



**KOU HOI IN HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OVER THE WEEKEND WITH 32 VOTES**

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**AMESS: LAWMAKER'S KILLING WOUNDS 'BRITISH TRADITION' OF OPENNESS**

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AP PHOTO



**Malaysia** Southeast Asian foreign ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a Feb. 1 military takeover. Myanmar objected to the decision by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing (pictured), the grouping's chair Brunei said Saturday.

AP PHOTO



**India** At least eight people have died and a dozen are feared missing after a day of torrential rains in the southern Indian state of Kerala. The National Disaster Response Force and the Indian Army deployed teams to help with rescue efforts in two of the worst-hit districts, Kottayam and Idukki, where a dozen people are still feared missing.

AP PHOTO



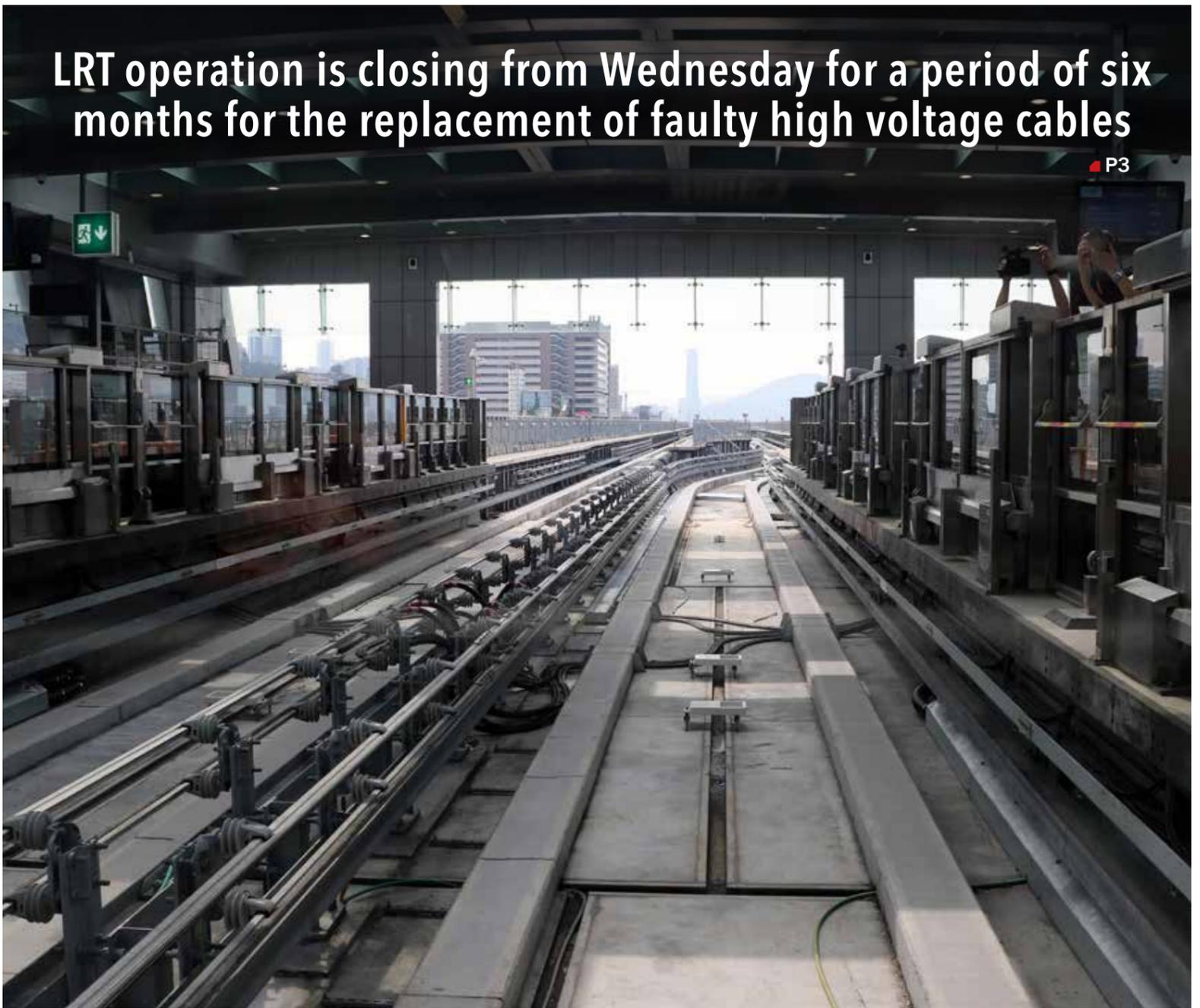
**Bangladesh** Protests erupted for a second day in Bangladesh's capital on Saturday, amid a wave of violence against local Hindus following a viral social media image perceived as insulting to the country's Muslim majority. Some 10,000 protesters — many of them carrying banners of Islamist political parties — took to the streets outside the main mosque of the capital, Dhaka, a day after demonstrations on the same site ended in clashes with police.

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# LAWMAKERS SWORN-IN, KOU RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT

**KOU** Hoi In, lawmaker from the indirect election constituency, has been re-elected as the president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) over the weekend with 32 votes.

The new term of lawmakers were sworn in on the same day, with their first plenary held to elect the managerial body of parliament.

The first agenda of the plenary meeting was presided over by the eldest lawmaker in the term, indirectly-elected Chan Chak Mo, as the president of the AL had not yet been elected.

This AL term has 33 lawmakers. The remaining vote went to José Chui Sai Peng.

Moving on, the lawmakers then elected the vice president, as well as the first and second secretaries of the parliament.

Indirectly-elected Chui Sai Cheong, cousin of José Chui, obtained 30 votes and was re-elected as the vice president of the parliament.

Taking 31 votes, indirectly elected Ho Ion Sang had a de-facto

promotion from second secretary in the last term to first in this new one. Meanwhile, directly-elected Si Ka Lon was elected as the second secretary with 30 votes.

This term of the parliament sees one-third of new faces, namely, in the direct election constituency, Ron Lam U Tou, Leong Hong Sai, Ma Io Fong, Che Sai Wang, Lo Choi In, Ngan Iek Hang and Lei Leong Wong.

Cultural worker Chan Hou Seng, tourism industry practitioner Cheung Kin Chung and Principal of Christian Pui Ching Middle School, Kou Kam Fai, are also new faces in this parliamentary term. They are Chief Executive designated legislators.

On the other hand, last term's directly elected lawmakers Ho Ion Sang and Angela Leong On Kei are now in the indirect election constituency.

Speaking on the sidelines of



the plenary, AL President Kou disagreed that the disqualification event would weaken the function of the parliament. He added that the existence of new faces would

make the AL more proactive.

On the outlook of the work in this term, the parliamentary head believes that workload of the body will be greater than the

last term.

On the other hand, Kou said that the Executive Committee of the parliament will decide future disease control measures. **AL**

## HAO VS LVS

# Sands CFO finds exaggerated USD12B compensation claimed by AAEC

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) of Macau's Sands China Limited, a local operating unit of Las Vegas Sands Corporation (LVS), Dave Sun Minqi, told the court last Friday that the amount claimed by Marshall Hao's Asian American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC) is exaggerated and only based on the profits of the operations in Macau and does not take into account long-term investments made by the company locally, GGR Asia and TDM reported.

