister said yesterday.

The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government. On Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from their first time in power, in

the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. However, women have been banned from sports and the Taliban have used violence in recent days against women protesters demanding equal rights.

Haqqani said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory headscarves or also compulsory face coverings.

Gender segregation will also

be enforced, he said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said. "We will not allow co-education."

Haqqani said the subjects being taught would also be reviewed. While he did not elaborate, he said he wanted graduates of Afghanistan's universities to be competitive with university graduates in the region and the rest of the world.

The Taliban, who subscribe to a strict interpretation of Islam, banned music and art during their previous time in power. This time around television has remained and news channels still show women presenters, but the Taliban messaging has been erratic.

In an interview on Afghanistan's popular TOLO News, Taliban spokesman Syed Zekrullah Hashmi said last week that wo-

men should give birth and raise children. While the Taliban have not ruled out the eventual participation of women in government, the spokesman said "it's not necessary that women be in the Cabinet."

The Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, the day they overran the capital of Kabul after capturing outlying provinces in a rapid military campaign. They initially promised inclusiveness and a general amnesty for their former opponents, but many Afghans remain deeply fearful of the new rulers. Taliban police officials have beaten Afghan journalists, violently dispersed women's protests and formed an all-male government despite saying initially they would invite broader representation.

The new higher education policy signals a change from the accepted practice before the Taliban takeover. Universities were co-ed, with men and women studying side by side, and female students did not have to abide by a dress code. However, the vast majority of female university students opted to wear headscarves in line with tradition.

In elementary and high schools, boys and girls were taught separately, even before the Taliban came to power. In high schools, girls had to wear tunics reaching to their knees and white

headscarves, and jeans, makeup and jewelry were not permitted.

Meanwhile, the Taliban's new government faces enormous economic challenges with near daily warnings of an impending economic meltdown and a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations warns it could drive 97% of Afghans below the poverty level by the end of the year.

Thousands of desperate Afghans wait daily outside Afghanistan's banks for hours to withdraw the \$200 weekly allotment. In recent days, the Taliban appear to have been trying to establish an organized system for allowing customers to withdraw funds but it rapidly deteriorates into stick waving as crowds surge toward the bank gates.

Outside the New Kabul Bank, Afghanistan's first private bank established in 2004, nearly 2,000 people demanded their money y.

For Zaidullah Mashwani, was the third day he had come to the bank hoping to get his \$200. Each night the Taliban make a list of eligible customers the next day and each morning Mashwani said a whole new list is presented.

"This is our money. The people have the right to have it," he said. "No one has money. The Taliban government needs to do something so we can get our money." MDT/AP

PAKISTAN

# Police arrest alleged child abusers, seek suspects

**PAKISTAN'S** police said they were searching for members of a gang accused of abusing minors and making pornographic videos in a marriage hall in the eastern Punjab province.

Four suspects from the

group were already arrested in a raid late Friday in the Sahiwal district, said officer Umar Daraz. The men were presented before a court yesterday [Macau time], allowing police to question them for four days.

Daraz said police seized 46 pornographic videos from cell phones and a USB drive, which allegedly show the suspects sodomizing boys aged between eight and 12 years.

