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THE MAXIMUM MONTHLY BASIC SALARY FOR THE CALCULATION OF DISMISSAL COMPENSATION SHALL REMAIN AT MOP21,000: DSAL
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**Afghanistan's** new Taliban rulers set up a ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" in the building that once housed the Women's Affairs Ministry, escorting out World Bank staffers on Saturday as part of the forced move. It was the latest troubling sign that the Taliban are restricting women's rights as they settle into government, just a month since they overran the capital of Kabul. During their previous rule of Afghanistan in the 1990s, the Taliban had denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from public life.

**Syria** An attack with explosive devices laid along a natural gas pipeline southeast of Syria's capital knocked out power in parts of the country before it was quickly restored, the electricity minister said Saturday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which was the latest incidence of sabotage targeting Syria's oil and gas infrastructure. During the 10-year conflict, Syria's oil and gas infrastructure was subject to repeated attacks and many oil fields now lay outside of government-controlled areas.



**Israeli** forces yesterday arrested the last two of six Palestinian prisoners who escaped a maximum-security Israeli prison two weeks ago, closing an intense, embarrassing episode that exposed deep security flaws in Israel and turned the fugitives into Palestinian heroes. The Israeli military said the two men surrendered in Jenin, their hometown in the occupied West Bank, after they were surrounded at a hideout that had been located with the help of "accurate intelligence." It said the men, along with two others who allegedly assisted them, were taken for questioning.

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MAKING HISTORY

Local karateka Jugo Kuok made history at the 14th National Games for winning the SAR's first ever medal from the event, bringing home bronze
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## HENGQIN COOPERATION ZONE INAUGURATED

P2

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON  
ONLY  
VACCINATED  
PARTICIPANTS  
ALLOWED

P3



## CE CONGRATULATES RETURN OF SHENZHOU-12 CREW SPACECRAFT

Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng has sent a congratulatory message to the central government on the successful return of the Shenzhou-12 crew spacecraft to Earth. Shenzhou-12 was the 19th flight mission of the China's space engineering programme. During their mission to China's space station, the astronauts successfully completed two spacewalks. The crew worked and lived in the space station for 90 days, setting a record of an in-orbit stay by Chinese astronauts on a single mission. The return of Shenzhou-12 to Earth marks a breakthrough in the country's space science programme and a leapfrog development in the nation's space exploration experience.

## UM CALLS FOR VIDEO COMPETITION ENTRY

The Chinese-Portuguese Bilingual Teaching and Training Centre (CPC) of University of Macau's (UM) Department of Portuguese, under the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has launched an inter-varsity short video competition. All university students in Macau are welcome to submit their videos before November 12. The theme of the competition is "Paixão," a Portuguese word that indicates a strong feeling of attraction. The duration of the video should be between five and 10 minutes. Each team can only submit one video for the competition.

# Officials inaugurate Hengqin Cooperation Zone

**O**FFICIALS on national and provincial levels officiated the ceremony over the weekend to inaugurate and celebrate the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The session highlighted a plaque-unveiling ceremony.

In his speech, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, who is also the director of the Administrative Committee for the Cooperation Zone, stressed that the establishment of the Cooperation Zone is a major decision made by the Central People's Government on a strategic level.

Furthermore, he said that the Cooperation Zone is a major move in implementing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and a crucial formation in achieving an in-depth reform and expanded opening.

It is also a great achievement stemming from the implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle.



According to Ho, the unveiling of the plaque symbolizes the full ignition and acceleration of the development of both the Cooperation Zone and Hengqin. He thanked the Central Government and the governments of Guangdong Province and Zhuhai City for their care, support and coordination.

After the inauguration ceremony, Ho visited the offices of the administrative entities and attended meetings with officials. He encouraged officials

to handle the development of the Cooperation Zone well. Officials from both jurisdictions should learn from each other.

## VICE PREMIER APPROVES OF MACAU'S WORK

Prior to the inauguration ceremony of the Cooperation Zone, Vice Premier Han Zheng received the CE and affirmed the recent work of the SAR government.

Speaking during the meeting, Ho expressed his gratitude to

the central government for its support, saying the SAR Government would spare no effort in making good use of the favorable policies that have been made available to Macau, in order to push forward the city's adequate economic diversification.

Han said livelihood issues were of key importance for overall development. In that regard, greater effort should be made to innovate the models for social governance and public services. **AL**

## LABOR

# Three crucial compensations retained at existing level

**T**HE maximum monthly basic salary for the calculation of dismissal compensation shall remain at MOP21,000, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has announced.

The decision was made after a review on three topics about labor compensations and remunerations, with the aforementioned ceiling being one of them.

The review has been conducted and discussed at the Social Coordination Standing Committee. Opinions from both the labor and the employer sides were heard, the DSAL added.

On this matter, Leong Wai Fong, vice president of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM),



pointed out that due to the city's economic development in the past two decades, many employees are earning more than the

monthly basic salary ceiling.

The pace of reviewing the maximum monthly basic salary could not catch

up with the development of the city, Leong said, which in turn, cannot protect the interests of employees.

Moreover, no matter how long an employee has worked at a company, the maximum compensation for unreasonable dismissal is limited to 12-times the maximum monthly basic salary. Leong finds this unfair to loyal employees. He thus calls on the government to commence reviewing the stipulation.

The DSAL has also reviewed the minimum wage level of those working as security guards and janitors, which the authority decided to retain at MOP32 per hour for hourly-rate workers, MOP256 per day

for daily-rate workers and MOP6,656 per month for monthly-rate workers.

Furthermore, reviews on the minimum wage level will be conducted every two years.

On this, Leong worries that the review will eventually take four years to conclude. He explained that from experience, the process from commencement to the implementation of review usually takes more than a year.

As such, the reviewed minimum wage level will very likely be unable to catch up with the inflation rate. This, at the end, with hurt the interests of workers.

Therefore, he hopes the government can shorten

the legal review frequency to every year so as to ensure lower wage workers will be able to maintain their purchasing power in basic livelihood commodities and necessities.

The other topic was the limits of compensation for damages resulting from accidents at work and occupational diseases, enshrined in the "Legal regime for compensation for damages arising from accidents at work and occupational diseases," which remain unchanged.

Leong requests the government to seriously consider if this existing stipulation is able to provide sufficient protection to employees. **AL**

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## NATIONAL GAMES

# Jugo Kuok wins first-ever bronze medal for Macau

RENATO MARQUES

**M**ACAU karate-do athlete Jugo Kuok Kin Hang has won the first bronze medal for Macau at the People's Republic of China's 14th National Games, taking place at the city of Xian in Shaanxi province.

Kuok won his medal in the men's individual kata event and it is also the first-ever medal for Macau since the Special Administrative Region started participating in the National Games.