Called to testify as a defense witness in the case opposing the company led by Taiwan's businessman Hao to local units of the American gaming company, Sun said that the amount being claimed

from LVS, which is equivalent to over MOP96 billion, comes directly from the financial statements submitted yearly to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau by the gaming license holder and operator Venetian Macau Limited. It does not take into consideration other factors such as the investments made by the company in the Macau market, nor the depreciation and amortization costs, the same media reported.

The CFO argued that the compensation calculations did not take into account the company's long-term capital investments in Macau, some of them are expected to be amortized over a period spanning over 30 or more years, a period that falls out of the current license term.

Sun also added that such calculation also failed to account for the interest paid by the gaming concessionaire and taxation-related items for its operations.

"Asian American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC) had also not considered the management fees which the Macau operating entity had to pay to the parent Las Vegas Sands, as well as the licensing fees and development fees over a percentage of project costs," the executive was quoted as saying in media reports.

Questioned by the defense lawyer, Luís Cavaleiro de Ferreira, Sun also said that The Venetian Macao Limited has suffered, on numerous occasions, severe losses, including during the Covid-19 pandemic period and the global financial crisis between 2002 and

2004, and 2008 and 2009.

On the other hand, AAEC's legal representative, Jorge Menezes, claimed that the calculation amounting to over USD12 billion is correct and that the estimation was made based on stated profits after amortizations and taxes.

Hao's company is claiming the compensation on the grounds of the role the AAEC claims to have played ensuring the granting of LVS's casino operator license in Macau almost 20 years ago.

The trial on this court case started in June this year, but was then interrupted for several months due to Covid-19 pandemic-related issues. A new break in the court sessions is now set to happen with the hearings of the last case witnesses being scheduled for mid-December.

This is because at least one of those witnesses is currently located in Canada, and has to undergo several travel procedures including quarantine and medical observation upon arrival in Macau, which will last for about one month.

A few other witnesses are due to be heard by the court through the written form, an unusual procedure especially authorized by the court due to the current Covid-19 situation.

### THREE LAWYERS ALLOWED TO TESTIFY

The Court of First Instance (TJB) has decided that lawyers David Friedman, Fred Kinmonth, and Philip Millward are allowed to testify in the case that opposes Marshall Hao's Asian American Entertainment Company to three operative units of LVS in Macau.

The lawyers had been called to testify by the defense but the claimant's lawyer had appealed to the court for their impediment, claiming that the three lawyers had worked directly in the licensing process with both parties involved on this case.

Menezes also said that the lawyers' testimony in the trial could involve the revelation of confidential facts and details which will breach the universal and professional trust pact of the relation between a client and his lawyer.

According to TDM, on Friday, the court greenlit the hearing of the three lawyers based on the fact that none of them are registered to perform legal duties in Macau.

The court also decided, regarding the defense concerns of the breach of confidentiality, that the defense may protest the inclusion of some of the statements from these witnesses in court when it considers the statements violate professional secrecy between the AAEC and their former lawyer.

Although all three lawyers had been directly involved with the process during the tender bidding and application for a gaming license, Friedman was, at the time, the legal representative of the partnership that joined AAEC and LVS.

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RENATO MARQUES



# LRT to close for 6 months to replace faulty high voltage cables

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system is set to close from this Wednesday, October 20, for a period of six months for the replacement of all the high voltage cables used to supply the energy that powers the public transportation system, the Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works announced in a press conference held on Friday.

According to the information provided, the works included the replacement of all the 124 kilometers of high voltage cables that were found to be faulty and causing several service interruptions over the course of the less than two years that the Taipa line has been in operation.

During the press conference, the Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário said that the decision was made after a joint inspection conducted by the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI), the Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (supplier of the system), as well as a fourth entity which was not disclosed by the government.

After the inspection, it was concluded that the cause of the LRT system malfunctioning was due to "the overheating of the 22 kV high voltage cables used in the system," the government said.

Such a problem might indicate several issues, such as that all the cables installed are either defective, substandard or that there was a design failure in the construction of the system in which the power needs of the system and/or the operating temperature of the cables were not taken into proper account.

Not developing into the topic, the Office of the Secretary noted that since the system is still within its warranty period, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries will assume the fault and replace all the cables of Taipa Line for free.

Due to the size of such a task and taking into account that it can only be performed at a time that the operation of the system is completely stopped, and the power is shut down, the government decided for the complete suspension of the operations of the LRT for an expected period of 180 days.

According to the officials, the government has considered proceeding with the replacement of the cable in a phased manner during the period where LRT operations are ceased. However, it was realized that this would create a window of just about three and half hours per day in which this work could be effectively done, as a result extending the replacement of the cable to a period of about two years.

On the other hand, government officials also claimed

that it would be difficult to guarantee that, during this replacement period, there were no system breakdowns that would affect passengers.

Also considering the current Covid-19 pandemic situation and the little usage of the system, the government has opted for the full suspension.

During the suspension period, the LRT Company will post notices of the suspension of service at the stations as well as deploy personnel to assist uninformed travelers of alternative transports. All pedestrian overpasses at the stations will remain open to assist with the normal pedestrian traffic.

## A TROUBLED 22-MONTH OPERATION

With a total bill reaching as much as 5.4 billion patacas, phase one of LRT has been involved in constant delays and mishaps, which includes several system glitches that left passengers stranded on several occasions.

The Taipa Line, which commenced a free-of-charge trial operation on December 10, 2019, saw this trial period extended for one month, until the end of January 2020, due to three glitches occurring in less than three weeks since the opening.

During the toll-free period, the LRT registered its highest average daily passenger number ever at 33,000 in the first month of operation in Decem-

ber 2019, followed by 16,000 in January 2020.

With the end of the free-trips period, the average daily passenger number plunged to 1,100 in February last year, dropping by a remarkable 14,900 from the previous month.

Ever since then, the average daily passenger number has hovered between 1,000 and 2,000.

The average number of daily passengers of the Taipa Line has reached a record high in July this year when the number of passengers transported totaled 2,600.

Although the figure represented a significant increase when compared to the 1,700 recorded in June and a rise of 36.8% year-on-year, such a figure is very far from the figures forecasted by the government.

The inefficiency of the system, over the almost two years, has led to constant criticism and accusations of overspending by many, including members of the Legislative Assembly, but also from different sectors of society.

The government, namely Secretary Rosário, has meanwhile been constantly defending the project, claiming that once the new lines being built (connecting the line to Seac Pai Van, Hengqin Line, and connecting to the Peninsula) are concluded, the potential of the LRT will grow exponentially, turning it into a de facto alternative to other forms of public transportation, namely buses.

## BILL OF TAXATION CODE TO BE DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

The draft of the Taxation Code will be delivered to the Legislative Assembly for discussion, as the Executive Council has recently concluded its own deliberation. The government explained that the Code was drafted to establish a modern taxation system that suits the city's future. The Code aims to consolidate existing taxation laws and clarify related principles, duties and procedures. The draft Code has 293 Articles, grouped into five Chapters. When passed, the city will have six Codes of Laws. The city's current taxation system was established in the 1970s.

## PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL LEASE TO TOURISTS TO BE CRIMINALIZED

The Executive Council (ExCo) has recently finished discussing a draft amendment on illegal housing, which proposes external entrants on endorsement valid for not longer than 90 days shall only stay at licensed accommodations. Residential owners who rent or host such individuals can be prosecuted. However, the ExCo spokesperson, André Cheong, responded to a press question, saying that it will not constitute a crime if the owners and the guests are friends or relatives. Exceptions will be levied on accommodations offered by higher education institutions, religious or non-profit groups on the occasions of related activities.

## DSAMA HELPS STRANDED CARGO SHIP BACK TO WATER

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has helped a stranded 50-meter-long cement ship back to water for repairment in mainland China. As tides were high and sea was bumpy last week due to the two consecutive tropical cyclones, the ship was slightly filled with water, so the captain decided to carry out an emergency berthing at the beach near the Taipa Ferry Terminal. The two crew members were then rescued by Macao Customs. After Typhoon Kompasu left Macau, some materials were transferred to another cargo ship, which lifted enough weight for the cement ship to depart for the Mainland.

# GOV'T RUNS NAT ON FOCUS AREAS, POPULATIONS

ANTHONY LAM

A SARS-CoV-2 mass nucleic acid test (NAT) was run yesterday on residents living in certain focus areas, as well as those who had overlapping travel routes with the city's recent Covid-19 patients.

The mass testing took place from 9 a.m. to midnight Sunday.

The concerned individuals are those who have, during the period of September 26 to October 4, resided in the vicinity of Edf. San Mei On (block 1) and Edf. Kam Heng in Areia Preta, of the Victoria Hotel and Edf. Son Lei in Bairro Iao, of Edf. Kam Do Lei in Rua de Pedro Coutinho or of the Grand Emperor Hotel.

Individuals who have had activities in the abovementioned area(s) or have taken the 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19, 21A, 23, 25, 25B, 51A or AP1 bus routes during the same period were encouraged to take a NAT by the authorities.

The high-frequency NAT program that includes three trades – all renovation, laundry, and security workers – and two population groups, which include Nepalese and Vietnamese non-resident workers, continued as usual yesterday.

The concerned individuals should get tested once every other day four consecutive times. Testing sites, for which prior booking is required, include the five regular NAT stations at the Taipa Ferry Terminal, the Macao Forum, the private Kiang Wu



The vicinity of the Grand Emperor Hotel is one of the five focus areas

Hospital, the private University Hospital at the Macau University of Science and Technology, as well as the Macao Federation of Trade Unions Workers Stadium.

There are 10 additional NAT stations, located at Grand Lisboa, Sands Macao, The Venetian, Wynn Macau, Wynn Palace, Broadway, StarWorld, MGM Macau, MGM Cotai and Studio City.

Neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, stressed that the test is not

mandatory for the “encouraged” groups.

Health codes of those required to take the test will be turned yellow if they fail to take the test, although they will be reminded by the authorities by phone or even in person.

The aim of this test, according to Tai, is to detect hidden cases in the community during the presumed incubation period.

When questioned about border normalization, he said that the government has been in tou-

ch with the authorities in Guangdong. It should not be far ahead if no new patient is detected for 14 days in a row, he added.

## HEALTH BUREAU DEFENDS BAYVIEW EXEMPTION

On why Bayview Block 3 is not included in this mass NAT, public health doctor Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, re-capped the authorities' previous justification that the building does not have a high risk.

She added that the test will focus on the areas in which the 72nd to 75th patients had community movements prior to their diagnoses. The public health doctor reiterated that the 76th and 77th patients are considered having low risks to the community epidemiologically because they were tested negative for the virus three to four days prior to their diagnoses.

Social media users have started calling the Bayview Block 3 as “Dollar-sign Zone” to mock the government for not daring to cordon off the building because of its prime residential nature, also in contrast to the government's designation of the Yellow-code and Red-code Zones, which kick in whenever an infection is detected within the concerned areas.

## 29 THOUSAND SAMPLES

AS of 3 p.m. yesterday, the SARS-CoV-2 mass nucleic acid test (NAT) on focus areas and populations have seen 29,377 secretion samples collected, of which 1,593 samples yield-

ed negative results. Moreover, 12,390 individuals within the government-designated key groups, such as the high-frequency test group, have had their samples collected.

## CANTON FAIR

# Ho Iat Seng makes future plans with Guangzhou officials

STAFF REPORTER

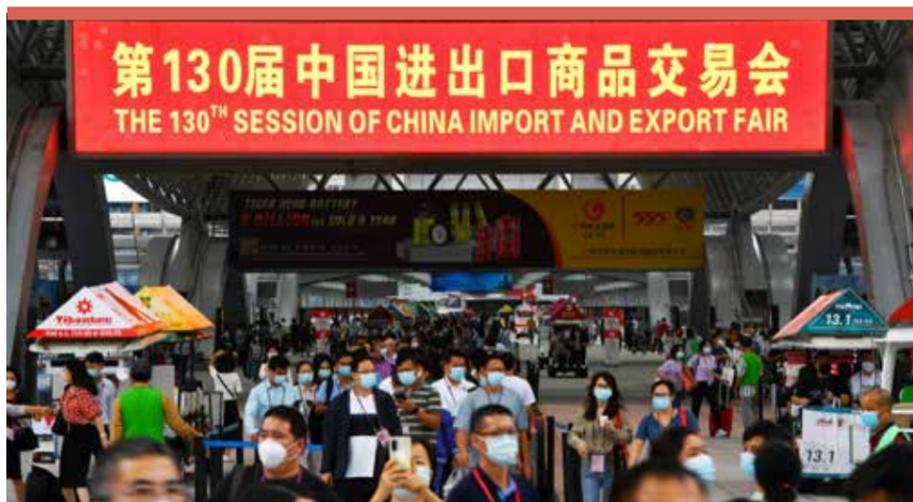
CHIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng has met with Guangzhou city officials to exchange views on Covid-19 prevention and control work, as well as closely work on financial, education and medical services.

The meeting took place in Guangdong's capital city prior to the Canton Fair.

The fair, formally known as the 130th China Import and Export Fair, is co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and the provincial government Guangdong.

Ho attended the opening ceremony on Friday where Premier Li Keqiang delivered a keynote speech.

While in Guangzhou, the CE met with Zhang



Shuofu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Guangdong Provincial Committee and secretary of the CPC Guangzhou Municipal Committee, and Wen Guohui, deputy secretary of the CPC

Guangzhou Municipal Committee and mayor of Guangzhou.

The CE thanked the officials for Guangzhou's long-term support for Macau's development and pointed out that Guangzhou is an important gateway for the

whole country and a transport hub, adding that Macau and Guangzhou enjoy a huge potential for cooperation.

Ho highlighted that Macau has made more effort to take advantage of the opportunities available by

the recently established Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, as well as to accelerate Macau's economic diversification. The CE said that Macau was looking forward to working more closely with Guangzhou, in order to serve the country's strategic needs, while strengthening innovation in cooperative mechanisms, in order to extend ties in science and technological innovation, traditional Chinese medicine, and social welfare, among others.

In order to press ahead with closer and pragmatic cooperation, officials from the two sides also discussed establishing a mechanism for regular meetings.

The 130th Canton Fair began on October 15, and for the first time, it was held

simultaneously in online and offline format, attracting a record number of products thanks to the new platform and initiative.

