



CTM Smart Life for Elderly

Mainland China - Macau Offer
\$38 / 3GB per month
☎ 8891 5377

Note: Customers of the above promotions are bound by the respective service agreement.

CTM

MACAU GRAND PRIX REGULAR DAVY MORGAN, 52, DIED IN A MOTORCYCLE RACING ACCIDENT ON THE ISLE OF MAN

P4

CHINA, CAMBODIA BREAKING GROUND ON JOINT PORT PROJECT TODAY

P6

DOUBTS HANG OVER BORIS JOHNSON THOUGH BID TO OUST HIM FAILS

P8



AP PHOTO



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (pictured) has promoted his finance minister to his deputy as part of a succession plan, but the timing of the handover is unclear. His office said yesterday that Lawrence Wong, 49, would become deputy prime minister on June 13 as part of a Cabinet reshuffle. Wong, who will retain his finance portfolio, will be acting prime minister in Lee's absence, it said.

AP PHOTO



Japanese and NATO officials agreed yesterday to step up military cooperation and joint exercises as they shared concerns that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is causing a deterioration of the security environment in Europe and Asia. Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said after meeting with NATO Military Committee chief Rob Bauer that Japan hopes to strengthen its ties with European countries and welcomes NATO's expanded involvement in the Indo-Pacific region.

AP PHOTO



Sri Lanka's prime minister said yesterday that the United Nations has arranged a worldwide public appeal to help the island nation's food, agriculture and health sectors face serious shortages amid its worst economic crises in recent memory, but the projected funds barely scratch the surface of the \$6 billion the country needs to stay afloat over the next six months. In his speech to Parliament, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the U.N. plans to provide \$48 million in assistance over a four-month period.

More on backpage

SALARY SWAP RULED OUT

The labor bureau declared swapping salary with company stocks has no legal grounds P3

GREENLIGHT TO GUIA'S CONTROVERSIAL EDIFICE

P2

XINHUA



IC: BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ON GUIA HILL WILL NOT IMPACT LIGHTHOUSE

ANTHONY LAM

ALLOWING the suspended building on Guia Hill's mid-levels to retain its current height and continue construction will not have a "foundational impact" on the values of the city's group of cultural heritage buildings, an official said yesterday.

The comment was made by Choi Kin Long, department head for cultural heritage at the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), as part of the Cultural Heritage Committee Plenary.

Choi emphasized that the decision has been made in consensus with the World Heritage Centre at the UNESCO and the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China. He revealed that, during the process to resolve the situation, the IC has been in touch with global and national agencies.

The building obtained its first approval to be constructed in 2006. According to its initial plan, it would be a mixed building for both commercial and residential use.

The construction of the building was suspended due to the promulgation of an Executive Order in 2008. The Order classifies the area within a 2.8-kilometer radius of the Guia Lighthouse into

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



11 zones, with respective height clearances.

Following this, with the building's planned height exceeding that which was allowed in the zone, its construction was immediately stopped.

Since then, the public has extended discussions on the future of the building. Opinions varied from

giving it approval, to restarting construction, to a total demolition.

In between the two extremes, there was an option to reconstruct the building. The IC has tended against this option.

In its first approved plan, the building was set to reach up to 126 meters above sea level.

Despite being the natural hi-

ghest point on the Macau Peninsula, the summit of the Guia Hill, meanwhile, is only about 90 meters above sea level.

After years of debate, the builder has agreed to lower the height to 81 meters, although many still consider this too tall. With the height deduction, the building will be reduced from 36 floors to

19 floors.

The builder has also agreed to eliminate unnecessary structures on the rooftop so as to further shorten the building. Meanwhile, it was also proposed that the curvy design of the façade should also be replaced by "down-to-earth" straight lines to further simplify its visual impact.

It was also recommended that the peripheral structures – originally concrete – be replaced by transparent glass panels and silver aluminum panels so as to achieve a "refined design," according to the IC official.

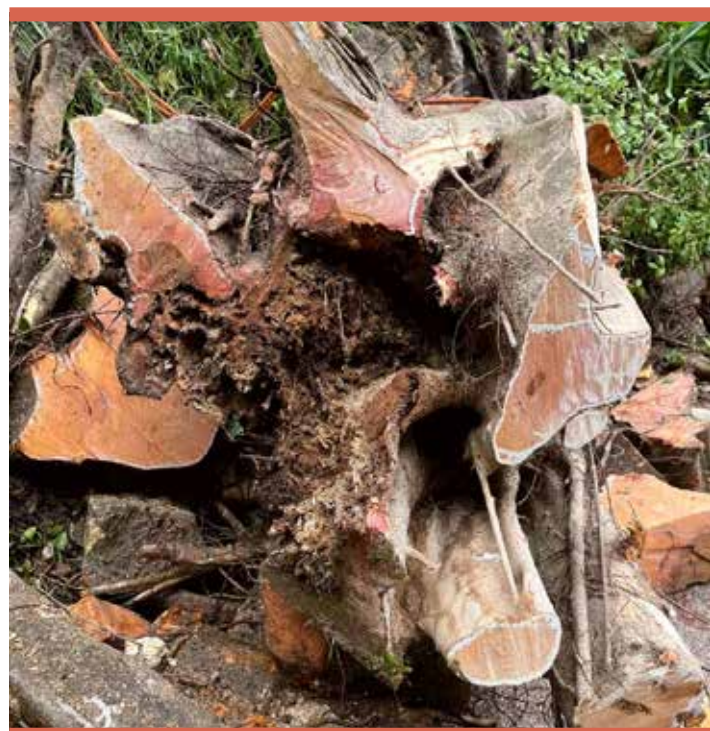
Choi said the new building should be much smaller than the original structure.

He further commented that the altered design will achieve "transparency and lightness," fitting the requirements set by UNESCO. When the actual application and drafts are received in the future, the IC and the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) will "rigorously follow the requirements set forth by the World Heritage Committee in the review process."

With all these alterations, the building should not pose much of an impact on the Historic Centre of Macao, should it be allowed to resume construction, the IC official said, citing a resolution from the UNESCO.

At the plenary, it was not revealed whether the use of the building will be altered following its decrease in gross floor area.

IAM cuts down old trees affected by 'tree cancer'



RENATO MARQUES

A Chinese banyan tree was among several trees that were recently cut down by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

In a statement, the Bureau noted that the old trees, namely the Chinese banyan tree located at the Mong Há Hill Municipal Park, were cut down due to being infected with brown root rot disease, also known as 'tree cancer.'

IAM said that the tree has been removed since "its roots and trunk have shown signs of severe decay."

The Bureau explai-

ned that "tree removal measures must be taken when necessary if trees suffer from severe illness or endanger public safety as there is no fungicide capable of preventing and treating brown root rot disease," adding that in addition to the removal of the tree, the services also adopt methods such as removing all infected roots, disinfecting the soil, and setting up physical separation barriers in order to stop or delay the spread of the disease in the affected area.

In Macau, brown root rot disease is more commonly found in Guia Hill

and Mong Há Hill Municipal Parks.

According to IAM, sporadic cases have also been found in other parks, as well as in roadside trees.

The disease is considered common in Macau and is caused by the pathogenic fungus *Phellinus noxius*. The fungus corrodes the wood, causing it to become light, dry, spongy, white, and decayed.

The same fungus can also cause damage to the tissue responsible for the transportation of water and nutrients, causing the plant to lose its ability to absorb water and nu-

trients.