Kuok's score of 25.02 placed him in third place with Hong Kong athlete Lau Chi Ming.

The competition was won by Mu Shike representing the Guangdong province, and Shaanxi's Zheng Qianqu came in second.

After the podium ceremony, Kuok said, "I'm glad to take this honor.

It's a special moment for Macau sports. It means that Macau athletes can do something on this big stage." "I kept pushing myself and didn't eat too much yesterday. It's my first time competing at the National Games, and I was hungry to win a medal for my team," Kuok was quoted saying by Xinhua news agency, noting that he is very happy to participate in this competition after a long time without taking part in an event outside Macau borders due to Covid-19 pandemic.

**It's a special moment for Macau sports.**

JUGO KUOK

Kuok was accompanied on the podium ceremony by the Macau team's head coach Mohammad Reza Rashidnia. Rashidnia, an Iranian, has been leading

local karate-do athletes to success since 2002.

The achievement has prompted an immediate reaction from Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, who sent a congratulatory message to the sports delegation.

In his message, the CE said that such an achievement is "creating a new page in history," and extended his congratulations to all the other athletes representing Macau.

Previously, Kuok had won a gold medal at the 6th East Asian Games in 2013 in men's individual kata and was also ranked fifth in the same sport in the same year, during the 18th Asian Games.

Since 2015, he started to dedicate himself to the sports professionally, being one of the athletes included in the first group of the government Financial Support Plan for Elite Athletes.

# Only vaccinated participants allowed at Int'l Marathon

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE 2021 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon will be held on December 5 with participants required to have completed two doses of Covid-19 vaccine at least 14 days in (i.e. November 21 or before) prior to the race.

In addition, participants are required to make their own arrangements for the Covid-19 test and to present proof of a valid negative Covid-19 test result (inclusive of race day) before being permitted to take part in the race.

Jointly organized by the Sports Bureau and the General Association of Athletics of Macau, an online registration system is implemented for this year's international marathon with registration open from 9:00 a.m. on September 25 and 26.



Registration for the marathon and half-marathon categories will kick off on the first day, followed by registration for the mini-marathon category on the next day.

Being its 40th year, this year's event comprises of marathon, half-marathon and mini-marathon categories. A total of 12,000 places are available,

including 1,400 for marathon, 4,800 for half-marathon and 5,800 for mini-marathon.

Last year, about 12,000 participants, mostly from mainland China and Macau, participated in the competition.

Last year's marathon only had runners from within the Greater China Region due to the border restrictions.

AD

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



Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

### New Prospects

#### Encourage Macao Young People to Work and Set up Business

- Develop scientific and technological research, high-end manufacturing, traditional Chinese medicine, modern financial services, culture and tourism, convention and exhibition, and commercial and trade industries, to facilitate employment of Macao young people.
- Implement policies to encourage enterprises to employ Macao young people.
- Subject to Macao's personal income tax rate.
- Macao young people enjoy both the supportive policies implemented in Guangdong and Macao.
- Establish high standard makerspace, incubation centres, and scientific research and innovation carriers to support Macao young people's career development.



Master Plan (full version)



Corresponding Contents



CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAM

# RITA SANTOS IDENTIFIED AS A COMMISSION-BASED AGENT BY A WITNESS

RENATO MARQUES

**D**URING a trial session on the cryptocurrency investment fraud case that involved local businessman Frederico dos Santos Rosário and Hong Kong businessman Dennis Lau as defendants, Wong Sok I, the witness, revealed a document which stated that Rita Santos, Rosário's mother and chairperson of the General Assembly of Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM), as well as Rosário's wife, Manuela), were agents on the scheme and they received commissions for the investments in cryptocurrency, *Hoje Macau* reported.

During the court session held last week, Wong presented a list of all the involved parties, including the investors. In the list, the names of the two women are noted as agents of the scheme headed by Rosário and Lau.

According to Wong, the list was provided during a meeting with Rosário at the residence of a person named "cousin Matilde."

It was also said that sometime between June and July, the scheme investors were no longer



getting the promised return on investment.

When asked about Santos' role as an agent, the witness said that she was not aware if Santos was an agent in the scheme as she had not dealt with her directly,

but she mentioned that she knew that the other person listed as an agent, Rosário's wife Manuela, did work on the investment scheme, and received commissions for the work based on the amount of the investments.

Wong also explained that she did not know how these commissions were paid, but it was Manuela who admittedly received the commissions.

Wong's statement was then corroborated by another witness surnamed Sun, who had allegedly been also present during the meeting at "cousin Matilde's" house. Sun said that the meeting was very restricted and was attended by invited "close friends" only.

The list contained not only the names of the investors but also the amounts invested, the agents' names, and a commissions field.

During the court session, accounts from a total of four witnesses on the case were heard. The fourth witness said that he believed that the agents' names, as well as the commissions' field, had been "wrongly" mixed with the investors' names.

Once again, ATFPM's name was mentioned by Wong, who was also one of the investors. She told the court that she was led to trust the scheme because it was being promoted by such

an organization.

"I trusted it because the place where the investment was promoted was at the ATFPM. [I believe that] they must have analyzed and studied the subject well and they were not going to let anything illegal happen," Wong said, adding that the ATFPM has ensured that if there were any problems, they would return the money invested to the investors without any conditions.

Sun also mentioned the same fact, adding that Rosário even mentioned at some point that his mother's, Santos', assets would be used, if necessary, to pay any compensation.

Another victim who appeared in the court was Gilberto Camacho, councilor of the Portuguese Communities, who lost approximately HKD123,000 in the investment scheme.

Camacho, who shares the councilor role with Santos, is said to have been surprised when the agreement failed to be fulfilled although saying that he believes that there was no intention from Rosário to trick anyone.

STAY, DINE AND SEE MACAO

## OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS ON FIRST DAY OF LOCAL TOURS RESUMPTION

**F**OLLOWING over a month of suspension due to the discovery of Delta variant cases in Macau in early August, the "Stay, Dine and See Macao" project resumed operation for local tours on Saturday.

On the first day of resumption, about 230 participants in 10 groups set off for local tours.

The resumption of local tours coincides with the launch of 13 adjusted itineraries in September for the third phase.

The helicopter tours, scheduled for the period of July to August but were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, also started progressively again under the rearrangement, including those which were conducted on Saturday. The project started welcoming signups for local tours again since September 14.

On the first four days (from September 14 to 17),



a total of 3,011 individuals signed up for local tours. Among all, the Macao Government Tourism Office disclosed that the itinerary "Experience Macao by sea, land and air" is most popular among local residents.

Due to the earlier pandemic situation, the "Stay, Dine and See Macao" project suspended operation of local tours from August 4

until September 17.