The five-day grand exhibition remains the largest physical exhibition in the world at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, covering a physical area of 400,000 square meters with 7,795 companies and 19,181 booths in 51 exhibition sections.

Among them, 10,837 stands are presented by brands, accounting for 57% of the total physical exhibition.

Twenty-six thousand companies also joined the fair's impressive online showcase, currently featuring a record 2.78 million products, including 860,000 new products.

**F**OLLOWING the introduction of the “Master Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin,” the collaboration and engagement between Macao and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is now entering a new and exciting phase. As a large-scale integrated enterprise with deep roots in Macao, Wynn has been actively organizing and supporting various activities in the GBA to facilitate Macao’s integration into the overall development of the country, thereby injecting new impetus into Macao’s long-term prospects.

#### FACILITATING “SPORTS + TOURISM” DEVELOPMENT IN THE GBA

Wynn has always supported the promotion of tourism through culture and sports, and in doing so helps to further stimulate the economy. In that spirit, Wynn is title-sponsoring the “FIBA 3X3 Macao Masters – Wynn Cup Greater Bay Area Qualifying Tournament” this year, with the event being held in Macao for the first time and with participation open to 11 cities in the GBA.

Wynn also hosted the “Macau Sports Industry Forum 2021” in April this year, with an aim of implementing the Macao government’s policy of effectively developing the sports industry, as well as to provide a platform for advice and suggestions on its role in Macao’s economic diversification.

#### SUPPORTING YOUNG TALENTS TO PURSUE INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Wynn has organized a range of activities to help with technological development both in Macao and the GBA and to attract high-quality talent, including hosting the 6th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area IT System Development Competition – Macao Division. This allowed students to broaden their perspective on science and technology in the GBA and across the world, and strengthened their competitiveness in the



## Wynn actively participates in taking forward the development of GBA

local IT sector.

Wynn also hosted the “China College Students’ ‘Internet+’ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition,” which is currently the largest and most respected competition of its type in China. The competition aimed at promoting the development and application of big data and artificial intelligence, creating a new setting for high-quality entrepreneurship and employment among college students.

#### PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE SECTOR

Building a world-class Chinese medicine production base and reaching new heights in innovation is a new direction for Macao’s development and cooperation between Guangdong and Macao. To facilitate this goal, Wynn continues to provide robust support in a variety of measures to assist the development of the traditional Chinese medicine sector in Macao.

In May of this year, the



“Forum on the Application of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Post-COVID Era and Signing Ceremony for Cooperation in the Health Industry between Shandong and Macau” was jointly participated in by a number of medical institutions at Wynn Macau, which attracted the support of a number of academic experts, scholars and officials who were also in attendance.

#### FOSTERING MODERN FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MACAU

The Master Plan also highlighted that Macao should

give full play to its role as a platform for connecting with Portuguese-speaking countries and supporting the cooperation zone in building a financial services platform between those countries and China. Therefore, in order to promote the diversification of industries in Macao, Wynn supported the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Financial Forum” sponsored by the China Capital Market Research Institute of Renmin University of China, The Macau Association of Banks and Zhuhai Hengqin New Area Smart Financial Research Institution.

#### ASSISTING SMES IN EXPANDING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

In 2020, Wynn was invited to be one of the supporting sponsors of the “Macau International Cultural and Food Festival Hengqin Station.” In order to support local SMEs, explore opportunities in Macao and the GBA, and promote the development of Macao and Hengqin, Wynn actively invited a host of local SMEs to Hengqin to experience and participate in the event. This helped to showcase the local food culture and thereby promoted the exchange of experience and cooperation in the catering industry.



SPACE

# NEW CREW DOCKS AT FIRST CHINESE PERMANENT SPACE STATION

**C**HINESE astronauts began this weekend their six-month mission on China's first permanent space station, after successfully docking aboard their spacecraft.

The astronauts, two men and a woman, were seen floating around the module before speaking via a live-streamed video.

The new crew includes Wang Yaping, 41, who is the first Chinese woman to board the Tian-gong space station, and is expected to become China's first female spacewalker.

"We'll co-operate with each other, carefully conduct maneuvers, and try to accomplish all tasks successfully in this round of exploration of the universe," said Wang in the video.

The space travelers' Shenzhou-13 spacecraft was launched by a Long March-2F rocket at 12:23 a.m. Saturday and docked with the Tianhe core module of the space station at 6:56 a.m.

The three astronauts entered the station's core module at about 10 a.m., the China Manned Space Agency said.

They are the second crew to move into China's Tiangong space station, which was launched last April. The first crew stayed three months.

The new crew includes two veterans of space travel — Zhai Zhigang, 55, and Wang. The third member, Ye Guangfu, 41, is making his first trip to space.

The mission's launch was seen off by a military band and



From left: Astronauts Ye Guangfu, Zhai Zhigang and Wang Yaping waving after entering the space station core module Tianhe

supporters singing "Ode to the Motherland," underscoring national pride in the space program, which has advanced rapidly in recent years.

The crew will do three spacewalks to install equipment in preparation for expanding the station, assess living conditions in the Tianhe module, and conduct experiments in space medicine and other fields.

China's military-run space program plans to send multiple

crews to the station over the next two years to make it fully functional.

When completed with the addition of two more sections — named Mengtian and Wentian — the station will weigh about 66 tons, much smaller than the International Space Station, which launched its first module in 1998 and weighs around 450 tons.

Two more Chinese modules are due to be launched before the end of next year during the stay

of the yet-to-be-named Shenzhou-14 crew.

China's Foreign Ministry on Friday renewed its commitment to cooperation with other nations in the peaceful use of space.

Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said sending humans into space was a "common cause of mankind." China would "continue to extend the depth and breadth of international cooperation and exchanges" in crewed spaceflight and "make positive contributions to

the exploration of the mysteries of the universe," he said.

China was excluded from the International Space Station largely due to U.S. objections over the Chinese program's secretive nature and close military ties, prompting it to launch two experimental modules before starting on the permanent station.

U.S. law requires congressional approval for contact between the American and Chinese space programs, but China is cooperating with space experts from other countries including France, Sweden, Russia and Italy. Chinese officials have said they look forward to hosting astronauts from other countries aboard the space station once it becomes fully functional.

China has launched seven crewed missions with a total of 14 astronauts aboard — two have flown twice — since 2003, when it became only the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a person in space on its own.

China has also expanded its work on lunar and Mars exploration, including landing a rover on the little-explored far side of the Moon and returning lunar rocks to Earth for the first time since the 1970s.

This year, China also landed its Tianwen-1 space probe on Mars, whose accompanying Zhurong rover has been exploring for evidence of life on the red planet.

Other Chinese space programs call for collecting soil from an asteroid and bringing back additional lunar samples. China has also expressed an aspiration to land people on the moon and possibly build a scientific base there, although no timeline has been proposed for such projects. A highly secretive space plane is also reportedly under development. **MDT/AP**

## Two arrested in Athens for protesting Beijing Olympics

**T**WO women attempted to hang a banner from the Acropolis in Athens yesterday in protest at the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics, and were detained by Greek police.

The activists, 18-year-old Tibetan student Tsela Zoksang and 22-year-old exiled Hong Kong activist Joey Siu, both American citizens, are members of the "No Beijing 2022" campaign, a statement from the New York-based organization Students for a Free Tibet said.