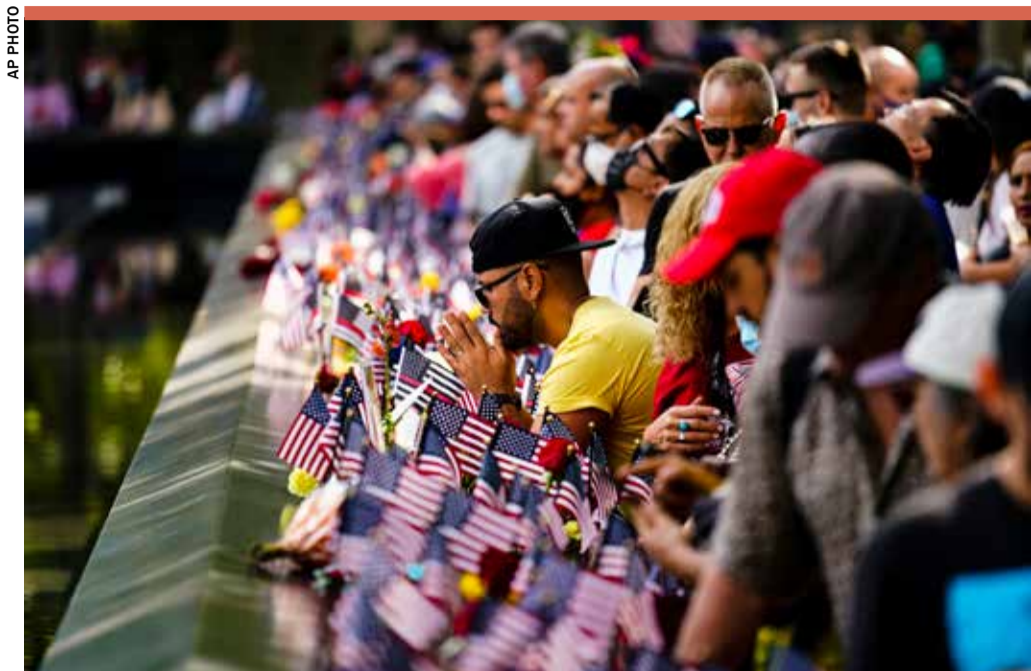
Initial questioning revealed that the one of the

gang members is a vendor at the city's main bus terminal, he said, adding that the man would lure boys who were runaways or begging into the marriage hall. Evidence indicates more suspects are involved in the crime, and police are searching for them, Daraz said.

Earlier this year, federal investigators arrested two men on suspicion of links to an international child pornography network. Investigations in that case revealed that one of the men was posting child porno-

graphy videos on the dark web.

Child abuse is not uncommon in parts of Pakistan, where parliament has recently passed laws to increase punishments for those convicted of such crimes. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO  
People arrive to the south pool after the conclusion of ceremonies to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

9/11

# FBI releases newly declassified record on attacks

ERIC TUCKE,  
WASHINGTON

A declassified FBI document related to logistical support given to two of the Saudi hijackers in the run-up to the Sept. 11 attacks details contacts the men had with Saudi associates in the United States but does not provide proof that senior kingdom officials were complicit in the plot.

The document released yesterday (Macau time), on the 20th anniversary of the attacks, is the first investigative record to be disclosed since President Joe Biden ordered a declassification review of materials that for years have remained out of public view. The 16-page document is a summary of an FBI interview done in 2015 with a man who had frequent contact with Saudi nationals in the U.S. who supported the first hijackers to arrive in the country before the attacks.

Biden ordered the Justice Department and other agencies to conduct a declassification review and release what documents they can over the next six months. He was under pressure from victims' families, who have long sought the records as they pursue a lawsuit in New York alleging that Saudi government of-

ficials supported the hijackers.

The heavily blacked-out document was released hours after Biden attended Sept. 11 memorial events in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon. Victims' relatives had said they would object to Biden's presence at those remembrances as long as the documents remained classified.

The Saudi government has long denied any involvement in the attacks. The Saudi Embassy in Washington has it supported the full declassification of all records as a way to "end the baseless allegations against the Kingdom once and for all." The embassy said that any allegation that Saudi Arabia was complicit was "categorically false."

The documents have come out at a politically delicate time for the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, which have forged a strategic, if difficult, alliance, particularly on counterterrorism matters. The Biden administration in February released an intelligence assessment implicating Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but drew criticism from Democrats for avoiding a direct punishment of the royal himself.

Victims' relatives said the

document's release was a significant step in their effort to connect the attacks to Saudi Arabia. Brett Eagleson, whose father, Bruce, was killed in the World Trade Center attack, said the release of the FBI material "accelerates our pursuit of truth and justice."

