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AP PHOTO



Thailand Hundreds of mourners and victims' families gathered yesterday evening to watch flames burn from rows of makeshift furnaces at cremation ceremonies for the young children and others who died in last week's mass killings at a day care center in rural northeast. The families bid their final goodbyes at a Buddhist temple a short distance from the Young Children's Development Center in the town of Uthai Sawan, where a former policeman, who was fired from his job earlier this year for using drugs, barged in last Thursday and shot and stabbed children and their caregivers.

AP PHOTO



Japan. Canada agreed to formally start talks toward signing a military intelligence information sharing accord as their foreign ministers yesterday adopted an action plan to strengthen cooperation on defense, economic security and other areas amid growing threats from China and Russia. The launch of formal talks on the intelligence-sharing pact, or General Security of Information Agreement, is part of an action plan announced by Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and his Canadian counterpart, Melanie Joly (pictured), after their talks in Tokyo.

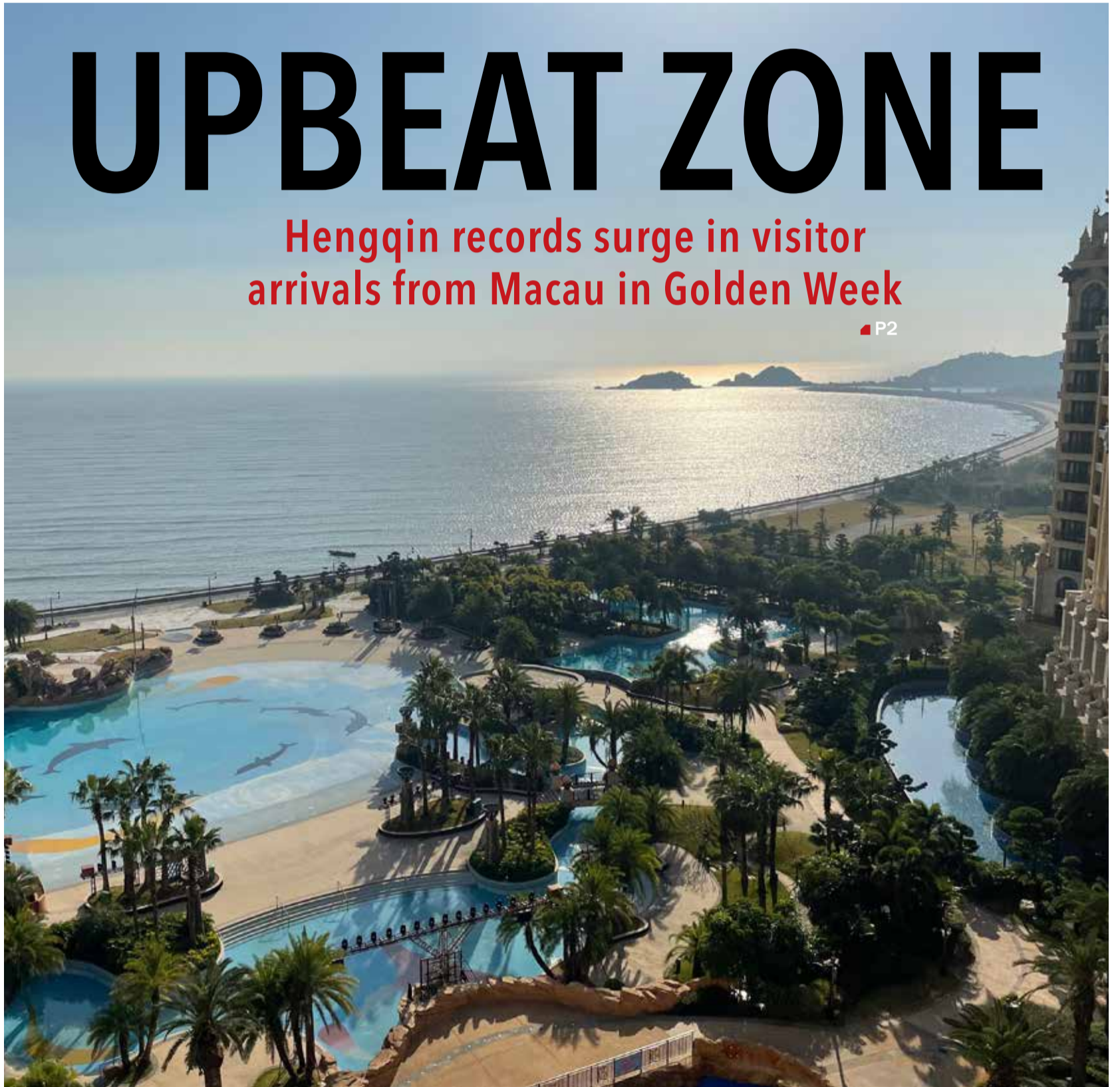
Israel's prime minister said yesterday that the country has reached a "historic agreement" with neighboring Lebanon over their shared maritime border after months of U.S.-brokered negotiations. The agreement would mark a major breakthrough in relations between the two countries, which formally have been at war since Israel's establishment in 1948. But the deal still faces some obstacles, including legal and political challenges in Israel. Lebanese officials indicated they would approve the agreement.