They, and a third person, entered the archeological site as paying customers and then Zoksang and Siu climbed up some scaffolding, from which they at-

tempted to unfurl the banner.

A security officer rushed to them and took the banner away. The two women remained on the scaffolding and deployed a Tibetan flag and a smaller banner proclaiming, "Free Hong Kong Revolution." They also chanted slogans including "Free Tibet," "Boycott Beijing 2022" and "No freedom, no Games." Police arrived and detained the protesters.

The whole incident lasted about 10 minutes.

"Now it is time for the international community, and all people of conscience, to take a stand and boycott Beijing 2022; any-

thing less will be a clear endorsement of China's genocidal regime," Zoksang was quoted as saying in the statement. "The IOC is sending the world a message that it is ok to turn a blind eye to genocide and crimes against humanity in Hong Kong, Tibet, East Turkestan and Southern Mongolia," added Siu.

The Olympic flame for the 24th Winter Games will be lit at Ancient Olympia Monday and handed over to the Chinese at a ceremony in Athens' Panathenian Stadium Tuesday. The International Olympic Committee's Executive Board met in Athens Saturday. The board will gather

at Ancient Olympia today [Macau time] to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Executive Board's founding. The dress rehearsal for the Olympic flame ceremony will also take place Sunday.

A protest against the staging of the summer Olympic Games by China previously took place in Athens in March 2008; a couple of dozen Greek and Tibetan activists tried unsuccessfully to interfere with the torch relay for that year's Summer Olympics.

The Beijing Winter Games are scheduled to run from Feb. 4-20, 2022, with the Paralympics set to follow from March 4-13. **MDT/AP**



ADVERTORIAL

## SANDS CHINA NEWS

### Sands Cares Ambassadors Accompany Seniors with Dementia to Visit Londoner Attractions for Mid-Autumn Festival

Sands Cares Ambassadors celebrated the recent Mid-Autumn Festival with community members, hosting over 100 elderly persons with dementia and their caregivers from Lar de Cuidados "Sol Nascente" da Areia Preta for activities at The Londoner Macao.

As part of the outreach initiative, Sands Cares Ambassadors treated their elderly guests and their caregivers to lunch at the Crystal Jade La Mian Xiao Long Bao restaurant at The Londoner Macao. Sands China team members had made special arrangements in consideration of their guests, in terms of dining options, cooking methods, and presentation, to ensure they were taken good care of. As an example, the meals of some of those with severe dementia were specially prepared according to dietitians' and caregivers' advice.

They then toured The Londoner Macao, starting with entertainment at the lobby's Crystal Palace atrium, followed by visits to some of The Londoner's signature photography spots.

The centre's elderly residents hadn't been on outings for a few months because of the pandemic; and due to the challenges of dementia, some hadn't ventured out for two years, so the activity with the Ambassadors was especially significant.

A week prior to the activity, Sands Cares Ambassadors attended a dementia workshop conducted by Sol Nascente representatives to learn about seniors with dementia and how to help care for them during their visit.

"Caring for the elderly is a virtue that our community treasures, and it is also an important part of what we like to express through Sands Cares," said Sands China Ltd. President Dr. Wilfred Wong. "So it is especially meaningful for us that our Sands Cares Ambassadors were able to bring a day of good cheer to this vulnerable group by enabling them to experience some of the wonder of our themed resorts, and to transport them to a European setting for a few hours. Our gratitude goes to Lar de Cuidados "Sol Nascente" da Areia Preta for their collaboration on this initiative and to our volunteers for their continued acts of goodwill on behalf of the company."



AP PHOTO



A "masakaki" ritual ornament bearing the name of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, is placed at Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo

JAPAN

# Kishida sends offering to controversial Tokyo shrine

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPAN'S new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida donated ritual offerings yesterday to a Tokyo shrine viewed by Chinese and Koreans as a symbol of Japanese wartime aggression, though he did not make a visit in person.

Kishida donated "masakaki" religious ornaments to mark Yasukuni Shrine's autumn festival. It was the first such observance by Kishida since he took office on Oct. 4.

Victims of Japanese aggression during the first half of the 20th century, especially Chinese and Koreans, see the shrine as a symbol of Japan's militarism because it honors convicted World War II criminals among about 2.5 million war dead.

Such observances are seen by critics as a sign of a lack of remorse over the country's wartime atrocities.

Kishida was visiting the 2011 tsunami-hit areas in northern Japan over the weekend and stayed away from the shrine.

His predecessor, Yoshihide Suga, also only made offerings during his one-year leadership. He stepped down in September and visited the shrine yesterday, dressed in a formal morning coat.

Suga told reporters that he visited as a former prime minister to "offer my respect to the sacred spirits of those who sacrificed their precious lives for the country and to pray that their souls may rest in peace."

After China and the Koreans reacted with outrage to a visit to Yasukuni by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2013, Japanese leaders have avoided visiting the shrine while in office.

Many South Koreans deeply resent Japan for its 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. Relations between Seoul and Tokyo have soured in recent years amid disputes over compensation for Korean wartime laborers and over the systematic abuses of "comfort women" used for sex by the Japanese military before its World War II defeat in 1945. MDT/AP



Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer (second from left) carry flowers as they arrive at the scene where a member of Parliament was stabbed Friday

UK

# 'He was Southend': Tributes paid to slain British lawmaker

MAYUKO ONO & PAN PYLAS, LEIGH-ON-SEA

**D**AVID Amess was a man of the people, a hard-working British lawmaker who had no grand political ambitions beyond serving those who had elected him for nigh-on 40 years.

His shocking death at the hands of a knife-wielding man at a church where he was meeting voters has reopened questions about the security needs of Britain's members of Parliament as they go about their daily work.

Police, who have said it was a terrorist-related attack, continued Saturday to question a 25-year-old British man.

For the second time in five years, Britain's political leaders put their differences aside to gather Saturday at the scene of a fallen colleague. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, stood side-by-side and laid flowers as they paid tribute to the long-serving lawmaker, who was stabbed to death less than 24 hours earlier.

The slaying of the 69-year-old Conservative lawmaker at a regular meeting with local voters

has caused shock and anxiety across Britain's political spectrum, not least because it is reminiscent of the 2016 murder of Labour lawmaker Jo Cox by a far-right extremist in her own small-town constituency.

"He was killed doing a job that he loves, serving his own constituents as an elected democratic member and, of course, acts of this are absolutely wrong, and we cannot let that get in the way of our functioning democracy," British Home Secretary Priti Patel said after paying her respects to Amess at the church where he died.

Patel said she has convened meetings with the speaker of the House of Commons, police and U.K. security services to ensure "all measures are being put in place for the security of MPs so that they can carry on with their duties as elected democratic members."

Tobias Ellwood, a Conservative lawmaker who gave first aid to a police officer stabbed at the gates of Parliament in 2017, said face-to-face meetings with voters should be temporarily halted, as they were during the recent coronavirus lockdowns, and replaced with online interactions.

Amess suffered multiple stab wounds in the attack

during his constituency meeting in the church in Leigh-on-Sea, a quintessentially English seaside town 40 miles (62 kilometers) east of London, that has become a magnet in recent years to those tired of life in the capital.