Jim Kreindler, a lawyer for the victims' relatives, said in a statement that "the findings and conclusions in this FBI investigation validate the arguments we have made in the litigation regarding the Saudi government's responsibility for the 9/11 attacks."

"This document, together with the public evidence gathered to date, provides a blueprint for how (al-Qaida) operated inside the US with the active, knowing support of the Saudi government," he said.

That includes, he said, Saudi officials exchanging phone calls among themselves and al-Qaida operatives and then having "accidental meetings" with the hijackers while providing them with assistance to get settled and find flight schools.

Regarding Sept. 11, there has been speculation of official involvement since shortly after the attacks, when it was revealed that 15 of the 19 attackers were Saudis. Osama bin Laden,

the leader of al-Qaida at the time, was from a prominent family in the kingdom.

The U.S. investigated some Saudi diplomats and others with Saudi government ties who knew hijackers after they arrived in the U.S., according to previously declassified documents.

Still, the 9/11 Commission report in 2004 found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" the attacks that al-Qaida masterminded, though it noted Saudi-linked charities could have diverted money to the group.

Particular scrutiny has centered on the first two hijackers to arrive in the U.S., Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar, and support they received.

In February 2000, shortly after their arrival in Southern California, they encountered at a halal restaurant a Saudi national named Omar al-Bayoumi who helped them find and lease an apartment in San Diego. He had ties to the Saudi government and had earlier attracted FBI scrutiny.

Bayoumi has described his restaurant meeting with Hazmi and Mihdhar as a "chance encounter," and the FBI during its interview made multiple attempts to ascertain if that characterization was accurate or if the meeting had actually been arranged in advance, according to the document.

The 2015 interview that forms the basis of the FBI document was of a man who was applying for U.S. citizenship and who years earlier had repeated contacts with Saudi nationals, who investigators said, provided "significant logistical support" to several of the hijackers. Among the man's contacts was Bayoumi, according to the document.

The man's identity is blacked out throughout the document, but he is described as having worked at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles.

Also referenced in the document is Fahad al-Thumairy, at the time an accredited diplomat at the Saudi Consulate in Los Angeles who investigators say led an extremist faction at his mosque. The document says communications analysis identified a seven-minute phone call in 1999 from Thumairy's phone to the Saudi Arabian family home phone of two brothers who later were detained at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1993 RABIN AND ARAFAT SHAKE ON PEACE DEAL



The Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, and the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, have shaken hands before cheering crowds on the White House lawn in Washington.

The handshake - the first ever in public between the two former arch enemies - marked the signing of a Declaration of Principles for peace between the Arabs and Israelis.

Under the terms of the deal, Israel has agreed to withdraw its troops from Gaza Strip and West Bank by April 1994. Elections will be held in the territories to allow the Palestinians some form of self-government.

A deadline for a final settlement has been set for February 1999.

The deal has only been made possible by talks brokered by the Norwegians earlier in the year - and by the election of Mr Rabin's Labour government which includes the pro-peace campaigners Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin.

President Bill Clinton introduced the two leaders to the crowd of invited guests in front of the White House. By his side, were former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush who had vigorously campaigned for peace during their terms in office.

Mr Clinton said: "The peace of the brave is within our reach. Throughout the Middle East there is a great yearning for the quiet miracle of a normal life. "We know a difficult road lies ahead. Every peace has its enemies."

The leaders did not sign the declaration themselves. Instead, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Palestinian counterpart did the signing.

Mr Rabin then addressed the crowd: "We who have fought against you the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and clear voice, enough of blood and tears, enough."

Mr Arafat said: "The difficult decision we reached together was one that required great courage."

