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ATHLETES COMPETING IN NATIONAL GAMES SET EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, SAYS MACAU SPORTS DELEGATION OFFICIAL

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OCTOBER IS THE DETERMINANT OF OVERALL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS: CENTALINE

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GLOBAL SHOPPERS FACE POSSIBLE SHORTAGES OF SMARTPHONES AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS AFTER POWER CUTS FORCED CHINESE FACTORIES TO SHUT DOWN

P10

AP PHOTO



United Nations The dispute between Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers and its former government over who should speak at the general assembly finally has an answer: no one. The Taliban had challenged the credentials of the ambassador from Afghanistan's former government, and asked to represent the country at this year's summit, which began Sept. 21 and ended yesterday.

AP PHOTO



Japan The inclusion of two women among the four candidates vying to become the next prime minister seems like a big step forward for Japan's notoriously sexist politics. But their fate is in the hands of a conservative, mostly male governing party — and the leading female candidate has been criticized by observers for her right-wing gender policies. Sanae Takaichi (pictured, left) and Seiko Noda are the first women in 13 years seeking the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in an election tomorrow.

AP PHOTO



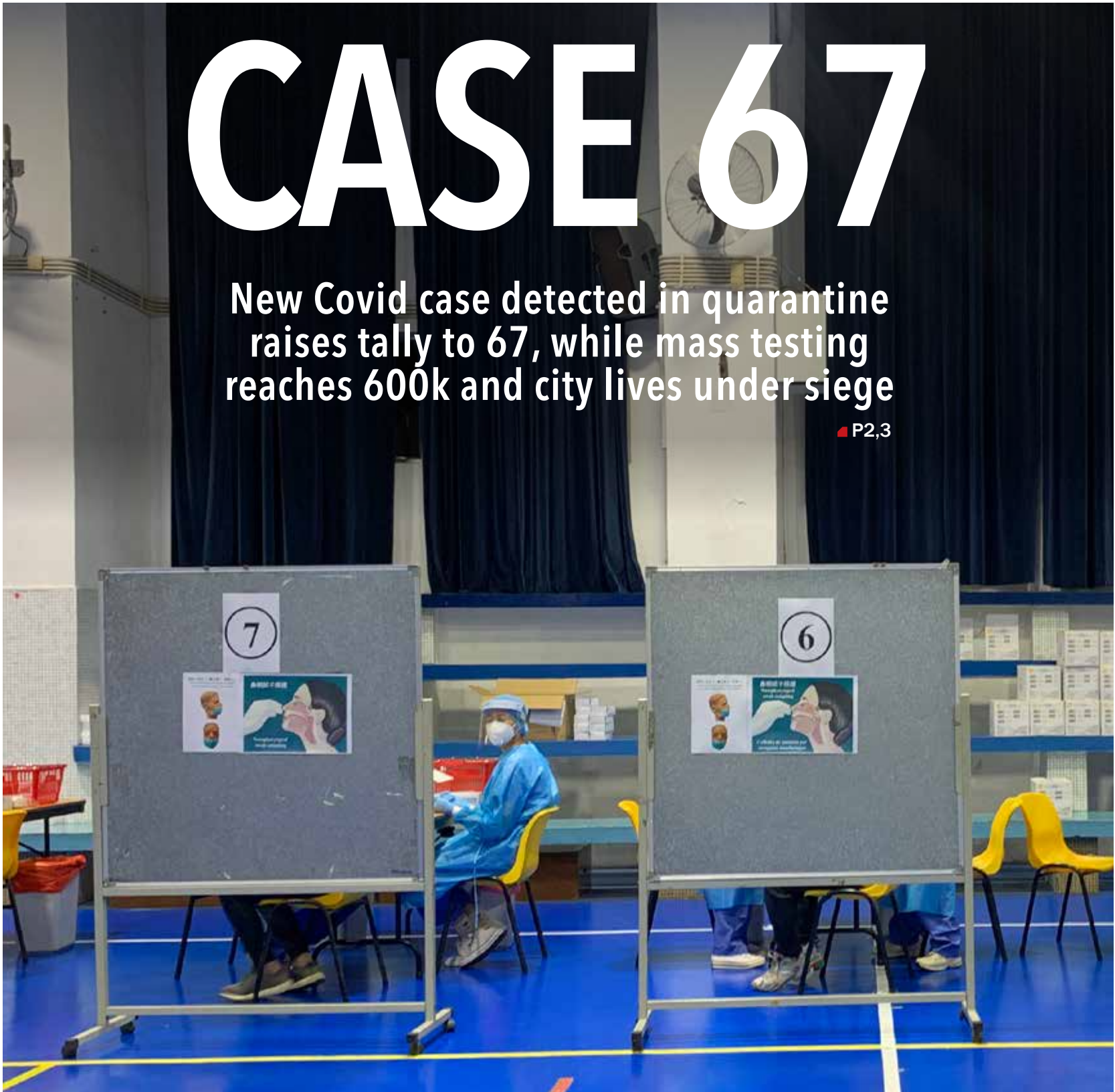
Thailand Seasonal monsoon rains may worsen flooding that has already badly affected about a third of the country, officials said yesterday as flood gates and pumping stations were being used to reduce the potential damage. A tropical storm over the weekend swept through the upper part of the country, causing flash floods that affected 58,977 families, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation reported. [More on p7](#)

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CASE 67

New Covid case detected in quarantine raises tally to 67, while mass testing reaches 600k and city lives under siege

P2,3



LYNZY VALLES

GAMING SECTOR CURRENTLY 'UN-INVESTABLE': JP MORGAN

P4

PHOTO ARCHIVE



MUST SIGNS MEMORANDA WITH CHINESE INSTITUTE

The professors, teachers and graduate students of various research institutes of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently held an academic exchange meeting with a delegation from the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research. The meeting was about hydrology and water resources research and cooperation, Macau outdoor station and cooperation opportunities, as well as the vision for water ecological environment research and cooperation, in addition to other subtopics in hydrology. In addition, several memoranda between the two entities regarding the commencement of academic exchange and research were signed.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SEES DOWNTURN IN EMPLOYEES AND RECEIPTS

The total number of persons engaged in industrial-related activities dropped by 1,080 to 11,473, according to data issued by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Receipts and expenditure of these establishments (covering Manufacturing and Electricity, Gas & Water Supply) amounted to MOP9.39 billion and MOP7.05 billion respectively in 2020, down 19.7% and 18.4% year-on-year. Gross Surplus fell by 23.3% year-on-year to MOP2.34 billion, while Gross Value Added, which measures the sectoral contribution to the economy, went down by 13.5% to MOP4.68 billion.

LEGISLATOR-ELECT CALLS FOR MORE LEISURE AREAS

Lawmaker-elect in the indirect election, Ho Ion Sang, called on the government to increase large-scale leisure areas in proportion to the population in each district. He also requested the government explain whether it will convert suitable coastal areas into a coastal promenade. The coastal promenade in ZAPE area that runs from the Macao Science Center to the Kun lam Ecumenical Centre has been delighting members of the public since its opening in April this year. The promenade offers large-scale children's facilities and a new type of gymnastic facilities.

SECOND MASS TESTING COMES TO CLOSE WITHOUT NEW CASES

RENATO MARQUES

THE second citywide mass testing for Covid-19 is due to come to an end by 3 p.m. today. So far, all people tested have delivered negative results, the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Alvis Lo, said yesterday during the regular briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to Lo, who cited figures collected up to 3 p.m. on Monday, a total of 607,000 tests were conducted over the past two days, all of which delivered negative results.

The figure includes 562,896 people included in the ongoing free mass testing to the whole population, plus almost 50,000 people who paid for tests themselves to be able to cross the border into the Mainland.

Lo added that it is uncertain whether the total number of nucleic acid tests (NAT) will equal the previous occasion as the number of people in Macau fluctuates. Still, he noted that this time, the mass test was conducted in a more adequate and organized manner and authorities could collect, process, and get results in a much shorter time than before.

"[This mass testing] was better than before. We have been

able to collect more samples and get more results in a shorter time. But [my positive evaluation] is not just based on the time factor. We have had much more organization and we have been able to adjust our sampling posts according to the needs of the citizens," Lo said, summing up his positive review of the second mass testing program.

"When there were agglomerations of people in lines, we have been able to adjust those posts and dispatch staff and equipment to make those lines disappear. This is exactly what we wanted to do," Lo remarked,

expressing hope that the mass testing can conclude as soon as possible so that health authorities

can finally evaluate the prevention and control measures currently in force.



855 RESIDENTS TO UNDERGO QUARANTINE

SOME 855 residents will have to undergo quarantine as they were found to have similar itinerary taken by the security guards who tested positive for Covid-19. In a press conference yesterday, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre announced that at least 855 people have been gradually going to the temporary station at the Pac

On terminal to get tested and investigated. The government is continuously making an appeal to the public to contact relevant authorities if they have traveled from September 19 to 24 on one of the six bus routes that the security guards took. These bus routes include 25B, 26A, 33, 37, 101X and MT1.