The Metropolitan Police said its early investigation "revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," without providing any details about the basis for that assessment. As part of the investigation, officers were searching two locations in the London area.

Amess, who had a wife and five children and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2015, died doing what he'd done countless times — listening to the concerns of residents in his seaside constituency of Southend West, which incorporates Leigh-on-Sea.

Under Britain's parliamentary system, lawmakers have direct links with their local voters, often hosting open meetings, or "surgeries." The meetings often take place in local churches and community halls and are publicly advertised. Amess himself posted online where he would be hosting his surgery on Friday.

"The reason he wanted to use the church was

because he wanted to be where the people were," said Rev. Clifford Newman at the Belfairs Methodist Church where Amess was killed. "And if you come to somewhere which is in the locality like Belfairs, as opposed to some ivory tower somewhere, people are more likely to feel easier, freer and more likely to open up to him."

At the meetings, the topics raised can range from national matters such as the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic to more mundane issues such as requests for speed bumps on busy roads or a dispute over a neighbor's fence. While members of Parliament don't necessarily have the power to fix the problems directly, they can pressure officials at the national and local levels to get things done.

"I feel as if I have lost a family member. I feel that he was the family of Southend, he was the leader of Southend," resident Erica Keane, 69, said. "And he was everywhere! He was at the football pitches, he was in the choirs, he was in the pubs. He was everywhere and he was Southend."

Amess was clearly a popular lawmaker, winning 10 out of 10 elections since 1983. He was a social conservative on issues like capital punishment and abortion, an active supporter of animal rights and campaigned tirelessly on health matters such as obesity.

While never serving as a government minister, Amess was a fixer, a lawmaker able to forge alliances across the political divide. His door was seemingly always open to any new politician facing the centuries-old parliament.

Friday's killing renewed concern about the risks politicians run as they go about their work. British politicians generally are not given police protection when meeting constituents — unlike the high-security measures that are in place in Parliament.

But the vitriol directed towards them has escalated in recent years, with many blaming the more polarized atmosphere on social media and the political divisions stoked by Britain's departure from the European Union.

"We want to be accessible and approachable, but recently there has been more and more violent abuse," Labour lawmaker Tanmanjeet Dhesi said. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1976 FUNERAL OF MAFIA BOSS HELD IN NY



The funeral of Carlo Gambino, the 'boss of the bosses' in the Mafia, has taken place in New York.

Mr Gambino, considered the most powerful of the leaders of the American Mafia, died in his sleep at his home on Friday. It is thought he suffered a heart attack.

The funeral, which was ticket-only, was held at the Church of Our Lady of Grace in a quiet, residential area of Brooklyn.

Plain clothes police officers and FBI agents were among the crowds outside the church. No trouble was expected as Mafia families have a history of respecting funerals, but the FBI had gone to find out who might succeed Mr Gambino as head of the family.

Carlo Gambino, in a \$7,000 (£4,400) bronze coffin, was buried next to his wife Catherine who died in 1971.

The death of Mr Gambino had long been expected following his recent spate of heart trouble.

Attempts had been made to arrest and deport him for his involvement in the attempted hijack of an armoured car in Sicily but he was considered too ill to make the journey back.

He was allowed to remain in the country and died at his home in Massapequa, NY.

Born in Sicily in 1902, Mr Gambino moved to America in 1921 and began moving up within the Mafia. He became head of his Mafia family in 1957.

At the height of its power his family was considered to be the most influential in all America.

Speculation is now over who will become leader. Aniello Dellacroce, who once challenged Mr Gambino for the leadership of the family, and Carmine Galante, head of another New York family have been put forward.

Whoever takes over will control a 1,000 strong network of staff employed to run Mr Gambino's multi-million dollar empire of gambling, narcotics and loan sharking.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Paul Castellano took over from Carlo Gambino as head of the family. A cousin of Mr Gambino he had previously set up construction bids, union affairs and political ties. It is widely believed the character of Don Vito Corleone played by Marlon Brando in Mario Puzo's 'The Godfather' is based on Carlo Gambino.

As well as being the head of the five New York families Carlo Gambino was also on the National Mafia Commission which governed the affairs of the 26 American families. He was considered to be very influential in this role.

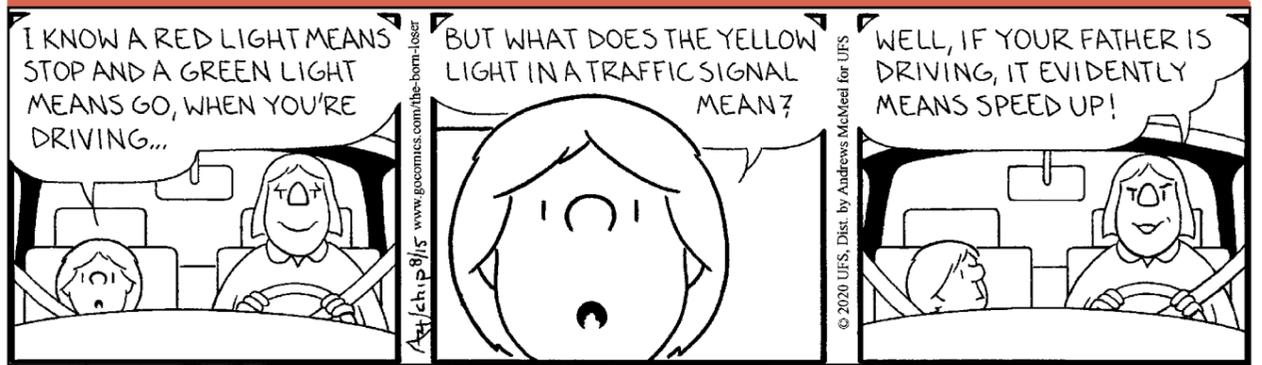
The families were used to refer to the way different groups were split. The hierarchical systems each have a 'boss', an 'underboss', 'lieutenants' and 'soldiers' who together run the family businesses.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Travel is evident, but be cautious while in transit. Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Your high energy must be directed into productive goals, or frustrations will occur.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children. You can find out important information if you listen to friends and relatives.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services that will make domestic chores easier.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Travel, although enticing, will cost more than you expect. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Be ready to explain your actions.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Property purchases should be on your mind. Try not to be too harsh with your mate.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines. Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Generosity will put you in the poorhouse.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You can get others to do things for you but be sure not to overpay them or lend them money. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Opportunities to get ahead are evident.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. You may have problems with your boss.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You will gain a lot if you listen. Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand. Don't forget family obligations.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your personal life will still be experiencing difficulties and you are best to avoid the issues for the time being. Don't rely on others to do your work.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. You can get your point across if you don't beat around the bush. Investments will cost more than you anticipated.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

<b>EASY</b>					<b>EASY+</b>									
3	6		5	8	9				7					
		3	2	9	4			9	8					
2	9	4			3	4	2	9	7					
1			7	6	5	6	8	7		4				
4	2				7	6	7		3	4	6			5
		7	5	9		1	4		2	1		3		
1			3	2	8			7	5		1	8		
8	3	1		5	1	9								
		7	8		1	5	7			8		6		

<b>MEDIUM</b>					<b>HARD</b>					
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1		7			2				1	
5			4	1			6		7	
3	6	8			4	5			3	
7		9	2		8			7	1	
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		5		9		1				
5	6		3						4	