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# UPBEAT ZONE

## Hengqin records surge in visitor arrivals from Macau in Golden Week

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MDT PHOTO

GAMING CASINO STOCKS PLUNGE AS COVID INFECTIONS RISE

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AP PHOTO

EDUCATION GROUP CALLS FOR BETTER PLANNING ON CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

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GOLDEN WEEK

# HENGQIN RECORDS SURGE IN VISITOR ARRIVALS FROM MACAU

LYNZY VALLES

**T**OURIST attractions in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin drew 288,300 visitors during the October 1 to 7 National Day holiday - an increase of 8.35% year-on-year. Inbound visitors were primarily from Macau, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou, the Cooperation Zone Economic Development Bureau announced.

Hengqin Frontier Inspection Station recorded that the entry-exit pedestrian volume at the Hengqin Checkpoint exceeded 100,000 from October 1 to 3, up 45.91% from the same period in September, according to the report issued by the Hengqin government. There were 12,000 vehicle crossings, up 8% from September, including 8,600 Macau single-plate vehicles.

Public resources and cultural tourism projects operated by Zhuhai Da Hengqin Qinjian attracted 54,200 tourists during the National Day holiday. Of those, 17,000 sightseers visited Mangzhou Wetland Park, 1,700



at Erjing Bay Wetland Park, 28,000 at various rest stations in Hengqin, and 6,400 at Small Hengqin Mt Trail.

Limited by the pandemic, short-distance tours to open spaces such as country parks, farms, and campsites are now preferred by Macau travelers, who accounted for 32% of visi-

ts to scenic locations operated by Da Hengqin Qinjian. Macau single-plate vehicles were frequently seen in the parking lot near Rest Station 5 of Hengqin Flower Corridor.

The relatively quiet Shanhai Rest Station and newly opened Garden Rest Station were also favored by Macau visitors

looking for a quick getaway combined with good food. Invested in and constructed by the Cooperation Zone, the urban rest stations are operated by Macau-funded enterprises, which provide the opportunity for Macau residents to find jobs and start businesses, and attract tourists from Macau.

SPORTS

# OVERSEAS TRAINING FOR LOCAL ATHLETES CONTINUES AMID PANDEMIC

**L**OCAL athletes have intermittently received special training outside of Macau over the past few years during the Covid-19 pandemic, President Pun Weng Kun of the Sports Bureau (ID) said.

In response to lawmaker Ma Io Fong's inquiry on sports planning and development in Macau, Pun emphasized that local athletes have attended training sessions in a variety of places.

Pun highlighted that athletes from martial arts, fencing, badminton, judo, taekwondo and several others have received training in mainland China.

Some karate, swimming and squash athletes also trained in Australia, Georgia, the US and the UK in preparation for the Asian Games 2022, which was postponed to September 2023.

The sports chief also emphasized that the bureau has been in constant contact with all stakeholders to ensure the well-being of local athletes during stadium closures and de-facto lockdowns.

"Through uninterrupted training and substituting training with matches, we have tried our best to minimize the impact on athletes due to Covid-19, so that they can resume training right after the end of the pandemic," Pun said.

The sports chief reiterated that Lots A9 and B4 at the New Urban Zone A had been allocated for sports usage, with A9 being a multipurpose sports venue. He added that the bureau is conducting a survey on sports facilities in Macau to obtain data for future policymaking.