The BBC's correspondent John Simpson said Mr Arafat had undoubtedly put his life on the line for this agreement.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Declaration of Principles paved the way for Israel's first withdrawals from occupied territory and Yasser Arafat's triumphant return to Palestinian territory in July 1994. He was elected president of the Palestinian National Authority in 1996. Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist wanting to prevent further Israeli withdrawals on 4 November 1995. Binyamin Netanyahu of Likud won Israeli elections in 1996. He agreed to a withdrawal from Hebron in the West Bank but talks on further peace moves with the Palestinians stalled. His successor Ehud Barak was equally unsuccessful and in the impasse veteran right-winger Ariel Sharon toured the al-Aqsa mosque/Temple Mount complex in what was seen as a provocative move by the Palestinians. Demonstrations soon turned into another uprising or intifada.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ARIES</b><br/> <br/> <b>Mar. 21-Apr. 19</b><br/>                 Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. This might not be a day for hasty decisions. Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda.</p>            | <p><b>TAURUS</b><br/> <br/> <b>Apr. 20-May. 20</b><br/>                 You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. Don't lend or borrow. Competitive games will be your forte. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm in you.</p>                      |
| <p><b>GEMINI</b><br/> <br/> <b>May. 21-Jun. 21</b><br/>                 Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Children will want to help, too.</p>                              | <p><b>CANCER</b><br/> <br/> <b>Jun. 22-Jul. 22</b><br/>                 Make sure all of your travel and driver's documents are in proper order. Focus on your domestic scene. Get together with friends or relatives. Don't let relatives make demands of you.</p>                          |
| <p><b>LEO</b><br/> <br/> <b>Jul. 23-Aug. 22</b><br/>                 Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners. You will attract new love interests. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture.</p>                                | <p><b>VIRGO</b><br/> <br/> <b>Aug. 23-Sep. 22</b><br/>                 Delays are evident. Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can.</p>                                                     |
| <p><b>LIBRA</b><br/> <br/> <b>Sep. 23-Oct. 22</b><br/>                 Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Don't jump the gun; you may find yourself getting angry at the wrong person. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make.</p> | <p><b>SCORPIO</b><br/> <br/> <b>Oct. 23-Nov. 21</b><br/>                 You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. You may have ignored or neglected your mate lately. Think before you act.</p>                                                  |
| <p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b><br/> <br/> <b>Nov. 22-Dec. 21</b><br/>                 Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes. Don't jump as quickly as you usually do. Avoid any hassles.</p>                                                         | <p><b>CAPRICORN</b><br/> <br/> <b>Dec. 22-Jan. 19</b><br/>                 It might be best to spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated. Trouble could be brewing at home. Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow.</p> |
| <p><b>AQUARIUS</b><br/> <br/> <b>Jan. 20-Feb. 18</b><br/>                 A female colleague may cause problems for you. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Don't let coworkers interfere with your objectives.</p>                                                    | <p><b>PISCES</b><br/> <br/> <b>Feb. 19-Mar. 20</b><br/>                 Don't be too quick to sign documents. Put your energy into your work or moneymaking ventures rather than into your emotional life today.</p>                                                                       |

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

|              | MIN | MAX | CONDITION     |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| <b>CHINA</b> |     |     |               |
| Beijing      | 20  | 28  | thunderstorms |
| Harbin       | 11  | 21  | cloudy        |
| Tianjin      | 25  | 33  | cloudy        |
| Urumqi       | 22  | 26  | showers       |
| Xi'an        | 23  | 30  | rain          |
| Lhasa        | 20  | 26  | cloudy        |
| Chengdu      | 26  | 36  | cloudy        |
| Chongqing    | 27  | 37  | cloudy        |
| Kunming      | 28  | 37  | fine          |
| Nanjing      | 20  | 29  | cloudy        |
| Shanghai     | 26  | 33  | cloudy        |
| Wuhan        | 23  | 26  | rain          |
| Hangzhou     | 11  | 17  | thunderstorms |
| Taipei       | 22  | 30  | thunderstorms |
| Guangzhou    | 16  | 27  | cloudy        |
| Hong Kong    | 22  | 32  | fine          |
| <b>WORLD</b> |     |     |               |
| Moscow       | 11  | 23  | rain          |
| Frankfurt    | 12  | 25  | overcast      |
| Paris        | 17  | 26  | overcast      |
| London       | 14  | 19  | cloudy        |
| New York     | 21  | 31  | overcast      |

