



AROUND 300 MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS EXHIBITED THEIR LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE FIRST BEYOND EXPO P2

ANOTHER TWO YEARS UNTIL AVIATION BACK ON TRACK: AACM P5

CHINESE RUNNERS SWEEP THE PODIUM AT THE MACAO INTERNATIONAL MARATHON IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RACES P2

NATIONAL SCRUTINY

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Rescuers were searching for survivors yesterday on the slopes of the highest volcano on Indonesia's island of Java after it was rocked by an eruption that killed at least 13 people, as smoldering debris and thick mud hampered their efforts. Mount Semeru in Lumajang district in East Java province spewed thick columns of ash more than 12,000 meters into the sky, and searing gas and lava flowed down after a sudden eruption Saturday triggered by heavy rains.

Austria Three skiers have been killed and two injured in an avalanche in central Austria, authorities said yesterday. The victims were part of a group of 11 skiers, eight of whom were hit by a roughly 200-meter wide slab of snow as they ascended a slope during a ski tour on Saturday in the Tweng area, in Salzburg province. Three of the skiers were buried by the avalanche, while another two were partly buried and able to free themselves.

AP PHOTO



Greece Pope Francis returned yesterday to the Greek island of Lesbos to offer comfort to migrants at a refugee camp and blast what he said was the indifference and self-interest shown by Europe "that condemns to death those on the fringes." "Please, let us stop this shipwreck of civilization!" Francis said at the Mavrovouni camp, a cluster of white U.N. containers on the edge of the sea lined by barbed wire fencing and draped with laundry hanging from lines.

More on backpage

China's top envoy, Fu Ziying, tasked to 'supervise, guide, coordinate, and support' Macau's national security affairs P3



MACAU TO FOLLOW QUARANTINE-FREE TRAVEL BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MAINLAND FROM DEC. 19 P3



ANTHONY LAM

POLICY ADDRESS MACAU TO SEE LAND AUCTIONS FOR PRIVATE HOUSING P4

EXPO SHOWCASES FUTURE OF TECH GIANTS

AROUND 300 multi-national corporations, unicorn companies and startups – including Chinese tech giants Alibaba and Tencent – exhibited their latest achievements at the first Beyond International Technology Innovation Expo.

The exhibition covered life sciences, new infrastructure, smart cities and future technologies, in an area of nearly 50,000 square meters at The Venetian Cotai Expo.

Jason Ho, expo co-founder and president of the Macau Technology General Association, said the three-day event was focused on exploring future developments in science and technology under the theme of “what’s next.”

Science and technology have changed the way people live and work, and impacted global social issues such as climate change,

environmental pollution and the wealth gap, he said.

Zhang Yuzhuo – an academic at the Chinese Academy of Engineering who also heads the China Association for Science and Technology – said at the opening ceremony that the association will help deepen cooperation and talent exchange in science, technology and innovation between the Chinese mainland and Macau, and assist with Macau’s economic diversification and integration into overall national development.

China’s former chief designer for the Shenzhou spaceships Qi Faren expressed his hope that more scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs from Macau will take part in the country’s space cause.

Experts attending the expo also expressed the view that Chi-

na’s investments in low carbon have nurtured a massive market opportunity worth trillions of dollars, expecting the country to usher in tremendous energy industry changes boosted by government policies.

The expo was hosted by the Macau Technology General Association in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, the China Center for International Science and Technology Exchange, and the Chinese Medical Association.

In addition to exhibitions, the expo also featured several forums on topics covering smart health care, architectural science and technology, artificial intelligence the green economy, and more. **MDT/XINHUA**



Mainland runners top local marathon

STAFF REPORTER

RUNNERS from the mainland swept the podium at the Macao International Marathon yesterday, finishing first, second and third in both men’s and women’s races.

Yang Shaohui sailed past the finish line in two hours, 13 minutes and four seconds to lift the men’s title, followed by Gu Rongchao and Li Wei.

In the women’s event, Zhang Deshun defended her title in 2:29:09. Chen Liqin and Gu Jinjin took second and third places.

In the Macau athletes’ category, the top three men were Chan Kai Un, Kuok Chi Wai and Tou Weng Keong, while the top three women were Wu Yangyang, Jeong Mei Na and Lam Sok Chao.

The marathon route started at the Macau Olympic Stadium in Taipa, continued onto the Sai Van bridge, A-Má Temple, and the Govern-



Yang Shaohui (top) and Zhang Deshun (bottom)

nador Nobre de Carvalho bridge, totaling 42.195 kilometers. The marathon and half-marathon started at 6 a.m., while the mini-marathon started at 6:15 a.m.

A total of around 12,000 people participa-

ted in the event.

All participants were required to be inoculated with two doses of Covid-19 vaccines at least 14 days before Sunday. They were also required to present negative Covid-19 tests.



MACAU IC2 CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH EXHIBITION

STAFF REPORTER

THE Macau IC2 (I Can Too) Association celebrated its 5th anniversary on Saturday with an exhibition displaying members’ work, and a performance of “We Are the World.” IC2 is the only NGO in Macau run by people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Antonio Luis Leong, president of the Macau IC2 Association, said that the association is determined not to forget their original aims after five years of operation, which is to help others by ser-

ving society with a spirit of inclusiveness.

“This event is particularly important as a way to show the public the association members’ social skills and abilities,” said Ada Lo, a long-time volunteer at the association and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. She added that the aim of the event is to show society their role and value, as it is not easy for them to run the association and organize these events.

Some of the activities that the IC2 association ran this year were a tree planting activity to pro-

vide environmental protection awareness on World Earth Day and fundraising for disaster relief to help with the severe floods in Henan, Zhengzhou. IC2 was also invited to participate in an international online conference, speaking on behalf of Macau’s youth.

IC2 currently has 165 members, providing training and leisure activities for members such as abacus and mental arithmetic, painting, handicraft making, knitting, mandala soul painting, storytelling and event planning training courses.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo
REACHING OUT!
+21,000
Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai
NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com
SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Liaison Office chief to advise on national security matters

RENATO MARQUES

LIAISON Office Chief Fu Ziying will be one of the lead advisors in charge of safeguarding national security in Macau, the Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

According to the state media, Fu will be lead advisor of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macau SAR which, on proposal of the Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, has established the posts of National Security Adviser and National Security Technical Adviser.

Among the duties, Fu will be in charge of "supervising, guiding, coordinating and supporting Macau in safeguarding national security."

The local government issued



a statement the same day, expressing satisfaction with the central government's approval of the proposal. It said, "the MSAR [Macau Special Ad-

ministrative Region] government strongly supports the decision of the central government, and will work towards its full implementation."

In the same statement, the local government explained that it has been working since the handover on laws and administrative mechanisms, aiming to safeguard national security. It has also commenced "national security work according to law, to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintain prosperity and stability in Macau."

The main task of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security is to advise on planned revisions to the supporting laws and regulations regarding national security matters, which will amend the regulations in force since 2009.

According to the government, the new amendments will: strengthen law enforcement; promote national security education; continue to improve the

Legislative Assembly's electoral system; and "maintain, in Macau, the overall interests of national security."

"Making progress in perfecting laws and administrative mechanisms to ensure national security, continuously strengthening the systems and capabilities for safeguarding national security, and strengthening national security education, are conducive overall to safeguarding national security, and to the long-term stability of Macau," the government's statement said. They added that "these steps match the overall interests of the country and Macau society, and are matters of practical importance and urgency."

The government also noted that the CE will act immediately to amend Administrative Regulation No. 22/2018, which established and regulated the Committee for Safeguarding National Security. The amendment will update its content, including outlining the newly created National Security Adviser and the National Security Technical Adviser roles.