In addition, the ID has regularly organized public sporting events to encourage people in all age groups to exercise. He added that the function of booking sports grounds had been introduced to the Macao One Account government service app, providing greater convenience for venue users. **AL**



PANDEMIC

# Shenzhen records first BF.7 Covid-19 cases

**G**UANGDONG Province's IT hub in Shenzhen has recorded its cases of the BF.7 Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

Shenzhen reported 46 locally transmitted Covid-19 cases between Saturday and Monday, of which 32 were linked to people visiting or returning to the city, most of which are the Omicron sub-variants of BA.2.76, BA.2.2 and BF.7, according to the city's health commission.

On Monday alone, the city reported 14 new locally transmitted confirmed Covid-19 cases and 19 asymptomatic



carriers.

BF.7 is shorthand for the sub-variant BA.5.2.1.7, signifying that it is within the family of the BA.5 variant. The strain is characteri-

zed by stronger infectivity, faster transmission and a shorter intergenerational interval.

In response to the detection of the new wave of infections, the city's

government is requiring persons entering Shenzhen to undergo SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests on three consecutive days.

At the same time, these arrivals are forbidden to dine in groups, conduct gatherings or visit crowded places. Also, they may not allow guests to visit their lodgings.

A recent opinion piece posted on the People's Daily again argued that the Western tactic of coexistence with the virus is not an option for China. The article asserted that "lying flat" will not lead to an exit, but persistence will lead to victory."

'Lying flat' is an expression used by the Chinese authorities to describe coexistence with virus. **AL**

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GAMING CONCESSIONS

# Gov't and bidders in a dead-lock over border restrictions

RENATO MARQUES

**N**EGOTIATIONS between the gaming concessions tender commission and the seven companies that submitted bids to the new gaming concessions have reached an apparent deadlock, TDM Radio reported, citing inside sources.

One of the major points of disagreement between the government and the bidders relates to the border restrictions enforced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

TDM Radio said that the government and the bidders have made no major advances in the first two meetings. All seven bidders are apparently insisting on being told the government's concrete plans for the future of gambling, specifically seeking details on the real conditions that the new concessionaires will encounter from January 1, 2023, assuming that pandemic border restrictions are still in place.

On the other hand, the tender commission wants to know the concrete plans and proposals from the seven competitors for the development of the industry over the next 10 years with a particular focus on non-gaming elements.



The government is asking the bidders to narrow down the ideas initially expressed and compromise on a concrete sum for investment, as well as to specify the projects to be developed over each year of the new concession contract and deliver a concrete timetable for each.

The bidders responded that they cannot provide a concrete timetable and investment plan given the uncertainty caused by the border restrictions and the absence of a timeline for the normalization of border openings and air travel, and, consequently,

the operation of the casinos.

In reply to the government's position that no new land plots would be designated for gaming purposes, some bidders are speculating that they may redevelop some of the sites already in use, repurposing them for different uses, TDM Radio said. This might include spaces currently being used as car parks or other complementary facilities.

On the government's side, the thinking appears to be that the existing facilities are more than adequate for the needs of the concessionaires for the next 10

years. This takes into account the strategy suggested on several occasions by both the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, and the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, that the main focus for gaming concessionaires should be to attract visitors from foreign countries and not those from the mainland, as has been the case for the past 20 years.

All parties are due to return to the negotiation table within the week following the interruption caused by the National Day Holidays.

## TAIPA NORTHEAST SPORTS CENTRE REOPENS TO PUBLIC

From October 12, the multisport pavilion and tennis court and online booking service of the Taipa Northeast Sports Centre will reopen to the public. The facility will return to the public sports facilities list after being used as a nucleic acid test sampling station for some time. According to the Sports Bureau (ID), the center has been cleaned and disinfected prior to the reopening to ensure the safety of sports users. The number of visitors inside the sports facilities will be limited to avoid crowds. ID also stated that the squash court is currently undergoing maintenance and will be reopened once repairs are completed.

## UM APPOINTS NEW PORTUGUESE DEPARTMENT HEAD

The University of Macau (UM) has appointed João Veloso, a Portuguese linguist, as head of the Department of Portuguese within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Veloso was a professor of the University of Porto, one of the three major universities in Portugal. He has served as president and director of different academic associations for linguists and teachers in Portugal, with extensive experience in teaching, research, management, and knowledge transfer. There are approximately 800 students learning Portuguese and 40 professors teaching Portuguese at UM.