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Blind as \_\_\_; 5- Sun, talk; 8- Son of Adam and Eve; 12- Indonesian resort island; 13- State not to "mess with"; 15- Commedia dell'\_\_\_; 16- Russian pancake; 17- Dress style; 18- Comic Rudner; 19- Angry dispute; 22- Thieves' place; 23- Small island; 24- River to the Ubangi; 26- Wide-mouthed bottle; 29- Sled; 31- Math subj.; 32- Glove material; 34- Called one's bluff; 36- Frat party purchases; 38- Beast of burden; 40- Horse of mixed color; 41- Magna \_\_\_; 43- "All My Children" vixen; 45- Female gametes; 46- Joint; 48- Tempestuous; 50- The closest one to us is the sun; 51- Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"; 52- Part of UNLV; 54- Recalling; 61- Et \_\_\_ (and other men); 63- Polite; 64- Fort \_\_\_ captured by U.S. forces in 1814; 65- Underlying cause; 66- Govt. security; 67- Actress Turner; 68- Family member; 69- Asian holiday; 70- Planetary revolution;

DOWN 1- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 2- Sphere; 3- Settled down; 4- Musical ineptitude; 5- Actress Ward; 6- Off-ramp; 7- Wife of a rajah; 8- Swiss river; 9- Newly married man; 10- Kitchen addition; 11- The Tower of Pisa does this; 13- Diplomatic; 14- Capital of South Korea; 20- Narrow inlets; 21- Require; 25- One with no capacity for veracity; 26- Lucid; 27- Offensive action; 28- Conger catcher; 29- Big rigs; 30- Leaden; 31- Pedigree org.; 33- \_\_\_ es Salaam; 35- Genetic letters; 37- Leave in, to an editor; 39- Fit for the stage; 42- Yonder; 44- Super; 47- Construct; 49- Seldom; 52- Pasternak heroine; 53- Baseball family name; 55- Aromatic herb; 56- Bacchanalian cry; 57- Baseball glove; 58- Dies \_\_\_; 59- Actress Foch; 60- Stuff; 62- "The Addams Family" cousin;

**Friday's solution**

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

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SELL INVEST RENT</b></p> <p>☎ MORE INFO<br/>                 (853) 2835 2699</p> | <p><b>jml</b> 卓雅物業<br/>                 property SINCE 1994</p> <p>✉ hello@jmlproperty.com<br/>                 www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>📱 jmlmacau 📷 jmlproperty</p> | <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p>Lun Vo <b>HKD 5,200,000</b><br/>                 Ref: 2107 6001 770ft<sup>2</sup> 2 🛏 1 🚗</p> | <p><b>FOR RENT</b></p>  <p>Va Fat <b>HKD 10,900/mth</b><br/>                 Ref: 1910 1006 740ft<sup>2</sup> 1 🛏 1 🚗</p> | <p><b>Rain Dance Property</b><br/>                 "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p>  <p>Traditional apartment <b>HKD 2,680,000</b><br/>                 Ref: 2103 6001 788ft<sup>2</sup> 2 🛏 1 🚗</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**Elda Lemos**  
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elda@jmlproperty.com



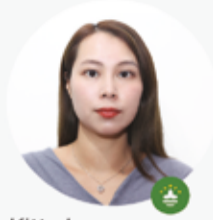
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**Kitty Lou**  
(853) 6630 0730  
kitty@jmlproperty.com



**Juliet Risdon**  
(853) 6680 9804  
juliet@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



**FOR SALE**

**Lun Vo**  
**HKD 5,200,000** 770 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1

Right behind Cozinha Pinocchio Taipa, convenient location only 3 minutes walk to bus stop and taxi stop. Newly renovate with double glazing windows to keep the apartment in silence.