In operation since April 25, the local tours project will run until December 31. From April 15 until September 17, a total of 41,267 individuals signed up for local tours and 24,426 participants went on the tours.

The hotel staycation experience under the project has attracted some 24,283 hotel packages.

IPIM

## 294 ENTERPRISES ASSISTED THROUGH 'ONE-STOP SERVICE'

**T**HE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) has assisted 294 enterprises to start business in Macau in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021, according to data provided by the bureau.

Last year, the bureau also followed up on 402 new investment projects.

The investment projects cover some of the key industries such as big health, modern finance, high and new technology, conventions and exhibitions, business and trade, and culture.

Such assistance were made through the bureau's "One-stop Service," where IPIM assigned personnel to provide assistance and convenient services for people interested in investing in Macau, facilitating the implementation of their business in the SAR.

To date, more than 30 "prior technical meetings" have been held.

According to IPIM, the



"One-stop Service" has also "strengthened the interdepartmental co-operation within the Investment Committee, which comprises 12 government departments and institutions."

During the process, the service helps to clarify the administrative procedures required for project commencement and execution.

Earlier this year, the

bureau announced that it has approved a total of 2,084 temporary residency applications for technicians with special qualifications over a period of 15 years.

According to the same statement, the education sector received the largest number of approvals from the government, accountable for 36.2% of all applications approved (754 people). **LV**



TOURISM

# Visitor daily arrivals surpass 28,000

LYNZY VALLES

**V**ISITOR arrivals to Macau between September 10 to 16 reached a total of 201,891, according to data from Macao Government Tourism Office.

The average daily visitor volume was 28,842, an increase by 19.9% compared to the average daily visitor arrivals (24,050) in the previous week. The average daily arrivals surged by 118.5% compared to August.

In terms of local hotel occupancy, the average hotel occupancy rate between September 10 to 16 reached 51.6%, a rise of 5.4 percentage points compared to the previous week of September 3 to 9 (46.2%) and a considerable increase of 26.5 percentage points compared with that of August.

With a significant increase from August, the tourism authorities are predicting 35,000 tourist arrivals in the upcoming Golden Week – a busy month for the city's tourism sector given China's seven-day national holiday.

Last year, the city welcomed 156,000 visitors during the National Day Golden Week holiday – a number that signified a post-Co-



vid rebound despite the massive plunge of 86% compared to the year prior.

Of this figure, 145,000 visitors came from the mainland, while the rest came from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Currently, only entrants from the mainland are not required to undergo quarantine. Visitors from Hong Kong and Taiwan are mandated to undergo a 14-day quarantine in a designated medical

observation site.

Ctrip, one of China's biggest online travel platform, previously issued a report noting that Macau had been an appealing destination for "young travellers with high spending power."

The firm issued a report on booking trends for local travel products that covers the first half of the year. It said people born in the period between the 1990s to early 2000s occupied 30% of

Ctrip's customers that booked Macau hotels in the first half of this year.

According to the travel company giant, there was an increase in the number of bookings for Macau-related tourism products since the region eased entry requirements for travelers from the mainland.

Last year, Qunar, one of mainland China's major online travel agencies, reportedly revealed that bookings for Macau hotels for the first day of this National Day Holiday have exceeded those last year for the same day.

On October 2 last year, state-owned media channel CCTV2 Finance titled one of its reports with the headline "Macau becomes a popular tourism destination." CCTV2 Finance said that "during the long holiday, Macau has become a hot tourism destination, with bookings for Macau hotels rocketing" amid the National Day Holiday.

## 34,000 CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS ON FIRST DAY OF FESTIVE HOLIDAY

**ON** the first day of the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in the mainland, there were about 34,000 tourists moving across the city's ports, according to data from the Public Security Police. There were more than 18,000 inbound and outbound travelers using the Border Gate, while 2,706

inbound and outbound passengers through the Qingmao Port. The Qingmao Port, located just a few hundred meters from the Border Gate Port, opened to the public on September 8 following the conclusion of the construction after approximately three years.

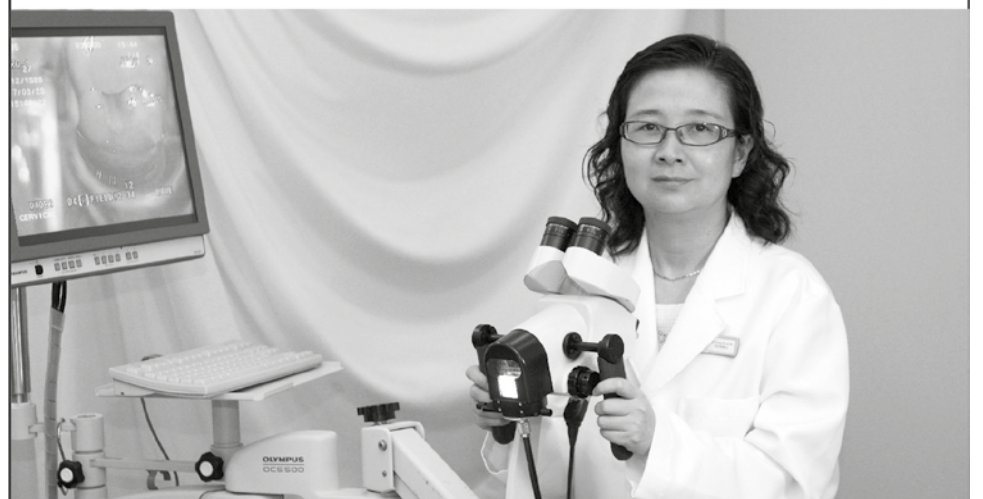
### Vamos participar na assembleia geral dos proprietários e assumir a administração dos edifícios

A administração é constituída através da aprovação dos presentes na assembleia geral dos proprietários por mais de metade dos votos (quórum), além disso, os **votos a favor** devem representar pelo menos **15%** do valor total do condomínio.



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HONG KONG

# VOTERS CHOOSE NEW 'GRAND' ELECTORS UNDER PRO-BEIJING LAWS

ALICE FUNG  
& ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**S**Elect Hong Kong residents voted for members of the Election Committee that will choose the city's leader in the first polls yesterday following reforms meant to ensure candidates with Beijing loyalty.

The Election Committee will select 40 of 90 lawmakers in the city's legislature during elections in December, as well as elect the Hong Kong leader during polls in March next year.

In May, the legislature amended Hong Kong's electoral laws to ensure that only "patriots" – people who are loyal to China and the semi-autonomous territory – will rule the city. The committee also was expanded to 1,500 members, from 1,200, and the number of direct voters for committee seats was reduced from about 246,000 to less than 8,000.

