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**HOTELS EMPLOYED 47,355 FULL-TIME STAFF AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER, DOWN BY 4.7% YEAR-ON-YEAR, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

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**NO PRIVILEGE FOR DEFENDING CHAMPS IN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

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**CHINA FALLS SHORT ON BIG PACIFIC DEAL BUT FINDS WINS**

P6



AP PHOTO



**Iran** Protesters angry over a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 32 people shouted down an emissary sent by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sparking a crackdown that saw riot police club demonstrators and fire tear gas, according to online videos analyzed yesterday. The demonstration directly challenged the Iranian government's response to the disaster a week ago as pressure rises in the Islamic Republic over rising food prices and other economic woes amid the unravelling of its nuclear deal with world powers.

AP PHOTO



**Egypt** yesterday displayed a trove of ancient artifacts dating back 2,500 years that the country's antiquities authorities said were recently unearthed at the famed necropolis of Saqqara near Cairo. The artifacts were showcased at a makeshift exhibit at the feet of the Step Pyramid of Djoser in Saqqara. The find includes 250 painted sarcophagi with well-preserved mummies inside, as well as 150 bronze statues of ancient deities.

**Russia** said it may use an arrangement similar to that used for payments for its gas supplies to pay for its dollar-denominated foreign debts. The Vedomosti business daily quoted Finance Minister Anton Siluanov as saying that Russia will offer the holders of its Eurobond obligations to accept a payment system bypassing Western financial infrastructure. Russia previously has offered the customers receiving its natural gas to establish an account in dollars or euros at Russia's third-largest bank, Gazprombank, then a second account in rubles.

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## GAMING

# NO U-TURN FOR CLOSED SATELLITES: GOV'T

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LYNZY VALLES



## ART

# ARTIST INTEGRATES ANCIENT CHINESE ART FORMS INTO MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION

P4



TERRY TANG

THE last week of April was a whirlwind for San Francisco's Chinatown.

The storied neighborhood debuted the "AAPI Community Heroes Mural," a mostly black and white depiction of 12 mostly unsung Asian American and Pacific Islander figures on the wall of a bank. Three days later "Neon Was Never Brighter," the first ever Chinatown contemporary arts festival, took over the streets throughout the night. Traditional lion and dragon dances, a couture fashion show and other public "art activations" were featured in the block party-like event.

Cultural and arts organizations in Chinatowns across North America have worked for decades on bringing greater appreciation and visibility to these communities. But they faced an unprecedented one-two punch when the pandemic caused shutdowns and racist anti-Asian attacks increased — and continue. As painful as those events are, they also indelibly influenced the reemergence of various Chinatowns as close-knit hubs of vibrancy and culture.

Cynthia Choi, co-founder of the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center, is still "blown away" to be one of the heroes painted in the San Francisco mural. But being at the festival was equally touching for her.

"I got really emotional because it's been so long since I'd seen so many people come out to Chinatown, especially at night. I had heard so many of my friends or family saying, 'I don't want to go to Chinatown,'" she said. "I knew it was going to be fun and exciting, but I was really moved."

There has been renewed attention from cities, companies and younger Asian Americans from outside these historic Chinatowns. Wells Fargo partnered with the Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative on the "heroes" mural. Everyone wanted to "really address anti-Asian hate and to uplift Asian American voices," said Jenny Leung, executive director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, which is part of the Collaborative. Youths voted on who to put on the mural.

"Frequently the way that Chinatown looks is imported as a tourist kind of attraction and fantasy for visitors to see," Leung said. "It's never really about celebrating the community's perspective and voice."

The idea for the "Neon" festival was briefly discussed pre-pande-

# CHINATOWNS MORE VIBRANT AFTER PANDEMIC, ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE



People make their way past a talking portrait banner depicting the lives of three intergenerational single room occupancy Chinatown tenants in San Francisco

mic. But the events of the last two years lent urgency to it.

"We wanted to kind of push that deadline a little bit earlier in order to be able to address the 20, 30, 40, empty storefronts that are increasingly rising in the community," said Leung, who characterizes Chinatown as a "museum without walls."

Josh Chuck, a local filmmaker behind the documentary "Chinatown Rising," has noticed younger generations dining or participating in events in Chinatowns. A friend who works in tech began last year picking up orders for friends who wanted to support Chinatown restaurants. Soon he was making spreadsheets to track 400 deliveries.

"Honestly, there's no way I could have imagined something that would galvanize these people that I know. Even myself, like, I feel much more connected and committed," Chuck said. "It's a silver lining."

In New York, the first of five summer night markets start next month in the city's Chinatown. It will be the biggest event to date for Think!Chinatown. The 5-year-old nonprofit has done numerous projects like artists-in-residency programs and oral histories. But last year after a series of verbal and physical assaults against Asians, they partnered with Neighborhoods Now, a local pandemic relief initiative, on Chi-

natown Nights.

It was a small-scale gathering of less than 10 artist booths and food trucks in Forsyth Plaza park. Despite a "crazy" two-month prep window, there was a collective feeling of "we just need to be together," said Yin Kong, Think!Chinatown co-founder and director. And there was a "tectonic shift" with philanthropy focusing on equity.

"It reprioritized these other organizations that traditionally would have funded other things to focus on how to support communities of color in a different way," Kong said.

The expanded event next month will have 20 booths and sponsorships, and will be scheduled when most Chinatown restaurants are closed so owners can participate.

"The mechanisms that got us there would not have happened without the pandemic," said Kong, who feels Think!Chinatown is now seen as more "legit" with better funding, full-time staff and the possibility of an office space instead of her dining table.

In Vancouver's Chinatown, the pandemic only exacerbated ongoing issues of vandalism, graffiti and other crimes. But within the last year, the Canadian city managed to launch cultural projects planned before COVID-19.

Last month, the Chinatown Mural Project showed off a series

of pastoral murals painted by a local artist on six roller shutters of a tea shop. In November, the interactive Chinatown Storytelling Centre with relics and recorded oral histories opened.

"We would have done this anyway (regardless of the pandemic)," said Carol Lee, chair of the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, which oversees the Centre. "But you know, in some ways, it makes you feel like you have more purpose because it's more necessary."

Jordan Eng, president of the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association, agreed that there's more collaboration and "a lot more youth interest than there was five, 10 years ago."

There are fewer than 50 Chinatowns across the U.S. with some more active than others.

Many Chinatowns took shape in the 19th century as Chinese laborers arrived to mine for gold out West or work on the railroad. They lived there because of blatant discrimination or self-preservation. Their housing was single-room-occupancy units, or SROs, with communal kitchens and bathrooms, said Harvey Dong, a lecturer in ethnic studies and Asian American studies at University of California, Berkeley. Many older Chinese Americans and immigrants in Chinatown reside in these units still.

Another constant in China-

towns: development—from the sales of no longer affordable SROs in San Francisco to a light rail expansion in Seattle to a proposed new jail in New York City. Chinatowns elsewhere have shrunk to a block or disappeared altogether because of gentrification. It's a tricky juxtaposition for a city to tout Chinatowns to tourists yet offer few resources to its residents.

"So you have these huge festivals to bring in businesses. You have these parades and all this stuff. But definitely, it's important that the needs of the community, especially the working class and the poor, are addressed," Dong said.

Meanwhile, excited arts and culture advocates are moving forward to put their own stamp on Chinatown. Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative in San Francisco is designing Edge on the Square, a \$26.5 million media and arts center set to open in 2025. In New York, Think!Chinatown plans to lease a space with a kitchen for art exhibitions and cooking classes. The hope is to keep engaging with Asian Americans inside and outside of Chinatown.

"What draws them to Chinatown is that cultural connection," Kong said. "It's something you can't really put your finger on. ... But it's really the soul of Chinatown. And we need to keep protecting it and make sure it can grow."MDT/AP

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AL PLENARY

# Finance chief: Reopening of closed satellite casinos unlikely

ANTHONY LAM

**C**LOSED satellite casinos will not be permitted to reopen, despite the government's recent U-turn in a legislative amendment, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, said yesterday.