Since the base of the tree trunk and the roots decay first, trees lose the ability to support themselves and are at risk of collapse.

The disease can be spread through close contact with infected roots and tissue, posing a risk to other trees and plants growing in the surroundings of an infected tree.

The disease is slow to progress and there may be a few years between the onset of the infection and the death of the tree. As the leaves tend to remain green in color, the IAM says that it is difficult for those unfamiliar with the disease to spot an infected tree in the early stages.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+23,000

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_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER_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

Labor bureau rules out legality of swapping salary with shares

ANTHONY LAM

EMPLOYERS have no legal grounds to replace salary with company stocks, whether in part or in whole, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) told lawmaker Ron Lam.

Following Lam's query on May 26, the DSAL replied in an email, saying that, pursuant to local laws, there are no legal grounds for supporting employers to provide company shares in substitution for monetary remuneration.

"Pursuant to [Labour Relations Law], the relevant enterprise is not allowed to pay employee remuneration in the form of company shares," the DSAL wrote in the reply.

It was recently revealed that Wynn Resorts Macau, S.A., a local casino licensee, had begun requesting – if



Lawmaker Ron Lam

not mandating – that some of their employees agree to receiving partial payment in company shares.

This first began top management, according to local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News.

Later, in a reply to the Times' enquiry, a spokesperson for the casino operator confirmed the manage-

ment had been presented with the scheme, although a source later informed the Times that the coverage of management affected by the scheme reached as far as the assistant manager level.

Lam made an enquiry to the labor agency on this matter, citing help seekers' requests.

In reply, the DSAL pointed out that pursuant to Item 4, Article 2 and Clause 4, Article 63 of the Labour Relations Law (No 7/2008), remuneration for work paid to employees must be provided in the form of cash in Macau Patacas.

The agency further explained that any attempts to replace monetary remuneration with non-monetary equivalents did not meet legal requirements and, pursuant to Clause 3, Article 14 of the same law, would be deemed invalid.

The DSAL pledged that it would continue to monitor compliance in labor and employment matters. It encouraged employees to file complaints with the bureau should they find their labor rights have been jeopardized, especially when their payments are cut without their consent.

GAMING

BIG-SIX STOCKS GAIN ON HOPES THAT TRAVEL VISA POLICY WILL BE LESS RESTRICTIVE

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment Limited (+8.8%), Wynn Resorts (+1.9%), Las Vegas Sands (+1.2%), and MGM Resorts International (+0.9%) traded higher on Monday in New York stock exchanges after Covid restrictions were eased slightly in Shanghai and Beijing.

The upward trend also reflects Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's remarks that he believed issuance terms for visas to travel to Macau would be eased later this summer once the pandemic situation in the mainland was more under control.

He also said that it was his understanding that most satellite casinos would stay in business, which is crucial for SJM

Holdings and Galaxy Entertainment Group, according to analysts.

Financial services firm, Jefferies Group, said its latest Macau gross gaming revenue check "is marginally positive, with GGR higher than the past two-month average."

Analyst David Katz warned that the recovery should remain slow and gradual unless and until the proposed medical quarantine period is reduced further from the suggested seven to ten days.

That change, when implemented, "would meaningfully drive the visitor recovery" as the compulsory quarantine period would be more balanced with the average length of stay, Katz pointed out. **MDT**

AD

PRESENTED BY

銀河娛樂集團 Galaxy Entertainment Group

BRITCHAN'S PUNK BALL

CINOS TO CULTURE

SOLD OUT

PAIRED PINK DIAMOND CROWNS: DOMINILLA GROUP, DUN

DIAMOND CROWN: LORD STOW'S BAKERY

RUBY CROWN: 120 BNU, ICBC 工銀澳門, Jardines

LIGHT & WONDER, MGM 美高梅

SAPPHIRE CROWN: DSL

PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER: Times

RENATO MARQUES



MACAU GP REGULAR DAVY MORGAN DIES IN RACING ACCIDENT ON THE ISLE OF MAN

RENATO MARQUES

A regular competitor at the local Grand Prix, Northern Ireland's Davy Morgan, died yesterday in a motorcycle racing accident during this year's Isle of Man Tourist Trophy (TT) Races.

The 52-year-old racer passed away in a crash in his 80th race start on TT during the first race of the Supersport category for this year's event.

According to a statement issued by the organizers, Morgan suffered a fatal accident on the third and final lap in the mountain section of the course.

In the same statement, organizers said it was "with a heavy heart that we confirm Morgan's death. The Isle of Man TT Races passes on their deepest sympathy to Davy's partner Trudy, his family, loved ones, and friends."

This was the third fatal accident in the TT Races this year, after the death last Saturday of French sidecar passenger Olivier

Lavorel, and British Supersport rider Mark Purslow, on Wednesday last week during a qualifying session.

Morgan was a regular fixture in road-racing paddocks across all of Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Macau Grand Prix for almost 30 years. He debuted on TT in 2002.

The races around the island in the Irish Sea have been run since 1907 and are among the most dangerous in motorsport. There have been 263 fatalities to date in the TT races, Manx Grand Prix, and Classic TT, held on the island's public roads.

This year also marked the return of the famous races to the island after a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the longest break for the event since the Second World War.

Morgan raced in Macau for the last time in 2019 in the last motorcycle race of the event, which has since been halted due to the ban enforced on foreign entries.

CRIME

Woman loses over HKD400,000 in pandemic-related phone scam

RENATO MARQUES

A local woman in her 30s has claimed to have lost over HKD400,000 in a phone scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported at the regular joint press conference of the police forces this week.

According to the victim, she received a call from a person claiming to be from the Guangzhou health authorities, stating that there was a problem with a phone number registered under the victim's name, and that the number had been used to spread rumors and false information about the Covid-19 pandemic.

She told this caller that the phone number did not belong to her, whereupon the call was transferred to a second person pretending to be a Guangzhou police officer.

This second person provided the woman with a phone number and asked her to verify that it was a police phone num-



ber as he claimed.

The woman said she searched online for the number and confirmed that it belonged to a Guangzhou police station. A few minutes later the same man called her using the same number, causing her to trust that he was indeed a policeman.

The man then informed her that she was sus-

pected of being involved in money laundering and that to comply with the investigation she needed to transfer all the money in all her personal bank accounts to an account in Hong Kong.

Complying with this request, the victim transferred a total of HKD407,300 in three transactions on June 1 and 2. These transactions

were inspected by the supposed police officer using the online communication tool "Skype," which he claimed was a necessary measure to guarantee that she was not hiding an account or withholding a sum in her accounts.

After this procedure, the alleged police officer asked her to also transfer the money in a fixed-term savings account which he had spotted during the video call.

The woman said that she felt that this was a suspicious request and decided to call the hotline of the mainland police. The mainland authorities then told her that she must have been targeted by a phone scam. She decided to file a report with the PJ concerning the incident.

No explanation was given on how the alleged group of scammers could have used a phone number that apparently belonged to a genuine police station in Guangzhou.

CRIME

Crossdresser charged over thefts of clothing and shoes

RENATO MARQUES

A 39-year-old local resident stands accused of at least three thefts involving clothing and shoes which owners claimed to be worth around 32,000 patacas, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has revealed.

The case began with two complaints to the PSP from two different people living in the Avenida Marginal do Patane who claimed to have had several personal items stolen from the front of their housing units on May 29 and 30.