The restructured electoral process guarantees a vast majority of the Elections Committee will be largely pro-Beijing candidates, who are likely to choose a chief executive and nearly half of lawmakers who are aligned with the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

"Today's Election Committee elections are very meaningful as it is the first elections held after we have improved the electoral system to ensure that only patriots can take office," Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said. It's not yet known if Lam will seek reelection in March.

The changes are 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 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.

## CONFEDERATION OF UNIONS TO DISBAND

Also yesterday, Hong Kong's largest opposition trade union — the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions — said it would disband out of concerns for the safety of its members. The trade union is the latest organization to disband, following the dissolution of a teachers' union and rally orga-

nizer the Civil Human Rights Front last month.

Critics say the changes restrict freedoms Hong Kong was promised it could maintain for 50 years following the territory's 1997 handover to China from colonial Britain.

The nearly 4,900 voters representing different professions and industries who went to polls Sunday under a heavy

police presence will choose among just 412 candidates for 364 seats in the Election Committee. Other seats were uncontested or held by people chosen based on their titles.

"This election lets us select solid patriots who love our country and Hong Kong to rule Hong Kong, and who demonstrate their strengths in Hong Kong's administration and politics," said Armstrong Lee, a candidate representing the social welfare sector.

Wang Ting-ting, a voter from the financial sector, said she would vote for candidates who are "patriots who love our country and love Hong Kong."

"This is the most important," she said. "Secondly, I would vote for those who are capable, because capability matters the most in this position."

Lam said the new Election Committee will be broadly representative as it included more grassroots organizations and associations that represent Hong Kongers who live and work in mainland China.

Yesterday's vote was taking place at five polling stations heavily surrounded by police. Local newspaper South China Morning Post previously reported 6,000 police officers would be deployed to guard the polls, outnumbering the number of voters.

Results are expected early today (after press time).

Four activists from pro-democracy political party League of Social Democrats staged a small protest near the polling station in the Wan Chai neighborhood. They laid out banners criticizing the "small circle election" as having a pretense of representing public opinion.

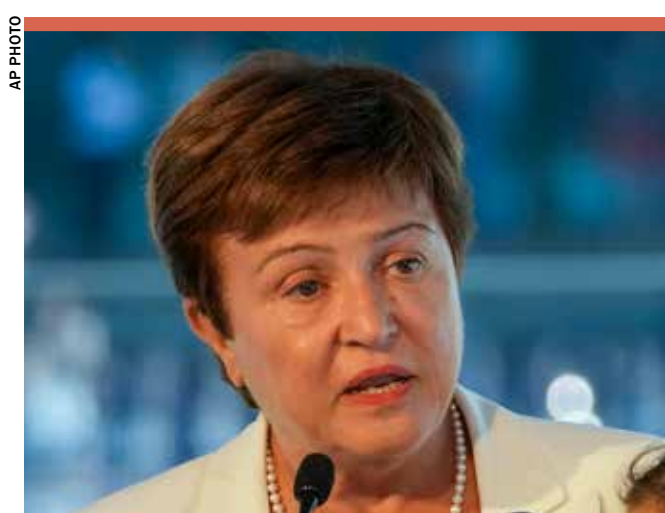
The four were stopped and searched by the police. **MDT/AP**

# Inquiry puts ex-World Bank officials under scrutiny on China

**F**ORMER officials of the World Bank are under pressure after an investigation found that they pressured staff members of the bank to alter data on global business conditions in order to favor China and some other governments.

The World Bank said it would discontinue its "Doing Business" report in the wake of the investigation, which was conducted by the law firm WilmerHale after internal questions involving "data irregularities" in the 2018 and 2020 editions of the report and possible "ethical matters" involving bank staff.

WilmerHale's report concluded that Kristalina Georgieva, then the chief execu-



Kristalina Georgieva

tive of the World Bank, and the office of Jim Yong Kim, then the bank's president, pressured staff members to change data on China to support Beijing's ranking

in the "Doing Business" report. These rankings are important to China and other developing nations because they can affect their ability to attract in-

vestment from overseas.

In a statement, Georgieva, who now leads the International Monetary Fund, disputed the report's conclusion that she was involved in pressuring World Bank staff members to appease China.

"I disagree fundamentally with the findings and interpretations of the Investigation of Data Irregularities as it relates to my role in the World Bank's Doing Business report of 2018," her statement said.

The World Bank, based in Washington, is among the world's largest sources of development funding. "Doing Business," which evaluates a country's tax burdens, bureaucratic obs-

tacles, regulatory system and other business conditions, is used by some governments to try to attract investment. The report ranks countries on such factors as how straightforward or burdensome it is to register a business, legally enforce a contract, resolve a bankruptcy, obtain an electrical connection or acquire construction permits.

China has tried over the past two decades to increase its influence over international institutions, including the IMF and the World Health Organization, and their policies.

China is the bank's third-largest shareholder after the United States and

Japan.

Changes made by analysts who prepared the 2018 report raised China's ranking by seven places to No. 78, according to the report. Other changes affected rankings of Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The Chinese foreign ministry expressed hope the World Bank would "conduct a comprehensive investigation" to "better maintain the professionalism and credibility" of "Doing Business."

"The Chinese government attaches great importance to optimizing the business environment," said a ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian. **MDT/AP**



AUSTRALIA

# Morrison says France knew of 'grave' submarine concerns

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

FRANCE would have known Australia had "deep and grave concerns" that a submarine fleet the French were building would not meet Australian needs, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday after the contract's cancellation set off a diplomatic crisis.

France accused Australia of concealing its intentions to back out of the 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract for French majority state-owned Naval Group to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

President Joe Biden revealed last week a new alliance including Australia and Britain that would deliver an Australian fleet of at least eight nuclear-powered submarines.

Morrison blamed the switch on a deteriorating strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific. He has not specifically referred to China's massive military buildup, which has gained pace in recent years.

"The capability that the Attack class submarines were going to provide was not what Australia needed to protect our sovereign interests," Morrison said.



Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison

"They would have had every reason to know that we have deep and grave concerns that the capability being delivered by the Attack class submarine was not going to meet our strategic interests and we have made very clear that we would be making a decision based on our strategic national in-

terest," he added, referring to the French government.

France responded to the contract cancellation, which Morrison has said will cost his government at least AU\$2.4 billion (\$1.7 billion), by recalling its ambassadors from Australia and the United States.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday denounced what he called the "duplicity, disdain and lies" surrounding the sudden end of the contract and said France was now questioning the strength of the alliance.

China has denounced the sha-

ring of such U.S. and British nuclear technology as irresponsible.

France won the contract in 2016 over offers from Germany and Japan. The Shortfin Barracuda was to be a nuclear submarine design adapted to be powered by diesel on the surface and battery underwater.