In yesterday's parliamentary question session, the senior official was questioned by lawmakers on various aspects of the closure of the satellite casinos, such as the employment market and economic impact following the closures.

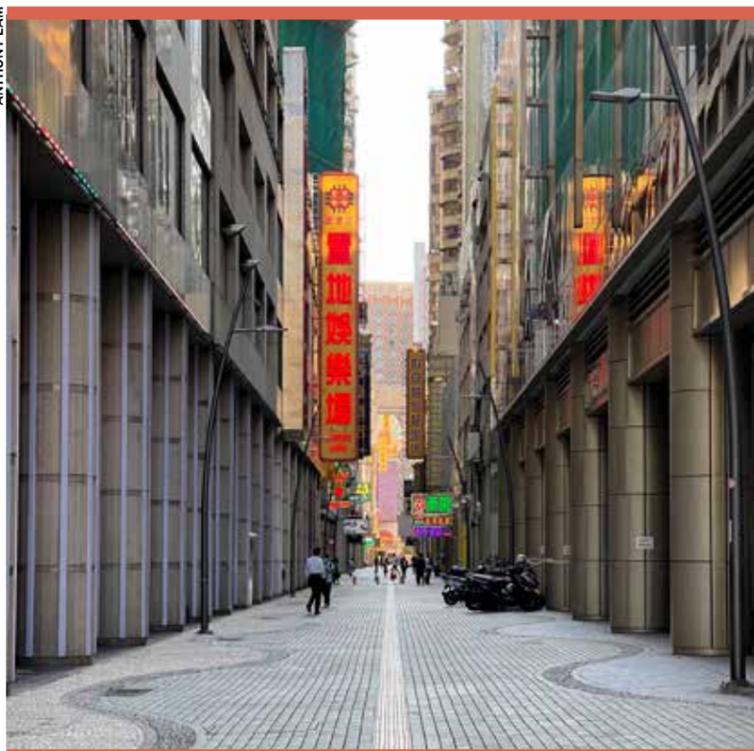
For example, lawmaker Ella Lei questioned how the government would manage the impact of the in-depth adjustment of the casino market.

Satellite casino is a colloquial reference to the non-legal practice of casinos operating on premises not owned by gambling concessionaires. An example is the casino building in Macau Fisherman's Wharf. The ownership of the building is registered with businessman David Chow's operation but is operated by SJM Resorts, S.A.

When the government submitted to the parliament the draft of the amendment to the gaming law over a month ago, the local community was unsettled by the government's proposal that all casinos must be operated in properties owned by gambling concessionaires.

The international market, meanwhile, was also monitoring future options.

Despite a three-year buffer period being proposed, the government's proposal led to heated debates, considering the existence of approximately two dozen such



establishments across the city.

Several satellite casinos have announced that they will close following the government's proposal and its apparently initially inflexible stance, which has caused worries that a serial shutdown may lead to further strife in the already tough job market.

About two weeks ago, it was suddenly announced by the parliamentary committee responsible for studying the amendment to the law that the government had altered its proposal. The new proposal, if made into law, would allow gambling concessionaires to rent casino spaces from non-licensees.

In response to lawmakers' questions, the Finance Secretary doubled down, insisting that owners of closed satellite casinos "should not

consider" reopening the establishments. This completely neglects the fact that the closure of a casino requires a prior application to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) and such a decision may not be reversible.

He also commented on the U-turn for the first time.

"The reason why the government made adjustments to [its proposal] is because it hopes to achieve a win-win situation," Lei told the parliament. "Of course, the government hopes satellite casinos will remain open and hopes to create healthily manageable conditions [for them]."

Commenting on the impact of the city's satellite casinos possibly preparing for a complete shutdown on the job market, Lei

opined that cutting all non-local workers at a single stroke was not an ideal response.

He added that casino property owners are responsible for the employment and related issues concerning their employees. He suggests affected employees, if faced with employment disputes, should approach the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) for assistance.

Moreover, the official emphasized that any business closure is a commercial decision and that the government will not intervene. He added that gambling concessionaires must absorb croupiers who work at their satellite establishments.

Adding to his comments on employment, Lei said if non-local workers become surplus to requirements due to the shrinking scale of the business, they should be considered after the local workforce, meaning that they should be dismissed prior to local workers.

However, lawmaker Becky Song was not convinced. She pointed out that gambling concessionaires may not have the power to replace non-local workers with a local workforce. They may simply eliminate the positions.

On the other hand, Lei did not respond to lawmaker Ron Lam's question on the government's view of Wynn Resorts Macau, S.A.'s partial substitution of salary with company shares.

Lawmaker Lo Choi In asked whether the government would consider reviewing the unemployment subsidy scheme. Lei reiterated that DSAL is doing job-matching every day, implying that having a job is better than living on subsidy.

## GOV'T MONITORING PRICES AS NEW ROUND OF E-VOUCHERS ARE ISSUED

The Consumer Council (CC) and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) have been monitoring the price situation in the market amid the launch of the consumption subsidy tomorrow. When the consumption voucher was first launched in May 2020, the government said it had received nearly 400 reports of supermarket overpricing, allegedly coinciding with the start of the e-voucher subsidy scheme. The CC said in a statement that it has continued to strengthen price surveys, closely monitor prices, and it has arranged to collect further price data to enable consumers to compare prices.

## MGTO LAUNCHES NEW TOUR SERIES FOR STUDENTS

A new series in the "Stay, Dine and See Macao" project, known as Educational Student Tours, will soon operate for the benefit of primary and secondary school students and special education students. Macau ID holders can join one of the Educational Student Tours for free. The new tours will offer students a window into Macau's history and Chinese culture, and will "promote patriotic education alongside popular science and ecological education," the Macao Government Tourism Office said in a statement. New tours are expected to run between June 1 and July 31.

EMPLOYMENT

# Number of hotel employees down 4.7% y-o-y with non-renewal of TNR contracts

LYNZY VALLES

**L**OCAL hotels employed 47,355 full-time staff at the end of the first quarter, down by 4.7% year-on-year, according to recent data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

In view of the improved situation of employees on unpaid leave in hotels

compared to the same month last year, coupled with a decrease in the number of lower-paid employees, the average earnings (excluding bonuses) in March increased by 4.8% year-on-year to MOP19,240.

Sources close to the Times have said that integrated resorts are continually failing to renew contracts

of non-resident workers (TNRs) in departments such as housekeeping, while those which have been renewed were only extended for six months.

Meanwhile, restaurants had 22,885 full-time employees, a decrease of 4.3% year-on-year. Their average earnings in March rose by 1.6% year-on-year to MOP9,750, which, howe-

ver, represents a drop of 6.5% compared to the pre-pandemic level in the same month of 2019.

Manufacturing had 8,024 full-time employees, down by 6.0% year-on-year; and average earnings in March increased by 2.1% to MOP12,080.

Number of full-time employees in Electricity, Gas & Water Supply fell

by 1.5% year-on-year to 1,085; as employees of some establishments received more overtime pay in the same month last year, average earnings in March decreased by 6.4% to MOP30,550.

Meanwhile, Child-care had 1,537 full-time employees, and their average earnings in March dropped by 0.4% to

MOP16,390 while the number of full-time employees in Elderly Care grew by 9.6% year-on-year to 1,249, and their average earnings went up by 1.2% to MOP16,040.

At the end of the first quarter, job vacancies in Hotels (545) and Manufacturing (300) decreased by 81 and 236 respectively year-on-year, while those in Restaurants (1,157) increased by 49. For the job vacancies in Hotels, 45.3% required only junior secondary education or lower, while 85.3% required knowledge of Mandarin and 59.1% required knowledge of English.

ART

# ARTIST INTEGRATES ANCIENT CHINESE ART FORMS INTO MULTIMEDIA LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

LYNZY VALLES

**JENNIFER** Wen Ma, an artist working in multiple media, is showcasing a sculptural landscape installation at MGM Cotai, continuing to follow her roots in Chinese ink drawing while at the same time paying tribute to contemporary art.

The artist's honeycomb-structured paper sculptures, which utilize laser-cutting techniques to mimic ancient Chinese accordion folds, form a handscroll-like painting under the roof of the MGM Cotai's Spectacle.