Class suspension not directly related to new Covid-19 cases



RENATO MARQUES

THE order from the government to suspend classes in local schools and university institutions is not due to fears of contagion in those institutions, the deputy director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), Kong Chi Meng clarified.

Questioned by the media on Sunday why only educational institutions and community centers have been affected by these new Covid-19

cases, Kong explained that the reason classes have been suspended is because several of these institutions are being currently used for the ongoing mass testing program.

The DSEDJ has also solicited teachers and other school staff members to be part of the volunteers helping the mass testing activities.

"Teachers and school staff are doing voluntary work on the sampling posts and school venues are being used for sam-

pling posts so we cannot match that with the continuing of classes," Kong said.

He added that after the mass testing program is concluded at 3 p.m. today, it will be necessary to rearrange the venues and perform deep cleaning so they can welcome back students for classes which will resume from October 4, after the National holiday weekend.

Questioned on why schools not being used as sampling venues cannot have classes, he added that would be counterproductive as during the three days designated for the mass testing, the authorities want to minimize the circulation of people as much as possible.

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COVID-19

New case detected in quarantine; raises tally to 67

RENATO MARQUES

YESTERDAY, Macau recorded a Covid-19 infection, the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Dr. Alvis Lo, informed yesterday during the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center press briefing.

According to Lo, the case is a 37-year-old female, a resident from Hong Kong who arrived in Macau on September 19 after a business trip to Europe and the Middle East.

The woman, who has been undergoing medical observation in quarantine at the Treasure Hotel from September 19, tested positive in a routine nucleic acid test (NAT) after seven days in quarantine.

According to the health authorities, her NAT is a low positive test, which could indicate that she is relapsing from a previous infection. Still, the authorities have not yet ruled out the possibility of reinfection during her trip or in the period right before initiating the trip that brought her to Macau, even thou-



Authorities cordoned off the area nearby the apartment of a Covid patient

gh her NAT before boarding and at the arrival in Macau were both negative.

Questioned by the media if this case, filed under Case No. 67, can be in any way related to the previous infections in the Golden Crown China Hotel, located next to the Treasure Hotel, Lo said that the investigation suggested it was unlikely that it was linked to the three cases in the Golden Crown China Hotel which motivated the second mass testing program for the whole population.

"At the moment, we can't link the cases. They are in different hotels. We are trying to see if there was any relation or link but so far,

we could not find any relation between these cases," Lo said. However, he added, "But since there is a connection between these two ho-

tels, we cannot yet clear this possibility completely. We are currently evaluating her case to see if this is a relapse or a reinfection."

Also asked on the case and whether the patient has been vaccinated, the coordinator of the Novel Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, confirmed that the patient was vaccinated with two doses of the Sinovac vaccine in early March and early April this year.

Currently, the patient has no symptoms and has been transferred to the Public Health Clinical Center in Coloane for further diagnosis and treatment.

At this center, according to Dr. Tai Wah Hou, Coordinator of SSM Vaccination Operation, there are the three previous cases of infection (64 to 66) all in good condition and without any symptoms

Tai also added that at the same facility, there are five other patients undergoing recovery and 10 people in isolation because they are close contacts of Covid-19 patients.

TWO QUARANTINE HOTELS TO REMAIN ISOLATED UNTIL OCT. 1

THE two quarantine hotels (Golden Crown China Hotel and Treasure Hotel) that have been put under closed management without outside contact will continue to operate in this manner at least until October 1, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said in reply to a media inquiry.

The two quarantine hotels have been closed due to being considered at risk of contagion with both guests and staff members undergoing quarantine. This means that both groups are required to stay inside and without contact with the outside society until no further infection cases in the venues have been recorded.

This also means that people lodged at these venues since last Friday will see their quarantine time extended for at least one week.

In response to a question, Leong remarked that the hotel staff will continue to work and provide normal services to guests but they cannot leave the

venues, so they will be staying in the hotels until they are considered safe from potentially being infected and spreading the virus into the community.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS TO MOVE AHEAD

Dr. Leong said that the celebrations of China's National Day, on October 1 have been green-lighted by the health authorities.

Leong noted that nevertheless, precautionary measures such as ensuring social distancing between the participants, the presentation of green health codes, and body temperature checking need to be enforced.

She also noted that in the case of dining events that include over 400 participants, according to the prevention and control guidelines, participants must be tested for Covid-19 before entering the venue. **RM**

PEOPLE IN RED AND YELLOW ZONES UNDERGOING SECOND NAT

QUESTIONED by the media on the current situation of the people living in the areas considered at high risk of contagion (red and yellow zones), Dr. Leong explained that the first round of NAT done when cases 65 and 66 were discovered delivered all negative

results, adding that between yesterday and today, they should be undergoing a second round of NAT. Leong also said that, so far, there are no reports of anyone feeling unwell or having symptoms that could be linked to an infection.

PROPERTY

October is the determinant of overall transactions: Centaline

ANTHONY LAM

IF the city's performance in October is strong, the property market may see an overturn since August, Roy Ho, senior director of Centaline Property in Macau and Hengqin of Zhuhai, said in a statement.

The statement was issued prior to the city's record of the latest two Covid-19 community cases. The new cases have triggered the immediate prevention measures, which led to

the closure of many government venues and the suspension of events.

In the statement, the executive pointed out that the city was anticipating the influx of tourists during the October 1 Golden Week.

Earlier, the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, disclosed that local hoteliers were happy about reservations during Golden Week. They have also reported a steadily rising tra-

jectory since the summer holiday.

The impact of the latest cases on tourists' desire to visit Macau is still unclear, as local public broadcaster TDM reported that some tourists from the mainland still have strong trust and interests in coming to Macau.

The realtor noted in the statement that if the Golden Week sees strong performance, the property market may heat up and, therefore, raise prices

in October, if not the last quarter of the year.

Reviewing the year so far, Ho pointed out that both August and September did not see a stimulated market. He explained that the four new cases in August discouraged originally interested property buyers.

Into September, the opening of the new school year, the election and good news about Hengqin distracted the interests of certain buyers, bringing the transaction and viewing



counts down.

In terms of price, Ho disclosed that the realtor recorded an index of 93.17 concerning properties in the Greater Bay Area for

August, which is a 1.22% drop month-over-month and a new low since October 2016. He expects the price index for September to fall further.

JP MORGAN: GAMING SECTOR CURRENTLY 'UN-INVESTABLE'

LYNZY VALLES

THE city's gaming sector could stay "un-investable" until clarity is given on the next concessions, brokerage JP Morgan noted.

A note by its analysts DS Kim, Amanda Cheng, and Livy Lyu, said investors should remain cautious, as clarity on this matter is "unlikely in the next six months."

The surprise about the proposed gaming law came two weeks ago when Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong announced that concessionaires will be under tighter scrutiny from the government which will have greater authority to verify the background of the staff hired by concessionaires as well as the staff of entities who work with them.

The city's gaming operators and junkets sought clarity following the announcement of the proposed changes to the SAR's gambling laws which wiped off over USD18 billion in stock market value.

"We interpret the government's surprise announcement as an effective "SOE-rization" [state-owned-enterprise model]

PHOTO ARCHIVE



of the industry, which makes it difficult to establish a floor for both earnings profile (deterioration in efficiency, plus possible national service)," the JP Morgan analysts said.

Previously, JP Morgan gaming analyst Joe Greff lowered his firm's ratings for casino operators following policy changes. According to Greff, Macau is "sort of requiring" the industry to boost its spending on non-gaming projects – not just in Macau but also in Hengqin – as a factor for concession renewal. The pro-

posed gaming law would require casinos to increase the percentage of share capital held by permanent residents of Macau – an initiative to maximize the economic value of the industry. On September 15, Sands China led the plunge, with its shares dropping by 32.5%. Wynn Macau shares tumbled 29%, followed by MGM China who gave up 27% in share value. Local operator SJM Holdings shares dropped 24%, while Melco International and Galaxy Entertainment Group share prices dropped 20%.

GAMING

Public consultation cancelled

LYNZY VALLES

THE first public consultation session for the city's gaming law, which was meant to be held today, will be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

Over the weekend, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) announced that it will postpone the first of four public consultation sessions on proposed amendments to the city's gaming law.

"The rescheduling (date and time) of this session will be communicated in due course," the statement read.

Currently, the government is conducting a 45 day-long public consultation on the amendments to the gaming law aimed at three main aspects: perfecting the inspection juridical regime, raising general competitiveness, and developing a healthy and stable gaming sector.

Secretary Lei Wai Nong previously announced that conces-

RENATO MARQUES



sionaires will be under tighter scrutiny from the government, which will have greater authority to verify the background of the staff hired by concessionaires as well as staff hired by entities who work with them.

Casino concessions are due to re-bid next year. However,

the government has not yet provided guarantees that existing concessions will be renewed following their slated expiration in June 2022. Many have also called on the government to extend the validity of the concessions due to the adverse effect of the pandemic on the industry.



NATIONAL GAMES

PUN: ATHLETES SET EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

AS two swimmers representing the Macau Special Administrative Region exerted themselves in the preliminary contest of the women's 50m freestyle swimming at China's 14th National Games on Saturday, Pun Weng Kun, deputy head of the Macau sports delegation, said.