The PSP began their investigation by reviewing the surveillance footage from the building. They



identified the man and on June 1 finally detained him at his home at the Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida.

Taken in for questioning, the man (who told police that he worked in a mobile phone repair and maintenance company)

admitted to the thefts, and also added that he had been responsible for at least one other theft at an apartment building located at the Avenida do Conselheiro Borja.

The police also found at his home several of the stolen goods including women's clothes, shoes, and underwear.

The man explained the thefts by saying that he was fond of cross-dressing, adding that he would keep the items that fitted him and dispose of those that would not.

It is not clear for how long the man had been perpetrating such thefts.

The police also noted that the thefts were only possible because the victims had been storing such private possessions in the common areas of the residential buildings.

The case was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation, which has charged the man with three counts of theft.

Children to be trained at MUST to play soccer against GBA opponents

ABOUT 40 children between the ages of nine and 12 years will be trained at an intensive program this summer before playing in a friendly match against a team from within the Greater Bay Area.

The event, titled 'HSBC Life presents: MUST CPK Soccer Training Center – Summer Kid Intensive Soccer Experience Day 2022,' was held last week on the front pitch of the International School of Macau (TIS). The event attracted more than 500 aspiring children and their parents.

Operated across four sessions throughout the whole day, the event saw the children showing off their soccer skills in front of a group of veteran local soccer stars and coaches, such as former Team Macau goalkeeper, Domingos Chan Tat Sun and incumbent coach of the MUST CPK Soccer Training Center, Emmanuel Libano Noruega.

The children also received comments and suggestions about their skills on-site.

Explaining the event, Domingos Kong, co-founder of MUST CPK Soccer Training Center, said that nurturing soccer talent for the city is a key objective.

"The main goal of the event is, first and foremost, to train soccer players in and for Macau," Kong said. "In the upcoming two months, we'll train [the 40 selected young players] intensively to compete in a friendly match – maybe two – against a GBA team. The plan is quite tight, actually."

According to Kong, the match will be played within the campus of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), either on the main field or on the field of the TIS.

Discussing future goals of the training academy, Kong said that with ample resources from various walks of life, soccer training will be able to thrive in Macau. "Who knows! Maybe in 10 years, we'll see these children playing in national teams in World Cup Finals," Kong added. **AL**



IFTM students get hands-on supporting SME development

RENATO MARQUES

A group of students from the Tourism Business Management program of the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) has engaged in assisting a local jewelry brand to conduct market research and develop a business model, according to IFTM.

The project was part of the group's entrepreneurship course led by the course lecturer Dr. Fernando Lourenço, intending to provide hands-on training to students in activities that support local businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The project was undertaken in collaboration with a local jewelry brand – Cloé Jewelry & Art – and comprised several business development aspects, including market research and the development of a marketing mix.

The brand was founded by Macau jewelry designer and entrepreneur, Chloe Chan, and has already developed a local market for its products and services since its establishment in 2015.

The brand has recently started a concept store in the heart of Macau's business district, where, in addition to selling jewelry products and design services, it also runs workshops and a café.

The students' project is grounded in the future development of the Cloé Concept Store, which includes two main goals: to drive more local traffic to the new concept store, and to expand its existing market by entering overseas markets.

IFTM students conducted industry analysis to explore both international and Chinese jewelry brands as well as top independent (smaller) brands, studying their marketing mix and business models.

An investigation of the general and Chinese luxury consumer markets was also conducted via an academic literature review of journal articles covering "luxury consumers" from the general market and the Chinese market.



The project resulted in a final proposal of the setting of the marketing mix as well as articulating their idea using the Lean Business Model Canvas – a business modeling tool – to meet the

goals of Cloé Jewelry & Art.

This brand is also part of a consignment operation model housed at the recently inaugurated physical and online retail platform at IFTM called "iRetail

Lab," which aims to support local entrepreneurs and creative artists while allowing students to experiment in a real context and apply their theories to practice.

AD

仁德

CENTRO MÉDICO 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

DIPLOMACY

CHINA, CAMBODIA BREAKING GROUND ON JOINT PORT PROJECT

CAMBODIA denied again yesterday that it will allow any Chinese military presence at a port where it and China are beginning an expansion this week that has prompted concern in the United States and elsewhere that it will be used by Beijing as a naval outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

Chief government spokesman Phay Siphon described the expansion of the Ream Naval Base as "cooperation between China and Cambodia" and said the Chinese ambassador to Cambodia will preside over the groundbreaking today along with Cambodia's defense minister and other senior military officials.

He denied, however, a report in the Washington Post newspaper citing an anonymous Chinese official that the facility on the northern side of the Cambodian base would be used in part by the Chinese military.

Siphon said it would be a violation of Cambodia's Constitution to host a foreign military power, and that there had been no change in the terms of his country's agreement with China on constructing the facility.

"I think that's a strong accusation," he said in a telephone interview.

He would not comment on the extent of the Chinese involvement and said the project in-

AP FILE PHOTO



Cambodian navy troop members walk at Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville, southwestern of Phnom Penh

involved constructing a facility for repairing ships.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian yesterday said the work would be a "renovation" of the base which "aims to strengthen the Cambodian navy's capability to maintain maritime territorial integrity and combat maritime crime."

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand, adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. The U.S. has refused to recognize China's sweeping claim and routinely con-

ducts military maneuvers there to reinforce that they are international waters.

A Chinese base in Cambodia could become a chokepoint in the Gulf of Thailand close to the strategically important Malacca Strait.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said yesterday [Macau time] that allegations China intends to establish a military presence at the Ream base are "consistent with credible reporting we've seen from the PRC that the PRC is engaged in a significant ongoing construction project at

Ream Naval Base."

China recently signed a security deal with the Solomon Islands that the U.S. and others worry could lead to a military presence there, and Price noted that Beijing has also reached out to a number of other South Pacific islands.

The U.S. itself has more foreign military bases than any other country, including multiple facilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

At a regular Foreign Ministry briefing, Zhao accused the U.S. of "bullying" Cambodia and ignoring its denials that Ream would

be used for Chinese military purposes, while noting Washington's own network of bases around the world.

"China and Cambodia are comprehensive strategic partners, and our cooperation in various fields is open, transparent, reasonable and legitimate, which benefits the two countries," he said.

China so far operates just one acknowledged foreign military base, in the impoverished but strategically important Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti. Many believe that China's People's Liberation Army is busy establishing an overseas military network, even if they don't use the term "base."

Cambodia's authoritarian leader, Hun Sen, has long cultivated relations with China, and reportedly signed a secret agreement in 2019 allowing the Chinese to establish a base at Ream.

Though Hun Sen has strongly denied that Cambodia would allow China to set up a military outpost at Ream, China has already been dredging the harbor to allow larger ships to dock, and is building new infrastructure to replace a U.S.-built naval tactical headquarters.

Hun Sen suggested last month that the water would still be too shallow for any warships to dock, and reiterated that it would be a violation of Cambodia's Constitution to host a Chinese military facility.

"Why would we need foreign forces, for what?" he said. "What Cambodia really needs at the moment is foreign investment, not foreign forces." **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

Universal Beijing Resort to resume operations

WITH Beijing's Covid-19 infections falling, the Universal Beijing Resort said yesterday that it will resume operations on June 15 after a month of closure.