Japan was particularly disappointed because then-Prime Minister Tony Abbott had promised the close defense ally the contract before he was deposed by his own party in 2015.

The government has talked down media reports of ructions between the partners in the French submarine project and delays on the original delivery date of 2027.

There have been concerns of a defense capability gap emerging that the aging Australia-made Collins class conventional submarines could not fill.

Australia's first nuclear submarines are not expected to be delivered until close to 2040.

Defense Minister Peter Dutton said his government was prepared to lease nuclear submarines from the United States while Australia's fleet was being built.

Dutton and Foreign Minister Marise Payne are in the United States for annual meetings with their U.S. counterparts and their first with the Biden administration.

Morrison flies to the United States on Monday for a meeting with Biden and the leaders of India and Japan that make up the Quad security forum. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

# Police retrieves most-wanted militant's body from jungle

MOHAMMAD TAUFAN, PALU

THE bodies of Indonesia's most wanted militant with ties to the Islamic State group and a follower, who were killed in a jungle shootout with security forces, were evacuated early yesterday to a police hospital for further investigation, police said.

The military earlier said the militants killed late Saturday were Ali Kalora, leader of the East Indonesia Mujahideen network that has claimed several killings of police officers and minority Christians, and another suspected extremist, Jaka Ramadan, also known as Ikrima.

The two men were fatally shot by a joint team of military and police officers in Central Sulawesi province's mountainous Parigi Moutong district. It borders



A police officer shows a wanted poster displaying the photos of two militants Ali Kalora (top left) and Jaka Ramadan (bottom left)

Poso district, considered an extremist hotbed in the province.

Several pictures obtained by The Associated Press from authorities showed an M16 rifle and backpacks laid near their bloodied bodies. The Central Sulawesi

Police Chief Rudy Sufahriadi told a news conference yesterday that security forces also seized two ready-to-use bombs from their backpacks, which also contained food and camping tools.

He said the bodies of Ka-

lora and his follower have been evacuated to a police hospital in Palu, the provincial capital, after the rugged terrain and darkness hampered earlier evacuation efforts from the scene of the shootout in the forested village of Astina.

"We urged the other four wanted terrorists to immediately surrender and dare to take responsibility for their actions before the law," said Sufahriadi, referring to remaining members of the East Indonesia Mujahideen who are still at large in the jungle on Sulawesi island.

The militant group pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2014, and Indonesia has intensified its security operations in the area in recent months to try to capture its members, particularly the leader, Kalora.

Two months ago, securi-

ty forces killed two suspected members in a raid in the same mountainous district, several days after authorities claimed that Kalora and three group members planned to surrender. The surrender was reportedly cancelled after other members rejected the plan.

Kalora had eluded capture for more than a decade. He took over leadership of the group from Abu Wardah Santoso, who was killed by security forces in July 2016. Dozens of other leaders and members have been killed or captured since then, including a number of people from China's ethnic Uyghur minority who had joined the Santoso-led group.

In May, the militants killed four Christians in a village in Poso district, including one who was beheaded. Authorities said the attack was in revenge for the killings in March of

two militants, including Santoso's son.

Santoso was wanted for running a radical training camp in Poso, where a Muslim-Christian conflict killed at least 1,000 people from 1998 to 2002. He was linked to a number of deadly attacks against police officers and Christians.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has kept up a crackdown on militants since bombings on the resort island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly Western and Asian tourists.

Militant attacks on foreigners in Indonesia have been largely replaced in recent years by smaller, less deadly strikes targeting the government, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces, and people militants consider to be infidels, inspired by Islamic State group tactics abroad. **MDT/AP**





The contenders, from left: Taro Kono, the cabinet minister in charge of vaccinations, Fumio Kishida, former foreign minister, Sanae Takaichi, former internal affairs minister, and Seiko Noda, former internal affairs minister

# China, pandemic, energy top Japan's leadership race debate

MARI YAMAGUCHI

**F**OUR candidates vying to lead Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party — and replacing outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga — held their first main debate this weekend, discussing plans to tackle key issues such as China, the COVID-19 measures, the pandemic-hit economy and climate change and energy.

The vote will be held on Sept. 29.

The contenders include front-runner Vaccinations Minister Taro Kono, former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, as well as two female candidates — an ultra-conservative former Internal Affairs Minister Sanae Takaichi and former Gender Equality Minister Seiko Noda, a diversity supporter.

Here's a look at some of the candidates' views on key policy issues debated at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo:

## CHINA, TAIWAN

Kono, who has served as foreign and defense ministers, said a possible conflict cannot be ruled out amid China's growing assertiveness in the region and rising tensions over Taiwan, a self-ruled island

China considers as its renegade province to be annexed by force if necessary. He said that Japan wants to use its security alliance with the United States and partnerships with Europe and other democracies to prevent Beijing from taking military action. He said Japan-China ties are also about the economy and people exchanges that require "tough diplomacy."

Kishida said "summits and high-level dialogues are key" for a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue and plans to work with like-minded countries to counter Beijing's "authoritarian approach."

Takaichi, an anti-China hawk who shares former leader Shinzo Abe's nationalistic views and historical revisionism, proposed compiling a contingency plan based on a worst-case scenario over a possible China-Taiwan conflict.

Noda said Japan is a regional lynchpin for Taiwan's stability and U.S.-China tensions over trade, technology and human rights. She said Japan should pursue "pacifist" diplomacy based on lessons learned from its World War II defeat.

## KOREAS

Kishida, as former foreign minister, urged

Seoul to take the first step to resolve a row stemming from South Korean court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation to Korean wartime laborers.

On North Korea, Kishida said he would coordinate with President Joe Biden on steps to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, while seeking other avenues, including talks with the North Korean leader, to resolve the issue of Japanese citizens abducted to the North decades ago.

Kono said he would step up missile deterrence and intelligence gathering under the Japan-U.S. security alliance. He too would seek a summit with Kim Jong Un to resolve the abduction issue, a major obstacle between the two countries with no diplomatic ties.

## ENERGY

Kono said energy conservation, minimizing fossil fuel and bolstering renewables were his main strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. If that's insufficient, safely restarting nuclear reactors is unavoidable, he said. Kono said the nuclear industry doesn't have much future, and supported phasing out nuclear plants. He opposes Japan's in-

sistence on nuclear fuel cycles that involve spent fuel reprocessing — the main cause of Japan's plutonium stockpile.

Kishida supported the fuel recycling as a way of delaying a final repository, but Kono said the disposal of massive radioactive waste "is a problem whoever becomes prime minister must tackle."