Three athletes from Macau participated in swimming preliminaries on Saturday. Although they did not qualify for the semi-finals, Pun was still satisfied with their performance.

"Most of the Macau athletes are non-professional and they know that their competitors are very strong. But they don't lose heart. Rather, they just go for it," said Pun.

He noted that athletes have been "training hard and made their best efforts" in every competition at the National Games. "They have set a good example for young people in Macau," he added.

A total of 102 athletes representing Macau participated in China's 14th National Games.

Karate athlete Jugo Kuok Kin Hang brought Macau its first ever National Games medal, winning bronze.

"Both our athletes in Xi'an, and Macau residents were very excited about our first ever medal," said Pun, who believes that it will encourage more Macau residents to participate in mass sports and exercise more regularly to improve their physical fitness.

"The atmosphere of the Games will enable all Macau residents to love our motherland and the SAR more wholeheartedly," he added.

In recent days, Pun watched the performance of most Macau athletes in different gyms.

"It's really a big stage," he said, adding that compared with overseas events, the National Games enable "athletes to compete at home with their families and share the same feeling".

In the eyes of the Macau sports delegation, China's 15th National Games, to be co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in 2025, will make sports more popular among Macau residents. In hosting, the city hopes to show its development and attract more visitors to fuel its economic and tourism growth.

"We will welcome athletes across the country to compete in Macau four years later," Pun added. **MDT/XINHUA**

CRIME

FOSSIL SMUGGLING BUSTED BY GONGBEI CUSTOMS

GONGBEI Customs confirmed that a batch of recently confiscated cargo contained fossils of ancient organisms.

The two fossil pieces were disguised as a batch of cross-boundary e-business cargo. They were discovered at the Zhuhai Checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

The Gongbei Customs has authority over such affairs at the Bridge's Zhuhai Checkpoint.

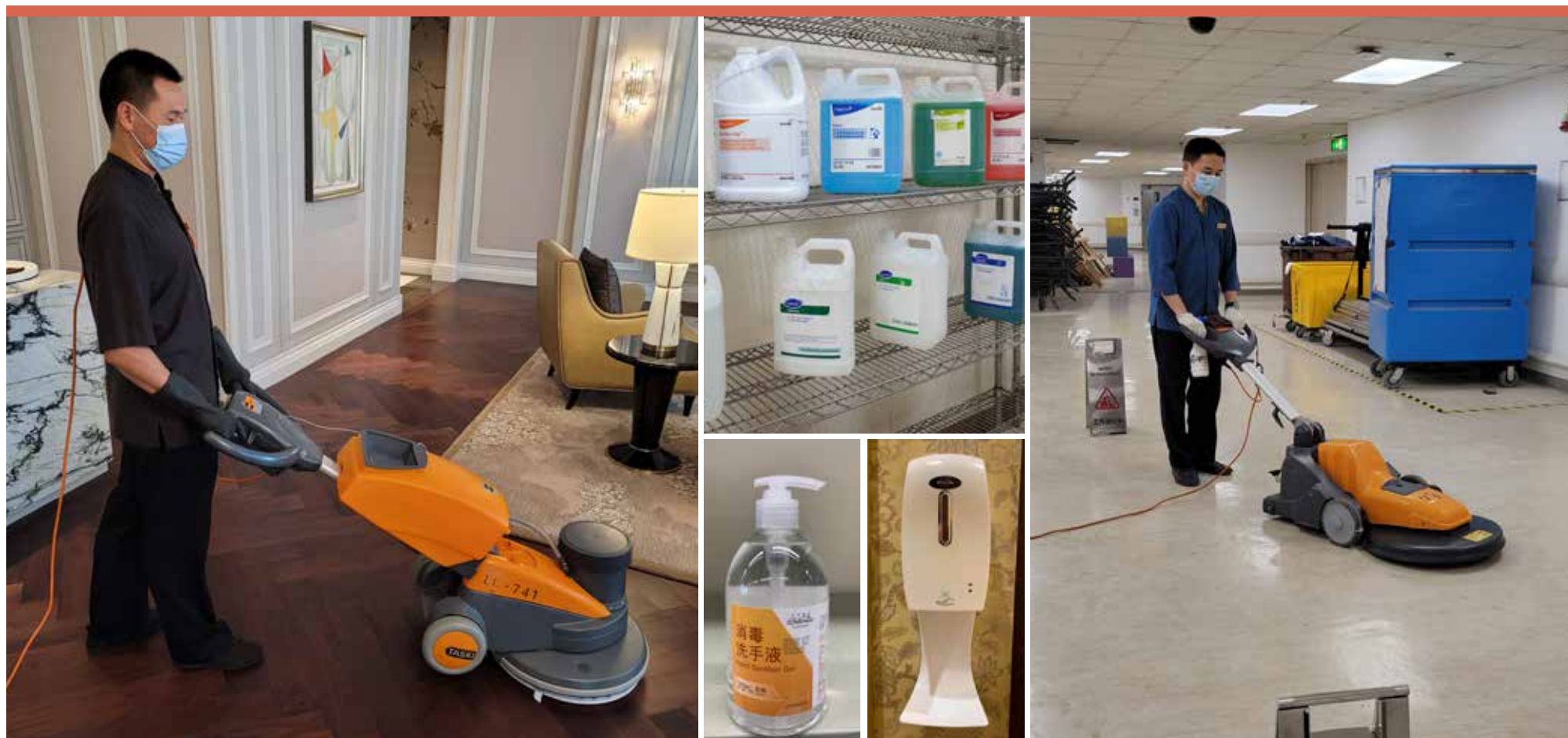
It is the first time such matter was found at the checkpoint.

In March this year, Customs officers discovered abnormal objects in a parcel for export. Later checks found two pieces of yellowish swirling shells with colorful glistening surface.

They were then sent to professionals, who confirmed they were fossils of Cephalopoda Ammonoidea, which lived during the same age as dinosaurs.

The customs authority thus reminds members of the public that pursuant to related laws and regulations, those who transport, mail, or carry paleontological fossils out of the country must truthfully declare this to customs and submit to customs approvals issued by the relevant entity.

According to laws and regulations in effect, the customs authority will supervise the export or exit of such paleontological fossils and works to stop the illegal exportation of such matter. **AL**



SANDS CHINA-SMES PARTNERSHIPS REMAIN STRONG

Sands China partners with local supplier for excellence in hygiene and sanitization

B EING the largest integrated resort operator in Macau, Sands China applies strict standards when selecting suppliers. Sun Fu Lon Trading, a local enterprise operating in Macau for more than 20 years, is one of Sands China's supportive partners.

Sun Fu Lon Trading is the general agent in Macau for Diversey, a global provider in the cleaning and hygiene industry. With its professional cleaning equipment and products, the brand has established a solid reputation and position in the industry.

Founded in 2000, after more than twenty years of continuous improvement, the types of products and services provided by Sun Fu Lon Trading are gaining greater prominence. Industries served by the company include: hotel, catering, cleaning companies, schools and government agencies.

The cooperation between

Sands China and Sun Fu Lon Trading began in 2004 with the opening of Sands Macao, when Sun Fu Lon Trading provided branded cleaning detergents and cleaning equipment for the newly opened hotel and entertainment complex.

With the continuous development of Sands China's other projects, Sun Fu Lon Trading has since expanded its partnership to Sands China's integrated resorts on Cotai. The company not only supplies cleaning products, but machine maintenance services as well.

Sands China requires cleaning products to comply with international standards. Diversey is one of the brands that meet those requirements.

"As the general agent of Diversey in Macau, Sun Fu Lon Trading is able to supply a variety of

products and has a professional technical team responsible for machine maintenance. In addition, the technical team has regular meetings with Sands China's housekeeping department. They have been working

We are aiming for a clean, well-appointed, and eco-friendly room that will provide a great home-away-from-home

together well and are suitable partners for cooperation," said Gary Choi, senior manager of procurement and supply chain for Sands China.

Will Tsang and Vendy Leong, sales managers for Sun Fu Lon Trading, said the advantages of their company are its range of products and professional servi-

ces: "The public is familiar with our diversified products. Plus, customers will have extensive service experience. The technical team can be on site to help our customers whenever they encounter problems. The logistics team can flexibly adjust the delivery service according to customer needs. Given that the cleaning products may contain chemical substances, the company will provide regular training for users to ensure safety when using our products."

The partnership has grown even stronger since the outbreak of Covid-19, both Choi and Tsang noted. At the beginning of the outbreak last year, the procurement of disinfection supplies across Macau was quite tight. But thanks to Sun Fu Lon Trading's reserves, Sands China's guests and staff were all able to have access to enough disinfection products. As Choi recalled, the supplier even customized hand sanitizers with Sands China's label on the dispensers and bottles, "which was very considerate."