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2107 6001

Viewings by appointment.  
Find out more on [www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)

Property Hotlist



**FOR SALE**

**Triumph Court**  
**HKD 11,500,000**

1,756 ft<sup>2</sup>  
4   
2



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2104 6002



**FOR RENT**

**Va Fat**  
**HKD 10,900/mth**

740 ft<sup>2</sup>  
1   
1



SCAN ME  
Ref: 1910 1006



**FOR RENT**

**Old Taipa studio**  
**HKD 7,200/mth**

470 ft<sup>2</sup>  
1



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2106 1004

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 840 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Chun Fok 2 2 868 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 7,988,000** Ref: 2106 6002
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Nova Taipa 1 3 2 1,880 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 15,000,000** Ref: 2103 6004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

For Rent

- [Macau] Tai Nin 1 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 8,600/mth** Ref: 1909 1002
- [Taipa] Jardin Lamerias 2 2 747 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 11,200/mth** Ref: 2106 1003
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,158 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 20,000/mth** Ref: 2105 1002
- [Taipa] One Central 3 3 2,332 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 29,800/mth** Ref: 2010 1001
- [Taipa] BCM building 4,100 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 85,000/mth** Ref: 2101 1001

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



**FOR SALE**

**Traditional apartment**  
**HKD 2,680,000**

788 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2   
1



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2103 6001

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# Viva Ronaldo: Cristiano's 2 goals on glorious United return

ROB HARRIS

**MANCHESTER UNITED 4,  
NEWCASTLE 1**

**T**HE leap, swivel and landing with outstretched arms were roared on by the Old Trafford crowd.

If anyone missed it the first time on Saturday — and it's hard to imagine when so many eyes were transfixed on Cristiano Ronaldo — they got another chance in the second half.

Two goals gave him two chances to stage his trademark celebration in a 4-1 victory over Newcastle, ensuring the performance matched Manchester United's considerable hype that was embraced by fans young and old with their "Viva Ronaldo" chants and willingness to hand over cash for new No. 7 jerseys.

Ronaldo looked like he'd never been away from Old Trafford for 12 years and yet, he said, "I was very nervous. Maybe I didn't show it but I was."

Less than five months ago the fans were storming the stadium in a rage against the owners. Now the green-and-gold anti-Glazer protest scarves were hanging over the Ronaldo shirts the club megastore is struggling to match the demand for in the two weeks since he joined Juventus.

The "Get out of our club" chants were aimed by the Newcastle supporters at their owner, not at the home directors' seats where Avram Glazer would have struggled to hear the few songs against his family from the Stretford end.

For Old Trafford's second capacity crowd since the start of the pandemic 18 months ago, the "Welcome home" announcements left no doubt they were for the superstar on the field.

"There was loads of expectation and he has delivered," United manager and former teammate Ole Gunnar Solskjær said. "He's still a ruthless and clinical goal scorer. He



AP PHOTO

smells the big moment."

Ronaldo left United a year after winning his first Ballon D'Or accolade in 2008. The Portugal captain returns a five-time winner, with the chiselled, lean body ensuring not just playing longevity at 36 but a status that transcends not just United but the sport.

Ronaldo even laughed at himself. Like after the early miss when he swung at the ball from a tight angle right in front of the Newcastle fans.

He had to wait until the second minute of stoppage time at the end of the first half to restart the goal count left at 118 in 2009.

Few goals will be easier, tapping into an empty net after goalkeeper Freddie Woodman fumbled Mason Greenwood.

"There's more to it than that," Solskjær said. "He's anticipating the rebound."

It was a goal United fans hadn't seen in 12 years and feared would never happen, especially when he came close to signing for Manchester City when he unexpectedly came on the market in the final days of the summer transfer window.

Yet it was a goal only the crowd of around 74,000 could legally watch in Britain.