Beijing greenlights border reopening for HK; Macau likely to follow

RENATO MARQUES

CENTRAL government authorities have finally decided to authorize quarantine-free travel between Hong Kong and the mainland. The long-awaited lifting of border restrictions, announced on Friday, is said to "begin shortly after Legislative Council (Legco) election on December 19," the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported, citing an internal source.

"Based on my estimate, it will be shortly after the Legco election," a source within the mainland team working on the border reopening reportedly told the SCMP.

The easing of border restrictions comes after a delegation from China's National Health Commission (NHC) toured the neighboring region to evaluate whether conditions would allow for such a decision.

Local health authorities have said on several occasions that a similar easing of restrictions between Macau and Hong Kong would be dependent on reope-



ning with the mainland.

When questioned about the potential reopening of the Macau-Hong Kong border during the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center press briefing on November 25, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said that the matter is down to a three-party negotiation in which the central government takes the leading and decisive role.

"We follow a uniform principle. If Hong Kong and the mainland agree to reopen the borders, we can also move forward after that. But, so far, there is no concrete [new] information on this matter," Leong said. She did hint, however, that the NHC's visit to Hong Kong was ai-

med precisely at this purpose.

Rumors are circulating that borders with Macau could reopen just in time for an expected visit from a delegation of national elite Olympic athletes to Macau from December 19 to 21.

This timing would also coincide with Macau's handover anniversary on December 20. That date, seen as politically relevant and recently surrounded by more patriotic manifestations, could be seen as the ideal date for border restrictions to ease, helmed by the Olympic medalists considered "national heroes."

In Hong Kong, a delegation of Chinese mainland Olympians conclu-

ded their three-day visit yesterday. The delegation comprised 29 athletes and three coaches from 12 sporting events. Members included sprint icon Su Bingtian, table tennis winner Ma Long, and Sun Yiwen, who won China's first Olympic gold medal in women's individual fencing.

The visit forms part of a series entitled "The Spirit of the Times Shines upon Hong Kong" organized by the HKSAR government, China's State General Administration of Sport, and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, with the aim of further enhancing exchanges between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong.

HOTEL GUESTS IN OCTOBER SKYROCKET 94.3% Y-O-Y

STAFF REPORTER

THE number of guests of hotels and guesthouses has surged 94.3% to 5,480,000 in October, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has shown. The average length of stay was extended by 0.1 nights to 1.8 nights. From January to October 2021, the average occupancy rate for guest rooms increased 25.3 percentage points to 49.9% year-on-year.

116 hotels and guesthouses offered accommodation services to the public in October 2021, 3 less than the previous year. Meanwhile, the number of available guestrooms increased 0.9% to 36,000. The data excludes hotels designated for medical observation and self-

-monitoring of health. The number of overnight visitors between Zhuhai and Macau saw a decline of 63.9% from the previous month due to tightened cross-border measures in early to mid-October. The average occupancy rate of guest rooms dropped 4.9 percentage points from September to 44.6% in October. However, that figure represents a year-on-year growth of 4.8 percentage points.

The number of guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in October increased 1% from the previous year to 444,000, with mainland guests decreasing 5.6% to 340,000, and local guests increasing 35.6% to 78,000. Meanwhile, the average length of stay for guests increased by 0.2 nights to 1.9 nights.



EVA BUCHO

ANTHONY LAM

DETAILS regarding land auctions for the construction of private housing will be provided in due course, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário said in his parliamentary questions session.

He attempted to allay fears that the plan for auctions may heat up property prices by saying that the government would try its best to “avoid making impact” on prices, but could not guarantee there would be no impact.

Nonetheless, he promised the parliament that the matter will be handled with exceptional care so as to avoid generating momentum for price hikes.

Details about the land plots to be auctioned – such as their location, use and quantity – will be announced when the government deems it appropriate. Both residential and commercial use plots of land are to be auctioned.

He added that, since the promulgation of the new Land Law in 2014, the government has not granted any land plots for the construction of private housing. Voices from the public have been heard about the need for new private housing projects, he said.

Speaking on the matter, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok expressed his fears of property price speculation if the land plots used for these developments are auctioned. Bolstering his views, he pointed out that the government has fiscal reserves of over MOP600 billion, making it un-



POLICY ADDRESS

MACAU TO SEE LAND AUCTIONS FOR PRIVATE HOUSING

necessary for it to generate income by auctioning land.

He added that, with 16,000 empty apartments in the city's private housing market currently, it is illogical to auction land plots to boost the supply of private housing units.

In response, the senior official simply reiterated that the land

auction was stated in the Policy Address, leaving no room for the government not to implement the policy.

On the matter of unused land plots, lawmaker Ella Lei proposed that the government lease currently empty land plots to operators for use as temporary parking lots.

In response to this suggestion, Rosário stressed that the government has avoided this practice for the past seven years, as retrieval can be difficult when the government wants to claim sites back.

“At that time, operators will question the government about where they can go,” the senior official warned. “And the matter will come back to me.”

Fairness is also a consideration, he said, adding that he is sure “the queue will be extremely long” if such a plan were to commence.

Based on his reply, Lei's colleague Wong Kit Cheng proposed these land plots be used as temporary sporting grounds. Rosário responded that coordination with other bureaus would be required to realize this plan.

Although parking on typhoon days will be handled with discretion, Rosário reiterated that prospective car buyers should be prepared to address their parking problems personally.

In terms of economic housing, Rosário reiterated that permanent applications will be impossible because supply is unstable. For the time being, the government will open intermi-

ttent applications until supply becomes stable, which he is confident will be achieved someday.

As for the price of the housing, he cited the law to explain that the price will comprise administrative costs, a premium and construction costs. He suggested that lawmakers be patient and that “no rush is necessary.”

5G LICENSE TO BE AVAILABLE NEXT YEAR

The senior official promised the parliament that the city's 5G licenses will be issued next year, as stated in the Policy Address. Decisions have been made to extend the concessions with current telecom service providers for two years.

However, he added that an independent entity in mainland China has been commissioned to research the future and development of the city's telecom market and services. When the report is ready, the government will further clarify the development of the city's telecom industry.

TIDE GATE STILL IN PROGRESS

Following Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's admission of the expensive construction and maintenance costs for the proposed Inner Harbor tide gate, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok asked whether the gate will still be built.

In response, Rosário revealed that, despite his superintendent's comment, the project is still in progress. The Infrastruc-

ture and Development Office (GDI) continues to work on the design of the project.

He said that there will be two major projects taking place on the Inner Harbor in the short term – the rainwater pumps on Inner Harbor North and the counter-tide work on the south of the harbor. The tide gate is a project in the long term.

Although he agreed that the construction of the tide gate would be expensive, he could not give even an estimated price range when questioned by lawmaker Ron Lam. He rhetorically asked Lam how such an estimate could be given, when in the current phase there is not even a design. Rosário added that a price quotation will only be available after the tender procedure.

Fearing that the government could be seen as lacking transparency, the senior official reiterated his “no design, no quotation” understanding. As the design phase is still in progress, data will be uploaded to GDI's website accordingly.

Lawmaker Leong Hong Sai expressed suspicion that the tide gate might malfunction or encounter life expectancy problems, and instead proposed that a coastal embankment be built. Rosário said that this would require additional considerations of ports, upstream issues and the distance from Wanzhai. “This is not simple,” he said, adding that the routing of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) would need to be scrutinized sooner or later.