Working with a large international corporation like Sands China also means a lot to the local enterprise. Tsang said: "Sands China's hotel lobbies are furnished with different stone materials. Some are smooth

while some have rough surfaces, which requires different cleaning products. We thus provide a professional and technical team to train their cleaning staff. Meanwhile, after frequent contact with our customers, we get to know more about users' difficulties or needs. We try to optimize our services and bring new information to them as a follow-up service."

Sands China has expressed satisfaction with the local enterprise, noting, "They have done a good job in supplying cleaning products."

Sands China in fact advised Sun Fu Lon Trading to introduce more cleaning products and strengthen its support services in the future. Choi revealed that Sands China is paying attention to environmental protection, and therefore hopes that the supplier can introduce more environmentally friendly products in the future.

Sun Fu Long Trading shares its customer's view, promising that "In the future, we will actively introduce more cleaning products and energy-saving cleaning machines that meet international environmental standards and Sands China's high standards. In addition, the company will strengthen the service quality of its technical and logistics teams, aiming to provide Sands China with more regular maintenance services and 'one-stop' services."



TWO CANADIANS IN PRISONER SWAP FREED FOR HEALTH REASONS: BEIJING

TWO Canadians detained in late 2019 who were allowed to return to Canada in a prisoner swap were released on bail for health reasons, China's Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry spokesperson made the comment as Beijing sought to downplay the connection between their release and the return to China of a long-detained executive of Huawei Technologies.

Canadians Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig were detained in December 2019, days after Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, was arrested in Canada at the request of U.S. authorities.

Many countries labeled China's action "hostage politics," while China accused Ottawa of arbitrary detention. The two Canadians were jailed for more than 1,000 days.

Meng fought the U.S. demand for extradition from Canada. She landed in China on Saturday after reaching a deal with the U.S. Justice Department that led to a prisoner swap.

"The case of Meng Wanzhou is completely different from that of Michael Kovrig and Michael

AP PHOTO



Michael Kovrig (center) embraces his wife Vina Nadjibulla (left) and sister Ariana Botha after arriving at Pearson International Airport in Toronto

Spavor in nature," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily briefing yesterday.

The two men were suspected of endangering national security, Hua said.

Spavor, an entrepreneur, had been sentenced to 11 years in prison, accused of spying. Kovrig

had not yet been sentenced but was facing similar charges.

China released the two Canadians on bail after a "diagnosis by professional medical institutions, and with the guarantee of the Canadian ambassador to China," Hua said.

Hua did not answer questions from journalists about whether

the prisoner releases were entirely unrelated and what the health reasons were.

A spokesperson for the Canadian embassy in Beijing directed questions to Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa.

Meng reached an agreement with U.S. federal prosecutors that will drop fraud charges against

her next year. In return, she is accepting responsibility for misrepresenting the company's business dealings in Iran.

Her return to China was broadcast live on the country's central broadcaster, CCTV, as she wore a red dress the shade of China's flag and thanked the country's leader Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party.

Yesterday, Hua said Meng was a victim of "political persecution" and was able to return to China thanks to the "government's unrelenting efforts."

In contrast, news about the release of the two Michael's was reported by the state-owned tabloid Global Times, and while the news spread online, it was not carried by more authoritative state media agencies like CCTV or Xinhua.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies. It has been a symbol of China's progress in becoming a technological world power — and a subject of U.S. security and law enforcement concerns.

Former President Donald Trump's administration cut off Huawei's access to U.S. components and technology, including Google's music and other smartphone services, and later barred vendors worldwide from using U.S. technology to produce components for Huawei. **MDT/AP**

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AUSTRALIA

AN Aboriginal man is taking Australia's government to court to argue that Indigenous people should have access to their pensions earlier than other Australians because their life expectancy is years shorter.

Dennis Fisher, 64, said yesterday he is taking the action to benefit other Indigenous Australians.

"A lot of us die at a young age," Fisher said. "If I can help my people somehow, yeah," he added.

The case was filed in Federal Court in Melbourne last Thursday by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, the Human Rights Law Center and the multinational law firm DLA Piper.

The case will argue that Indigenous people should be able to access their pensions earlier to account for the gap in life expectancy until that gap is closed, Fisher's lawyers said in a statement.

Indigenous men have a life expectancy of 71 years and Indigenous women 75 years. That's 8.6 years shorter than other Australian men and 7.8 years shorter than other Australian women.

Australia's minimum pension age will increase to 67 by July 2023, six months more than the current age and a year older than it was in July 2019. The government is pres-

Indigenous wants early pension due to short lives

AP PHOTO



Dennis Fisher poses for a photo in Melbourne in January

suring an aging population to retire later.

Meena Singh, an Indigenous lawyer and senior adviser to the Human Rights Law Center, said Fisher's test case centers on Section 10 of the Racial Discrimination Act which deals with a group of people that has lesser rights than another group.

Social Services Minister Anne Ruston, who is responsible for pensions, said in a statement her government's "number one priority is working with Indigenous communities to make the real and practical changes necessary to achieve better life outcomes for Indigenous Australians."

She pointed to the govern-

ment's pledge in August to spend 1.1 billion Australian dollars (\$813 million) to address Indigenous disadvantages, including compensation to thousands of mixed-race children who were taken from their families over decades.

Indigenous Australians account for 3% of the population and have poorer health, lower education le-

vels and shorter life expectancies than other ethnic groups. Indigenous adults account for 2% of the Australian population and 27% of the prison population.

Fisher has worked since he was 10, first on a dairy farm that was designed to train Indigenous children to become agricultural laborers.

He was among an estimated 10,000 Indigenous workers who claimed their wages were stolen by the Queensland state government between 1939 and 1972. The government settled a class action in 2019 and Fisher received a share of the AU\$190 million (\$138 million) payout.

He now holds two jobs in Melbourne as a broadcaster at an Indigenous community radio station and as Aboriginal heritage guide.

In 2008, the Australian Parliament apologized to the Indigenous population for past wrongs since British colonization. The then-government also launched an ambitious Closing the Gap initiative aimed at achieving equality for Indigenous Australians in health and life expectancy within a generation.

But current Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government scrapped the 12-year-old timetable last year, declaring the policy had failed. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Princess's fiancé returns for delayed marriage

JAPANESE Princess Mako's fiancé returned to Japan yesterday for their marriage, which was suspended for more than three years because of a financial dispute involving his mother.

Kei Komuro, 29, arrived from New York, where he studied law and plans to work as a lawyer, with his hair in a ponytail, a bold statement by Japanese standards for someone marrying a princess in the tradition-bound imperial family.

Mako, also 29, is a niece of Emperor Naruhito. She and Komuro, who were classmates at Tokyo's International Christian University, announced in September 2017 their intent to marry the following year, but the financial dispute surfaced two months later and resulted in their wedding being suspended.

The financial dispute involved whether 4 million yen (\$36,000) his mother

AP PHOTO



Kei Komuro, fiancé of Japan's Princess Mako, arrives at Narita international airport yesterday

received from her former fiancé and spent on Komuro's education in Japan was a loan or a gift.

Komuro left for New York in 2018 to study law, and this is the first time he has returned since then. He made no comments at the airport, bowed silently and left in a car.

He and Mako are to hold

a news conference after his two-week coronavirus quarantine, according to Kyodo News and other Japanese media.

The couple is expected to register their marriage in October and start a new life together in New York.

His mother's financial dispute was an embarrassment for the imperial family

and divided public opinion. Mako's father, Crown Prince Akishino, asked Komuro to provide a clear explanation and expressed mixed feelings about the marriage plans.

Many Japanese said the marriage should be scrapped, while others said the couple should pursue their romance.

Mako, apparently aware that her wedding is not fully celebrated by the people, reportedly offered to decline all official wedding rituals and a payment of up to 150 million yen (\$1.35 million) she is entitled to receive when leaving the imperial family.

The payment, funded by taxpayers, is meant to maintain the image of former royal members. Mako would be the first female imperial family member since World War II to not receive the payment when marrying a commoner.

The Imperial House Law allows only male-line succession. Female members of the royal family must renounce their royal status when they marry a commoner — a practice that has resulted in a decline in the size of the royal family and a shortage of successors to the throne. **MDT/AP**

THAILAND

MONSOON RAIN MAY WORSEN FLOODS, BANGKOK PREPARES

SEASONAL monsoon rains may worsen flooding that has already badly affected about a third of Thailand, officials said yesterday as flood gates and pumping stations were being used to reduce the potential damage.

A tropical storm over the weekend swept through the upper part of the country, causing flash floods that affected 58,977 families, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation reported.

Boontham Lertsukekasem, the department's director-general, told reporters that 12 provinces along the Chao Phraya river, including Bangkok and the old capital Ayutthaya, should be prepared for new flooding as water levels increase in the Chao Phraya dam by 30 centimeters to 1 meter over the next few days.

Soldiers helped fill

sandbags in Ayutthaya.

In Bangkok, Gov. Aswin Kwanmuang declared on his Facebook page the situation in Bangkok was not yet critical but the city was carefully operating flood gates and pumping stations, among other preparations.

Sections of the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima had severe flooding when a reservoir overflowed, forcing people to walk through knee-deep water and inundating the ground floors of many homes.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and several Cabinet members met with flood-affected people and handed out aid Sunday in Sukhothai province.