The resort, which opened in September 2021, includes the Universal Studios Beijing theme park, Universal CityWalk Beijing, and two hotels.

On the premise of strictly complying with Beijing's epidemic prevention and control policies and requirements, the CityWalk and the two hotels are expected to reopen on June 14, one day prior to the theme park, the resort said.

They will cap the number of visitors at no more than 75% of maximum capacity.



After it reopens, all tourists should present negative nucleic acid test reports taken within the past 72 hours and

have their temperatures checked before entering the resort.

The Universal Beijing Re-

sort temporarily closed its theme park and the CityWalk on May 1 for epidemic prevention and control amid a Covid-19 outbreak that began in the Chinese capital on April 22.

As the latest resurgence of Covid-19 infections subsides, Beijing is loosening epidemic response restrictions and steadily returning to normal.

Beijing reported five new locally transmitted cases during the 15 hours leading up to 3 p.m. yesterday, according to local authorities.

The cases were detected across two districts in Beijing, with three in Changping, and two in Fengtai, Pang Xinghuo, deputy head of the Beijing municipal disease prevention and control center, told a press briefing, adding that all the new cases were reported among those quarantined for observation.

The city currently has one high-risk area for COVID-19 and four medium-risk areas. **MDT/XINHUA**

TAIWAN

TAIPEI CONCLUDES LONG-AWAITED BOOK FAIR

THIS year's Taipei International Book Exhibition concluded yesterday after six days of exhibitions and various activities held against the backdrop of Covid-19 prevention and control.

More than 360 publishing houses from 31 countries and regions participated in the long-awaited event, which had been suspended for two years due to the pandemic.

This year's book fair, the 30th edition of its kind, incorporated 10 themed sub-exhibitions and 250 activities like reading salons and lectures, according to the organizer. It was anticipated to help boost confidence in Taiwan's publishing industry.

Statistics show that the output value of Taiwan's publishing industry has dwindled from TWD36.7 billion (about USD1.2 billion) in 2010 to less than TWD18 billion in recent years.

About 30% of exhibitors opted out as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic in Taiwan. So far, Taiwan has reported more than 2.5 million local infections, according to the island's disease monitoring agency. **XINHUA**

US, S. Korea fly 20 fighter jets amid N. Korea tensions

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea and the United States flew fighter jets in formation over South Korea's western sea yesterday in a show of force amid signs that a North Korean nuclear test explosion could be imminent.

The flight came as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman traveled to Seoul for discussions with South Korea and Japanese allies over the gathering North Korean threat and warned of a "swift and forceful" response if the North proceeds with a nuclear test, which would be its first in nearly five years.

If staged, the test would possibly mark another leap forward in North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's goals to build an arsenal that could viably threaten regional U.S. allies and the American homeland. That would escalate a pressure campaign aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

While the Biden administration has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea conducts a nuclear test, the prospects for robust punitive measures are unclear con-



South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong, right, shakes hands with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman during their meeting in Seoul, yesterday

sidering a division between permanent United Nations Security Council members.

"Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There would be a swift and forceful response to such a test," Sherman said, following a meeting with South Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong. "We continue to

urge Pyongyang to cease its destabilizing and provocative activities and choose the path of diplomacy," she said.

Sherman and Cho are planning a trilateral meeting with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo today over the North Korean nuclear issue.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the air demonstration

involved 16 South Korean planes — including F-35A stealth fighters — and four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and was aimed at demonstrating their ability to swiftly respond to North Korean provocations.

The flight came a day after the allies fired eight surface-to-surface missiles into South Korea's eastern waters to match a weekend missile display by North Korea,

which fired the same number of weapons from multiple locations Sunday in what was likely its biggest single-day testing event.

North Korea has conducted 18 rounds of missile launches in 2022 alone — including its first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017 — exploiting a favorable environment to push forward weapons development, with the Security Council effectively paralyzed over Russia's war on Ukraine.

North Korea may soon up the ante as U.S. and South Korean officials say the country is all but ready to conduct another detonation at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri. Its last such test and sixth overall was in September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb designed for its ICBMs.

Experts say with its next nuclear test, North Korea could claim an ability to build small bombs that could be clustered on a multiwarhead ICBM or fit on short-range missiles that could reach South Korea and Japan.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said yesterday [Macau time] there are indications that one of the passages at the Punggye-ri testing ground has been reopened, possibly in preparations for a nuclear test.

Hours before Sherman's meeting in Seoul, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington that the United States believes North Korea could seek its seventh test "in the coming days." MDT/AP

NEW ZEALAND-AUSTRALIA

PM Ardern to visit counterpart Albanese in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has held face-to-face meetings with the leaders of the United States, India, Japan and Indonesia during his hectic two weeks in office, but he will receive a world leader for the first time when New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern visits Sydney tomorrow.

Ardern described the bilateral relationship between the near-neighbor countries, which were once the same British colony, as "like family."

"It's fitting that as New Zealand's prime minister, I will be the first foreign head of government to meet with Prime Minister Albanese in Australia since he took office," Ardern said in a statement yesterday.

Ardern leads the New



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Zealand Labour Party, which is more closely aligned with Albanese's left-leaning Australian Labor Party than it was with Australia's conservative coalition that had

ruled for almost a decade.

Among the items for discussion when Ardern visits Albanese's hometown Thursday and Friday are Australia's more ambitious

greenhouse gas emission targets under his administration and support for Pacific Island nations.

"Through our single economic market, our peo-

ple-to-people ties and our shared interests in the region and around the world, Australia and New Zealand stand together," Albanese said in a statement.

Australia and New Zealand have both warned against the possibility of a new security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands leading to a Chinese military base being established in the South Pacific. China and the Solomons have denied there will be any military base.

International relationships have rarely been given such priority by a fledgling Australian administration that is also coming to terms with domestic issues including the pandemic, soaring inflation and rising interest rates.

The evolving Chinese influence in the region was

the main reason Albanese and his Foreign Minister Penny Wong flew to Tokyo on May 23, only hours after they were sworn into office and two days after an election. They attended a security summit with President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Wong went from Japan to the South Pacific for bilateral visits that coincided with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi's tour aimed at increasing Beijing's influence in the region.

Yesterday, Wong and Albanese were ending a visit to Indonesia, another neighboring country that Australia's leaders usually visit early in their administration to emphasize the importance of that bilateral relationship. MDT/AP

UK

Doubts hang over Johnson though Tory's bid to oust him fails

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

B RITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson scrambled to patch up his tattered authority yesterday after surviving a no-confidence vote that laid bare deep divisions in his Conservative Party and raised serious doubts about how long he can stay in office.

Under party rules, Johnson is now free from another challenge for a year. But previous prime ministers who have faced no-confidence votes have been terminally damaged — and a growing number of Conservative lawmakers worry that the famously people-pleasing Johnson is now tarnished by the “partygate” ethics scandal and has become a liability with voters.

Johnson nevertheless vowed to “get on with the job” and focus on “what matters to the British people” — defined by him as the economy, health care and crime — after Conservative lawmakers voted by 211 to 148 to support him as leader.

“We are able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about” and “take the country forward,” Johnson told Cabinet colleagues.

But the scale of the rebellion raised serious questions about his ability to govern at a time of increasing economic and social strain. Former Conservative leader William Hague called on Johnson to step down, saying “the damage done to his premiership is severe.”