GOV'T STRIVES FOR 'LRT FIRST, BUS AUXILIARY'

SECRETARY Raimundo do Rosário expressed hopes that locals will primarily rely on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) paired with supporting bus services for transport in a few years, asserting that there is no room for extra bus runs with the city seeing about 600,000 passengers travel each day.

“Rua do Campo and Avenida de Hort e Costa are filled with buses already,” he pointed out.

Per the government's estimation, the Barra Line of the LRT system will be operational near the end of 2023 or early 2024. It is also hoped that in the same year the city will see the opening of the



LRT Hengqin Line and the Seac Pai Van Line.

He hopes for good news to come in regards to operations.

Lawmaker Leong Sun Iok asked Rosário whether the half-year suspension of service of the LRT system has so far saved or will save the government any money. The senior official estimated that it would be possible, but that the actual amount saved will be announ-

ced in due course.

He said that the suspension has not been significantly impactful, as the system only handled 2,000 passengers per day on average.

Regarding the real-name verification of Macau Pass cards for discounted bus fares, Lam Hin San, director of the Transport Bureau, told the parliament that about 230,000 cards have been registered for verification so far.

RENATO MARQUES

THE local aviation sector will take at least another two years to return to pre-pandemic levels, the president of the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) Simon Chan said in response to lawmakers' questions on Friday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Chan appeared at the AL as part of the government team supporting the Secretary for Transport and Public Works for the debate of the Policy Address for 2022. He explained that, at the current pace of recovery, local aviation will need some time to back at the levels seen before 2020.

"Our aviation industry suffered a great impact, with a great reduction of passenger numbers and, according to our forecast, only in 2024 will we be able to resume the number of passengers recorded in the past," Chan said.

The president of the AACM also added that the government hopes that the upcoming liberalization of the aviation market will allow the industry to take bigger steps towards recovery.

For the time being, the government is reviewing the le-

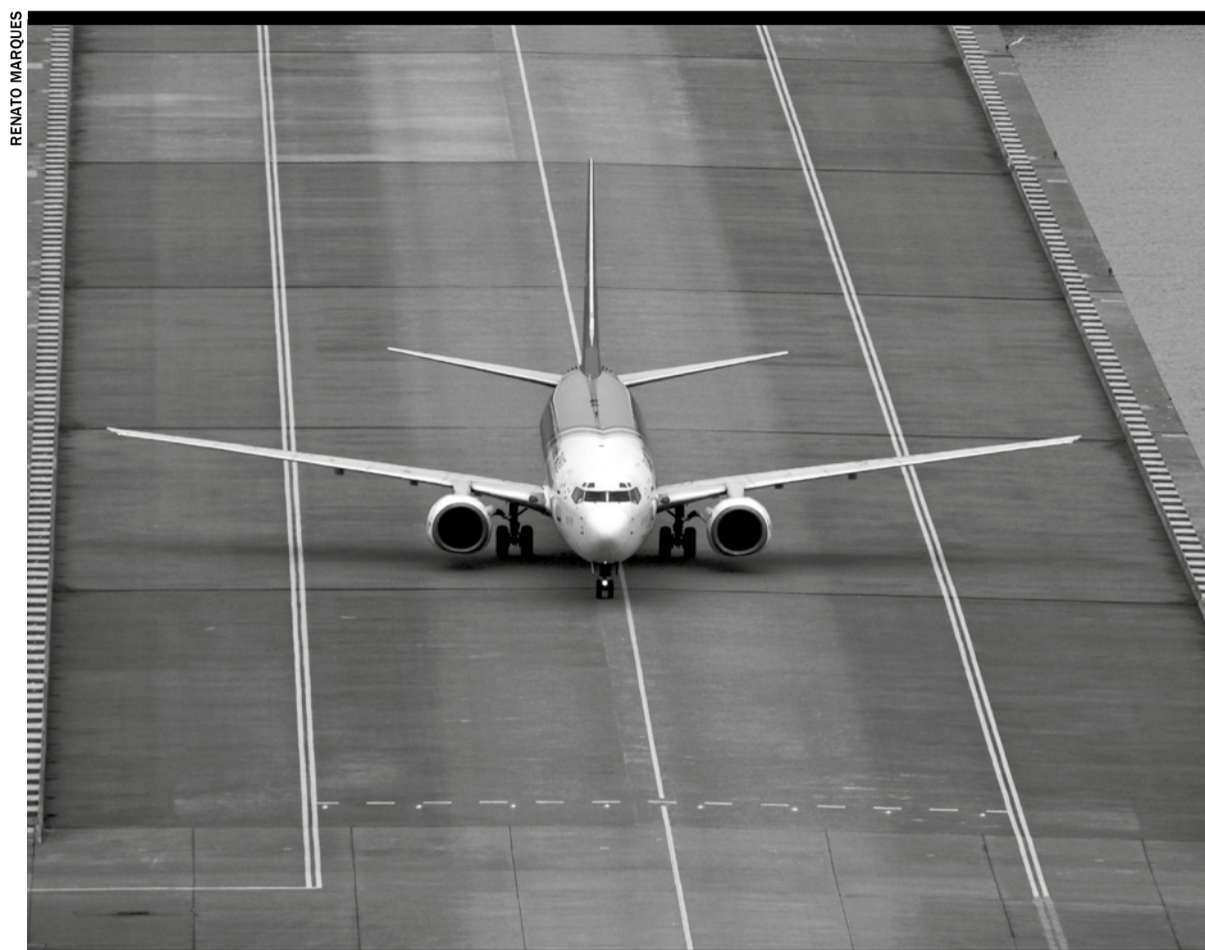
Another two years until aviation back on track: AACM

gal regime for air transportation activities in Macau, taking the market's current stand-by as an opportunity to move faster with new regulations that will put an end to the commercial monopoly of Macau's flag carrier Air Macau.

According to Chan, Macau has sufficient resources but needs the market to be able to resume operations.

The development will also be driven by cooperation between the local airport and the other five airports located in the Greater Bay Area.

According to Chan, only with regional cooperation and improved links between these airports will it be possible to achieve this goal. He noted that these airports can transport about 200 million passengers per year, but that a link will be necessary to facilitate the transit of passengers between the different airports without leaving the restricted area.



SJM title sponsors national tennis tournaments

CHINA'S top tennis players are gathering in town to compete in the 2021 CTA Tour SJM Professional Finals (Macau) and National Tennis Championships that will be held from today until December 12 at the Macau Tennis Academy.

A series of educational and promotional activities for the community will be held during the tournament to spark a tennis boom in Macau.

SJM Resorts, S.A. is the title sponsor of the events.

As cited in a statement, Daisy Ho, chairman of the

Board of Directors of SJM, said, "By bringing this national level tennis tournament to Macau, we aim to further promote cross sector integration of 'Tourism + sports', [...] fully complementing the entire Greater Bay Area and cumulating experience for the 15th National Games."

Ho continued, "At the same time, we are pleased to make use of this opportunity to organize a series of exchange activities to promote the sports and to extend our support to the Macau community."

Activities include a

"Youth Talk" for college students, a "Community Tennis Clinic with Macau Special Olympics athletes," as well as tennis-themed promotions at Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau and Grand Lisboa Hotel.

SJM and Chinese Tennis Association (CTA) jointly invited renowned Chinese tennis player, Li Na and three other tennis stars to conduct the "Youth Talk" for students of the University of Macau including Stanley Ho East Asia College and Henry Fok Pearl Jubilee College. LV

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

CHINA'S COMMUNISTS BASH US DEMOCRACY BEFORE BIDEN SUMMIT

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINA'S Communist Party took American democracy to task, sharply criticizing a global democracy summit being hosted by President Joe Biden next week and extolling the virtues of its governing system.