Takaichi proposed underground compact fusion reactors as a safer and environmental option. Noda believes in geothermal power generation, as well as other renewables such as hydrogen and offshore wind power as part of the ongoing 20 trillion yen (\$180 billion) clean energy project over the next decade.

## ECONOMY

Kono said Abe's signature "Abenomics" policy only profited major companies but failed to increase income, and that he will address the problem by giving corporate tax incentives to companies that raise salaries.

Kishida said he will introduce (asterisk)new capitalism(asterisk) of growth and distribution to narrow the disparity caused by Abe's approach and worsened by the pandemic.

Takaichi said she will promote robotics and quantum computer development as Japan's future growth strategy.

## COVID-19

As vaccinations minister, Kono proposed use of digital technology to monitor conditions of COVID-19 patients recuperating at home, while introducing quick test kits for early detection and isolation of patients.

Kishida proposed a hefty economic package to stabilize the health care system, while calling for strict social distancing and other measures.

Takaichi called for domestically developed COVID-19 vaccines and treatment, and a possible legal change to allow hard lockdowns in case of a future pandemic.

Noda proposed a nationwide installment of sub-hospitals that offer supplementary oxygen and antibody cocktail infusions for less serious patients, and financial support for those hit by income or job loss, especially women. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1999 UN FORCE ARRIVES IN EAST TIMOR



A multinational peacekeeping force has landed in East Timor in an attempt to restore law and order to the territory.

The UN force has been sent to the island to end the violence that has beset the region since its people voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia.

Pro-Jakarta militias are thought to have killed thousands of people since the election on 4 September.

They have been apparently backed by the Indonesian military (TNI), but members of the UN International Force for East Timor (Interfet) said the army was now cooperating fully with the peacekeepers.

The operation began at 0640 local time (0140 BST) when a transport plane carrying British Royal Marines and Australian troops touched down at Komoro airport in the capital, Dili.

Throughout the day a total of 1,190 soldiers - mostly from Australia and New Zealand - landed on the war-torn island.

Fires from recent attacks were still burning, but the troops met little resistance from Indonesian forces or the armed bands that have been terrorising the population.

"The TNI have been quite helpful - we have not seen any militia," said British Brigadier Mark Evans.

Another 1,110 peacekeepers will arrive in East Timor tomorrow and within the next seven days the international force will eventually grow to 8,000 soldiers - drawn from more than 20 countries.

UK Armed Forces Minister John Spellar told the BBC the primary objective of Interfet was to take the militias off the streets.

The next stage would be to re-establish supply lines of food, water and electricity in a capital mostly abandoned by its inhabitants.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 when Portugal withdrew after occupying the island for 450 years. 78.5% of the country voted for independence in the September 1999 elections. In August 2001 an 88-member Constituent Assembly was elected. The former rebel leader Xanana Gusmao was voted East Timor's first president on 14 April 2002, and on 20 May 2002 the country became fully independent.



YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You might have a problem juggling your time. Relationships may be hard to handle. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Catch up on overdue paperwork. You'll stay out of trouble if you pick projects that will benefit the whole family.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Elders may need your help. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. Let your lover know what your personal intentions are. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Expect to experience a sudden reversal of fortune. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm and confidence in you.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You could be blind to the defects of those you love. You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Travel may be confusing. Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an Issue. Don't ruffle the feathers of those you care about most. Property purchases should be on your mind.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Take the time to do something nice for your friends and relatives. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. You might have a problem juggling your time. A need to express yourself may come out in creative ways.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Observations will be far more productive. You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

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.

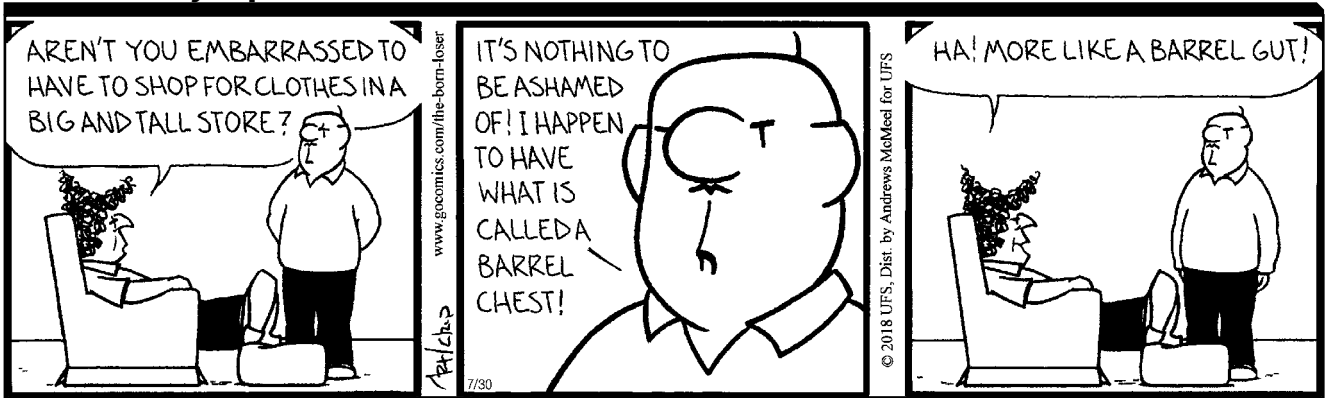


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

This is a great day to get out and enjoy an entertaining evening with friends or lovers. Your family needs to spend some time with you, too.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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7			4		3

EASY+

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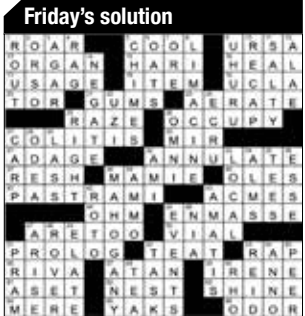
HARD

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		4			
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8					

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Winter pear; 5- What's the \_\_\_\_?; 8- Parrot; 12- Bread spread; 13- Diamond corners; 15- Brazilian soccer star; 16- Blab; 17- Best of a group; 18- Ashtabula's lake; 19- To have delusions; 22- Singer Torme; 23- "SNL" alum Gasteyer; 24- Radius neighbor; 26- Skylighted lobby; 29- Raise; 31- What Dorian Gray didn't do; 32- Former Russian rulers; 34- Matriculate; 36- Wife of a rajah; 38- World-weariness; 40- Tops; 41- Center; 43- Missouri feeder; 45- \_\_\_\_-Cone; 46- Closer; 48- Crescent-shaped; 50- Highway; 51- "You've got mail" co.; 52- Jockey Turcotte; 54- Distort; 61- Thought; 63- Model Campbell; 64- German Mister; 65- Annoyance; 66- Needed liniment; 67- Outer limit; 68- "\_\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 69- \_\_\_\_-Tiki; 70- Citrus coolers;