“Words have been said that cannot be retracted, reports published that cannot be erased, and votes have been cast that show a greater level of rejection than any Tory leader has ever endured and survived,” Hague wrote in a Times of London article whose words were splashed across the British media.

“This is not over,” echoed Philip Dunne, a Conservative lawmaker who voted against Johnson in Monday’s no-confidence ballot.

The vote was triggered because at least 54 Tory legislators, 15% of the party’s parliamentary caucus, called for a challenge to Johnson.

Johnson needed the ba-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (left) addresses his Cabinet during his weekly Cabinet meeting in Downing Street yesterday

king of 180 of the 359 Conservative lawmakers to stay in power. He got more than that — but although he described the win as “convincing,” the rebellion was larger than some of his supporters had predicted.

The margin was narrower than the one his predecessor, Theresa May, got in a 2018 no-confidence vote. She was forced to resign six months later.

“It will come as a big blow. And I think they will worry that this story isn’t over yet,” said Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. “The reality is that these contests have a habit of exposing quite how weak the authority of a prime minister is.”

The rebellion was also a sign of deep Conservative divisions, less than three years after Johnson led the party to its biggest election victory in decades. Most British newspapers were in little doubt that it was bad news for a leader who has always before shown an uncommon ability to shrug off scandals.

The Conservative-supporting Daily Telegraph announced “Hollow victory tears Tories apart,” while The Times called Johnson “a wounded victor” and the left-leaning Daily Mirror said bluntly: “Party’s over, Boris.”

But some staunch suppor-

ters tried to move past the vote yesterday. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said the party should “draw a line in the sand after this vote.”

Boris still faces a parliamentary ethics probe over ‘partygate’

“It was clearly and decisively won,” he said.

The vote followed months of brewing discontent over the prime minister’s ethics and judgment that centered on revelations of lawbreaking parties in the prime minister’s office when Britain was under lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a report last month on the “partygate” scandal, civil service investigator Sue Gray described alcohol-fueled bashes held by Downing Street staff members in 2020 and 2021, when pandemic restrictions prevented U.K. residents from socializing or even visiting dying relatives. Gray said Johnson and senior officials must bear responsibility for “failures of leadership and judgment” that created a culture of rule-breaking in government.

Johnson also was fined 50 pounds (\$63) by police for attending one party, making him the first prime minister sanctioned for breaking the

law while in office.

The prime minister said he was “humbled” and took “full responsibility” — but went on to defend his attendance at parties as necessary for staff morale and call some of the “partygate” criticism unfair.

Johnson still faces a parliamentary ethics probe over “partygate,” and his government is also under intense pressure to ease the pain of skyrocketing energy and food bills, while managing the fallout from Britain’s exit from the European Union.

Polls give the left-of-center opposition Labour Party a lead nationally, and Johnson will face more pressure if the Conservatives lose special elections later this month for two parliamentary districts, called when incumbent Tory lawmakers were forced out by sex scandals.

Bale said Johnson would likely fight back with tax cuts and other policies designed to appeal to his party’s right-leaning base.

“The problem with that is that it’s proposing, if you like, policy solutions to a personality problem,” he said. “It looks from opinion polls that the public have turned against Boris Johnson in particular, and that’s in part what’s dragging the Conservative Party down.” MDT/AP

this day in history

1978 WOMAN TAKES WORLD SAILING RECORD



Naomi James has broken the solo round-the-world sailing record by two days.

Her 53 ft yacht Express Crusader crossed the finish line in Dartmouth at 0911 BST after almost nine months at sea.

The 29-year-old also became the first woman to sail solo around the globe via Cape Horn — the classic “Clipper Route”.

A huge crowd of well-wishers and a Royal Marines band welcomed the New Zealand born Devonshire sailor home after her 27,000 mile (43,452 km) journey.

Mrs James looked fit and relaxed as she stepped onto British soil for the first time in 272 days to be greeted by her husband, Rob.

But she has had to endure weeks without a radio, the failure of her rigging during gales in the Southern Ocean and her boat capsizing.

The record-breaking yachtswoman admitted she had thought about giving up her attempt when she lost her mast.

“In my mind was the thought: ‘How can you go round the Horn with a ship that’s not seaworthy?’ — so I thought about turning back,” she said.

Mrs James said she was already planning to take part in a single-handed transatlantic race but was looking forward to a bath and a sleep first.

“For the past 10 days since the Azores it’s been murderous,” she said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Naomi James was made a Dame in 1979 in recognition of her achievements.

She gave up sailing in 1982 after suffering badly from sea sickness during the two thousand mile Round Britain Race.

Her husband fell overboard and drowned the following year while sailing off Salcombe, Devon.

She remarried in 1990 and moved to the United States.

In February 2001, after 94 days at sea, Britain’s Ellen MacArthur became the fastest woman to sail the world.

Four years later, in 2005, she became the fastest person to sail solo non-stop around the world — in 71 days and 14 hours.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend. You will be emotional about money matters.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your pilgrimage may end up being fruitless. You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. The locks, stove, gas, or electric wires may not be secure.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. They may cost you dearly. Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. You'll stay out of trouble if you pick projects that will benefit the whole family.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Take a long look at your present direction and consider your professional options. You can discuss your findings behind closed doors with your boss. Get busy trying to make more money.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Avoid disputes with family; their complaints can't change anything anyway. Your partner may push buttons that infuriate you. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Don't forget that you've only heard one side of the story. If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. You will have a problem holding on to your cash today.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Overexertion and negligence will be your worst enemies. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. Don't be too quick to react. Don't overreact if your partner has a poor attitude.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits. This day was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Opportunities to get involved in self-improvement projects will be rewarding. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You can get support from groups that you belong to if you're willing to step out on a limb and voice your opinions. Visitors may be likely to drop by. You can travel for business or pleasure.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

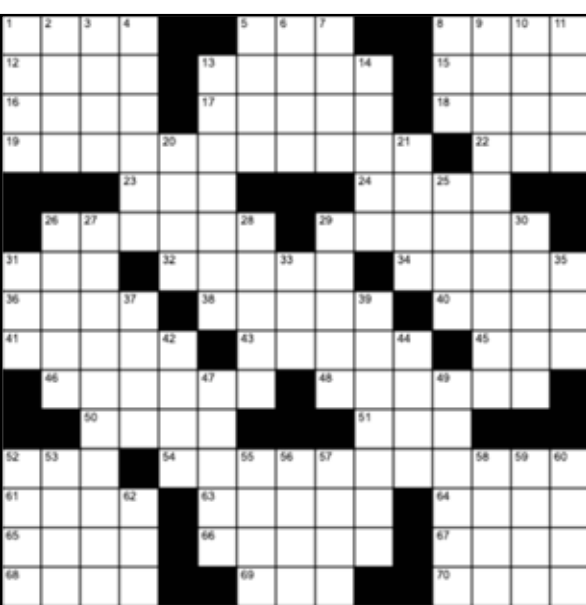
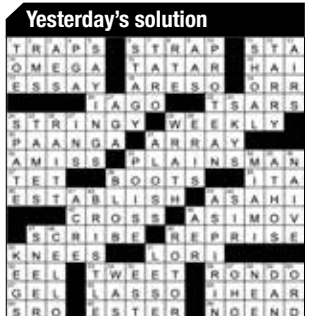
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	27	cloudy
Changchun	11	19	rain
Chengdu	20	32	overcast
Chongqing	21	32	cloudy
Fuzhou	21	25	rain
Guangzhou	24	28	rain
Guiyang	19	25	cloudy
Haikou	26	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	21	29	cloudy
Harbin	10	23	cloudy
Hefei	19	29	fine
Nanjing	20	28	cloudy
Shanghai	21	27	cloudy
Taipei	20	23	rain
Wuhan	22	34	fine
Hong Kong	24	27	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	12	24	clear
Frankfurt	11	21	rain
Paris	12	21	rain
London	12	20	showers
New York	18	29	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- "Peter Pan" pirate; 5- Swab; 8- Sitarist Shankar; 12- Klutz's cry; 13- Horse locks; 15- Biblical garden; 16- Settled down; 17- Grenoble's river; 18- Run smoothly; 19- Rebuild; 22- Cleaning agent; 23- Acceptable score for a professional golfer; 24- 27th president of the U.S.; 26- Simpler; 29- Feathered fisher; 31- Georgia, once; 32- Express mirth; 34- Sensitive spots; 36- Give it ____; 38- At the bottom of the barrel; 40- Polite address; 41- Flowering tree of Hawaii; 43- Ages; 45- Capote, to friends; 46- Emblem; 48- Make less sensitive; 50- Lacking slack; 51- Just the Way You ____; 52- Sound of disgust; 54- Touchy; 61- Driver's license datum; 63- Elicit; 64- Like Cheerios; 65- Labor; 66- Less common; 67- Fork feature; 68- Lemony Snicket's evil count; 69- Slangy negative; 70- Important times;