GAMING

# Casino stocks plunge as Covid infections rise

LYNZY VALLES

**C**ASINO shares have been trading lower since Monday following new cases detected in the neighboring region. The downturn follows the National Day Golden Week in which the SAR recorded a much-needed bump in tourist arrivals.

As of yesterday's trading, MGM China closed with a 5.34% plunge, followed by Wynn Macau and Sands China with drops of 4.45% and 4.47% respectively.

Galaxy (-3.34%), Melco (-2.86%) and SJM Holdings (-2.88%) also fell by the close of trading.

On Monday, shares of the US-listed Macau casino stocks in New York were markedly lower, with Wynn leading the decli-

Name/Symbol	Last#	Chg.	Chg. %
GALAXY ENT 00027.HK <small>CON 10D Lo</small>	44.900	-1.550	-3.337%
MELCO INT'L DEV 00200.HK <small>CON 10D Lo</small>	5.780	-0.170	-2.857%
SJM HOLDINGS 00880.HK <small>CON 10D Lo</small>	2.690	-0.080	-2.888%
WYNN MACAU 01128.HK <small>CON 5D Lo</small>	4.940	-0.230	-4.449%
SANDS CHINA LTD 01928.HK <small>CON 10D Lo</small>	18.820	-0.840	-4.273%
MGM CHINA 02282.HK <small>CON 10D Lo</small>	4.080	-0.230	-5.336%

ne, falling 11%. Las Vegas Sands fell 7.2%, while Melco Resorts & Enter-

tainment was down 6.1%, and MGM Resorts International fell 3.7%.

About 422 million domestic trips were made in China during this year's

National Day holiday, according to the country's Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Domestic tourism revenue generated during the weeklong holiday totaled RMB287.2 billion, statistics from the ministry showed.

The city, meanwhile, recorded some 182,284 visitor arrivals during the seven-day long holiday, a much-needed tourism revival as the city has been suffering from low visitor numbers since the outbreak in mid-June that led to strict border restrictions.

The gaming sector also recorded a surge in revenue, seeing daily average revenues double compared to the first nine days of September.

A note issued by JP Mor-

gan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd stated that aggregate casino gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the first nine days of the month was MOP1.7 billion; approximately MOP190 million a day.

However, this figure was only about 15% to 20% of pre-Covid levels for Golden Week, when daily GGR reached the MOP1 billion mark.

Both the tourism and the gaming sector are now anticipating the resumption of group package tours and e-visas for mainland travelers.

Yet, Zhuhai is now facing new cases following the Golden Week and with a zero-Covid policy, district lockdowns continue to overshadow Zhuhai.

The SAR government has also imposed border restrictions for cross-border travelers.

China recorded 2,000 Covid cases on Monday, the highest level in a month.



CRIME

# RESIDENT LOSES MOP90,000 IN CRYPTOCURRENCY INVESTMENT SCAM

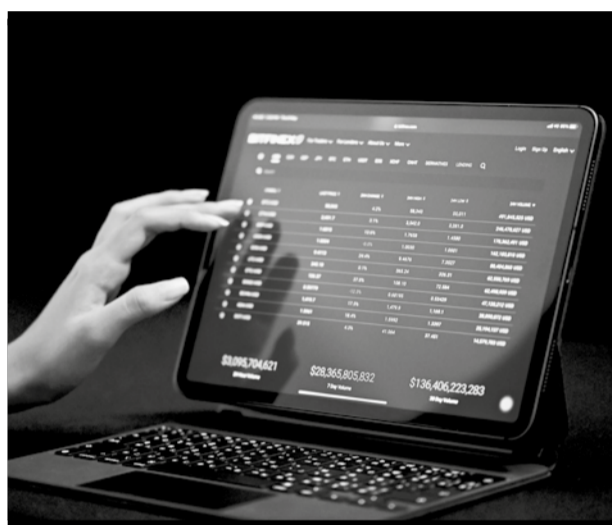
RENATO MARQUES

A local female resident has reportedly lost some 90,000 patacas in an online cryptocurrency investment scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday during the regular press conference of the police forces.

The case was reported by the victim to the PJ on October 6, who explained that in July this year, while looking for a job online she found a group with several posts from people that she knew, so she thought it was trustworthy.

In this group, there was a post with a QR Code she scanned to enter a platform to find a job.

A few weeks later, in August, she saw that there were many people on this group posting images and



stating that they were earning a lot of money from cryptocurrency investment. Attracted by these stories, she decided to try, and she initially invested 9,000 patacas to buy 1,000 coins (of this cryptocurrency).