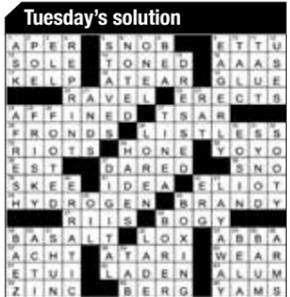
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	15	fine
Harbin	-2	9	cloudy
Tianjin	12	16	overcast
Urumqi	12	16	overcast
Xi'an	14	18	overcast
Lhasa	6	16	cloudy
Chengdu	17	24	overcast
Chongqing	15	22	cloudy
Kunming	6	19	cloudy
Nanjing	22	26	rain
Shanghai	11	19	rain
Wuhan	-2	6	rain
Hangzhou	9	19	cloudy
Taipei	-1	12	fine
Guangzhou	16	26	fine
Hong Kong	22	24	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	8	rain
Frankfurt	8	13	fog
Paris	16	19	overcast
London	16	17	rain
New York	9	16	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Maytag brand; 6- Freeway access; 10- Arp's art movement; 14- Inhibit; 15- Cabinet dept.; 16- Slips up; 17- Toil; 18- Editor Wintour; 19- Anchored float; 20- Nest egg letters; 21- Answerable; 24- Daggerlike weapon; 26- Make drinkable, perhaps; 27- Gone by; 28- Roomy dress cut; 30- Surface; 33- In the future; 34- Playground game; 37- Legal wrong; 38- Oven option; 39- Picnic spoiler; 40- Chemical ending; 41- Currency unit in Nigeria; 42- Swahili for "freedom"; 43- Accord maker; 44- Road with a no.; 45- Alight from a ship; 48- Escape; 52- Perform better than expected; 55- "Ventura" was played by Jim Carrey; 56- Put a fancy coat on; 57- River in central Switzerland; 58- Reposes; 60- \_\_\_ never work!; 61- Greek letters; 62- Lauder of cosmetics; 63- Like pie?; 64- Hamlet, for one; 65- Exploits;

**DOWN** 1- Improvise; 2- Funny Anne; 3- In check; 4- Classical beginning; 5- Place in order; 6- Hit back, perhaps; 7- \_\_\_ Domini; 8- Computer list; 9- Pertaining to a meal; 10- Adulterate; 11- Island off Venezuela; 12- Waggyish; 13- Until now; 22- Corporate VIP; 23- Look after; 25- Kiln for drying hops; 28- Now, in Nogales; 29- Sci-fi princess; 30- Broke bread; 31- Jockey Turcotte; 32- Intense anger; 33- Desertlike; 34- 19th letter of the Greek alphabet; 35- Life support?; 36- Bearded grazer; 38- Valuable plastic; 39- Earthbound bird; 41- Director Ephron; 42- Spoken; 43- Almost never; 44- Accelerate; 45- Motherless calf; 46- "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" musical; 47- Ringing instruments; 48- Honkers; 49- Trash; 50- Was Hamlet; 51- Affirmatives; 53- Gag reflex?; 54- Wrinkle remover; 59- Compass pt.;



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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



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## Property of the Week



**FOR SALE**  
**Kinglight Garden**  
**HKD 6,680,000** 980 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1

This high-rise building is located in Taipa, Macau and has 39 floors in total. It is conveniently located in the heart of Taipa with many eateries, schools, supermarkets and easy transportation around.

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

Viewings can be arranged by appointment.

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

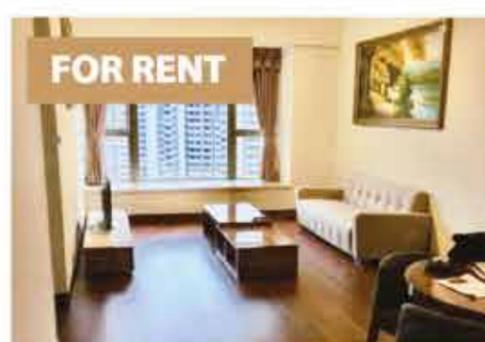


## Property Hotlist



**FOR SALE**  
**Lun Vo**  
**HKD 5,200,000**

770 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2   
1



**FOR RENT**  
**One Oasis**  
**HKD 11,900/mth**

1,325 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2   
2



**FOR RENT**  
**Old Taipa studio**  
**HKD 8,200/mth**

440 ft<sup>2</sup>  
1



## More Listings

### For Sale

- [Taipa] Nam Long 1 1 590 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 3,480,000** Ref: 2108 6002
- [Macau] Macau, ZAPE 2 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 7,450,000** Ref: 2101 6002
- [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 3 1,979 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 12,380,000** Ref: 2104 6001
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 15,980,000** Ref: 2005 6001
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

### For Rent

- [Taipa] Hellene Gardens 3 2 1,850 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 14,800/mth** Ref: 2107 1003
- [Taipa] Kingsville 3 2 1,510 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!"



**FOR SALE** **NEW**  
**Hellene Gardens**  
**HKD 7,980,000**

1,663 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3   
2   
1



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TENNIS

# Basilashvili, Norrie reach Indian Wells final without Top 25

BETH HARRIS

**N**IKOLOZ Basilashvili beat American Taylor Fritz 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Saturday to set up a final against Cameron Norrie at the BNP Paribas Open, which will crown its first men's winner ranked outside the Top 25 since 2010.

Norrie of Britain beat Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-2 in an 86-minute semifinal. Basilashvili needed 1 hour, 41 minutes to get by Fritz, who grew up in the San Diego area and was the clear favorite of the fans.

Former world No. 1 Victoria Azarenka plays 21st-seeded Paula Badosa of Spain in the women's final today.

The combined ATP and WTA tournament has been filled with upsets during its two-week run in the fall instead of its usual March date. Top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova were among the fallen in an event missing Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger



Nikoloz Basilashvili, of Georgia

Federer, Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams.

It's the first time in the tournament's 45-year history that all four men's semifinalists were ranked outside of the Top 25. Norrie is 25th, Dimitrov 28th, Basilashvili 36th and Fritz 39th.

The last man outside the Top 25 to win Indian Wells was No. 26 Ivan

Ljubicic in 2010.

Fritz was trying to reach the final and have a shot at becoming the tournament's first American winner since Andre Agassi in 2001. Instead, the 23-year-old fell to 0-5 in semifinals this year.

Fritz's ace gave him a 6-5 lead in the first. He had a break point on Basilashvili's serve to close out the

set, but the big-hitting Georgian fought it off and hit a backhand crosscourt winner on the second deuce to force the tiebreaker. Tied 5-5 in the breaker, Fritz committed two straight errors to drop the set.

"His backhand he definitely hits harder than anybody on tour," Fritz said. "The way that it comes through the court so hard and flat and deep, nothing you can really do. If I wanted to be more aggressive, I would have been opening myself up for a lot more mistakes just trying to hit big off of such a big ball."

Basilashvili earned the first break of the match in the sixth game and then held for a 5-2 lead. Fritz dropped one point on his serve in the next game to close to 5-3.

Basilashvili couldn't convert on his first three match points. His unforced errors gave Fritz two break points before Basilashvili's forehand winner into the open court closed out the win.