Titled "A Landscape of Metamorphosis: No End to End," the installation took inspiration from traditional art forms, philosophies, aesthetic theories, and practices, such as Literati landscape painting, classical garden design, and the Book of Rites.

Wen combined these inspirations using cutting edge technologies, which invite audiences to immerse into and be part of the art work.

Speaking to the press the interdisciplinary visual artist based in



both Beijing and New York admitted that working in the Spectacle is a challenging task given that it is a public space rather than an art gallery.

"I thought it was really great challenge to rethink how to use space, and how to use paper, my primary material right now, as an installation," Wen said.

"[The space] is not museum, it is not a gallery, so people come here not to look for art and that's a reality. I want to acknowledge that, I want to meet them where they are," Wen added.

In her installation, "Change" is the core message of the work – in that it offers a different look and feel when viewed from different

perspectives, times and audiences.

The artist depicts the theme with two sets of paper sculptures, themed "Spring and Summer" and "Autumn and Winter", which alters season by season.

The "Spring and Summer" set represents the revival of liveliness with hints of tender greens, pinks

and reds; while the "Autumn and Winter" set coats the atrium with darker hues with sparkles of silver to mimic the calm, snowy hills during the colder days.

The sculptural garden is in a form of three islands, inspired by Macau's topography, and has been created as a site-specific work that integrates seamlessly into the public space of the Spectacle.

The three islands together create a scene reminiscent of a landscape painting that extends wide-open to invite audiences in ambience of a classic Lingnan style garden.

Beside these installations are what Wen calls "visual ponds," embedded with LED panels as bases, reflecting colored beams that change with the natural conditions.

On top of the sculpture garden a single feature activates the space. "Out of this landscape are three butterflies that soar out of the landscape into the sky," Wen explained.

"That's the metamorphosis combined into the whole installation," she said.

AD

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## Beijing appoints Zheng Xincong to lead Liaison Office

**T**HE State Council of China has appointed Zheng Xincong as director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR, replacing Fu Ziyang.

Zheng, 63, was one of the national security technical advisers of the city's Committee for Safeguarding National Security, which was established in the first quarter of this year.

Zheng is a former deputy governor of Fujian province.

With the announcement, Zheng will also replace Fu as the national security affairs adviser of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security.

Fu was also removed from the post as deputy head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council.

In a statement, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng welcomed the new director and thanked that Liaison Office for its "long-term



concern and support [for] the Macau SAR."

"The Chief Executive is convinced that [...] director Zheng Xincong will lead the Liaison Office to maintain close contact with the SAR government and all sectors of society, and continue to support the SAR government in its comprehensive, accurate and unswerving implementation of the 'One country, two systems' policy, and

safeguarding the constitution," the statement read.

Ho also thanked Fu for serving as the director of the Liaison Office for more than three years, and for supporting the SAR to "govern in accordance with the law, firmly safeguard[ing] national sovereignty, security and development interests, [and] vigorously promot[ing] the core values of loving [both] the country and Macau." LV

WYNN CUP - 3X3 GREATER BAY AREA TOUR

# No privilege for defending champs in basketball tournament

ANTHONY LAM

**T**ITLE-DEFENDING teams will enjoy no privileges in the 3x3 basketball tournament to be held from June to October, Lou Kit Long, CEO of Starmac Entertainment Production Ltd., co-organizing agency of the event, said yesterday.

A press conference was held yesterday to announce details of the event. Lou spoke on the sidelines of the conference.

Asked by the Times whether the tournament will offer privileges to title defenders, the co-organizer confirmed that they would also need to start along with other competitors. He added that the champions in last year's event were actually Asian Games title-holders.

It is not uncommon in sporting events that title defenders enjoy certain privileges. For example, winners of the football Champions League in Europe, defending champions automatically qualify for the competition in the following season.

Nonetheless, even without any privileges, Lou believes that the tournament will be attractive to basketball players, "considering the scale of our awards and prizes," Lou said.

He is confident that even players from across the country will be attracted to play in the competition, which is a national event.

Officially known as the Wynn Cup - 3x3 Greater Bay Area Tour, the finals of the basketball tournament will be held in Macau between October 10 and 16.



This is the second edition of the competition held last year under the same name, which was also sponsored by Wynn Macau S.A.

In fact, resort operators were "encouraged" to join with the government to title sponsor sporting events so as to promote the "Tourism+Sports" concept coined by Macao Government Tourism Office.

The concept aims at promoting tourism using various events and attractions. As a matter of fact, it can be understood as providing a multifaceted tourism offering, such as conference tourism in Hong Kong, art tourism in Paris, fashion tourism in New York and natural tourism in Australia.

The main difference between this year's tournament and last year's is that the scale of this year's event has been expanded to include matches in each of the nine major cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA), before the tournament finals are held in Macau.

Beginning in June, the 10-station tournament will see its eight champion teams from each station joining together to compete for the championship and awards in Macau. Therefore, a total of 80 teams will be competing in Macau for the tournament championship.

Elaborating on the regulations, Lou pointed out that station qualifiers will also be held in Macau to determine the station champions,

who will be competing in the finals on behalf of Macau.

The format of the competition is relatively complex, being separated into GBA, Open and Female Categories. The eight winners in the GBA category, which will be determined by matches held in the ten GBA cities, will compete for the championship in Macau.

Each team competing in the GBA category must see at least a GBA resident in order to qualify. Teams in the other two categories do not have any similar restriction.

In contrast, the Open Category will have a quota of 96 teams, and the Female category a quota of 48 teams.

## Participation of foreign drivers in GP still unconfirmed



**T**HE possibility of international entrants appearing in the Macau Grand Prix in November is still unknown, Pun Weng Kun, president of Sports Bureau (ID), hinted yesterday.

Pun was asked by the Times how confident he was about seeing international drivers in Macau on the sidelines of a press conference.

The sports chief was not able to give a definite answer and obfuscated by discussing

entry and quarantine policies.

He highlighted that over the last two and a half years, foreign drivers have wanted to race in Macau, whether it was touring cars or motorbike races. However, he said, work must be done pragmatically.

"The evaluation is dynamic," Pun said, adding that contingencies have been planned to cope with different situations.

"I can't stress enough

that over these couple of years, we have spent more time than ever in planning contingencies," the sports chief complained.

In fact, there has been general criticism that the Macau races are gradually losing their charm, attracting virtually no foreign drivers. With new locations such as Las Vegas entering the racing arena, the attraction of the Macau GP is dubious according to many critics.

On the same occasion, Pun also reported that the bureau has been working on bringing Chinese branded sporting events to Macau. **AL**

## GOV'T CONTINUES TO CUT SPENDING IN 2023

In view of the uncertainty in the city's economy, the SAR government is set to continue cutting public spending next year. In a Chief Executive Office dispatch, the CE has called on government departments to be prudent in their budget expenditure proposals and warned that the budget should not exceed the budget for this year. Ho Iat Seng made the calls for budget cuts in view of the impact of Covid-19. The budget for 2022 will again be in deficit, with the government expecting to spend another 30.3 billion patacas from the financial reserves for general expenses.

## SHERATON GRAND LISTED AS QUARANTINE HOTEL FOR HONG KONG ARRIVALS

In response to the rising demand of returnees from Hong Kong, Sheraton Grand Macao will be enlisted as one of the general optional medical observation hotels for individuals from Hong Kong starting from June 2, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre. The hotel will accept reservation starting from 12 p.m. today. To ensure accuracy of reservation information received, the hotel will not provide phone booking service. The quarantine price is set in accord with the hotel's room rate standard.

## EXPORTS REACH MOP1.2B IN APRIL

Total merchandise export amounted to MOP1.19 billion in April, up by 13.0% year-on-year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Value of re-exports (MOP963 million) grew by 6.6%, of which re-exports of Garments and Diamonds & Diamond Jewelry surged by 98.7% and 57.6% respectively, while those of Machines, Apparatus & Parts declined by 51.3%. The value of domestic exports (MOP231 million) expanded by 50.7%, with that of Garments and Copper & Articles thereof rising by 73.3% and 6.3% respectively. Meanwhile, total merchandise import fell by 3.1% year-on-year to MOP13.18 billion.