At about the same time, a user in the group sent her a link to an online

course that would teach her how to invest more efficiently to maximize her earnings.

Following the instructions on the link, she was able to make 126 coins from her investment. She then sold all her coins and was able to withdraw the value earned in cash, a fact that gave her

added confidence in the scheme, so she decided to move into a larger investment.

She invested a total of 90,000 patacas following the same method learned previously, and earned a total of 41,927 coins, but this time she could not transform those coins into usable cash.

She contacted an alleged manager or agent of the platform, who informed her that since it was a very high amount, to be able to collect in cash she would have to pay some 35% in taxes.

She then tried to withdraw smaller amounts from the same account but all the attempts failed, leading her to suspect that the scheme was a fraud.

She then decided to report to the PJ, claiming the loss of 90,000 patacas.

CRIME

# FRAUDSTER RE-ARRESTED FOR PROMISING MACAU IDS TO MAINLAND WORKERS

RENATO MARQUES

A 67-year-old local resident has been detained on suspicion of defrauding three mainland workers in a scheme to offer them jobs that would allow them to obtain Macau residence, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday during a special press conference.

According to the police, the man was tried and sentenced back in 2021 for the same crime and is currently on bail for a 30-month jail sentence.

Based on the victims' statements, the PJ believes that he has obtained about RMB277,000 from the scheme.

The three victims reported to the PJ that from the end of 2021 until February this year, they had met with the accused, who had told them he could arrange jobs that would grant them

Macau ID cards (Resident Cards).

The accused collected RMB107,000, 100,000, and 70,000 respectively from the three victims. However, after collecting the money, he provided excuses for the delay in the processing until they eventually lost contact with him.

Upon investigation, the PJ found that the suspect was often found in and around several massage parlors located alongside Avenida da Amizade, where he was finally tracked down and detained.

Questioned by the PJ investigators, he admitted to the crime and told the police that the proceeds had all been spent on gambling and everyday expenses.

The case has already been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office for the suspect to be charged with the crime of aggravated fraud.

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Rendering of New Central Library

**PUBLIC WORKS**

# Lifts in New Central Library to transport pedestrians between Tap Seac, Yuet Wah

**ELEVATORS** will be installed at the new Central Library to transport pedestrians from the Tap Seac level to the Guia Hill mid-levels, President Hon Wai of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) noted in a reply to lawmaker Ron Lam.

Lam asked the government about improvements to sidewalks and pedestrian facilities in his written inquiry delivered in September.

Citing the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Hon said that “elevators will be installed in the new Central Library as one of its vertical traffic facilities,” and that the elevators will connect Estrada de Vitória and Rua Filipe O’Costa through the library.

He described the elevators as providing “a friendly and accessible passage for the public,” adding that the facility will be completed along-

side the library.

However, he did not mention whether the facility will be located in an area of the library that will be subject to the library’s hours of operation.

Hon cited the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), which had said that all sidewalks on the Macau Peninsula have been equipped with accessibility measures, and these will gradually roll out in Taipa, Cotai and Colo-

ne. Elevators will also be installed on footbridges in several locations.

Lam also asked about the uncovered connections from exits to balcony areas at the Taipa Main Footbridge. Citing the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), Hon said in response that it has the best design after considering a series of factors. He also pledged that future footbridges will be built with direct connections to covered sidewalks. **AL**

# Group calls for better planning on children’s playground

**THE** government should better inform residents of the details of planned public playgrounds before they open, a member of the Social Service Advisory Committee has said.

Wong Leong Kuan, a member of the committee and deputy secretary-general of the Women’s General Association of Macau, chose the reopening of the Reservoir Zone A Playground as an opportunity to propose that the government give more thorough previews of its plans.

The social advisor suggests that prior to opening future playgrounds, authorities should release information such as ground plans, traffic flow and ca-



pacities in order for users to familiarize themselves with the venues before using the facilities.

In addition, she also suggests the government widen the scope of future facilities, so as to provide appropriate facilities for children of different ages.

She added that providing facilities with sufficiently challenging components will help meet the needs of children at various stages of development.

Commenting on recently opened facilities, the social advisor agreed that the government had

taken into account suggestions from all walks of life, and has sourced appropriate facilities for various groups of children.