The rest of the world — apart from Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea and Turkmenistan — could view the English Premier League match live on television.

The peculiarity of broadcasting rules meant this game was blacked out from television and digital platforms in Britain until after the game. Yet, illicit Twitter clips of it were showing more than a million views within half an hour of it being scored.

There was a moment of unease when United's need for a new defensive midfielder was highlighted by the failings that led to Newcastle's Javier Manquillo being able to equalize in the second half.

But Ronaldo had the lead restored in the 62nd. All the running in the buildup was from Luke Shaw before slipping the ball through for Ronaldo to effortlessly put the ball between Woodman's legs.

And there it was again, the signature celebration finessed during his time at Real Madrid, this time in front of the Stretford End, where Ronaldo shouted "Siuuuu."

"He's developed into a miles better player," Solskjær said. "Sometimes he can drift off to the side. We're not going to use him as a battering ram. He's going to roam."

The win was secure. It just needed compatriot Bruno Fernandes

with a fine rising, curling shot and Jesse Lingard's stoppage time strike to

add to the party atmosphere.

Tougher assignments will come for Ronaldo and United. The celebrations on Saturday were around Ronaldo's return. But the homecoming will be deemed a success only if he brings the Premier League trophy back to United for the first time since the final days of Alex Ferguson's reign in 2013.

Ferguson, sitting in the directors' box, certainly looked impressed with the return of the forward he signed as a teenager in 2003 and is back to restore luster to a club that's seen City usurp United for silverware if not status.

He was left in no doubt how excited the fans are to see him back.

The post-match interviews, pitchside due to coronavirus restrictions, took place to the soundtrack of "Viva Ronaldo" being sung by thousands of fans who remained long after the final whistle.

"I belong to Manchester," he said. "I arrived here at 18 and they treated me unbelievably. This is why I've come back. I'm so proud to be here and I want to win." **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**TRADE WITH ASEAN MODEL OF MULTILATERALISM**

The 18th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit that opened in Nanning, capital of South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on Friday, clearly display the vitality and resilience of the regional market.

Inaugurated in 2004, the annual expo is an important platform for promoting trade and bilateral relations between China and the ASEAN countries.

This year's expo — and a series of related events — highlights that over the years, China and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have forged increasingly fruitful trade ties.

A total of 179 deals worth more than 300 billion yuan (about \$46.59 billion), the highest ever, were signed on the first day of the expo, testifying to the great potential and appeal of the annual event to regional businesses.

The expo is undoubtedly an important venue for the two sides to grasp new opportunities, but it also serves as a showcase for the bright prospects for the building of a China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

Held against the backdrop of the raging COVID-19 pandemic and amid the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between ASEAN and China, this year's gala is of special significance in this respect.

The global health crisis and ensuing economic challenges have prompted China and ASEAN to join hands even tighter in order to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and promote the region's post-pandemic recovery.

Despite the contracting global trade and economic recession, the two sides became each other's largest trading partners for the first time last year. Data from the Chinese customs shows trade between China and ASEAN rose from \$8.36 billion in 1991 to \$685.28 billion in 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 16.5 percent.

This encouraging picture shows how their long-standing shared resolve to work together through thick and thin is producing real benefits for both sides.

Thanks to their joint efforts to continuously tap the potential in their complementary economies and deepen all-round cooperation, the tree of China-ASEAN friendship continues to flourish, growing taller and greener, which is also a blessing for the rest of Asia and indeed the world as a whole, since a reliable driver to promote global development and prosperity is of the essence.

China and ASEAN, which are both staunch supporters of multilateralism and an open world economy, can work together to be a powerful catalyst for a sustainable global recovery. And with their long-horizon strategic vision, they can help the region heighten its standing and gain more clout in world affairs, contributing to the building of a multipolar world.

New Zealand is buying an extra 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from Denmark as it tries to keep its coronavirus vaccination program running at full speed, the government said.