Party officials questioned how a polarized country that botched its response to COVID-19 could lecture others, and said that efforts to force others to copy the Western democratic model are "doomed to fail."

The harsh rhetoric reflects a growing clash of values that has been thrust into the spotlight as China rises as a global power. The question is whether the United States and other leading democracies can peacefully co-exist with a powerful authoritarian state whose actions are at odds with the Western model that emerged victorious at the end of the Cold War.

The pandemic exposed defects in the American system, said Tian Peiyan, the deputy director of the Communist Party's Policy Research Office. He blamed the high COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. on political disputes and a divided government from the highest to the lowest levels.

"Such democracy brings not happiness but disaster to voters," he said at a news conference to release a government report on what the Communist



Xu Lin, vice minister of the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of China's Communist Party holds a copy of a government-produced report titled "Democracy that Works" in a press conference Saturday in Beijing

Party calls its form of democracy, which is firmly under party control.

Neither China nor Russia are among about 110 governments that have been invited to Biden's two-day virtual "Summit for Democracy," which starts Thursday and will address strengthening democracy, defending against authoritarianism, corruption and human rights.

The participation of Taiwan, a self-governing democracy that China says should be under its rule, has further angered Beijing.

U.S.-China relations remain strained despite a virtual summit between Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping last month. The American president has repeatedly framed differences with China in his broader call for the U.S. and its allies to demonstrate that democracies can offer humanity a better path toward progress than autocracies.

The Communist Party has ruled China single-handedly since 1949. It says that various views are reflected through consultative bodies and elec-

ted village and residents committees, but silences most public criticism with censorship and sometimes arrest.

The party argues that strong central leadership is needed to maintain stability in a sprawling country that has been riven by division and war over the centuries.

"In such a large country with 56 ethnic groups and more than 1.4 billion people, if there is no party leadership, ... and we uphold the so-called democracy of the West, it will be easy to mess things up and demo-

cracy will work the opposite way," Tian said.

China has been accused of mass incarceration, torture and other human rights violations as it enforces control over ethnic communities in its remote western regions of Tibet and Xinjiang. The party rejects the accusations and says it is rooting out extremism and separatist movements.

The recent difficulties faced by some Western democracies have given Communist Party leaders more confidence in their system as they try to build China into a global power. State media often cite the chaos of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol after the last presidential election. The report issued Saturday said "today's world is facing challenges of excessive democracy."

Chinese officials frequently accuse the U.S. and others of using democracy as a cover to try to suppress China's rise, a charge echoed at the news conference by Xu Lin, the vice minister of the party's publicity department.

"The U.S. calls itself a 'leader of democracy' and organizes and manipulates the so-called Summit for Democracy," he said. "In fact, it cracks down and hampers countries with different social systems and development models in the name of democracy."

Xu called it undemocratic for others to demand their form of democracy, saying they have a mixed track record themselves.

"Their domestic governance is messed up, but they point fingers at and criticize other democracies," he said. "Is this the democracy they advertised?" **MDT/AP**

THE new head of Hong Kong's Catholic diocese expressed hope this weekend that he could foster healing in a congregation and a city divided by the continuing fallout from massive anti-government protests in 2019.

Bishop Stephen Chow spoke to the gathered after his ordination in the 19th-century Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Participants wore surgical masks to protect against COVID-19.

"I'm quite aware that it is not easy given the painful damages that different parties have experienced in their own ways in the past two years," he said.

He asked whether the pandemic, while destructive, has also been a blessing in disguise, as some Hong Kong people reached out to

HONG KONG

New Catholic bishop hopes to foster healing

help each other, regardless of political or religious persuasion.

"As the bishop of the Catholic diocese in Hong Kong and as a local church, (I) would very much like to take up a meaningful role to foster healing and connections in our church and for our hometown, this beloved hometown," he said.

The protests, which were quashed by arrests and a tough new national security law, have split both the city and its 400,000 Catholics, who make up about 5.3% of the population. Some support the restoration of order by the government, while others say it has un-



Stephen Chow waves at the episcopal ordination ceremony as the new Bishop of the Catholic Diocese in Hong Kong

duly curtailed free speech and the right to protest in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Both Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, who was a cen-

tral target of the protests, and former media tycoon Jimmy Lai, who was jailed for his role in the protests, are Catholic.

Pope Francis named

Chow as the new bishop in May to replace Bishop Michael Yeong, who died in January 2019.

Chow, viewed as a moderate choice, has called for respect for different views, saying "unity is not the same as uniformity" at a news conference after he was named.

A native of Hong Kong, Chow was educated in the U.S. and Ireland. He was named head of the Jesuit order for the China region in 2018, the year of a landmark agreement that allows the Chinese government a say in naming bishops in the mainland.

Catholics in mainland

China are legally allowed to worship only in churches approved by the Chinese government, but many attend underground churches led by bishops loyal to Rome. Critics have said the Vatican sold out the underground Chinese church by signing the 2018 agreement.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday that leader Xi Jinping, in an address to a two-day conference on religious affairs, stressed the principle of developing religions in the Chinese context and providing active guidance to adapt them to a socialist society. **MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



DEFENSE

Austin: Allies, innovation key to US competition with China

LOLITA C. BALDOR,
WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon intends to work better with private industry to develop high-tech systems and to strengthen relations with allies in the Indo-Pacific region in order to maintain a competitive edge over China, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said yesterday [Macau time].

Speaking at the Reagan National Defense Forum in California, Austin said recent military activity and aggressive moves by China in the region, including near the self-ruled island of Taiwan, are disturbing. And while he said the U.S. is still committed to the long-standing "One China" policy, it is working to bolster Taiwan's ability to defend itself.

"We're clear eyed about the challenge that China presents. But China is not 10 feet tall. This is America," said Austin. "America isn't a country that fears competition. And we're going to beat this one with confidence and resolve and not panic and pessimism."

Austin's speech comes as the U.S. struggles to counter China's growing military and economic power, and its advancements in space, cyber and nuclear capabilities, while also avoiding direct conflict. Tensions between the two nations have spiked as China has dispatched an increasing number of fighter jets toward Taiwan, fueling worries about a possible invasion, even as the U.S. and its allies sail warships through the Taiwan Strait.

America's "One China" policy recognizes Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

Asked whether China's moves around Taiwan appear to be training for potential future military operations, Austin said it

certainly "looks a lot like them exploring their true capabilities and, sure, that it looks a lot like rehearsing." But, he added that the U.S. doesn't want a conflict with China, so it's important for the nations' militaries to communicate more and be transparent.

Austin arrived in California after a visit to South Korea, his third trip to the Indo-Pacific region since taking over as defense chief earlier this year.

He told the defense forum that private companies struggle to get through Pentagon red tape when developing new technologies, and the department has to make it easier to break through the barriers. He said the Pentagon needs to get advances in unmanned systems, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence into the hands of U.S. forces more quickly.

Austin said the U.S. must also strengthen its network of allies and partners in the Pacific region.

"We're not seeking an Asian version of NATO or trying to build an anti-China coalition. And we're not asking countries to choose between the United States and China," Austin said. "Instead, we're working to advance an international system that is free and stable and open."