On the other hand, she also urged the government to designate plans for the seven retrieved land plots in Hac-Sa. **AL**

**ADVERTORIAL**

# GREAT TIMES

Teppanyaki Escapades – Hokkaido

**WHAT** better way to indulge than with scrumptious king crab, and an abundance of seafood from the cold waters of the treasured island in a theatrically grilling way? *Teppanyaki Escapades* continues at **Grill 58** with a seasonal menu featuring the finest ingredients from around the globe.



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This two-days only menu offers prosperous offerings from Hokkaido, the second-largest island in Japan. This is one of the most well-known places for its high-quality seafood and fresh ingredients. Our chefs also let the top-notch ingredients shine for themselves. The teppanyaki menu serves premium ocean catches such as Hokkaido Scallop, Teppanyaki Tarabagani, Steamed Hokkaido Kegani, and Shirako. While crab is one of the seafood items that Hokkaido is famous for, Full-Blood Japanese Wagyu Beef is also one of the extravagant teppanyaki dishes that guest crave. Take your dining experience to the fullest with Hokkaido’s most famous fruit - Yubari King melon, a fruit that grows exclusively in Yubari.



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\*Price in MOP and subject to 10% service charge



AP PHOTO



In this image taken from video footage run by TVB, the megayacht Nord, left, worth over \$500 million, is seen off Hong Kong Island outside Victoria Harbour on Oct. 7

## HONG KONG NIXES US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN-OWNED SUPERYACHT

**H**ONG Kong's leader John Lee said yesterday he will only implement United Nations sanctions, after the U.S. warned the territory's status as a financial center could be affected if it acts as a safe haven for sanctioned individuals.

Lee's statement came days after a luxury yacht connected to Russian tycoon Alexey Mordashov docked in the city.

Mordashov, who is believed to have close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, was sanctioned by the U.S., U.K. and the European Union in February after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Hong Kong authorities have said that they do not implement

unilateral sanctions imposed by other governments.

"We cannot do anything that has no legal basis," Lee told reporters. "We will comply with United Nations sanctions, that is our system, that is our rule of law," he said.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson said in a statement yesterday [Macau time] that "the possible use of Hong Kong as a safe haven by individuals evading sanctions from multiple jurisdictions further calls into question the transparency of the business environment."

The State Department spokesperson also said the city's reputation as a financial center

"depends on its adherence to international laws and standards" and that U.S. companies "increasingly view Hong Kong's business environment with wariness" due to an erosion of Hong Kong's once high degree of autonomy and its freedoms.

The \$500-million superyacht Nord, allegedly owned by Mordashov, moored in Hong Kong's harbor on Wednesday following a weeklong journey from the Russian city of Vladivostok.

Mordashov is one of Russia's richest men, with an estimated wealth of about \$18 billion. He also is the main shareholder and chairman of Severstal, Russia's largest steel and mining com-

pany. Mordashov has tried to challenge the sanctions against him in European courts.

U.S. and European authorities have seized over a dozen yachts belonging to sanctioned Russian tycoons to prevent them from sailing to other ports that are not affected by the sanctions. So Russian oligarchs have begun docking their yachts at ports in places like Turkey, which has maintained diplomatic ties with Russia since the war began.

The Nord measures 141.6 meters (464.6 feet), has two helipads, a swimming pool and 20 cabins. It is operating under a Russian flag.

Beijing sets foreign policy for

Hong Kong and has demurred from participating in sanctions against Russia for its attack on Ukraine.

The semi-autonomous city's status as an international business hub and financial center has suffered in recent years after Beijing imposed a national security law on the city, "aimed primarily at stamping out dissent following months of anti-government protests in 2019," Western observers say.

Critics say the security law, which in certain cases allows for suspects to be transferred to mainland China for trial in "its opaque legal system, could threaten Hong Kong's rule of law."

Following passage of the law in 2020, the United States sanctioned Lee, then Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and other Hong Kong and mainland Chinese government officials, for "undermining Hong Kong's autonomy and restricting the freedom of expression or assembly."

Lee blasted the ban on personal and official travel to the U.S. and access to the American financial system.

He was responding to a question of whether he is paid in cash, as was the case for Lam, who was also placed under U.S. sanctions that limit the ability of those designated for such penalties to transfer funds across national boundaries or convert them into different currencies.