The doses are on top of New Zealand's regular shipments from Pfizer and come a few days after officials announced a similar deal with Spain for more than 250,000 extra doses. New Zealand was slow to get its vaccination program running but has seen demand spike since an outbreak of the delta variant in Au-

kland last month.

That had left the country in danger of running out of doses ahead of a large scheduled shipment in October. New Zealand's government has been attempting to eliminate the virus entirely in Auckland by imposing a lockdown but is finding the delta variant hard to stamp out, with another 20 daily community cases reported yesterday. About 54% of people in New Zealand have had at least one dose and 28% are fully vaccinated.



GLOBAL TIMES

**PUTIAN**

**CHINESE CITY WITH CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK STOPS BUSES, TRAINS**

A city in southern China that is trying to contain a coronavirus outbreak told the public yesterday not to leave town, suspended bus and train service and closed cinemas, bars and other facilities.

Anyone who needs to leave Putian, a city of 2.9 million people in Fujian province south of Shanghai, for an essential trip must have proof of a negative coronavirus test within the past 48 hours, the city government announced.

China declared the coronavirus under control in early 2020 but has suffered outbreaks of the more contagious delta variant. Authorities say most cases are traced to travelers arriving from Russia, Myanmar and other countries.

In Putian, 19 new infec-

tions that were believed to have been acquired locally were reported in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, according to the National Health Commission. One was reported in Quanzhou, also in Fujian.

The first cases in Putian were students from Xianyou county, but experts suspect the outbreak might have originated with the father of one student who returned from Singapore on Aug. 4, according to the official Global Times newspaper.

The traveler, identified by the surname Lin, underwent a 14-day quarantine and nine nucleic acid and serologic tests, all of which were negative, the Global Times said, citing local authorities. It said he tested positive on Friday.

Residents of villages in

Xianyou where infections were found were barred from leaving, the newspaper said.

Bus and train service to Putian was suspended Saturday, Global Times said.

Elsewhere in Putian, cinemas, card rooms, gyms, tourist sites and other facilities were ordered closed, the city government announced. Restaurants and supermarkets were told to "strictly control" customer numbers and to check for fevers. Schools were ordered to require students to wear masks in class.

Experts were sent to Putian to oversee disease-control work, the Health Commission announced Saturday.

China has reported 4,636 coronavirus deaths out of 95,199 confirmed cases.

MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

Iran agreed yesterday to allow international inspectors to install new memory cards into surveillance cameras at its sensitive nuclear sites and to continue filming there, potentially averting a diplomatic showdown this week. The announcement by Mohammad Eslami of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran after a meeting he held with the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, in Tehran still leaves the watchdog in the same position it has faced since February, however.

Britain's health secretary said yesterday that authorities have decided not to require vaccine passports for entry into nightclubs and other crowded events in England, reversing course amid opposition from some of the Conservative government's supporters in Parliament. Sajid Javid said the government has shelved the idea of vaccine passports for now but could reconsider the decision if COVID-19 cases rise exponentially once again.



AP PHOTO

France Two politicians have formally declared their intentions to seek to become the country's first female president in next year's spring election. National Rally's Marine Le Pen and Paris' Socialist mayor, Anne Hidalgo (pictured), both officially launched their campaigns yesterday in what were widely expected moves. Hidalgo, 62, mayor of the French capital since 2014, is the favorite to win the Socialist Party nomination.

Spain Catalan separatists held their first major mass gathering since the start of the pandemic on Saturday, trying to offer a display of unity despite the divisions in their ranks over upcoming talks with the Spanish government. Tens of thousands waved pro-independence flags and wore T-shirts with messages for their cause in downtown Barcelona. People used face masks for the event, which went ahead after regional authorities dropped restrictions on the number of people who could gather.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Brian Inganga



Another man's treasure. A man who scavenges recyclable materials for a living walks past Marabou storks feeding on a mountain of garbage amidst smoke from burning trash at Dandora, the largest garbage dump in the capital Nairobi, Kenya.