Thailand has a tropical climate and often sees flooding that causes millions of dollars in damage during its monsoon season from July to October. **MDT/AP**



Olaf Scholz, Finance Minister and SPD candidate for Chancellor after addressing his supporters after German parliament election

GERMANY

Social Democrats narrowly beat Merkel's bloc in vote

FRANK JORDANS & GEIR MOULSON, BERLIN

GERMANY'S center-left Social Democrats won the biggest share of the vote in a national election Sunday, narrowly beating outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Union bloc in a closely fought race that will determine who succeeds the long-time leader at the helm of Europe's biggest economy.

The Social Democrats' candidate Olaf Scholz, the outgoing vice chancellor and finance minister who pulled his party out of a years-long slump, said the outcome was "a very clear mandate to ensure now that we put together a good, pragmatic government for Germany."

Despite getting its worst-ever result in a federal contest, the Union bloc said it too would reach out to smaller parties to discuss forming a government, while Merkel stays on in a caretaker role until a successor is sworn in.

Election officials said yesterday that a count of all 299 constituencies showed the Social Democrats received 25.9% of the vote, ahead of 24.1% for the Union bloc. No winning party in a Ger-

man national election had previously taken less than 31% of the vote.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state who outmaneuvered a more popular rival to secure the nomination of Merkel's Union bloc, had struggled to motivate the party's base and suffered a series of missteps.

"Of course, this is a loss of votes that isn't pretty," Laschet said of results that looked set to undercut by some measure the Union's previous worst showing of 31% in 1949. But he added that with Merkel departing after 16 years in power, "no one had an incumbent bonus in this election."

Laschet told supporters that "we will do everything we can to form a government under the Union's leadership, because Germany now needs a coalition for the future that modernizes our country."

Both Laschet and Scholz will be courting the same two parties: the environmentalist Greens, who were third with 14.8%; and the pro-business Free Democrats, who took 11.5% of the vote.

The Greens traditionally lean toward the Social Democrats and the Free Democrats toward the Union, but neither

ruled out going the other way.

The other option was a repeat of the outgoing "grand coalition" of the Union and Social Democrats that has run Germany for 12 of Merkel's 16 years in power, but there was little obvious appetite for that after years of government squabbling.

"Everyone thinks that ... this 'grand coalition' isn't promising for the future, regardless of who is No. 1 and No. 2," Laschet said. "We need a real new beginning."

The Free Democrats' leader, Christian Lindner, appeared keen to govern, suggesting that his party and the Greens should make the first move.

"About 75% of Germans didn't vote for the next chancellor's party," Lindner said in a post-election debate with all parties' leaders on public broadcaster ZDF. "So it might be advisable ... that the Greens and Free Democrats first speak to each other to structure everything that follows."

Baerbock insisted that "the climate crisis ... is the leading issue of the next government, and that is for us the basis for any talks ... even if we aren't totally satisfied with our result."

While the Greens improved their support from the last election in 2017, they had higher expectations for Sunday's vote.

The Left Party was projected to win only 4.9% of the vote and risked being kicked out of parliament entirely. The far-right Alternative for Germany — which no one else wants to work with — received 10.3%. This was about 2 percentage points less than in 2017, when it first entered parliament.

Due to Germany's complicated electoral system, a full breakdown of the result by seats in parliament was still pending.

Merkel, who has won plaudits for steering Germany through several major crises, won't be an easy leader to follow. Her successor will have to oversee the country's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, which Germany so far has weathered relatively well thanks to large rescue programs.

Germany's leading parties have significant differences when it comes to taxation and tackling climate change.

Foreign policy didn't feature much in the campaign, although the Greens favor a tougher stance toward China and Russia.

Whichever parties form the next German government, the Free Democrats' Lindner said it was "good news" that it would have a majority with centrist parties.

"All of those in Europe and beyond who were worried about Germany's stability can now see: Germany will be stable in any case," he said.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez sent early congratulations to Scholz.

"Spain and Germany will continue to work together for a stronger Europe and for a fair and green recovery that leaves no one behind," he wrote on Twitter.

In two regional elections also held Sunday, the Social Democrats looked set to defend the post of Berlin mayor that they have held for two decades. The party was also on course for a strong win in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania.

For the first time since 1949, the Danish minority party SSW was set to win a seat in parliament, officials said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2000 'PROVOCATIVE' MOSQUE VISIT SPARKS RIOTS



Palestinians and Israeli police have clashed in the worst violence for several years at Jerusalem's holiest site, the compound around Al-Aqsa mosque.

The violence began after a highly controversial tour of the mosque compound early this morning by hardline Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon.

Under heavy guard, Mr Sharon entered the compound with a right-wing Likud party delegation.

He crossed from the west side of the compound to the east and back again, to the sound of enraged protests from demonstrators outside.

BBC correspondent Hilary Andersson said the visit was clearly intended to underline the Jewish claim to the city of Jerusalem and its holy sites.

The site of the Al Aqsa mosque and its compound, known as Temple Mount to Jews and Haram al Sharif to Muslims, is sacred to both religions.

It lies on territory captured by Israel in the 1967 war, and is at the heart of the fierce dispute over the sovereignty of Jerusalem.

As he left the compound, Mr Sharon denied the visit was provocation, insisting he had come with a "message of peace".

"I came here to the holiest place of the Jewish people in order to see what happens here and really to help the feeling that we are now ready to move forward," he said.

But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat described his visit as a "dangerous step".

Soon after Mr Sharon left the site, the angry demonstrations outside erupted into violence. Israeli police fired tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets, while protesters hurled stones and other missiles.

Police said 25 of their men were hurt by missiles thrown by Palestinians, but only one was taken to hospital.

Israel Radio reported at least three Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets.

The violence comes at a highly sensitive time for the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, outlined his vision for Jerusalem for the first time today in a newspaper interview.

He said he would be willing to accept two capitals - a Palestinian-controlled Al Quds next to an Israeli Jerusalem - as part of a possible peace agreement.

The peace process has been stalled over the issue of Jerusalem since the failure of the Camp David summit in July this year.

However, Mr Barak insisted he would not hand over the Temple Mount compound to Palestinian sovereignty.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following Friday prayers the next day violence again broke out throughout Jerusalem and the West Bank.

It was the beginning of a wave of rioting which escalated into what is now known as the second Palestinian intifada (uprising), or sometimes the Al Aqsa intifada.

By the end of the first year, more than 800 people had died. Critics say Mr Sharon knew the visit would trigger the ensuing violence and gambled on the Israeli public turning to a tough leader like him who would know how to handle it firmly.

On 6 February 2001 he won a landslide victory, pledging to achieve "security and true peace" while insisting he would not be bound by previous negotiations with the Palestinians. In June 2002 following a series of suicide bombings, work began on building a security wall, 640 km (440 miles) long, between Israel and the West Bank.

An effort to revive the peace process resulted in the publication of a new roadmap for peace in April 2003.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've been totally enmeshed in your close relationships lately, Aries. Single or taken, it's been critical for you to review the current reality of that all-important arena.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Tuesday's skies see the arrival of the third quarter moon in pensive Cancer, which highlights the current divide between your mental health and physical wellbeing.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This time of year is all about getting back to what brings you joy, Gemini. It's been imperative for you to seek out fun, activate your creative drive, and fearlessly embrace self-expression.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

As a Cancer, nothing is more important than your home. You've been spending more time holed up in your humble abode, as you've been taking an introverted recharge away from society.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The universe has been busy keeping you busy, Leo! This time of year tends to find you traveling, studying, or immersing yourself in mentally stimulating projects.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You've been devoted to sorting out your finances and committing to a new workflow. This time of year forces you re-evaluate your approach to your job and shore up your own self-confidence in your skills.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

As a Libra, you have a tendency to devote your energy towards the needs of other people. This time of year works to remind you of your own invaluable, individual importance.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Tuesday's skies bring the arrival of the third quarter moon in soulful Cancer, highlighting any overarching misconceptions about your potential that need releasing.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Nothing feels as important to you as your social life this time of year, Sagittarius. You've been steadily examining your close friendships, perhaps even breaking ties with outgrown ones.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Tuesday's skies see the arrival of the third quarter moon in your opposite sign of intimacy-seeking Cancer, highlighting the gap between your career demands and partnership needs.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Tuesday's skies herald the arrival of the third quarter moon in sensitive Cancer, which illuminates the current divide between your day job and your dream job.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Tuesday's skies bring the arrival of the third quarter moon in emotionally-rich Cancer, illuminating what needs changing around your approach to your sex life and creative confidence.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
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