"I was a little bit more relaxed actually when I was break down

rather than when I was leading," Basilashvili said. "I just got more relaxed, kind of focused on the ball. I started moving better. I was just not missing at these moments."

Basilashvili is the first player from the former Soviet republic of Georgia to reach a Masters 1000 final.

"I'm super happy I can achieve something like this, especially a country like Georgia, a very small country," he said. "I did not have any support from my country because obviously tennis is popular there. I made my way. I passed really tough roads to get to here, so it means a lot."

In the first semifinal, there were four service breaks in the first set, with Norrie earning three of them.

Norrie converted the only break of the second set in the first game when the Bulgarian netted a forehand. Norrie's forehand down-the-line winner gave him a 4-2 lead and he served out the match at love.

"When I went to serve for the match, I was like, 'This is definitely a big service game here,'" Norrie said. "I was a little bit nervous. But I came out and I served great."

The second-seeded duo of Su-Wei Hsieh and Elise Mertens beat Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Rybakina 7-6 (1), 6-3 to win the women's doubles title. Hsieh and Mertens earned \$414,500. **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**SPACE STATION  
 MOVES CLOSER TO  
 GENERATING COMMON  
 HUMAN GOOD**

The successful launch of the Shenzhou XIII manned spacecraft from Jiuquan, Gansu province, in the early hours of Saturday marked a big stride toward the conclusion of trials for key technologies for China's first space station Tiangong.

With three astronauts on board, Shenzhou XIII will dock with Tianhe core module about eight hours later. Two cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou 2 and Tianzhou 3, already joined the space station earlier this year where the three astronauts will spend the next six months.

During that period, they will conduct two to three extravehicular operations, install important devices to the mechanical arms of the space station and carry out several scientific and technological experiments and applications.

Shenzhou XIII is China's sixth manned mission in Tianhe's technology trials, but its importance should not be underestimated, as it will evaluate the functions and performances of all the systems and work units of the space station, and help complete its construction.

According to the China Manned Space Agency, if all goes well, the country will launch six other missions Tianzhou 4 cargo spacecraft and Shenzhou XIV manned spacecraft, Wentian and Mengtian experimental spacecraft, Tianzhou 5 cargo spacecraft, and Shenzhou XV manned spacecraft during the construction stage of the space station which is scheduled for completion before the end of 2022.

That China has fulfilled one goal after another of its manned spaceflight program since it announced it in 1992 shows its ability to transform blueprints into reality thanks to the advancements it has made in the field of space science and technology, its dedicated and hardworking teams of scientists, technology experts, technical workers, support staff, and the determination and able helmsmanship of the country's leaders. Not to forget its extensive international cooperation with other countries including Russia, Germany and France, and international agencies such as the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency.

China sees its space station as a platform for deeper international cooperation, regards outer space as an area for global collaboration for the common good of humankind, and therefore welcomes foreign astronauts to its space station once it starts full operations.

In fact, cooperation between China and some other countries for selection and training of astronauts has already started. The China Manned Space Agency, in collaboration with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, has been working to invite some UN member states to conduct scientific experiments on board Tianhe.

It is hoped more scientists and astronauts from around the world will participate in the initiative, and more young minds will be inspired by China's space mission to explore the unknown and help build a community with a shared future for humankind.

**HORRIFIC DELAY? NORWAY EYES  
 POLICE RESPONSE TO ARROW ATTACK**

**THE  
 BUZZ**

Norway announced it will hold an independent investigation into the actions of police and security agencies following a bow-and-arrow attack that killed five people and injured three others. Police have been criticized for reacting too slowly to contain the massacre, acknowledging that the five deaths took place after police first encountered the attacker.

Norway's domestic intelligence agency, known by the acronym PST, said it decided to seek the review after consulting with the country's national and regional police commanders about the attack Wednesday night in the southern town of Kongsberg. A 37-year-old local resident who police said has admitted to the killings has

been detained and is undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

"Given the seriousness of the matter, it is very important that learning points and any weaknesses and errors are identified quickly in order to be able to implement measures immediately," PST said in a statement.

Norwegian media have questioned how long it took officers to apprehend suspect Espen Andersen Braathen after the regional police department received reports about a man shooting arrows at a supermarket.

Authorities haven't revealed what precisely happened within a 34-minute period.



**NORTH KOREAN SOLDIER  
 IN BLUE GENERATES BUZZ  
 ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**HYUNG-JIN KIM & KIM  
 TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL**

A North Korean soldier clad in a super-tight blue outfit in a state media photo has generated a buzz on social media, with some calling him "a superhero," "a captain DPRK," or "a rocket man."

He was among nearly 30 soldiers who posed for a photo with leader Kim Jong Un during an exhibition of weapons systems last week. North Korea published photos of the event the following day.

They all mostly wore olive green uniforms, the most

common color for North Korean military uniforms. Only two of them wore different colors — the one in the blue outfit and the other in a navy-blue uniform, which isn't that unusual. Kim wore a dark suit.

Some Twitter users in South Korea, the U.S. and elsewhere joked about his appearance, saying he looks like a "human cannon ball," or the North Korean equivalent of Captain America.

Others called him a "superhero," a "captain DPRK," the official acronym for North Korea, a "rocket man," or a member of (non-existent) North Korean space forces.

North Korean state media

didn't identify the man. But Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, tweeted that "It seems he's the parachutist."

Other North Korean photos showed Kim watching a group of jets flying in a formation during an air show ahead of the exhibition. The official Korean Central News Agency said a "top notch parachutist showed landing skills, fluttering red party flag in the (October) sky" before the exhibition's opening ceremony.

Photos of an earlier air show in North Korea showed parachutists wearing similar blue tight outfits. **MDT/AP**

**Beirut** The families of the victims of last year's massive Beirut port blast reaffirmed their support Saturday for the judge leading the investigation into the explosion, despite increasing calls for his ouster by the militant Hezbollah group and its allies. The families' statement was apparently meant to counter a video released by their spokesman on social media late Friday in which he calls on Judge Tarek Bitar to step down.

**Syria** The death of a former Syrian Druse lawmaker, allegedly by Israeli sniper fire, could mark a new phase in Israel's war against Iranian entrenchment in neighboring Syria. Syria's state-run news agency said that Midhat Saleh was fatally shot Saturday in Ein el-Tinneh, a village along the Israeli frontier in the Golan Heights where he ran a Syrian government office. Israeli media said Saleh had been assisting the Iranian military against Israel.



**Russia** A Soyuz space capsule carrying a cosmonaut and two Russian filmmakers has landed after a 3 1/2-hour trip from the International Space Station. The capsule, descending under a red-and-white striped parachute after entering Earth's atmosphere, landed upright in the steppes of Kazakhstan on schedule at 0435 GMT Sunday with Oleg Novitskiy, Yulia Peresild and Klim Shipenko aboard.



**Greece** A sunburst at the overcast birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games in Greece was too short-lived to light the backup flame for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics at yesterday's dress rehearsal. It was the second blip of the day, after two protesters were detained on the Acropolis in Athens trying to raise a banner to draw attention to human-rights abuses in China. **More on p6**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein



Members of an informal plaza dance group wave cloth fans as they dance to music at a public park in Beijing, as China has lifted many restrictions on daily life as part of the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.