DOWN 1- Go sky-high; 2- Yard tunneler; 3- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 4- Bars legally; 5- Spar; 6- Doozy; 7- Andean country; 8- Agent; 9- Make impure; 10- Extremely; 11- Memo opener; 13- Engage in textual misprision; 14- Shakers et al.; 20- Arrest; 21- Knocks lightly; 25- Whence; 26- Adlai's running mate; 27- Irregular heartbeat; 28- Bucolic; 29- 1977 George Burns film; 30- Long; 31- Gal of song; 33- I didn't know that!; 35- Dallas sch.; 37- Arizona city on the Colorado River; 39- Athletic shoe; 42- Touch on; 44- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 47- None of the above; 49- Signify; 52- A law ____ itself; 53- London jail; 55- Lendl of tennis; 56- Director Ephron; 57- Slant; 58- Neet rival; 59- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 60- Turns red, say; 62- Pixie;



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



It's prime time to BUY & RENT!
We have great properties available!

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!



FOR RENT

PACIFICA GARDEN 3 BEDS	HKD 13,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 14,800
TAIPA 1 BED	HKD 7,900
MACAU 2 BEDS	HKD 9,300
TAIPA MARINA BAY 1 BED	HKD 8,500
HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300

FOR SALE UNDER HKD 5 MILLION

OLD TAIPA VILLAGE 2-BEDS	HKD 4,800,000
TAIPA RENOVATED 2 BEDS	HKD 4,680,000
CENTRAL TAIPA 2-BEDS	HKD 4,380,000
TAIPA CUTE & COZY STUDIO	HKD 3,980,000
TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
TAIPA GREAT POTENTIAL 1-BED	HKD 3,480,000
CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

FOLLOW US!

jmlproperty.com

@jmlproperty

jmlmacau

(853) 2835 2699

LICENSE NO. MI-10001398-6
有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查

DIGITAL ASSETS

AMID CRYPTO TURMOIL, SENATORS PROPOSE SWEEPING OVERSIGHT

FATIMA HUSSEIN,
WASHINGTON

WIDE-RANGING bipartisan legislation unveiled yesterday in Washington would regulate cryptocurrencies and other digital assets following a series of high-profile busts and failures.

It's unclear, though, whether the bill proposed by U.S. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., can clear Congress, especially at a time of heightened partisanship ahead of midterm elections. The bill also comes as advocates for cryptocurrency have become bigger — and more free-spending — players in Washington.

The bill, called the Responsible Financial Innovation Act, proposes legal definitions of digital assets and virtual currencies; would require the IRS to adopt guidance on merchant acceptance of digital assets and charitable contributions; and would make a distinction between digital assets that are commodities or securities, which has not been done.

The bill "creates regulatory clarity for agencies charged with supervising digital asset markets, provides a strong, tailored regulatory framework for stablecoins, and integrates digital assets into our existing tax and banking laws," Lummis said in an email

AP PHOTO



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo.

led statement. Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency pegged to a specific value, usually the U.S. dollar, another currency or gold.

Lummis has been a vocal advocate for cryptocurrency development and has invested between \$150,002 and \$350,000 in bitcoin, according to her financial disclosure.

The legislation imposes disclosure requirements on digital asset firms to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions, delineates agency responsibilities over various digital asse-

ts — such as Commodity Futures Trading Commission jurisdiction over bitcoin — and requires a study on digital asset energy consumption, among many other proposals.

The bill comes at a tumultuous time for cryptocurrencies, including the May meltdown of the terraUSD stablecoin and luna, the coin meant to buy and sell assets, which traded at a value of less than one ten-thousandth of 1 cent.

Gillibrand said the bill establishes "a regulatory framework

that spurs innovation, develops clear standards, defines appropriate jurisdictional boundaries and protects consumers."

These developments have prompted lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to support legislation that more closely scrutinizes digital assets.

And crypto lobbying has followed suit. This year, for the first time, industry executives have flooded money into congressional races, spending \$20 million, according to records and interviews.

Cryptocurrencies have their supporters in Congress. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., said at the DC Blockchain Summit in Washington last month that he is drawn to "the exciting potential democratizing effect that can come from creating wider pathways of opportunity for marginalized communities."

Despite the risks, surveys show that roughly 16% of adult Americans, or 40 million people, have invested in cryptocurrencies. And 43% of men age 18-29 have put money into cryptocurrency.

African Americans are also more likely to invest in cryptocurrencies than white consumers.

President Joe Biden signed an executive order in March, urging the Federal Reserve to explore whether the central bank should create its own digital currency and directed federal agencies, including the Treasury Department, to study the impact of cryptocurrency on financial stability and national security.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in an April speech at American University that more government regulation is needed to police the proliferation of cryptocurrency and ward off fraudulent or illicit transactions.

"We have a strong interest in ensuring that innovation does not lead to a fragmentation in international payment architectures," she said, adding that the Treasury Department will work with the White House and other agencies to develop reports and recommendations on digital currencies. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

TIS Class of 2022 going places



Last weekend, 68 students of The International School (TIS) donned their caps and gowns to receive their Alberta High School Diplomas in front of family, friends, teachers and guests from government and private sectors, according to the school's press release.

The Class of 2022 has received MOP8.1 million in scholarships and secured offers from 89 different educational institutions worldwide.

22% of students received offers from Top 30 Universities and 34%

received offers from Top 50 Universities (according to 2022 QS World Rankings). Exhibited in this class are students from "a variety of emerging careers such as scientists, medical doctors, engineers, psychologists, educators, hotel managers, diplomats, artists and fashion designers."

Head of School, Howard Stribbell, and Secondary School Principal, Lorne Schmidt, "delivered uplifting speeches to the graduating class. They congratulated them on their resilience during

their school journey, especially during the world's longest-running pandemic," read the statement.

Valedictorian Jeya Verschuren "thanked parents and teachers for the support received" and spoke to her personal mantra of 'never try, never know'.