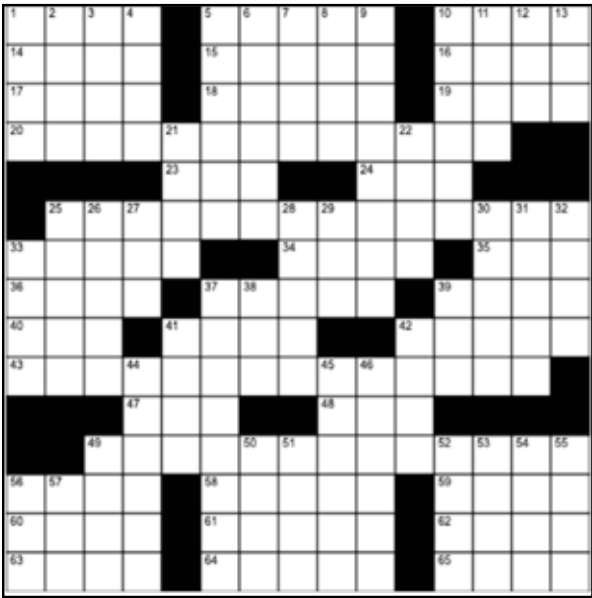
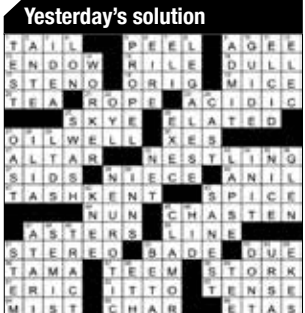
WORLD

Moscow	11	23	rain
Frankfurt	12	25	overcast
Paris	17	26	overcast
London	14	19	cloudy
New York	21	31	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- ____ accompli; 5- Low life?; 10- Legal rights org.; 14- What's ____ you?; 15- "The Highwayman" poet; 16- Clench; 17- Hawk; 18- Welcome; 19- Electric fish; 20- Portable communicator; 23- Paris possessive; 24- Hall or Byrnes; 25- Comprehensible; 33- Scoff; 34- "Trinity" author; 35- Fam. member; 36- Singer Turner; 37- Terra ____; 39- Shootout; 40- Greek goddess of rashness and divine punishment; 41- Damage, so to speak; 42- Style; 43- Obligation; 47- Unsafe?; 48- Chemical ending; 49- Unparalleled; 56- Oboe, e.g.; 58- Winged; 59- I could ____ horse!; 60- Yard tunnel; 61- Beam; 62- Radiograph; 63- Clairvoyant; 64- In shape; 65- Uses a shuttle;

DOWN: 1- Money-related; Abbr.; 2- To ____ (perfectly); 3- ____ never work!; 4- Damage done; 5- Person who fishes; 6- Bog; 7- Observer; 8- Page; 9- Weakness; 10- To-do list; 11- Manitoba Indigenous People; 12- Abner's adjective; 13- FedEx rival; 21- Manipulator; 22- Vegas line; 25- Put together; 26- Hawaiian state birds; 27- Narc's org.; 28- All, musically; 29- Singer Garfunkel; 30- Main impact; 31- Guarded; 32- Vogue rival; 33- Toronto paper; 37- Stand in opposition; 38- CIA forerunner; 39- Agnus ____; 41- ____ d'etat; 42- High level of satisfaction; 44- Meditate; 45- Firefly, e.g.; 46- Truly; 49- River to the Ubangi; 50- Ticklish doll; 51- First son of Adam and Eve; 52- Immediately following; 53- Skater Lipinski; 54- Coup d'____; 55- 24 hour periods; 56- Apt. divisions; 57- Fair-hiring abbr.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Telephone - Report 1000

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Hellene Gardens **HKD 10,880,000**
Ref: 2107 6005 1,707 ft² 4 2 1

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"
Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft² 2 1

MANUFACTURING

CHINA'S FACTORIES, HOUSEHOLDS GRAPPLE WITH POWER CUTS

JOE MCDONALD & ZEN SOO

GLOBAL shoppers face possible shortages of smartphones and other goods ahead of Christmas after power cuts to meet official energy use targets forced Chinese factories to shut down and left some households in the dark.

In the northeastern city of Liaoyang, 23 people were hospitalized with gas poisoning after ventilation in a metal casting factory was shut off following a power outage, according to state broadcaster CCTV. No deaths were reported.

Factories were idled to avoid exceeding limits on energy use imposed by Beijing to promote efficiency. Economists and an environmental group say manufacturers used up this year's quota faster than planned as export demand rebounded from the coronavirus pandemic.

A components supplier for Apple Inc.'s iPhones said it suspended production at a factory west of Shanghai under orders from local authorities.

The disruption to China's vast manufacturing industries during one of their busiest seasons reflects the ruling Communist Party's struggle to balance economic growth with efforts to rein in pollution and emissions of climate-changing gases.

"Beijing's unprecedented resolve in enforcing energy consumption limits could result in long-term benefits, but the short-term economic costs are substantial," Nomura economists Ting Lu, Lisheng Wang and Jing Wang said in a report yesterday.

They said the impact might be



Smoke and steam rise from a coal processing plant in Hejin in Shanxi Province

so severe that they cut their economic growth forecast for China to 4.7% from 5.1% over a year earlier in the current quarter. They cut their outlook for annual growth to 7.7% from 8.2%.

Global financial markets already were on edge about the possible collapse of one of China's biggest real estate developers, Evergrande Group, which is struggling to avoid a default on billions of dollars of debt.

Manufacturers already face shortages of processor chips, disruptions in shipping and other lingering effects of the global shutdown of travel and trade to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Residents of China's northeast, where autumn temperatures are

falling, report power cuts and appealed on social media for the government to restore supplies.

The crunch comes as global leaders prepare to attend a U.N. environmental conference by video link on Oct. 12-13 in the southwestern city of Kunming. That increases pressure on President Xi Jinping's government, as the meeting's host, to show it is sticking to emissions and energy efficiency targets.

China is one of the world's biggest emitters of climate-changing industrial gases and consumes more energy per unit of economic output than developed countries.

The ruling party also is preparing for the Winter Olympics in Beijing and the nearby city of Shi-

jiazhuang in February, a period when it will want clear blue skies.

Scores of companies have announced power rationing could force them to delay filling orders and might hurt them financially.

Apple components supplier Eson Precision Engineering Co. Ltd. said Sunday it would halt production at its factory in Kunshan, west of Shanghai, through Thursday "in line with the local government's power restriction policy."

Eson said the suspension shouldn't have a "significant impact" on operations.

Apple didn't immediately respond to a question about the possible impact on iPhone supplies.

China's energy consumption and industrial emissions have

surged as manufacturers rush to fill foreign demand at a time when competitors elsewhere still are hampered by anti-coronavirus controls.

China's economy is "more driven by exports than any time in the past decade," but official energy use targets fail to take that into account, economists Larry Hu and Xinyu Ji of Macquarie Group said in a report.

Some provinces used up most of their quotas for energy consumption in the first half of the year and are cutting back to stay under their limits, according to Li Shuo, a climate policy expert at Greenpeace in Beijing.

Utility companies, meanwhile, are being squeezed by soaring coal and gas prices. That discourages them from increasing output because the government limits their ability to pass on costs to customers, said Li.

Prices have risen "past the range of what China's electricity industry can bear," Li said.

China has launched repeated campaigns to make its energy-hungry economy more efficient and clean up smog-choked cities.

City skies are visibly clearer, but the abrupt way the campaigns are carried out disrupts supplies of power, coal and gas, leaving families shivering in unheated homes and forcing factories to shut down.

Shopping malls in the northeastern city of Harbin have announced they will close stores earlier than usual to save power.

In Guangdong province, the government told the public to set thermostats on air conditioners higher even as temperatures rose above 34 degrees C.

State Grid Corp., the world's biggest power distributor, issued a pledge to ensure adequate supplies.

Meanwhile, state media say local governments have signed long-term coal contracts to ensure adequate suppliers. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco cuts plate waste by 35%



Melco Resorts & Entertainment announced that it has successfully cut plate waste in employee dining areas by up to 35%.

In 2020, Melco rolled out the Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) sys-

tem, Winnow Vision, across its properties to lead the charge against food waste in employee dining room kitchens to target overproduced waste. Tracking detailed food waste data enabled the teams to

identify post-consumer waste (i.e. plate waste) as the main source of food wastage in employee dining rooms.

To directly tackle plate waste, Melco collaborated with Winnow and London School of Economics (LSE) on a project to combine Winnow's new post-consumer waste measurement product, Winnow Sense – a touchless system designed to measure plate waste, with a study to monitor consumer behavior.

The project has been successful, with interventions shown to reduce food waste by as much as 35%, and qualitative feedback from colleagues showing a shift in behavior both at work and at home.

MGM Macau to switch to natural gas

With half of natural gas main pipelines on Macau Peninsula in place and to further support the government's call for a wider adoption of natural gas, MGM announced that its Macau property has inked an agreement with Nam Kwong Natural Gas Company Ltd on the natural gas changeover at MGM Macau.

The overhaul is slated to be completed by 2022, when MGM Macau will be the first integrated resort on Macau Peninsula to switch to natural gas, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

Together with MGM Cotai which has been utilizing natural gas since its opening,

MGM said that it will become the first integrated resort operators to have all its properties fully converted to clean and low-carbon natural gas.

To fully support China's climate goals of peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, MGM said it has identified short-term and long-term goals to spearhead the industry's eco-conscious efforts toward a net-zero carbon economy.