AP PHOTO

2022年5月30日

30 May 2022

DIPLOMACY

# CHINA FALLS SHORT ON BIG PACIFIC DEAL BUT FINDS SMALLER WINS



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) appears on stage at the Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' meeting with Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama yesterday, in Suva

AILEEN TORRES-BENNETT  
& NICK PERRY, SUVA

**C**HINA fell short yesterday on a bold plan to have 10 Pacific nations endorse a sweeping new agreement covering everything from security to fisheries as some in the region expressed deep concerns.

But there have been plenty of smaller wins for China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi as he continues an island-hopping tour of the region.

Wang was in Fiji to co-host a key meeting with the foreign ministers from the 10 island nations.

At an unusual news conference afterward, Wang and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama spoke for about 30 minutes and then abruptly left the stage as reporters tried to shout out questions. That left many details of what transpired at the meeting undisclosed.

"As always, we put consensus first among our countries throughout any discussion on new regional agreements," Bainimarama said.

While there have been growing international concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the region, many Fijians see a benefit in foreign investment wherever it comes from, so long as it uplifts the people.

Georgina Matilda said that working for Chinese infrastructure company China Railway meant that she could put food on the table for her children.

Another Fijian, Miliane Rokolita, said China's increased

presence had benefited people. "They bring us bigger houses. They bring money in Fiji. They're good people," Rokolita said.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press indicate Wang had hoped to get the 10 nations to endorse a pre-written agreement as part of a joint communiqué after the meeting.

But Wang was unable to get the consensus he'd sought.

David Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, told other Pacific leaders he wouldn't endorse the plan, warning them in a letter that it would needlessly heighten geopolitical tensions and threaten regional stability.

Panuelo called it "the single most game-changing proposed agreement in the Pacific in any of our lifetimes" and said it "threatens to bring a new Cold War era at best, and a World War at worst."

During the news conference yesterday, Wang listed some areas where the countries had been able to find agreement and said he'd keep working on others.

"After the meeting, China will release its own position paper on our own positions, propositions, and cooperation proposals with Pacific Island countries," Wang said through an interpreter. "And going forward, we will continue to have ongoing and in-depth discussions and consultations to shape more consensus."

While China may have fallen short on its plans for a grand multilateral agreement, it has

been signing smaller bilateral agreements with the Pacific nations every day during Wang's tour.

For instance, on Friday Wang visited Kiribati, where a key fishing ground the size of California is at stake. Kiribati's government said afterwards the two nations had signed 10 agreements ranging from cooperating on economic goals to building a specific bridge.

Kiribati's government did not immediately respond to a request by the AP to provide details of the agreements.

In his news conference, Wang said "some have been questioning why China has been so active in supporting Pacific Island countries."

He said China had long championed other developing nations both in the Pacific and around the world, something it had started doing in the 1960s when it helped African nations build railways.

"My advice for those people is: Don't be too anxious and don't be too nervous," Wang said.

After the news conference, China's ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo took a few questions from reporters, saying there had been "some concerns on specific issues" from some of the 10 nations about the proposed agreement.

"We never impose anything on other countries, let alone to our developing friends and small island countries," Qian said.

He said China would try to release the position paper men-

tioned by Wang within about a week. He said parts of the agreement were simply an offer from China to provide assistance to the nations.

A draft of the proposed multilateral agreement obtained by the AP shows that China wants to train Pacific police officers, team up on "traditional and non-traditional security" and expand law enforcement cooperation.

China also wants to jointly develop a marine plan for fisheries — which would include the Pacific's lucrative tuna catch — increase cooperation on running the region's internet networks, and set up cultural Confucius Institutes and classrooms. China also mentions the possibility of setting up a free trade area with the Pacific nations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a speech Thursday that China posed an even more serious long-term threat than Russia.

"China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order — and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it," he said. "Beijing's vision would move us away from the universal values that have sustained so much of the world's progress over the past 75 years."

China hit back, saying the U.S. was spreading disinformation. The aim of Blinken's speech was to "contain and suppress China's development and uphold U.S. hegemony," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. "We strongly de-

plore and reject this."

China says that in the Pacific, cooperation between Beijing and the island nations has been expanding in a development that's welcomed by those countries.

In Fiji, the economy was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The vital tourism industry shut down overnight and GDP shrank by more than 15%. As the world reopens, Fiji is trying to bounce back, and many are happy to see China write the checks.

China's involvement in the region doesn't come completely out of the blue. There has been a long history of Chinese immigration in Fiji, with many Chinese Fijians running corner stores and other businesses.

"There's a good side and a bad side," said Nora Nabukete, a student at the University of the South Pacific. "We get more money into the economy, being pumped in and stuff, but then there's also a side where they bring in a lot of new things that are new to the Fijian culture."

Nabukete worries about the seedier side that has been associated with Chinese investment in Fiji — a supposed influx of gambling, gangs and drugs.

She said that aligning with China could mean that Fiji creates tension with the United States and other Western nations, and for that reason, she hoped that Fiji wouldn't endorse Wang's agreement.

"There's so much more to lose in the future than what we're experiencing now if Fiji does sign," she said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



## Hong Kong's next leader John Lee meets Chinese premier

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong's next leader John Lee yesterday received an official letter of appointment from Beijing, a month before he is due to take over the leadership reins of the semi-autonomous city.

Lee received his letter of appointment during a ceremony with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang yesterday, during which Li congratulated him on his appointment as Hong Kong's next chief executive.

"The central government will, as always, fully and accurately implement the 'one country, two systems' framework, as well as the principles of Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong, and a high degree of autonomy," Li said, referring to the framework under which Hong Kong is governed semi-autonomously and afforded certain freedoms not found in mainland China.

Li also expressed full support for Lee as the city's next leader, and urged him to develop the economy as well as improve the livelihoods of people.

Lee responded that he was honored to become the next leader and will "do all that he can" to live up to the expectations of Beijing and the Hong Kong people.

"During this important time, on the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China, I deeply understand the great responsibility I have," said Lee, adding that he will lead the city "faithfully and steadfastly."

Lee, who flew to Beijing Saturday for a four-day visit, won an uncontested election earlier this month, gaining over 99% of all votes cast by an election committee made up of largely pro-Beijing members.

Prior to winning the election, Lee was the city's No. 2 official. He spent most of his civil service career in the police force and later in the security bureau.

Lee is known for his support of the city's tough national security law, which outlaws subversion, secession, terrorism and foreign collusion to intervene in the city's affairs. Over 150 people have been arrested under the law since it came into effect in June 2020.

His visit to Beijing to receive his letter of appointment is a routine one. Current chief executive Carrie Lam made a similar trip to Beijing in 2017 when she was elected.

Lee is expected to be sworn in as Hong Kong's new chief executive on July 1, the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China. **MDT/AP**

### AUSTRALIA

## New opposition leader says China 'biggest issue'

**F**ORMER Defense Minister Peter Dutton was chosen yesterday to lead Australia's conservative opposition following the party's election defeat nine days ago.

Defeated Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he would step down as Liberal Party leader after his loss to new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who leads the left-leaning Labor Party. Dutton was elected unopposed to become the new leader of the Liberal Party, and former environment minister Sussan Ley was elected his deputy.

Before entering Parliament, Dutton, 51, worked for a decade as a police officer and is known for his tough stances on immigration and law and order.

He said China's leadership was the "biggest issue our country will face in our lifetimes."

"That's the assessment of the American, British, Japanese, Indians, and it's our assessment as well. I will support policies which help to defend our country," he said. "I want us to have a productive relationship with China. I want it to be restored, but that is an issue for China."

He vowed to be true to the party's values and represent Australia's "forgotten people" in the suburbs and regional areas.

"Make no mistake, and Australians understand this, the next three years under Labor is going to be tough for the Australian people," Dutton said.



Peter Dutton, leader of the Liberal Party

ton said. "Already they're breaking promises and foreshadowing policy shifts."