DOWN 1- Two out of two; 2- Olive genus; 3- Hawk; 4- Arrest; 5- Spanish surrealist; 6- The doctor \_\_\_\_; 7- Spanakopita ingredient; 8- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 9- Permanently frozen subsoil; 10- Writer Wiesel; 11- Film spool; 13- Due to the fact that; 14- Organization; 20- Military group; 21- Vogue rival; 25- Simone of jazz; 26- One more time; 27- Gentleness; 28- Big house; 29- Everyday; 30- 1,000 kilograms; 31- Upper limb; 33- Hosp. workers; 35- The Lion; 37- Golfer Aoki; 39- Lizard; 42- Streetcar; 44- Son of Seth; 47- Minneapolis suburb; 49- Gibson of tennis; 52- Ready for plucking; 53- Lyric poems; 55- Fire; 56- Silver salmon; 57- Portent; 58- Comic Fox; 59- Goad; 60- "\_\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit; 62- Grazed;



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Emergency calls 999

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PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

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Ref: 2005 1002 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1 1

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Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**  
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1 1





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**Juliet Risdon**  
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juliet@jmlproperty.com

## Property of the Week



### Centro Internacional HKD 3,990,000

800 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1

The owner renovated the apartment in 2018 and turned it into a welcoming European-Style two-bedroom unit. The open kitchen is equipped with brand new appliances including stove, hidden washing machine and fridge.

The open space creates a warm and welcoming glow and has a lot of soft light features, making the rooms inviting and practical. Both bedrooms are able to fit double beds.

Viewings by appointment.

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



Ref: 2108 6003

## Property Hotlist



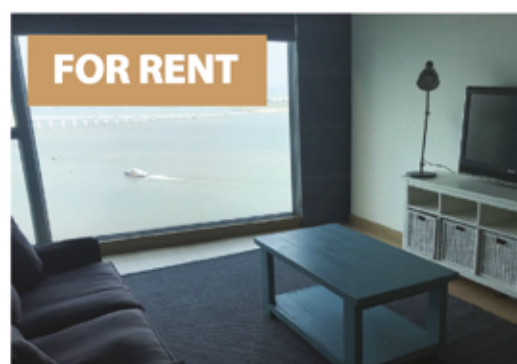
### Nam Long HKD 3,480,000

590 ft<sup>2</sup>

1   
1



Ref: 2108 6002



### One Central HKD 16,500/mth

1,269 ft<sup>2</sup>

2   
2



Ref: 2005 1002



### Nova Grand HKD 13,500/mth

969 ft<sup>2</sup>

2   
1



Ref: 2108 1001

## More Listings

### For Sale

[Taipa] Lun Vo	2  1	770 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 5,200,000	Ref: 2107 6001
[Taipa] Taipa Village	4  2	1,404 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 8,380,000	Ref: 1909 6006
[Macau] Unique apartment	2  2	2,200 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 9,990,000	Ref: 1511 5464
[Taipa] Manhattan	4  2	2,305 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 17,980,000	Ref: 1807 5558
[Taipa] Panorama	4  4	4,038 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 24,800,000	Ref: 2103 6003

### For Rent

[Taipa] Hellene Gardens	3  2	2,073 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 14,800/mth	Ref: 2107 1003
[Taipa] Kingsville	3  2	1,100 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 14,900/mth	Ref: 2108 1002
[Taipa] Chun U Villa	4  3	1,979 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 16,500/mth	Ref: 2104 1001
[Taipa] Manhattan	3  2	1,626 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 17,500/mth	Ref: 2003 1001
[Coloane] One Oasis	3  2	2,100 ft <sup>2</sup>	HKD 28,000/mth	Ref: 2011 1002

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



### Traditional apartment HKD 2,680,000

788 ft<sup>2</sup>

2   
1



Ref: 2103 6001

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RUGBY

# All Blacks beat Argentina, return to top of rugby rankings

JOHN PYE, BRISBANE

**E**VEN with a reshuffled backline and an entirely new forward pack from the previous week, New Zealand had enough firepower to beat Argentina 36-13 to overtake South Africa atop the world rugby rankings in an ominous warm-up for the 100th test between the two nations.

The All Blacks needed to beat the Pumas by 15 points to regain the top ranking after Australia completed back-to-back wins over the World Cup champion Springboks with a 30-17 victory in the first match this weekend's doubleheader at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

With 11 changes to the starting XV from last week's 39-0 win over the Pumas, including regular full-back Damien McKenzie playing at flyhalf, New Zealand dominated early but had to wrestle hard in the second half before improving to 4-0 to lead the Rugby

AP PHOTO



Championship and extending its winning streak to nine tests.

"Clearly we had a number of new combinations but ... delighted with the win," All Blacks head coach Ian Foster said. "I keep harping on a bit, but every team is going to have to dig deep into their well over the next (two weeks) and the strategy of how we went into this game puts us in a pretty good place."

Lock Patrick Tuipulotu, scrumhalf T.J. Perenara and Tupou Vaa'i — long after the halftime siren — scored tries and the New Zealanders led 24-3 at the break, despite having three tries disallowed.

It was 29-6 when hooker Samisoni Taukei'aho touched down in the right corner six minutes into the second half, but then Argentina rallied hard.

After the big loss on the Gold

Coast last start, the Pumas played with more discipline and marshalled around flyhalf Santiago Carreras to work their way back to 29-13 in the 51st minute.

Winger Emiliano Boffelli caught a perfectly placed cross-field kick from Carreras and dived into the left corner for Argentina's first try in two matches, then converted it from the sideline.

The New Zealanders missed

another scoring opportunity when replacement scrumhalf Finlay Christie charged down Carreras' attempted clearance kick but fumbled the loose ball at close range.

Argentina spent an extended period of time in the attacking quarter, applying all the pressure but unable to convert it into points, until the All Blacks finished off with a second try to Vaa'i three minutes from the end.

"Second half, we probably paid the price for missing a few opportunities and Argentina really grew through that. They came back really, really well," Foster said. "That 10-15 minute spell toward the end, we showed great tenacity ... and it'll hold us in good stead for what's to come."

Argentina is now 0-4 in the Rugby Championship ahead of next Saturday's test against Australia, which is 2-2 in the tournament.

Pumas coach Mario Ledesma praised the improvement in his squad, but said there needed to be a bigger lift if Argentina is to register a win in the tournament.

"Very proud of the effort and the commitment," Ledesma said. "Big jump from last weekend, but we still have to improve."