"Our mid-term and long-term approaches include achieving green transport through fully switched to electric shuttle buses by



2023 and a target of achieving normalized energy saving of 13% by the end of 2025 as compared to 2019," the statement read.

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW

Heat on Manchester United after losses

Thursday, 03:00
Man Utd v Villarreal
H 1.51, D 4.75, A 7

WITH 55 shots in the last two games, no goals and a pair of 1-0 losses, Manchester United's attack is looking blunt. That's even with Cristiano Ronaldo back at the club, although he only played in Saturday's defeat to Aston Villa and not the League Cup exit to West Ham. There will be little room for error in the Champions League if Villarreal can't be beaten at Old Trafford in Group F on Wednesday (Thursday, 3am) after United opened two weeks ago with a loss to Young Boys. Villarreal beat United in last season's Europa League final and Ole Gunnar Solskjær will want to avoid United dropping into Europe's second-tier competition again after benefiting from so much investment in the squad.

Wednesday, 03:00
Real Madrid v Sheriff
H 1.11, D 12, A 36

Real Madrid hosts Sheriff on Tuesday (Wednesday, 3am) needing Karim Benzema and Vinícius Júnior to quickly get back in form after faltering in a 0-0 draw against Villarreal in the Spanish league this weekend. After outscoring opponents 22-8 in its first seven matches in all competitions, Real couldn't find the net for the first time this season. Sheriff comes to Madrid leading Group D after opening its first Champions League campaign with a win against Shakhtar Donetsk. Rodrygo was the scorer for Madrid in the team's 1-0 win at Inter Milan in its Champions League opener.

Wednesday, 03:00
PSG v Man City
H 3.2, D 3.75, A 2.34

Mauricio Pochettino remains evasive about who is Paris Saint-Germain's first-choice goalkeeper and whether Keylor Navas or new signing Gianluigi Donnarumma will start against Manchester City in their Group A match in Paris on Tuesday (Wednesday, 3am). Not a bad dilemma for a coach to have.

AP PHOTO



Navas was one of the best goalkeepers in the world last season while Donnarumma ended it by helping Italy win the European Championship. Navas has started PSG's last two games and looked in good form, but Donnarumma might not be satisfied with the backup role. Up front, Pochettino hopes to have Lionel Messi back in attack as the Argentine shakes off a minor knee injury that sidelined him for two games. Messi's last goal in the Champions League came for Barcelona against PSG at Parc des Princes in last season's last-16. He had a penalty saved in that game — by Navas.

Wednesday, 03:00
Dortmund v Sporting
H 1.41, D 5.5, A 10

Borussia Dortmund is sweating on the fitness of star striker Erling Haaland and influential captain Marco Reus for Sporting Lisbon's visit on Tuesday (Wednesday, 3am) in Group C. Dortmund slumped to a 1-0 loss at Borussia Mönchengladbach in the players' absence on Saturday, when it was apparent how reliant the team had become on the goals that the pair provide. Haaland scored 11 goals and set up four more in seven games so far this season, while Reus contributed one goal and five assists in his seven games across all competitions. Both were injured in training on Friday.

Wednesday, 03:00
AC Milan v Atletico
H 3.02, D 3.25, A 2.63

Atletico Madrid visits AC Milan on Tuesday (Wednesday, 3am) in Group

B and is still waiting for a breakthrough performance from Antoine Griezmann in his return to the club. Griezmann is winless in eight matches with Atletico this season. The defending Spanish champion has struggled recently with only one victory in its last four matches, including a 0-0 home draw against Porto in its first Champions League match. Its last game was a stunning 1-0 defeat at then last-placed Alavés in the Spanish league.

Wednesday, 03:00
FC Porto v Liverpool
H 4.9, D 4, A 1.76

Porto hosts Liverpool coming off an unbeaten start to its season with five wins and three draws, including at Atletico Madrid to begin its Champions League campaign. Porto won its three matches at home by outscoring opponents 10-0. Veteran central defender Pepe is still listed as doubtful for Tuesday's (Wednesday, 3am) Group B match because of a left leg muscle injury sustained in the 0-0 draw against Atletico in Madrid.

Thursday, 03:00
Benfica v Barcelona
H 3, D 3.5, A 2.55

Benfica hosts struggling Barcelona on Wednesday (Thursday, 3am) while enjoying a great start to its season with eight wins in 10 matches. And the only setbacks were draws against PSV Eindhoven in the qualifying round of the Champions League and at Dynamo Kyiv in the Group E opener. There was some controversy in the team's win at Vitória Guimarães

this weekend, with coach Jorge Jesus exchanging a few words with forward Darwin Núñez during the game and technical director Luísão arguing heatedly with central defender Lucas Veríssimo after the final whistle. It was calmer for once for Barcelona as a 3-0 Spanish league win over Levante took some heat off coach Ronald Koeman. The team had been on a three-match winless streak that started with a demoralizing 3-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Thursday, 03:00
Juventus v Chelsea
H 4.2, D 3.6, A 1.99

Juventus' problems deepened as key forward Paulo Dybala sustained an injury and will miss Wednesday's (Thursday, 3am) home game against Chelsea. Dybala scored the opening goal of Juve's 3-2 victory over Sampdoria on Sunday but left the field 10 minutes later in tears after pulling up suddenly, clutching the back of his leg. It was another unconvincing win for Juventus and only its second in the league this season. The Bianconeri defense will face a sterner test from Romelu Lukaku and the Chelsea attack in the Group H match.

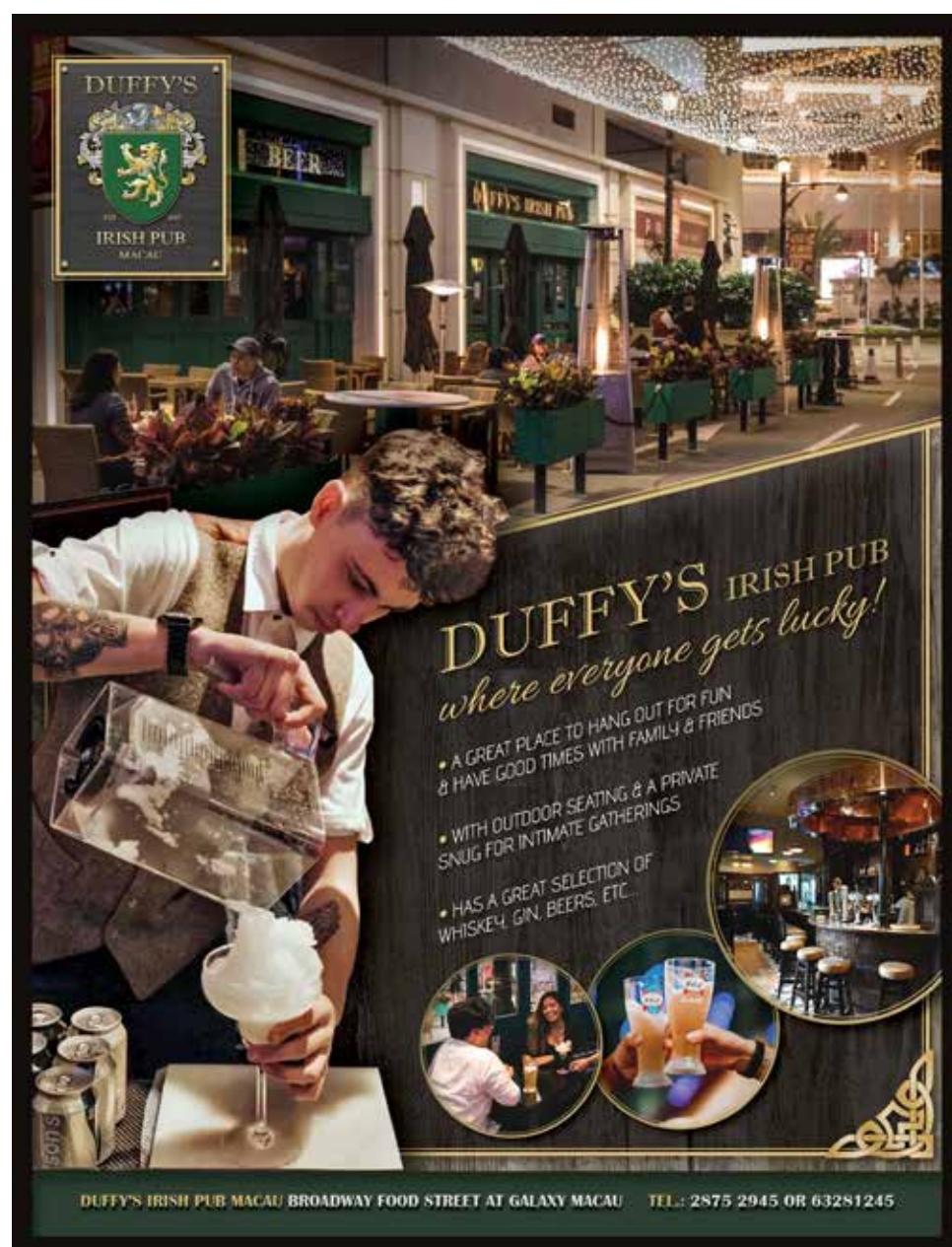
Thursday, 03:00
Wolfsburg v Sevilla
H 2.95, D 3.3, A 2.65

Sevilla may be without one of its top forwards when it visits Wolfsburg. Youssef En-Nesyri hurt a muscle and had to be substituted early in the

second half of the team's 2-0 win against Espanyol in the Spanish league on Saturday. En-Nesyri had scored his third goal of the season in the first half. Sevilla is coming off two straight wins and is third in the Spanish league. The Group G match is on Wednesday (Thursday, 3am).