According to the statement, Jeya highlighted "the beautiful memories and friendships formed during their time at TIS - something that each student will take with them as they go into this next exciting phase of their lives."

New family-friendly entertainment venue opens at Studio City

A playground "like no other in Macau" will open this summer at Melco's Studio City, the gaming operator said in a press release yesterday.

The newest family-friendly entertainment experience, named Super Fun Zone, will officially open at Studio City on June 30. Admission tickets will go on sale on June 23.

The Super Fun Zone covers 29,600 square feet in a four-level "fun indoor complex designed for adventurous explorers of all ages."

According to the press release, the venue features a range of experiences across five themed zones - Under the Sea, Mountain, Forest, Space Station and Outer Space.

Standard admission tickets are available at MOP180 for children above 100cm and MOP100 for children below 100cm, or the accompanying adult.

The Zone also features three party rooms offering "a perfect spot for birthday parties with different package options."



BOXING

Inoue stops Donaire in second round, unifies three bantamweight belts

NAOYA Inoue stopped Nonito Donaire midway through the second round last night, emphatically winning their rematch and unifying three bantamweight world titles.

Inoue (23-0, 20 KOs) wasted no time in his second meeting with Donaire, knocking down the veteran champion at the end of the first round and again midway through the second. Inoue's relentless pressure and power ended the fight at 1:24 in Saitama Super Arena outside Tokyo.

"To be able to raise my status up at the top, I needed to win this fight, so I decided to make this fight finish at this moment," Inoue said through a translator. "I pressured myself, and I did it."

Inoue added Donaire's WBC belt to his own WBA and IBF 118-pound straps with his fourth consecutive stoppage victory.

The Japanese star known as "Monster" is considered one of the world's top pound-for-pou-



Japan's Naoya Inoue fights in his bout against Philippines' Nonito Donaire in their bantamweight title unification boxing in Saitama, north of Tokyo, yesterday

nd talents. Inoue hopes to unify all four major bantamweight titles if he can land a fight with WBO bantamweight champ Paul Butler of England later this year.

"My aim is to be the undisputed champion," Inoue said. "If I can do that within 2022, I would love to stay in this division. But if I can't, I'm capable of (moving up in weight)."

Donaire (42-7) entered his rematch with Inoue apparently confident in his ability to trade punches at the center of the ring with the Japanese champion, but Inoue abruptly dropped Donaire with a short right hook moments before the bell to end the first round. Donaire got up comfortably, but Inoue piled on the pressure in the second round and unloaded on Donaire with another series of accurate shots.

"In the very first round, I received the left hook from Nonito, and that punch made me wake up and made me focus for this fight," Inoue said.

After a short left hand put Donaire on wobbly legs in the center of the ring early in the second round, Inoue finished him in the corner with a right-left combination that dropped Donaire to his back on the canvas. Donaire beat the count, but he didn't protest much when the referee stopped the bout.

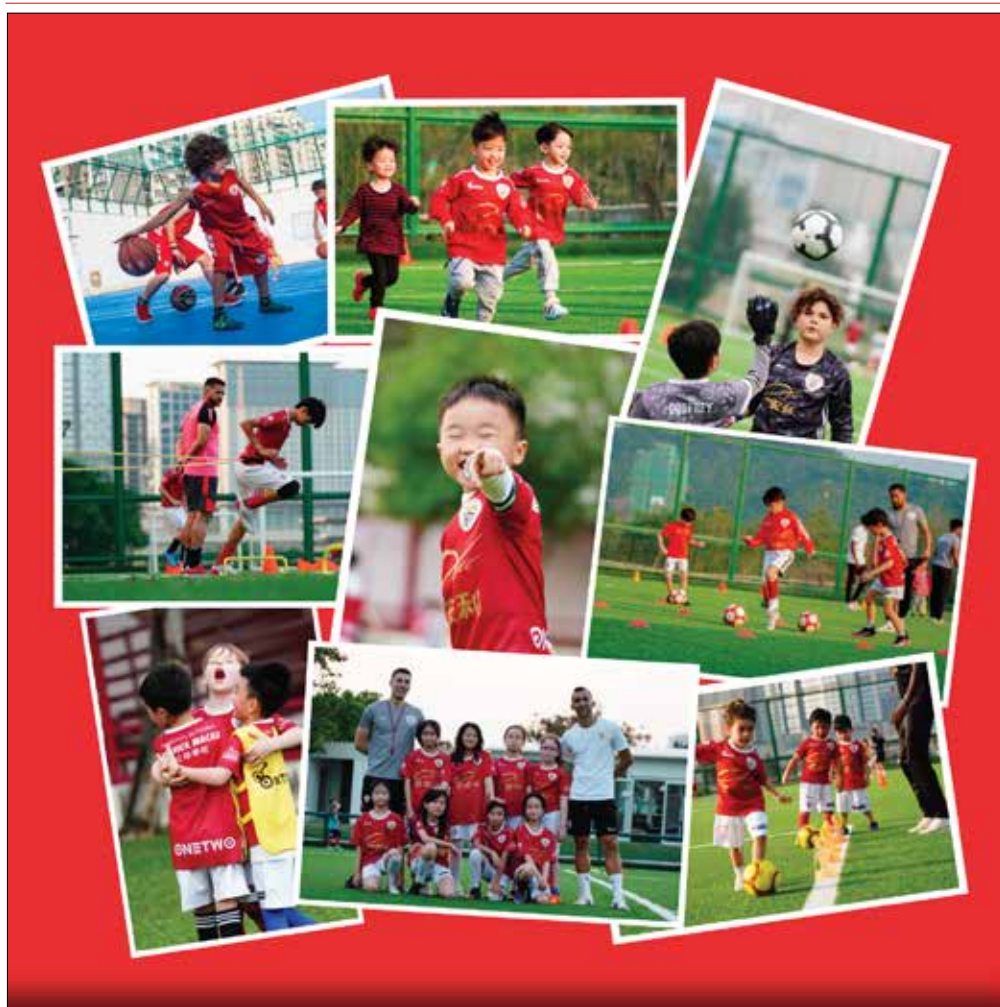
Donaire, who will turn 40 later this year, was stopped for

only the second time in his career. He had claimed the WBC bantamweight title a year ago with a victory over Nordine Ou-baali.

Inoue and Donaire first met in November 2019 in the World Boxing Super Series bantamweight final in the same arena. Donaire surprised much of the boxing world with his tenacious performance against his younger, favored opponent.

Inoue later revealed his orbital bone had been broken by Donaire's left hook in the second round, and he fought through the first facial cut of his career to knock down Donaire in the 11th round on his way to a victory by unanimous decision.

In the rematch, Inoue wasted no time or energy in finishing his Filipino-American opponent. Donaire has held world titles in four divisions during his 21-year professional career, while Inoue has been a world champion in three weight classes. **MDT/AP**



**BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY**
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

MACAU CLOSER
15th
週年
ANNIVERSARY

現在發售
NOW
ON SALE

影響力人物
INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE

32nd Macao Arts
Festive Festival

詳見本期
「澳門藝術節」
特別增刊

SEE OUR SPECIAL
MACAO ARTS
FESTIVAL
SUPPLEMENT
INSIDE

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

WASHINGTON'S INTENTION TO CONTROL ITS BACKYARD FORETELLS LA SUMMIT FAILURE

Repercussions of the Joe Biden administration's insistence on not inviting the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela to the Ninth Summit of the Americas, in session in Los Angeles, are so strong and broad that it has been a challenge for the administration to even make sure the invited leaders show up.