The Pentagon just released its new global posture review, which made no immediate major changes in the global positioning of U.S. forces, but it did include plans to improve infrastructure in some parts of the Pacific, including Guam and Australia. In September the U.S. announced a new partnership with Australia and Britain to deepen security, diplomatic and defense cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. As part of that AUKUS partnership, Australia is to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, and the U.S. is to increase rotational force deployments to Australia. **MDT/AP**

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Organizes Culinary Exchange Platforms to Cultivate Talents for Macau Creative City of Gastronomy



Championing the spirit of "craftsmanship", MGM strives to promote Macau's gastronomic culture and help nurturing future talents in the culinary industry for Macau, an UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. In November, MGM joined hands with post-secondary institutions in Macau as well as the Greater Bay Area to present the mastery of culinary to local students and young professionals in the field.

Culinary Exchange with Shunde to Celebrate Mastery of Cantonese Cuisine



Facilitating the sharing of knowledge between the region's industry talents, the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM), Shunde Polytechnic and MGM has co-organized the "MGM Talent Development Series - Cities of Gastronomy - Best of Macao and Shunde Culinary Arts Exchange" workshop. Several renowned chefs of Shunde Polytechnic, including two Cantonese cuisine masters Li Yongtai and Sun Yongkang, and dim sum master Zhong Yumel, were invited to be the guest speakers of the event. Being one of the

most renowned chefs of Cantonese cuisine in the region, Li Yongtai shared his 50 years of industry experience and his insights on Cantonese cuisine with 150 MGM team members, teachers and students of IFTM and Escola Luso-Chinesa Técnico-Profissional (ELCTP), as well as other attendees. The event was concluded with a culinary demonstration, where the three masters showcased their exquisite Cantonese culinary skills to inspire MGM's culinary team members and students of ELCTP.

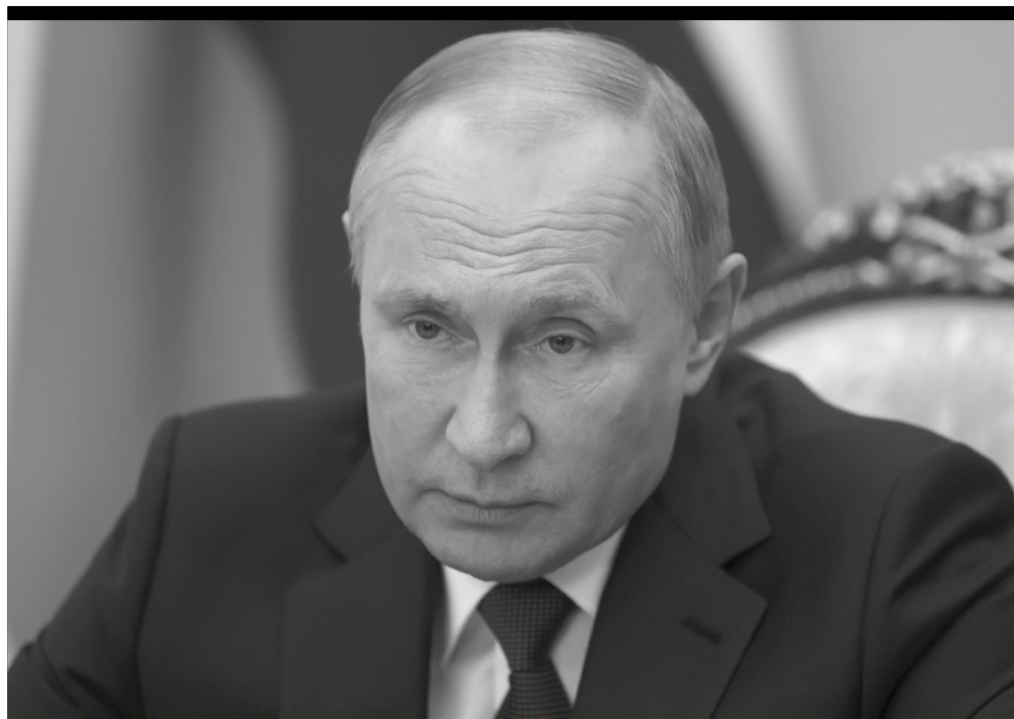
MGM Pastry Chef Shares Industry Expertise with MUST Students

On the other hand, MGM once again partnered with the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management of Macau University of Science and Technology (M.U.S.T.) to organize another culinary demonstration workshop. Neo Ng, Pastry Chef of MGM COTAL, was invited to showcase his expertise in chocolate-making to the bachelor students of M.U.S.T. majoring in Food & Beverage Management. Every academic year, both MGM and M.U.S.T. would invite renowned and established chefs of the industry to host workshops for its students. Marking the fourth edition of the series, both parties hope to enable students to better understand the professional techniques, and at the same time grasping the industry trend ahead to prepare them for their career development.



MGM
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau
T 853 8802 2888 F 853 8802 3333
E sustainability@mgm-macau.com
W <http://www.mgm.mo/>





Russian President Vladimir Putin

RUSSIA-UKRAINE

Biden, Putin set video call as tensions on Ukrainian border grow

DASHA LITVINOVA,
AAMER MADHANI
& COLLEEN LONG,
MOSCOW

PRESIDENTS Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin will speak in a video call Tuesday, the White House and Kremlin said, as tensions between the United States and Russia escalate over a Russian troop buildup on the Ukrainian border that's seen as a sign of a potential invasion.

Biden will press U.S. concerns about Russian military activities on the border and "reaffirm the United States' support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said yesterday [Macau time], confirming the planned call after first word came from Moscow.

Putin will come to the call with concerns of his own and intends to express Russia's opposition to any move to admit Ukraine into the NATO military alliance. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "the presidents will decide themselves" how long their talk will last.

The last known call between the leaders was in July, when Biden pressed Putin to rein in Russia-ba-

sed criminal hacking gangs launching ransomware attacks against the United States. Biden said the U.S. would take any necessary steps to protect critical infrastructure from such attacks.

Ransomware attacks have continued since then, though perhaps none has been as alarming as the one from May that targeted a major fuel pipeline and resulted in days of gas shortages in parts of the U.S.

Russia is more adamant than ever that the U.S. guarantees that Ukraine will not be admitted to the NATO military alliance. But NATO's secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, said this past week that Russia has no say in expansion plans by other countries or the alliance. Numerous former U.S. and NATO diplomats say any such Russian demand to Biden would be a nonstarter.

U.S. intelligence officials, meanwhile, have determined that Russia has massed about 70,000 troops near its border with Ukraine and has begun planning for a possible invasion as soon as early next year, according to a Biden administration official who was not authorized to discuss that finding publicly and spoke on the

condition of anonymity.

The risks for Putin of going through with such an invasion would be enormous.

U.S. officials and former American diplomats say while the Russian president is clearly laying the groundwork for a possible invasion, Ukraine's military is better armed and prepared today than in the past, and that sanctions threatened by the West would do serious damage to the Russian economy.

"What I am doing is putting together what I believe to be, will be, the most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr. Putin to go ahead and do what people are worried he may do," Biden said Friday.

Ukrainian officials have said Russia could invade next month. Ukraine's defense minister, Oleksii Reznikov, said the number of Russian troops near Ukraine and in Russia-annexed Crimea is estimated at 94,300, and warned that a "large-scale escalation" is possible in January.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, recently charged that a group of Russians and Ukrainians planned to attempt a coup in his country and that the plotters tried to enlist the

help of Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov.

Russia and Akhmetov have denied that any plot is underway, but the Russians have become more explicit recently in their warnings to Ukraine and the United States.

Biden is also expected to speak with Zelenskyy in the coming week, according to a person close to the Ukrainian leader. This person was not authorized to comment publicly before the announcement of the call and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Kremlin said Friday that Putin, during his call with Biden, would seek binding guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine. Biden tried to head off the demand in comments to reporters Friday before leaving for a weekend stay at Camp David.

"I don't accept anyone's red line," Biden said.