Thursday, 03:00
FC Salzburg v Lille
H 2.04, D 3.62, A 4.05

As the son of a president who was once among the world's best strikers, Timothy Weah has a hard act to follow. He's still searching for a first goal of the season when Lille travels to face Salzburg in Group G on Wednesday (Thursday, 3am). The 21-year-old American forward is the son of George Weah, who is Liberia's president since 2018 and won the Ballon d'Or in 1995. His son is slowly making a name for himself with northern French club Lille but there were only five goals last season. **MDT/AP ODDSCHECKER.COM**



OPINION

China Daily

Ning Lizhi, in China Daily

INTERNET REGULATIONS CONFORM TO GLOBAL TREND

The internet has completely changed our way of life, and tech companies have become the leading driver of social evolution.

Yet in recent years, the growing power of big tech companies, including some internet platforms, in China has led to the formation of monopolies in some areas of e-commerce, instant messaging and ride-hailing services.

Such companies have revealed their monopolistic tendencies by introducing algorithmic collusion, big data-enabled price discrimination and predatory pricing, which have disturbed the market order and violated consumers' rights and interests.

China has made great progress in promoting the rule of law, including enacting anti-monopoly regulations for cyberspace. For example, the State Administration for Market Regulation released the draft amendment to the Anti-Monopoly Law in 2020 to solicit public opinions, and issued a draft document on tackling unfair competition in the online sector on Aug 17. And the Anti-Monopoly Committee of the State Council issued anti-monopoly guidelines for online platforms on Feb 7.

These moves to check monopolies are aimed at restoring order in the market, and hence have garnered public support.

To be sure, China's anti-monopoly policies are aimed at fostering innovation and boosting high-quality economic development.

China's anti-monopoly law enforcement authorities had adopted a somewhat prudent supervision policy for online businesses, which some big companies took advantage of to grab a bigger share of the market by curbing competition. Some companies even used illegal means to restrict other companies from selling their products and services online, which curbed fair competition.

China has been transitioning from quantitative, investments-and exports-driven economic growth to high-quality development, for which it is very important to strengthen anti-monopoly law enforcement. And stricter market supervision is necessary to better regulate and develop the internet industry, promote fair competition and boost high-quality development.

Stricter supervision will also prevent big tech companies from making short-term gains through unfair means as long as they can still leverage their advantages in innovation and provide small and medium-sized enterprises with more development space so the online market can become more open, energetic and prosperous.

The monopolies and virtual monopolies in the online market have harmed the interests of customers. In some cases, consumers have had to pay higher prices for lower quality products and services, and tech firms have leaked the personal data of consumers, and restricted other companies from selling products on certain platforms.

The anti-monopoly law enforcement authorities have investigated tech companies in accordance with the law and treated all market entities equally, in order to establish a sound market order, promote fair competition, and foster innovation. The authorities have also adopted multiple measures to guide tech companies, in a bid to minimize government interference in the market.

Moreover, China's anti-monopoly policies conform to the global trend, as the European Union and the United States have been tightening supervision of the internet industry in recent years.

The EU unveiled the Digital Service Act and Digital Market Act in 2020 to break monopolies and eradicate unfair competition. The US House of Representatives issued five antitrust reform bills on June 11, and President Joe Biden signed the Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy on July 9. And tech giants such as Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon have been heavily fined and are facing investigations for flouting competition and data protection laws of the EU and the US.

Countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Turkey and Australia all have strengthened anti-monopoly supervision of the internet industry, in a bid to ensure the healthy development of the sector, which can help boost global economic recovery.

As for China, it supports the development of internet enterprises, promotes fair and free competition, protects the rights of consumers and SMEs, and is facilitating the healthy and sustainable development of the online industry.

In short, online enterprises are meant to connect people and communities, promote innovation and protect users' rights and interests. And the moves to check monopolies will help the online enterprises achieve such goals.

FRANCE, GERMANY NOMINATE WHO CHIEF TEDROS FOR A SECOND TERM

Germany and France said they and other European Union countries have nominated Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia for a second term as director-general of the World Health Organization. This marks the first time that a candidate for the top job at the U.N. health agency has not been nominated by the home country.

Tedros, who goes by his first name, has been in the global spotlight over the organization's response to the coronavirus pandemic over the last 19 months -- an epochal crisis that eclipsed all

else throughout his term that began in 2017. The election for the next WHO director-general, which carries a five-year term, takes place at the agency's next annual assembly meeting in May.

Tedros has run afoul of the Ethiopian government of Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed over his outspokenness about killings and other human rights abuses in his home region of Tigray.

Tedros also served as health and foreign minister in the previous Ethiopian government.

AP PHOTO



Q&A MARYANA ISKANDER

WIKIPEDIA PARENT'S NEW CEO WANTS TO MAKE IT MORE GLOBAL

TALI ARBEL, TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

THE non-profit that operates Wikipedia, one of the world's most popular websites, has a new CEO, Maryana Iskander (and yes, she has a Wikipedia page). She'll take over at the Wikimedia Foundation in January and says that her priorities are diversifying Wikipedia's volunteer writers and editors and promoting the foundation's mission of advocating for access to information.

Iskander's background spans continents and fields. She has led South African non-profit Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, which focuses on helping young Africans find jobs, since 2013. She has also been COO of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, worked at consulting firm McKinsey and clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals.

She recently talked with The Associated Press about her plans for the volunteer-managed online encyclopedia, which launched in 2001.

Q: What attracted you to Wikipedia?

A: It's hard to imagine who wouldn't be interested. The job profile

starts with this extremely striking statement about the fact that knowledge belongs to all of us. The idea that anything belongs to all of us is really quite revolutionary. It's like we're living in a world in which increasingly most things don't feel common and don't feel shared. And the chance to be part of an organization that I think has that as a core value was hugely appealing and connects to a lot of the things that I've done in my career before.

Q: Wikipedia is famously created and edited by its army of volunteer contributors. What do the Wikimedia Foundation's 500-plus employees do?

A: The foundation itself enables the actual platform and the software and the technology. It's a big operation to be able to do that. We also provide support to these communities all over the world in different forms because their needs are very different. We do a huge amount of policy and advocacy work.

Q: What are the biggest challenges for Wikipedia?

A: Most of the content on Wikipedia comes from the global north.

It doesn't represent the full sum of human knowledge. How do we get more content both about and from people in the global south? A second priority is that most of the issues that Wikipedia faces are not Wikipedia's alone. And so how do you think about building ecosystems with other partners (to deal with) online harassment or misinformation. None of these are things that a single organization or a single platform can solve on its own.

Q: Wikipedia contributors are heavily male and most often come from Europe and North America. How do you want to involve more women and people from other countries?

A: Every country and frankly, language community, is different. But one of the things that we've learned about how Wikipedia has increased its presence in Nigeria is that it's important to first try to raise awareness about Wikipedia, so that people have an understanding of it as a resource. Then people will be more interested in coming in to be contributors. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



India Thousands of farmers blocked traffic on major roads and railway tracks outside of the nation's capital yesterday, marking one year of demonstrations against government-backed laws that they say will shatter their livelihoods. The farmers have renewed their protests with calls for a nationwide strike on the anniversary of the legislation's passage. The drawn-out demonstrations have posed one of the biggest political challenges to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who swept the polls for the second time in 2019.

India A cyclone flooded parts of India's eastern coast with heavy rains and uprooted thousands of trees and power poles, knocking out electricity, before weakening to a deep depression yesterday. Heavy rains lashed the town of Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh state, swamping roads and marooning hundreds of villages, local official Shrikesh Lathkar said.

Germany Voters in Berlin backed a controversial proposal for the Berlin city government to take over about 240,000 apartments worth billions from corporate owners to curb sharply rising rents in the German capital. The count of the referendum showed that 56.4% of voters were in favor of the expropriation measure, while 39% were opposed, German news agency dpa reported on yesterday.

UK Lines of cars formed at some British gas stations for a fourth day yesterday, as the government mulled sending in the army to help ease supply disruption triggered by a shortage of truck drivers. As the British Medical Association called for emergency workers to be given priority for fuel supplies, Petrol Retailers Association chairman Brian Madderson said training had been taking place "in the background" for military personnel to drive tankers.

Mexican soldiers found a 43-acre marijuana farm in the northern border state of Chihuahua, the army said. The army said the fields were capable of producing about 22,000 kilograms of marijuana. The fields were found in a rural township not far from the town of Creel, in Mexico's Copper Canyon area.