That multiple regional leaders have protested the decision, even with threat of their personal absence, is just one sign of Latin America's discontent with the arrogance of Washington.

And that seems to be indicative of the difficulties the current United States administration faces in securing influence in, if not control over, what the US has long deemed as its "backyard". There are widening cracks in the regional mechanism, which are symptomatic of the fundamental problems in the values-based diplomacy pursued by the administration.

From the perspective of the US, there may be too much alarmism in some observers' judgment that the divisions and acrimony that have come to the fore are symptomatic of declining US influence in its immediate neighborhood, but they should make decision-makers in Washington ask themselves one critical question they have long ignored: What should the US reasonably expect of the Americas?

When the Bill Clinton administration masterminded the Summit for the Western Hemisphere in 1994, it was meant to serve as a vehicle to advance US interests in the Americas. Despite the Clinton administration's enthusiastic embrace of economic globalization, the summit was a de facto outgrowth of the longstanding Monroe Doctrine, which took the Americas as a US sphere of influence. But little has been delivered on the many promises made by successive US administrations on promoting regional prosperity, such as the proposal of a Free Trade Area of the Americas, simply because, economically and geopolitically, the countries of the Americas have never been priority concerns on Washington's agenda.

Even today, when the White House claims the summit is the highest priority for the administration in the Western Hemisphere, many remain skeptical. Because, as many people have pointed out, it wouldn't have been the case had the current administration not been sandwiched between policy quandaries.

The Biden administration and the Democratic Party are under mounting pressure from migration issues, which are looming large on the horizon in the run-up to the midterm elections, and also desperate to hedge the perceived growing Chinese influence in the region. This is why some analysts are pessimistic about what the summit may produce, because they believe it is more about addressing Washington's pressing needs than those of Latin American countries, who want pragmatic development assistance.

Thus the touting of an economic partnership for the Americas that the Biden administration is expected to announce at the summit has met with a lukewarm response as it is regarded as a political tool to further Washington's agenda since it remains unclear what the US is actually offering in practical terms, as is the case with the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity that the proposed partnership seems to be modeled on.

The World Bank has sharply downgraded its outlook for the global economy, pointing to Russia's war against Ukraine, the prospect of widespread food shortages and concerns about the potential return of "stagflation" — a toxic mix of high inflation and sluggish growth unseen for more than four decades.

The 189-country anti-poverty agency predicted yesterday that the world economy will expand 2.9% this year. That would be down from 5.7% global growth in 2021 and from the 4.1% it had forecast for 2022 back in January.

The agency doesn't foresee a much brighter picture in 2023 and

2024: It predicts just 3% global growth for both years.

For the United States alone, the World Bank has slashed its growth forecast to 2.5% this year from 5.7% in 2021 and from the 3.7% it had forecast in January. For the 19 European countries that share the euro currency, it downgraded the growth outlook to 2.5% this year from 5.4% last year and from the 4.2% it had expected in January.

In China, the world's second-biggest economy after the United States, the World Bank expects growth to slow to 4.3% from 8.1% last year.



Civilian militia men hold shotguns during training at a shooting range in the outskirts of Kyiv

PUTIN'S WAR

RUSSIA CLAIMS ADVANCES IN UKRAINE AMID BARRAGES, TROOP BOOST

JOHN LEICESTER & HANNA ARHIROVA, KYIV

Russia claimed yesterday it has occupied large swaths of eastern Ukraine after a relentless, weekslong barrage and the recent deployment of more troops.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow's forces have control of 97% of the Luhansk region.

Russia has declared that taking full control of the entire Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and where Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014, is its main goal in the invasion of its neighboring country which began Feb. 24. The region recently has been bearing the brunt of the Russian onslaught.

It's not clear whether Russia would try to expand its offensive elsewhere in Ukraine if it takes the Donbas. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Monday that if the West provides Ukraine with long-range rockets capable of reaching Russian territory, Moscow will respond by pressing its offensive deeper into Ukraine.

Early in the war, the Russian troops also took control of the entire Kherson region and a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region in the south. Russian officials and their local appointees have mulled plans for those regions to either declare their independence or be folded into Russia.

But while the Kremlin's forces have superior firepower, the Ukrainians defenders — among them the country's most well-trained forces — are entrenched and have shown the capability to counterattack.

Shoigu, the Russian defense minister, claimed that Russian forces have seized the residential quarters of Sievierodonetsk and are fighting to take control of an industrial zone on its outskirts and the nearby towns.

Sieverodonetsk, the administrative center of the Luhansk region, has recently been the focus of the Russian offensive. Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk are the only two Donbas cities holding out against the Russian invasion, which is being helped by local pro-Kremlin forces.

Shoigu added that the Russian troops were pressing their offensive toward the town of Popasna and noted that they have taken control of Lyman and Sviatohirsk and 15 other towns in the region.

Popasna is a town with a pre-war population of 20,000 located about 30 kilometers (nearly 20 miles) south of Sievierodonetsk.

Shoigu said 6,489 Ukrainian troops have been taken prisoner since the start of the military action in Ukraine, including 126 over the past five days.

A Ukrainian official said yesterday that Moscow is deploying troop reinforcements in eastern Ukraine as

a Russian artillery barrage aimed to grind down Ukrainian defenses.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai conceded that Russian forces control the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk.

"Toughest street battles continue, with varying degrees of success," Haidai told The Associated Press. "The situation constantly changes, but the Ukrainians are repelling attacks."

Moscow's strategy has suffered numerous setbacks, however, since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, including a failed attempt to take Kyiv, the capital.

Moscow's forces also kept up its artillery barrage of Lysychansk. Haidai said Russian troops shelled a local market, a school and a college building, destroying the latter. Three wounded people were sent to hospitals in other parts of Ukraine, he said.

In all, Ukrainian forces had repelled 10 Russian attacks over the previous 24 hours, according to Haidai. His report couldn't be independently verified.

Ukraine is receiving weapons and ammunition from the West to help fend off relentless Russian attacks. That assistance has become a target for Russian artillery and warplanes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged that his country's military is outgunned and still needed Western help to face down the Russians. MDT/AP



Australia's central bank yesterday lifted its benchmark interest rate for a second time in five weeks, changing the cash rate to 0.85% from 0.35%. When the Reserve Bank of Australia's lifted the rate by a quarter percentage point at its last monthly board meeting on May 3, it was the first rate hike in more than 11 years. An increase was widely expected after official data released in April showed that Australia's inflation rose to 5.1% in the year through March.



Syria The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria said yesterday that they will turn to the government in Damascus for support should Turkey go ahead with its threat to launch a new incursion into the war-torn country. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, said after a meeting of its command that its priority is to reduce tension near the border with Turkey but also prepare for a long fight if Ankara carries out its threat.



United States won a legal battle yesterday to seize a Russian-owned superyacht in Fiji and wasted no time in taking command of the \$325 million vessel and sailing it away from the South Pacific nation. The court ruling represented a significant victory for the U.S. as it encounters obstacles in its attempts to seize the assets of Russian oligarchs around the world. While those efforts are welcomed by many who oppose the war in Ukraine, some actions have tested the limits of American jurisdiction abroad.