He said that before the next election "we will have presented a plan to the Australian people which will clean up Labor's inevitable mess and lay out our own vision."

Ley, meanwhile, pledged to earn back the trust and faith of female voters who deserted the party in the election.

"My message to the women of Australia is 'We hear you,'" she said.

Morrison congratulated Dutton and Ley.

"They are incredibly experienced, well versed, deeply, deeply commi-

tted Australians to both the Liberal cause and, of course, the cause of the nation and I think they'll do an outstanding job and I look forward to giving them all of my full support," Morrison said.

Coalition partner the Nationals also chose a new leader, David Littleproud, a former banker who represents the Queensland district of Maranoa. He was elected in a party meeting on Monday after a three-way contest with former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Darren Chester.

New South Wales Sen. Perin Davey was elected as the Nationals deputy. **MDT/AP**

### JAPAN

## TOKYO COMPLAINS OVER SEOUL MARINE SURVEY IN DISPUTED WATERS

**J**APAN lodged a complaint yesterday over a South Korean ship that was conducting a marine survey in waters near Japanese-claimed islands controlled by Seoul.

Government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said it was "totally unacceptable" that a South Korean research ship was spotted trailing what appeared to be a cable near the islands, which Japan calls Takeshima and South Korea calls Dokdo.

Matsuno said Tokyo did not receive any prior request from Seoul for such research.

"We strongly demand this stop immediately,"

AP PHOTO



Japanese Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno

he said.

He said the two sides held talks about the incident but both reiterated their previous claims to the territory.

In Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said it cannot accept the Japanese complaint. It called the survey a legitimate act conducted in line with

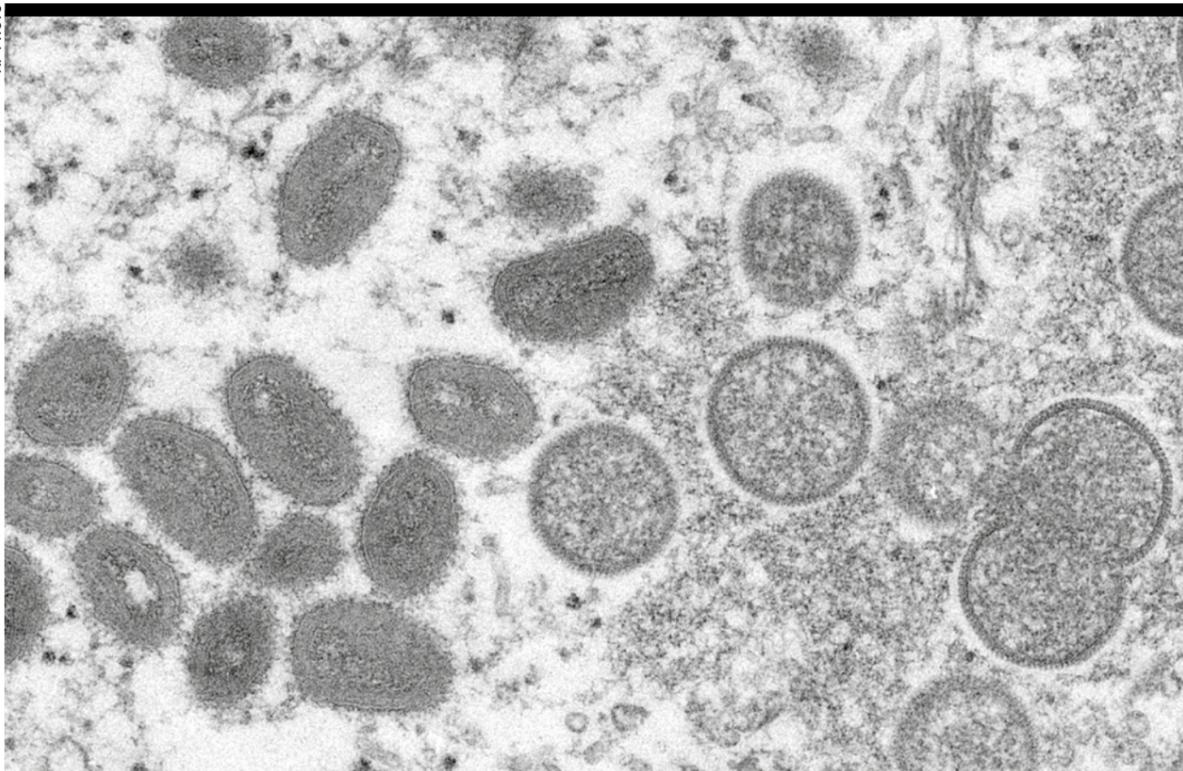
domestic and international law.

In 2017, Japan lodged a complaint against South Korea after the official website for the Pyeongchang Olympic Games referred to the islands as Dokdo.

Japan and South Korea have rich cultural ties, but relations have been marred by bitter tensions over historical issues such as Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula last century and its actions during World War II.

Japan also has a dispute over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea that it calls Senkaku, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



This 2003 electron microscope image shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions (left) and spherical immature virions (right) obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak

# WHO says Monkeypox won't turn into pandemic, but many unknowns

MARIA CHENG,  
LONDON

**T**HE World Health Organization's top monkeypox expert said she doesn't expect the hundreds of cases reported to date to turn into another pandemic, but acknowledged there are still many unknowns about the disease, including how exactly it's spreading and whether the suspension of mass smallpox immunization decades ago may somehow be speeding its transmission.

In a public session yesterday, WHO's Dr. Rosamund Lewis said it was critical to emphasize that the vast majority of cases being seen in dozens of countries globally are in gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men, so that scientists can further study the issue and for populations at risk to take precautions.

"It's very important to describe this because it appears to be an increase in a mode of transmission that may have been under-recognized in the past," said Lewis, WHO's technical lead on

monkeypox.

Still, she warned that anyone is at potential risk of the disease, regardless of their sexual orientation. Other experts have pointed out that it may be accidental that the disease was first picked up in gay and bisexual men, saying it could quickly spill over into other groups if it is not curbed. To date, WHO said 23 countries that haven't previously had monkeypox have reported more than 250 cases.

Lewis said it's unknown whether monkeypox is being transmitted by sex or just the close contact between people engaging in sexual activity and described the threat to the general population as "low."

"It is not yet known whether this virus is exploiting a new mode of transmission, but what is clear is that it continues to exploit its well-known mode of transmission, which is close, physical contact," Lewis said. Monkeypox is known to spread when there is close physical contact with an infected person or their clothing or bed-

sheets.

She also warned that among the current cases, there is a higher proportion of people with fewer lesions that are more concentrated in the genital region and sometimes nearly impossible to see.

"You may have these lesions for two to four weeks (and) they may not be visible to others, but you may still be infectious," she said.

Last week, a top adviser to WHO said the outbreak in Europe, U.S., Israel, Australia and beyond was likely linked to sex at two recent raves in Spain and Belgium. That marks a significant departure from the disease's typical pattern of spread in central and western Africa, where people are mainly infected by animals like wild rodents and primates, and epidemics haven't spilled across borders.

Most monkeypox patients experience only fever, body aches, chills and fatigue. People with more serious illness may develop a rash and lesions on the face and hands that can spread to other parts of the body. No deaths

have been reported in the current outbreak.

WHO's Lewis also said that while previous cases of monkeypox in central and western Africa have been relatively contained, it was not clear if people could spread monkeypox without symptoms or if the disease might be airborne, like measles or COVID-19.