Psaki said in a brief statement that Biden and Putin will discuss a range of topics in the U.S.-Russia relationship, "including strategic stability, cyber, and regional issues."

She said Friday that the administration would coordinate with European allies if it moved forward with sanctions. She alluded to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that had been under Ukraine's control since 1954. Russia has also backed separatists in eastern Ukraine in a 7-year conflict that has cost over 14,000 lives.

"We know what President Putin has done in the past," Psaki said. "We see that he is putting in place the capacity to take action in short order."

U.S.-Russia relations have been rocky since Biden took office.

His administration has imposed sanctions against Russian targets and called out Putin for the Kremlin's interference in U.S. elections, cyberactivity against American companies and the treatment of opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who was poisoned last year and later imprisoned.

When Putin and Biden met in Geneva in June, Biden warned that if Russia crossed certain red lines — including going after major American infrastructure — his administration would respond and "the consequences of that would be devastating." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1978 SPAIN SET TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY



Spaniards have been turning out in force today to cast a vote for democracy and end almost 40 years of dictatorial rule.

The majority of the 25 million Spaniards eligible to vote are expected to endorse a new constitution in the historic referendum.

It would strip the monarchy of much of its current powers, many of which were handed down by the late dictator General Franco, who died in 1975.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia support the move and were among the first to cast their vote in a village school near Madrid.

Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, leader of the Union of the Democratic Centre UCD, a moderate centre-right coalition, has drafted the new democratic constitution. Happy birthday, love.

It could eventually put him out of a job if new elections are held as a result.

Last June saw Spain's first elections to the Cortes (parliament) since 1936 and in which Mr Suarez won 34% of the votes.

Tens of thousands of children, not able to vote, still had reason to celebrate as they have had the day off with schools converted into polling stations.

But there was still an air of tension in the country after a recent spell of murders and bombings, attributed to Basque separatists in the northern Basque region.

Riot police and soldiers are on high alert, guarding polling stations and communication centres.

The fear of violence is reported to have led an estimated 250,000 Spaniards to cast a postal vote.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The new constitution was overwhelmingly supported by voters with newspapers the following morning congratulating Spaniards with headlines such as "Good morning, democracy".

It established Spain as a parliamentary monarchy. Spain continued to shake off the Franco years which had left the country alienated internationally. It invested heavily to win European support and became a member of the EC, now the EU, in 1986. This required it to open its economy, modernise its industrial base and improve infrastructure.

The country has been dogged by separatist violence in a long-running campaign by the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), founded in 1959 and dedicated to promoting Basque independence.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Anger could lead to problems. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Don't let your emotions take over.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Friendships will be ruined if you let too many people get involved in any disputes. Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Try to spend time with those having similar interests. Your emotional partner will push the right buttons today.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Don't let your emotions get out of hand. Don't let your partner get you going. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Don't hold back.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars. Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Use your intellectual approach to get the best results.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Spend some quality time with your lover. You will want to take off and have some recreation.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. Don't play on your partner's emotions. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You need to focus on yourself, not on others. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. You need to spend less time daydreaming.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Strong willpower will come to your rescue. Social events will be rewarding. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

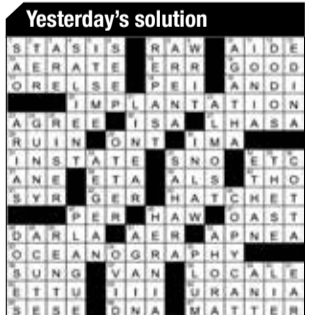
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	2	clear
Harbin	-16	-9	clear
Tianjin	-2	2	clear
Urumqi	-14	-9	foggy
Xi'an	-1	6	overcast
Lhasa	-2	10	cloudy
Chengdu	6	9	overcast
Chongqing	9	11	drizzle
Kunming	7	17	cloudy
Nanjing	6	9	drizzle
Shanghai	9	13	cloudy
Wuhan	5	11	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	12	overcast
Taipei	19	22	moderate rain
Guangzhou	12	23	clear
Hong Kong	17	23	clear
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-5	clear
Frankfurt	1	4	sleet
Paris	1	4	overcast
London	3	5	overcast
New York	2	4	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Buy alternative; 6- Prepares for battle; 10- Genesis shepherd; 14- Like Cheerios; 15- Quick look; 16- Type of tomato; 17- Stern with a bow; 18- ___ Domini; 19- Poker declaration; 20- Fam. reunion attendee; 21- Answerable; 24- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 26- Faculties; 27- Spring mo.; 28- Island greeting; 30- Engage, as gears; 33- Globe; 35- Dip in liquid; 38- Rub out or remove from memory; 40- Hanking; 41- Pulls down; 43- Bandleader Brown; 44- Flog; 47- Tubular pasta; 48- Did a blacksmith's job; 49- "Hold On Tight" band; 51- Soft subdued color; 54- Personal; 58- Hindrance; 61- ___ favor; 62- Shrinking sea; 63- "Hard ___" (sailor's yell); 64- Keep an ___ the ground; 66- Metal filament; 67- "The Mod Squad" role; 68- Rap sheet info; 69- ___-do-well; 70- ___majesté; 71- Lunar valley;

DOWN: 1- French wine valley; 2- Backing for an exhibit; 3- Whatsoever; 4- Large body of water; 5- Pitch tents; 6- Swiftly; 7- City in Western Nevada; 8- Computer list; 9- Underwriter; 10- Richards of "Jurassic Park"; 11- Explosive weapons; 12- "South Pacific" hero; 13- Ways to the pins; 22- Autos; 23- Titter; 25- Contented sighs; 28- In the future; 29- Optical device; 30- ___ Brooks, filmmaker responsible for "Blazing Saddles"; 31- Able was I ___ I saw Elba; 32- Stockholm flier; 34- Combustible heap; 35- Hindu title; 36- NY neighbor; 37- Letter before omega; 39- Early anesthetic; 42- Northern arm of the Black Sea; 45- Odds and ends container; 46- Submarine; 48- Less fresh; 50- Straight; 51- Shrimp; 52- Eagle's home; 53- Gaze intently; 54- Portion; 55- Month of showers; 56- Bottom line; 57- Uneven; 59- I cannot tell ___; 60- Sawbucks; 65- Boxer Laila;



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



SELL INVEST RENT

CALL US (853) 2835 2699

jml property 卓雅物業

hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

FOR SALE

Patio De Guia
 Ref: 2111 6003

HKD 3,600,000
 1,200ft² 3 1 1

FOR SALE

Tai Nin
 Ref: 2110 6001

HKD 3,880,000
 720ft² 1 1 1

Rain Dance Property
 "We dance until it's SOLD!"

Hellene Gardens
 Ref: 2109 6001

HKD 7,980,000
 1,663ft² 3 1 1



Elda Lemos
(853) 6226 8566
elda@jmlproperty.com



Windy Lam
(853) 6881 1007
windy@jmlproperty.com



Sam Lee
(853) 6611 0975
sam@jmlproperty.com



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



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

Property of the Week



FOR SALE

Patio De Guia
HKD 3,600,000 1,200 ft² 3 2

Delightful spacious three bedroom apartment downtown Macau. Located just behind Club de Militar and in front of the San Januario hospital. The apartment is in a fantastic location especially for anyone working in the Central area of Macau or at the hospital. The three double bedrooms all have ample built in storage, one bedroom with an en suite shower the other two bedrooms share a separate shower room. Lovely open plan living, dining, modern kitchen with breakfast bar with a small balcony off the kitchen. The rooftop area is the same size as the apartment with great views over the city. Currently tenanted, viewings can be arranged by appointment.