The major focus next Saturday in the doubleheader in Townsville, in the north of Australia's Queensland state, is the All Blacks facing the Springboks. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

China Daily  
Li Qingsi, in China Daily

CANADA SHOULD  
RECALIBRATE CHINA POLICY  
TO BREAK DEADLOCK

Canada will hold its federal election on Monday. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called a snap election on Aug 15, possibly because he believes it would allow his minority Liberal government to achieve majority in parliament. Trudeau has been leading a minority government since October 2019.

Perhaps the fact that about 46 percent of respondents to a recent survey said they believed that Canada is heading in the right direction has given Trudeau the confidence to call the election, some two years ahead of schedule. Trudeau has said that the government's most important responsibility is to keep Canadians safe and secure, referring especially to the COVID-19 pandemic. And if his party wins the majority of seats in the federal election, his government can better fulfill that responsibility.

However, the Canadian government faces the two-pronged challenge of incentivizing economic recovery through increased spending, and reining in runaway federal budget debt levels as a result of that spending. But the problem is that its budget deficit has already widened to record levels, reflecting its faltering economic recovery.

Given that a fourth wave of novel coronavirus infections looks imminent, the pandemic is sure to dominate the election campaign.

Also, China will likely be an election issue because of Ottawa's hostile policy toward Beijing. Creating an anti-China atmosphere and hyping up the "China threat" theory have become the favorite policy of many political parties in some Western countries to win elections. So the parties, especially the Conservatives, have been targeting China and spreading canards against it to garner popular votes.

Canada-China relations have worsened in recent years due to Ottawa's hostile stance against Beijing. Some Canadian politicians have accused China of committing "genocide" in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and banned Chinese high-tech companies from 5G infrastructure programs in Canada.

Since some Canadian politicians have put their political interests above Canada's relations with China, bilateral relations have continued to deteriorate in recent years. And since the Canadian political parties don't have to worry about the domestic consequences of vilifying China, not least because they know they will not honor their poll promises, they are more vociferously attacking China, which is shameful, to say the least, and exposes the hollowness of the politics they practice.

Besides, the parties know that if they were to put those anti-China measures they promise during the campaign into effect, China would respond in kind.

If the Canadian politicians continue to level false accusations against China, and use them as a pretext to interfere in the country's internal affairs, including in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Xinjiang, Canada would continue to suffer the consequences of frayed bilateral relations. China adheres to the principle of non-interference in another country's internal affairs, and that includes Canada, and opposes any country rallying support from alliances to target China, and expects other countries to do the same.

Irrespective of the election result in Canada, however, the deadlock between the two countries can be broken if the new government in Ottawa corrects its foreign policy, especially its policy toward China, otherwise it would continue to do the United States' bidding at the cost of its economy.

China and Canada enjoyed good relations till Canada decided to act as the US' muscleman. China is Canada's second most important trade partner, and Canada's imports and exports from and to China are diverse in terms of products. No wonder despite the hostile atmosphere, the Conservatives seek to strike a balance in Canada's dealings with China.

It is hoped that, whichever party wins the Canadian election, the new government will navigate China-Canada relations in the right direction and recalibrate its policy toward China. Bilateral relations can revert to the normal track only when Canadian politicians cast off their ideological glasses and repair bilateral relations.

[Abridged]

AIR FRANCE-KLM PLANE RETURNS TO  
BEIJING AFTER SMOKE IN CABIN

An Air France-KLM flight returned to Beijing shortly after takeoff on Saturday after smoke filled the cabin, the airline said.

The Boeing 777 connecting Beijing Airport with Paris-Charles de Gaulle suffered a technical failure linked to overpressure in one of the air conditioning pipes, which spread residue and

dust in the cabin, the airline said in a statement.

It landed normally at 4:03 a.m. local time, the statement said. No injuries were reported.

The passengers will be rerouted to Paris later Saturday on board another Boeing 777. Maintenance will be carried out on the aircraft before it is returned to service, the airline said.

BOXER-SENATOR MANNY  
PACQUIAO TO RUN FOR  
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

PHILIPPINE boxing icon and senator Manny Pacquiao says he will run for president in the 2022 elections.

Pacquiao accepted the nomination of his PDP-Laban party at its national convention yesterday, saying that the Filipino people have been waiting for a change of government.

"I am a fighter, and I will always be a fighter inside and outside the ring," Pacquiao, 42, said in his speech.

"I wholeheartedly, bravely, and humbly hope for your support," he added.

Pacquiao is the president of the PDP-Laban faction led by him and Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Another faction of the same party earlier this month nominated President Rodrigo Duterte to be its vice presidential candidate, and Duterte's former aide, Sen. Bong Go, as its presidential nominee.

Duterte, who is forbidden by the constitution from seeking a second six-year term, has accepted the nomination, but Go has declined to run for president.

Duterte has led a brutal



campaign against illegal drugs, and said last week he would rather "die first" before facing an international tribunal, the day after the International Criminal Court announced it would investigate allegations of crimes against humanity linked to the crackdown that has left thousands dead.

Pacquiao has accused the administration of Duterte, his former ally, of making corruption worse in the Philippines.

To critics who question his qualifications, the former boxer has said his

personal experience of poverty will better equip him to lead the nation. He added that he will fight poverty and corruption.

"In my whole life, I have not backed down on any fight," Pacquiao said.

He warned politicians that he holds responsible for corruption "will soon end in jail together."

The rival party faction supporting Duterte earlier said it will petition the Commission on Elections to declare Pacquiao and his allies illegitimate officers of the ruling party. **MDT/AP**



Yemen's Houthi rebels executed nine people they said were involved in the killing of a senior rebel official in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition more than three years ago. The execution took place by firing squad and was held in public, early in the morning in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa. The Iranian-backed Houthis later distributed photos apparently showing the killings. Hundreds of people attended the execution, mostly Houthis and their supporters.



Russia The head of Russia's Communist Party, the country's second-largest political party, is alleging widespread violations in the election for a new national parliament in which his party is widely expected to gain seats. Late Saturday, a YouTube video in which associates of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny recommended whom to vote in order to undermine the dominant United Russia party was blocked in Russia. The video remained accessible through non-Russian servers.



France's Notre Dame Cathedral is finally stable and secure enough for artisans to start rebuilding it, more than two years after the shocking fire that tore through its roof, knocked down its spire and threatened to bring the rest of the medieval monument down, too. The government agency overseeing the reconstruction announced in a statement Saturday that the works to secure the structure — which began the day after the April 15, 2019 fire — are at last complete.

Greece has opened a new migrant camp on the island of Samos that replaces an obsolete and once overcrowded facility. The new facility cost \$50 million. It will house up to 3,000 people, about a third of them in 240 small houses and the rest in large halls, Migration and Asylum Minister Notis Mitarakis said.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/John Raoux



Liftoff. A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with four private citizens onboard, lifts off in this time-exposure photo from Kennedy Space Center.