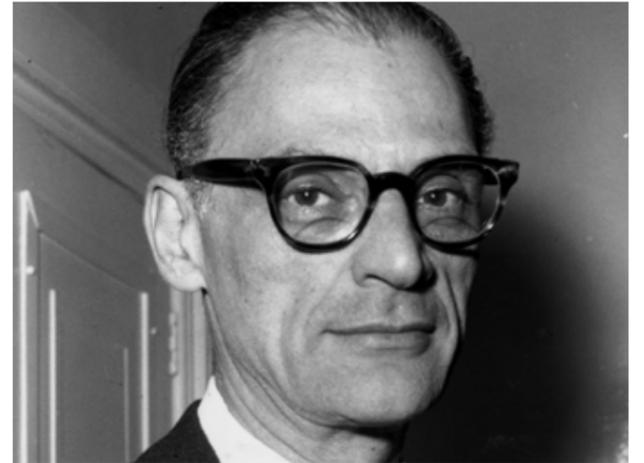
Monkeypox is related to smallpox, but has milder symptoms. After smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, countries suspended their mass immunization programs, a move that some experts believe may be helping monkeypox spread, since there is now little widespread immunity to related diseases; smallpox vaccines are also protective against monkeypox.

Lewis said it would be "unfortunate" if monkeypox were able to "exploit the immunity gap" left by smallpox 40 years ago, saying that there was still a window of opportunity to close down the outbreak so that monkeypox would not become entrenched in new regions. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1957 ARTHUR MILLER GUILTY OF CONTEMPT



US playwright Arthur Miller has been convicted of contempt of Congress.

The conviction relates to an investigation last year by the House of Representatives' Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) into a Communist conspiracy to misuse American passports.

During the investigation 41-year-old Mr Miller, who is married to Hollywood movie star Marilyn Monroe, refused to reveal the names of alleged Communist writers with whom he had attended five or six meetings in New York in 1947.

He was said to be co-operative in all other aspects of the hearing but told the committee his conscience would not permit him to give the names of others and bring possible trouble to them.

The guilty verdict was announced in a 15-page "opinion" today by Federal Judge McLaughlin who presided over a six-day trial, which ended last week.

During the trial Mr Miller's counsel, Joseph Rauh, had claimed that the questions his client had refused to answer had no reasonable connection with a passports inquiry.

He argued that the committee had simply wanted to expose the playwright and that "exposure for exposure's sake" was illegal.

But Judge McLaughlin found that HUAC did have a valid legislative purpose in looking into the passport regulations and that Mr Miller had indeed experienced his own difficulties in obtaining a passport from the State Department.

The trial was told by the government that Mr Miller had joined the Communist party in 1943 but this was denied by the defendant who said that to the best of his belief he had never been a party member.

He did, however say that "there were two short periods - one in 1940 and one in 1947 - when I was sufficiently close to Communist Party activities so that someone might honestly have thought that I had become a member".

Mr Miller was not in court when the guilty verdict was announced. The maximum punishment for contempt of Congress is one year in jail, a fine of £357 or both.

No date was fixed for sentencing but it is understood the case will automatically go to appeal.

After the trial Mr Miller, who will remain on bail pending the next legal step, said through a spokesman: "I have no comment to make, nor has my wife."

The case is now bound to call into question the whole system of Congressional inquiries and their impingement on individual rights.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was set up in 1938 to investigate fascists as well as communists within federal government.

In 1947 it turned its attention to the arts. A group of writers, directors and actors known as the Hollywood Ten were subsequently convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about their political beliefs.

They were blacklisted by Hollywood and over the course of the next 10 years some 320 people were barred from work in the film studios over their alleged membership of the Communist party.

A few weeks after the Miller case, John Watkins won an appeal in the Supreme Court quashing a similar conviction.

On 7 August 1958, after a two-year legal battle to clear his name, Washington's Court of Appeals quashed Miller's conviction for contempt of Congress.

As more convictions of contempt were quashed by the courts of appeal, the committee's influence declined and it was abolished in 1975.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

### YOUR STARS

#### ARIES

**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

Don't fall into the trap. Hard work will bring rewards. You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling.

#### TAURUS

**Apr. 20-May. 20**

Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Reevaluate your situation. Don't overspend on items for your home.

#### GEMINI

**May. 21-Jun. 21**

One sided attractions are likely. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Invite friends or relatives into your home.

#### CANCER

**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**

You need to get out if you want to meet potential partners. You may have the opportunity to get involved in some interesting conversations. Don't overspend or give too freely to others.

#### LEO

**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**

You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do.

#### VIRGO

**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**

Overstatement will be your downfall. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. You have a real need to be vocal. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire.

#### LIBRA

**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**

Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. You won't have much time for your mate today. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy.

#### SCORPIO

**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

Take some time out. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Your intellectual charm will entice mates who have common interests.

#### SAGITTARIUS

**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

You'll be dropping friends for no apparent reason. Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. Use your innovative mind to surprise youngsters.

#### CAPRICORN

**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

It may not be the best day to confront employers or to present your ideas. Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time.

#### AQUARIUS

**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

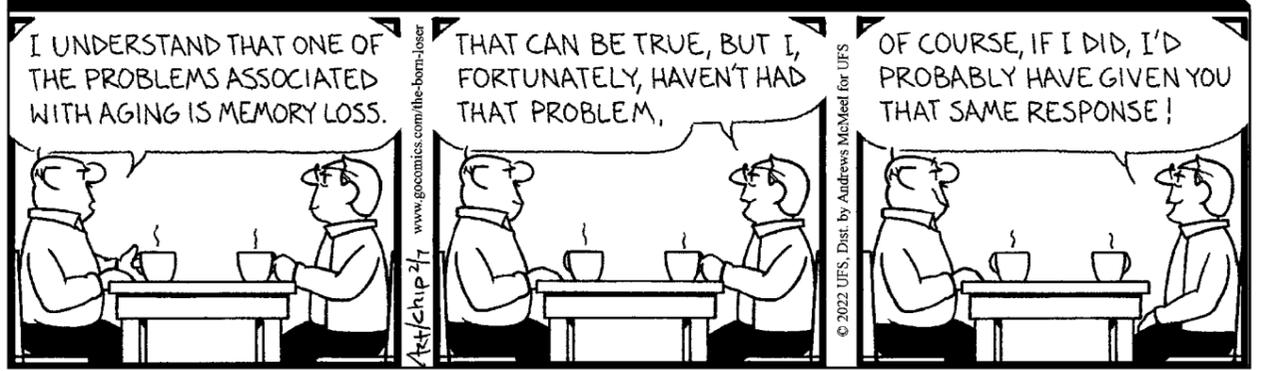
You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag.

#### PISCES

**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Keep an eye on your weight.

### The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



### SUDOKU

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

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

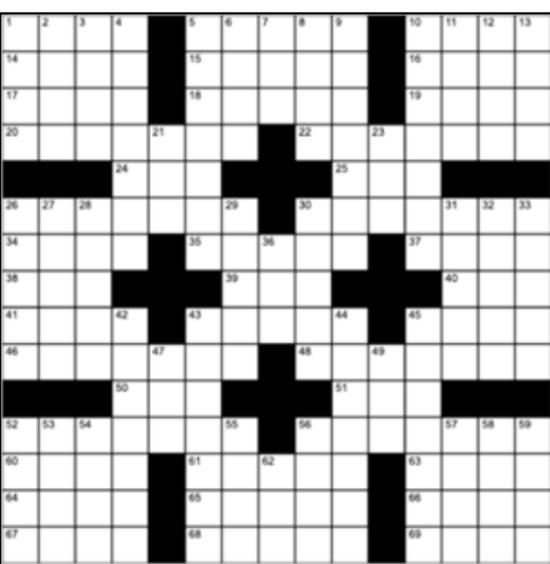
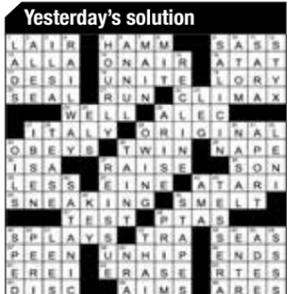
### WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	15	32	fine
Changchun	10	21	cloudy
Chengdu	19	27	cloudy
Chongqing	21	33	fine
Fuzhou	24	29	rain
Guangzhou	25	32	thunderstorms
Guiyang	15	26	cloudy
Haikou	26	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	21	29	rain
Harbin	8	22	thunderstorms
Hefei	17	30	overcast
Nanjing	24	31	showers
Shanghai	20	29	cloudy
Taipei	24	28	rain
Wuhan	22	31	fine
Hong Kong	25	28	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	17	rain
Frankfurt	9	22	overcast
Paris	10	22	overcast
London	7	16	rain
New York	17	36	overcast

### CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Discard; 5- Future fern; 10- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper; 14- Me neither; 15- Son of Abraham; 16- Glow; 17- "Topaz" author; 18- Uses a sieve; 19- Harangue; 20- Outlaws; 22- Austrian composer; 24- Top pitcher; 25- Escort's offering; 26- Mediterranean resort area; 30- Maintains; 34- Beef cut; 35- Ostentatious; 37- Old Italian money; 38- Naval rank, briefly; 39- Chapter in history; 40- Part of RSVP; 41- Web locale; 43- New Zealand aboriginal; 45- Ringing instrument; 46- Healed over, like a scrape; 48- On in years; 50- Scull; 51- Actress Thompson; 52- Kiln; 56- Giggle; 60- Italian wine city; 61- Radii neighbors; 63- It's linked to mighty; 64- Encounter; 65- Brings up; 66- Peace Nobelists Wiesel; 67- Being, to Brutus; 68- Jerks; 69- Cubs slugger Sammy;

DOWN 1- Rebuff; 2- Israeli round dance; 3- "\_\_\_ Brockovich"; 4- Scorn; 5- Nuns; 6- Pitchfork-shaped letters; 7- Idiot; 8- Phooey!; 9- Rapturous delight; 10- A chewy candy; 11- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 12- Sea eagles; 13- Floor coverings; 21- Rocks; 23- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 26- Like non-oyster months; 27- Greek column type; 28- Prospect; 29- In the future; 30- Conscious; 31- Stair part; 32- Run of bird-song; 33- Sudden rushing forth; 36- Granada gold; 42- Inelastic rubber; 43- Liquid metallic element; 44- Ailment; 45- Sandy shores; 47- Noise made by a sheep; 49- Agnus \_\_\_; 52- Renown; 53- Employs; 54- Hwys.; 55- Zeno of \_\_\_; 56- Cutty \_\_\_; 57- Thousand; prefix; 58- Sponsorship; 59- Earthbound bird; 62- Photographer Goldin;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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TAIPA CUTE & COZY STUDIO	HKD 3,980,000
TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

EXPATS

# 'REAL HOUSEWIVES' FRANCHISE TAKES ITS DRAMA TO FLASHY DUBAI

ISABEL DEBRE, DUBAI

**T**HE camera pans across a vast expanse of desert before careening toward an artificial island lined with luxury homes in the Persian Gulf. Eerie chords ring out, as though warning viewers: This is not your "Real Housewives of Orange County."

For the first time in its 16-year history, the American franchise that has become an institution of reality television will take its glamor and soap opera abroad — specifically, to the skyscraper-studded sheikhdom of Dubai. While the franchise has sold countless global spinoffs from Lagos to Vancouver, none have been produced by the Bravo network before.

"The Real Housewives of Dubai" debuts on Wednesday, inducting six new women into network's crown jewel of catfights and marital meltdowns that is beloved, binged and hate-watched around the world.

Dubai might be some 13,000 kilometers away from the California gated community where the



AP PHOTO

reality-show empire premiered in 2006, which a cameo by camels in the series' teaser makes clear.

But as Dubai's "housewives" gossip over lavish lunches, bicker while sipping from stem glasses and arrive at casual gatherings engulfed in designer logos, it turns out they're not so far from Orange County after all.

That's a message the women want to convey. Cast members say showing off their extravagant, party-hard lives on screen de-

bunks stereotypes about the United Arab Emirates, a Gulf Arab federation where Islam is the official religion.

"This is an opportunity for me to show the Western world, or the world in general, how a modern Arab woman can be," Sara Al Madani, a serial entrepreneur and single mom, told The Associated Press from her quirky villa adorned with portraits of her favorite non-fungible tokens and a room full of trophies commemorating

her career.

Instead of the traditional black abaya, Al Madani sported a wide-brimmed suede hat. With a nose ring, tongue piercing and arm tattoo that reads "Rebel," she was the first to admit: "I'm not your typical Arab or Emirati."

Al Madani is the only Emirati cast member — a ratio that comes as no surprise in a country where expatriates outnumber locals nearly nine to one.

The other "housewives" found Dubai's glitz from far afield. Caroline Stanbury, a reality star who stirred up drama in Bravo's "Ladies of London" series moved to Dubai with her kids after getting divorced and remarrying a former soccer player.

Caroline Brooks, an Afro-Latina businesswoman from Massachusetts, rose to success in Dubai's cutthroat real estate industry. "It's very expensive to cheat on me," she tells viewers in the trailer. "Ask my exes."

Nina Ali, an ultra-glam Lebanese mother of three, founded Fruit Cake, a fruitcake business. Lesa Hall, a Jamaican designer of

luxury maternity clothes and former beauty queen, recently posted on Instagram an ice-cream cone — with a 24-karat-gold-leaf on top.

Chanel Ayan, a breezy Kenyan-born model who overcame prejudices in the UAE to walk for top-tier European fashion houses, is now developing a makeup line. She described herself in an interview with the AP as "outgoing, funny, crazy and insanely hot."

Like American stars of the franchise, the women in Dubai are not housewives in the traditional sense but rather socialite business owners trying to define their brands. And Dubai, a city ceaselessly trying to market itself on the world stage, provides a fitting backdrop.

With zero income taxes, gleaming skyscrapers and countless malls, the emirate was engineered to be a global destination for the ultra-wealthy. Fortune-seekers, rich and poor, flock to Dubai from around the world, including migrant laborers from South Asia, Africa and the Philippines who work long hours for low pay. The franchise, however, takes as its focus just a tiny subset of wealthy womanhood.

In the UAE, women are legally obligated to obey their husbands under the nation's Islamic law. **MDT/AP**

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## CORPORATE BITS

### Melco collaborates with Black Pearl Diamond restaurants to offer gastronomic experience

Melco Style is presenting the "2022 The Black Pearl Diamond Restaurants Gastronomic Series" to open on June 24 to 25 in Macau, organized by Melco Resorts & Entertainment in partnership with the 2022 Black Pearl diamond restaurants.

Tickets for the crossover collaboration of Macau between the acclaimed Jade Dragon at City of Dreams and Jin Sha at Four Seasons Hotel Hangzhou at West Lake will go on sale from June 1.

The eight-course menu has been crafted by the Black Pearl three diamond restaurants and will bring together the "best flavors of authentic Cantonese and Zhejiang cuisines in a once-in-a-lifetime gourmet extravaganza at Jade Dragon," the gaming operator said in a statement.

The evenings will feature a harmonious combination of some of the most well-loved signature dishes by Chinese Executive Chef Wang Yong of Jin Sha and also some off-menu delicacies that are created exclusively for the occasions by Executive Chef Kelvin Au Yeung of



Jade Dragon.

This inaugural four-hands dinner is part of the gastronomic activities of "Tasty June", one of the monthly

themes of the Macau Government Tourism Office's "Experience Macao, Unlimited" promotional campaign this year.

FOOTBALL

# Marcelo leaving Madrid after fifth Champions League title



TALES AZZONI, MADRID

**L**IFTING yet another Champions League trophy, Marcelo put an end to his era at Real Madrid.

The veteran Brazilian left back said after the team's 1-0 win over Liverpool in the Champions League final on Saturday that he will not continue playing for the club.

"It was my last match with Real Madrid," the 34-year-old Marcelo said. "I'm not sad. I couldn't be happier as I leave the club. I'm very thankful. It's the end of a very beautiful cycle."

It was an emotional farewell for Marcelo as Madrid celebrated the title with its fans throughout Monday (Macau time). He received huge cheers from supporters and was thrown into the air by his teammates a few times.

Marcelo cried as he addressed the crowd at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium but said the-

re was no reason to be sad.

"I am very happy," he said. "I'm saying goodbye after winning another Champions League title."

Marcelo is leaving 16 years after he joined from Brazilian club Fluminense in 2006 to take over from Brazil great Roberto Carlos.

Marcelo said he plans to play another couple of years before retiring, but gave no hints about where. He said coaching is not in his plans for the future.