Viewings can be arranged by appointment.
Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



Ref: 2111 6003

Property Hotlist



FOR SALE

Tai Nin
HKD 3,880,000

720 ft²
1
1



Ref: 2110 6001



FOR SALE

Nam Long
HKD 3,780,000

650 ft²
1
1



Ref: 2007 6001



FOR SALE

Nam Long
HKD 3,480,000

590 ft²
1
1



Ref: 2108 6002

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 980 ft² **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 4 2 1,404 ft² **HKD 7,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Hellene Gardens 4 2 2,305 ft² **HKD 14,980,000** Ref: 2106 6003
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft² **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

For Rent

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 376 ft² **HKD 7,200/mth** Ref: 2110 1002
- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 440 ft² **HKD 8,200/mth** Ref: 2110 1001
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2005 1002
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,626 ft² **HKD 17,500/mth** Ref: 2003 1001
- [Taipa] One Central 3 3 2,332 ft² **HKD 29,800/mth** Ref: 2010 1001

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



FOR SALE

Hellene Gardens
HKD 7,980,000

1,663 ft²
3
2
1



Ref: 2109 6001

JML Sponsorships



Let's Connect

(853) 2835 2699

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty

有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查閱
For more information on advertising laws,
please speak to one of our representatives.

JOVANA GEC, BELGRADE

BOXING

From Serbia, Afghan boxers seek refuge, careers in West

THEY practiced in secret and struggled to get to an international tournament in Europe. Now, members of the Afghan national boxing team are seeking refuge in the West, hoping to continue both their careers and their lives without danger or fear.

The Afghan boxers, their coach and a top boxing federation official remained in Serbia after the AIBA World Boxing Championships finished in early November, saying they could face retribution from the Taliban if they returned home.

"When the Taliban regime came to Afghanistan, everything became changed," Waheedullah Hameedi, the secretary general of Afghanistan's boxing federation, said. "It was difficult to come for a world championship during the new regime, the new government."

The team has contacted several foreign embassies about securing humanitarian visas and asylum protection. Some European Union nations have turned them down, but the 11-member group has not given up hope of finding a safe haven.

Tens of thousands of Afghans, including athletes, have fled the country since troops from the United States and other foreign



A member of the Afghan national boxing team trains during a session in local gym in Serbia

nations pulled out in August and the Taliban took over. Hameedi said the Taliban do not approve of boxing, and team members stand little chance of pursuing their careers freely in Afghanistan.

"As you know, the situation in Afghanistan is very tough, very bad," he said, speaking in English.

"They (Taliban) didn't allow in first days to continue the boxing and open the gym. Everyone was afraid to go anywhere for boxing or for anything else."

Hameedi's father, a previous secretary general of the Afghan Boxing Federation, was gunned down in 2019 by unknown as-

sailants. After the national team participated in the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai in May, Hameedi was determined to take his boxers to Serbia for the world championships in late October.

Boxing was banned in Afghanistan during the Taliban's previous rule in 1996-2001. While its leaders have sought to portray themselves as more tolerant this time around, Hameedi insisted the officials and boxers have faced threats and feared for their safety.

"Boxing is 'haram' for them (Taliban,) something in Islam that is illegal for them," he said.

Ahead of the trip to Serbia, the boxers trained at hidden locations and tried to stay under the radar, hiding their plan to compete in the international tournament, Hameedi said. They managed to get visas to go to Iran, and once in Tehran they applied for visas at the Serbian Embassy before rushing on to Belgrade, he said.

The 11 Afghan boxers compe-

ted in Serbia as part of a 14-member "fair chance" team sponsored by the International Boxing Association for refugees and other athletes who had to flee their countries, said Hameedi.

The group's Serbian visas have since expired. Hameedi said friends and relatives warned them not to return to Afghanistan. While thousands of migrants and refugees arrive in Serbia, most do so planning to continue on to countries in Western Europe where it is easier to find jobs and make a living.

"We hope we will receive visas as soon as possible so there is no problem in Serbia," Hameedi said. "We can leave easily to some safe country and their future will be granted."

Hameedi said he, the coach and the nine boxers who still are with them in Serbia do not want to cross borders illegally to reach Western Europe, but neither have they applied for asylum in the Balkan nation. **MDT/AP**



KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

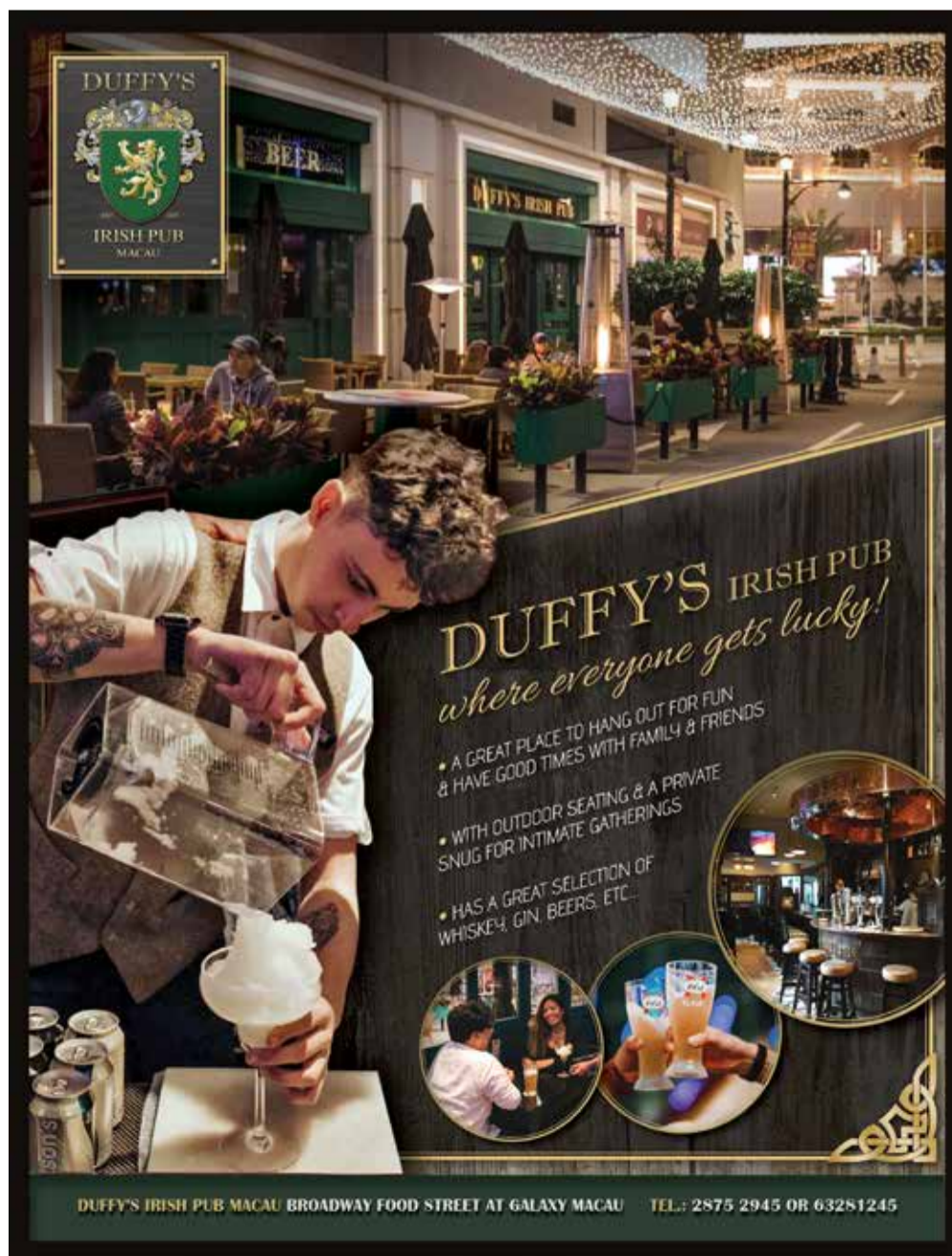
Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



DUFFY'S
IRISH PUB
MACAU

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB
where everyone gets lucky!

- A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT FOR FUN & HAVE GOOD TIMES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- WITH OUTDOOR SEATING & A PRIVATE SNUG FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS
- HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF WHISKEY, GIN, BEERS, ETC.

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB MACAU BROADWAY FOOD STREET AT GALAXY MACAU TEL.: 2875 2945 OR 63281245

AD

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

UK RISKS CROSSING CHINA'S REDLINE BY BLINDLY CLINGING TO US' COATTAILS

In his speech at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London on Tuesday, Richard Moore, head of the United Kingdom's Secret Intelligence Service, made it clear that despite the lessons it should have learned, the UK is still willing to swallow whatever the US feeds it hook, line and sinker.

The M16 chief said China, Russia, Iran and international terrorism are the "big four" security issues facing the UK. By paralleling three sovereign states, two of them permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, with a public enemy of humanity, Moore revealed how low the China-bashers in the UK are willing to stoop.

Moore said China is the UK intelligence agency's "single greatest priority", and warned of Beijing making a miscalculation on the Taiwan question through overconfidence and an underestimation of Washington's resolve to support the secessionists on the island.

Hyping up China's efforts to realize national reunification as "a serious challenge to global stability and peace" is an irresponsible and groundless claim that constitutes grim interference in China's internal affairs. And it showed that the UK intelligence agency risks a miscalculation through overconfidence and underestimating China's resolve to realize national reunification.

Moore should bear in mind that in his telephone talk with President Xi Jinping on Oct 29, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson fully acknowledged China's role as an economic, trade, education and clean energy partner, as well as the two countries' common interests and consensuses on many important issues, such as global public health, the world's economic recovery, the Iranian nuclear issue and anti-terrorism.

The UK's unquestioning following of the US' lead has put it in an awkward position in dealing with China, which is its major trade partner and investor. The great lengths the UK has gone to eliminate Huawei from its market, without a plan B with better cost performance, terminate its nuclear power cooperation with China at the cost of paralyzing the project, and welcoming Chinese investment after Brexit while customizing discriminatory rules for it, speak volumes of the potential that exists for bilateral win-win cooperation.

China and the US have never ceased exchanges to manage their divergences and expand their common interests, but it is advisable for the UK to give some serious consideration to whether it should keep a safe distance from the US' strategy to contain China. Sitting Washington's geopolitical game out would not affect the two countries' alliance. Rather, doing so would reserve space for the UK to better serve its own interests by engaging with China in a responsible way. The UK only has to look at the mess Australia has got itself into clinging to the coattails of the US to see that blindly playing follow-the-leader is not necessarily the wisest course.

For China-UK relations to fare well, as President Xi said, mutual trust must be the foundation, understanding the precondition, and proper management of differences the key. China views its relations with the UK from a strategic and long-term perspective, and hopes that the UK will respect facts and perceive China's development path and rejuvenation in an objective way.

ISRAEL URGES HARD LINE AGAINST IRAN AT NUCLEAR TALKS

THE BUZZ

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett yesterday urged world powers to take a hard line against Iran in negotiations aimed at reviving an international nuclear deal, as his top defense and intelligence officials headed to Washington to discuss the flailing talks.

Israel has been watching with concern as world powers sit down with Iran in Vienna in hopes of restoring the tattered 2015 deal. Iran last week struck its own hard line as talks resumed in Vienna, suggesting everything discussed in previous rounds of diplomacy could be renegotiated. Continued Iranian advances in

its atomic program have further raised the stakes in talks that are crucial to cooling years of tensions in the wider Mideast.

The original deal, spearheaded by then-President Barack Obama, gave Iran much-needed relief from crippling economic sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear activities. But then-President Donald Trump, with strong encouragement from Israel, withdrew from the deal in 2018, causing it to unravel.

Last week's talks in Vienna resumed after a more than five-month hiatus and were the first in which Iran's new hard-line government participated.

AP PHOTO



CHRISTMAS TREE BUYERS FACE REDUCED SUPPLIES, HIGHER PRICES

EVEN Christmas trees aren't immune to the pandemic-induced shortages and inflation plaguing the economy.

Extreme weather and supply chain disruptions have reduced supplies of both real and artificial trees this season. American shoppers should expect to have fewer choices and pay up to 30% more for both types this Christmas, industry officials said.

"It's a double whammy — weather and supply chain problems are really hampering the industry," said Jami Warner, executive director of the American Christmas Tree Association, an industry trade group. "Growers have been hard hit by floods, fires, smoke, drought, extreme weather conditions."

Record-breaking heat and wildfires in late June took a heavy toll on Christ-

mas tree farms in Oregon and Washington, two of the nation's largest growers. Warner could not provide an estimate of how many fewer trees there will be this year but because it takes up to 10 years to grow, the crop loss will be felt for many seasons to come.

The shortage of truck drivers is making it harder and more expensive to transport live trees from farms to stores and tree lots.

Warner's advice: "Shop early. If you see something you like, buy it."

At Crystal River Christmas Trees, owner Dale Pine and his nephew Stacy Valenzuela struggled to get enough trees to sell at their tree lot in Alameda. Many of its suppliers in Oregon lost trees in the triple-digit heat wave.

"It was looking pretty grim for a while," Valenzuela said. "Every single day you're on

the phone checking, 'Hey, you got anything? If you do, send it my way.' So a lot of work to get these trees on the ground this year."

Crystal River had to raise prices this year because the costs of trees, labor and truck delivery have all gone up, Valenzuela said.

But the artificial tree industry is struggling with its own supply troubles as clogged ports and the lack of truckers delay shipments and raise costs, said Caroline Tuan, Balsam Hill's chief operating officer. The company's trees are about 20% more expensive this year and there is less variety.

"We have to bring our products over from our factories (in China), and that has been very challenging," Tuan said. "All of that has impacted us, which means that we have fewer trees to sell as an industry." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



France's president and Saudi Arabia's crown prince held a joint phone call with Lebanon's prime minister during Emmanuel Macron's visit to the kingdom this weekend, in a significant gesture amid an unprecedented crisis between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. During the calls with Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Macron said France and Saudi Arabia expressed their commitment to Lebanon, despite Saudi Arabia's uneasiness with Iran's sway over the small Mediterranean country.

AP PHOTO



Britain's government tightened travel restrictions amid concerns about the spread of the omicron coronavirus variant, saying all travelers arriving in England will need to take a COVID-19 test before they board their flight. Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the new rules will apply from 4 a.m. London time Tuesday. "In light of the most recent data, we are taking further action to slow the incursion of the omicron variant," he said in a tweet.

AP PHOTO



USA CNN fired anchor Chris Cuomo (pictured) yesterday [Macau time] less than a week after new information emerged about how he assisted his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as the politician faced sexual harassment allegations earlier this year. The network had suspended its prime-time host on Tuesday to investigate his conduct, after New York's attorney general released details showing he was more involved than previously known in helping to strategize and reach out to other journalists as his brother fought to keep his job.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Light up Macau. The city's first drone show marshaled a fleet of 300 drones to dazzle the cityscape on Saturday.