"I don't think coaching is for me. I think I'm bad at it, I'm not good with tactics. I have no idea how that works," Marcelo said with a smile.

He said later that he wants to somehow be involved with Real Madrid. His son, Enzo, plays for the club's youth teams.

Marcelo had won his 24th trophy with the club last month, when Madrid won the Spanish league for a record-ex-

tending 35th time. He won his 23rd title in the Spanish Super Cup in January, tying great Francisco "Paco" Gento, whose heyday was the 1950s and 60s.

Karim Benzema won his 22nd title with Madrid on Saturday, tying former defender Sergio Ramos. Benzema and Marcelo are among the several Madrid players who tied former club player Cristiano Ronaldo with five Champions League trophies. Gento has six European titles.

In his collection of honors, Marcelo has six Spanish league trophies, four Club World Cups, three UEFA Super Cups, two Copa del Reys and five Spanish Super Cups. He also has won a Confederations Cup and two Olympic medals with Brazil.

Marcelo lost his spot as a starter this season and hadn't played often under coach Carlo Ancelotti. He did not get to play in Saturday's final.

Other players expected to leave Madrid this season include Gareth Bale, Marco Asensio and Franciscoisco. Luka Modric is set to have his contract renewed.

Marcelo's former Brazil teammate, Dani Alves, has the most career titles with 41, most of them with Barcelona. **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**INDIA WRONG TO  
 JOIN US BID TO  
 CONTAIN CHINA**

The joint statement issued by the top leaders of Australia, Japan, India and the United States after they concluded their Quad summit in Tokyo on May 24 did not mention China by name. Yet that does not mean the informal security dialogue established to counter China in the Indian and Pacific oceans is softening its containment stance.

Quite the opposite. The strong opposition they expressed in the statement to “any coercive, provocative, or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area” is widely believed to be reaffirmation of their shared intent to interfere in the maritime disputes in the East and South China seas between China and some other regional countries as well as its push for national reunification with Taiwan.

The Quad is now nothing but a tool that serves the US’ own strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific. As US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan put it, the Quad has now become the pivot of US policy in the region, “a foundation upon which to build substantial American policy”.

With the Joe Biden administration seeking to make the alliance the foundation for an “Asian NATO”, it casts doubts over the wisdom of the Narendra Modi government in India. Unlike Japan, India does not have a formal alliance with the US, and it does not belong to the Anglo-Saxon club which has bound Australia to the US for decades.

That India is regarded as a member of the US-led club through necessity rather than choice can be seen in the attitude Washington displays toward it. US President Joe Biden has publicly referred to India as “somewhat shaky” in its response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India was also criticized by the G7 nations for banning its wheat exports recently at a time when starvation risks are growing in parts of the world as a fallout from the conflict.

Yes, India does have decades-old territorial disputes with China, and New Delhi may be inclined to adopt an attitude of “my enemy’s enemy is a friend”. But being a member of the anti-China club being formed by Washington will not in any way facilitate the settlement of the existing disputes with China and maintain peace and tranquility along the border. Instead, it will only deepen the mistrust and even enmity between the two countries, with China more likely to see India as a pawn in Washington’s geopolitical game.

To be a major responsible country that can play an important role in world affairs, India must stick to its independent foreign policy that best serves its own interests, rather than let itself be led by the nose.

A man seemingly disguised as an old woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at the glass protecting the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum and shouted at people to think of planet Earth.

The Paris prosecutor’s office said that the 36-year-old man was detained following Sunday’s incident and sent to a police psychiatric unit. An investigation has been opened into the damage of cultural artifacts.

Videos posted on social media showed a young man in a wig and lipstick who had arrived in a wheelchair. The man, whose identity was unknown, was also seen throwing roses in the museum

gallery to slack-jawed guests.

The cake attack left a conspicuous white creamy smear on the glass but the famous work by Leonardo da Vinci wasn’t damaged.

Security guards were filmed escorting the wig-wearing man away as he called out to the surprised visitors in the gallery: “Think of the Earth! There are people who are destroying the Earth! Think about it. Artists tell you: think of the Earth. That’s why I did this.”

Guards were then filmed cleaning the cake from the glass. A Louvre statement confirmed the attack on the artwork involving a “patisserie.”



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, shakes hand with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez during their meeting in Madrid yesterday

**NATO LOOKS TO ‘HISTORIC’  
 MADRID SUMMIT, WITH  
 SWEDEN, FINLAND**

**JOSEPH WILSON,  
 BARCELONA**

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday that next month’s summit in Madrid will be a “historic” opportunity to strengthen the alliance in the face of Russian aggression against Ukraine on its eastern edge.

Speaking at a gala in Madrid to mark Spain’s 40th year as a NATO member, Stoltenberg said he looked forward to welcoming Sweden and Finland at the summit hosted by Spain’s capital on June 29-30.

“At the Madrid summit we will chart the way ahead for the next decade,” Stoltenberg said. “We will also be joined by Finland and Sweden, who have just made historic applications to join our alliance. The Madrid summit is an important opportunity to reaffirm our NATO values.”

But the leader of the 30-member alliance didn’t address Turkey’s reluctance to opening the doors to Sweden and Finland. Turkey, which commands the second-largest mili-

tary in NATO behind the United States, has cited the alleged support by the Nordic countries for Kurdish militants that Turkey considers terrorists as reason to reject their application. Unanimous support is needed to add new members.

Spanish King Felipe VI and Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez presided the event at Madrid’s Royal Theater that was attended by Stoltenberg and four former NATO secretary-generals and three former Spanish prime ministers.

Next month’s summit will redefine NATO’s strategic priorities for the next decade, which Stoltenberg said include Chinese ambitions, the rise of anti-democratic states, terrorism and climate change. But its immediate focus will be on how to continue supporting Ukraine and deter any further aggression by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Spain became the 16th member of NATO on May 30, 1982. Its entrance marked a milestone of Spain’s return in the international political order following the end of Gen. Francisco Franco’s dicta-

torship with his death in 1975. The country’s accession to NATO came just a year after its fledgling democracy survived a failed military coup. Spain would later join the European Union in 1986.

A 1997 NATO summit hosted by Spain featured the invitation to former Soviet-bloc members Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic to join the alliance that they had once stood against.

“Next month Madrid will host another historic summit,” Stoltenberg said. “This time however the context is very different, not a fresh burst of freedom but a cold blast of conflict.”

Spain is aiding Ukraine with humanitarian aid and military equipment. Its military is deployed on NATO missions in Turkey, Latvia, and Iraq, in addition to naval operations.

“Today our security is threatened by Putin’s regime and therefore our support for Ukraine is absolute,” prime minister Sánchez said. “Putin has clearly not achieved his goals because we allies have showed that our support is unbreakable.” **MDT/AP**



Germany’s governing coalition and the main opposition party have reached a deal to move ahead with a big increase in defense spending that Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced three months ago. Scholz said three days after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 that Germany would commit 100 billion euros to a special fund for its military and raise its defense spending above 2% of gross domestic product, a measure on which it had long lagged.



Greek authorities say they are planning a major extension of a wall along the country’s border with Turkey and are seeking European Union financial support for the additional construction. Notis Mitarachi, the migration affairs minister, said the steel wall would be extended from 40 to 120 kilometers, with construction work due to start later this year.



Colombian voters opted for a dramatic change in presidential politics, choosing a leftist former rebel and an outsider populist businessman to advance to a runoff election in June amid hopes a new face can pull them out of the economic damage from the pandemic. Leftist Sen. Gustavo Petro (pictured) led the field of six candidates Sunday with just over 40% of the votes, while real estate tycoon Rodolfo Hernández, who has no close ties to any political parties, finished second with more than 28%, election officials reported.

Mexico Hurricane Agatha, the season’s first, headed for a stretch of tourist beaches and fishing towns on Mexico’s southern Pacific coast yesterday amid warnings of dangerous storm surge and flooding from heavy rains. After forming on Sunday, Agatha quickly gained power, and it was predicted to make landfall as a strong Category 2 hurricane Monday afternoon or evening, the U.S. National