"The second thing about the so-called sanction imposed on people in Hong Kong without justification, it is a very barbaric act, and I'm not going to comment on the effect of such barbaric act, because officials in Hong Kong do what is right to protect the interests of the country, and the interests of Hong Kong, so we will just laugh off the so-called sanctions," Lee said. **MDT/AP**

### AVIATION

## Chinese firm tests electric flying taxi in Dubai

**A** Chinese firm tested an electric flying taxi in Dubai this week, offering a glimpse of futuristic technology that could one day whisk people through cities high above any traffic.

The XPeng X2, developed by the Guangzhou-based XPeng Inc's aviation affiliate, is one of dozens of flying car projects around the world.

Only a handful have been successfully tes-

ted with passengers on board, and it will likely be many years before any are put into service.

Monday's demonstration was held with an empty cockpit, but the company says it carried out a manned flight test in July 2021.

The sleekly designed vehicle can carry two passengers and is powered by a set of eight propellers. The company says it has a top speed of 130 kilometers per hour.

Unlike airplanes and helicopters, eVTOL, or "electric vertical takeoff and landing," vehicles offer quick point-to-point personal travel, at least in principle.

The pilot-less vehicles could one day ferry passengers across town high above congested roadways. But the sector still faces major challenges, including battery life, air traffic control and safety, and infrastructure issues. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



A XPeng X2, an electric flying taxi developed by the Guangzhou-based XPeng, Inc's aviation affiliate, is tested in front of the Marina District in Dubai



MALAYSIA

# Mahathir, 97, to run in general elections

**M**ALAYSIA'S 97-year-old former leader Mahathir Mohamad announced yesterday he will defend his seat in the general elections expected next month, though he wouldn't say whether he would be prime minister a third time if his political alliance wins.

"We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win," Mahathir told a news conference.

Though unlikely, he would be the oldest ever candidate for the post, which has a five-year term.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob dissolved Parliament on Monday for snap polls, caving in to pressure from his United Malays National Organization party, which is hoping for a big win on its own amid feuds with allies in the ruling coalition. The Election Commission is due to fix a date within the week for a vote, which must be held within 60 days of Parliament's dissolution.

Despite his nonagenarian status and a health scare this year, Mahathir said he will defend his parliamentary seat in Langkawi island. He also warned that a win by the ruling UMNO party could see imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak pardoned and let off the hook.

Mahathir was a UMNO premier for 22 years until his retirement in 2003. Then, in 2016, he was inspired to return to politi-



Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

cs by the massive looting of the Malaysia Development Berhad state fund during Najib's term in office and rode a wave of public anger to lead the opposition to a historic victory in 2018 polls that ousted UMNO, which had ruled since the country's independence from Britain in 1957.

Mahathir became the world's oldest head of government at 93, and oversaw graft charges against Najib and other UMNO leaders. But his reformist alliance collapsed in less than two years due to defections, returning UMNO to power under a new coalition government.

After his government's collapse

in 2020, Mahathir formed the Pejuang party and a new alliance with several small parties.

Mahathir, echoing both the opposition and UMNO allies, slammed UMNO yesterday for putting its own interest first in rushing elections during the annual monsoon season in November that brings major floods. He said UMNO aims to win big by offering bribes and money to the people.

He said UMNO's main objective is to free Najib, who began his 12-year jail term in August after losing his final appeal in a corruption case linked to the 1MDB scandal. Najib also faces several

other trials linked to 1MDB that could lengthen his jail term if he is found guilty. UMNO President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is also on trial for dozens of graft charges unrelated to the 1MDB case.

"If they win this election, their first move would be to ask (Malaysia's king) to pardon Najib. At this moment, they have made a request but has not been pardoned," Mahathir said. "Should they be able to win and form the government, that is their first objective, not about the welfare of the people."

Mahathir said his political alliance hasn't been approved by the government and that some

120 candidates will run under Pejuang's banner in Malay-dominated parliamentary seats.

Analysts said Mahathir's pull may no longer appeal to ethnic Malay voters who supported him in 2018. UMNO, which had only 36 out of 222 lawmakers in the just-dissolved Parliament, believes many Malays have returned to its fold following its landslide victory in recent byelections.

The Alliance of Hope, which Mahathir led to victory in 2018 polls, remains the key contender with 90 lawmakers. Its prime minister candidate is Anwar Ibrahim, who was originally due to succeed Mahathir before their government collapsed.

While Mahathir competes head-on with UMNO and others for votes of Malays, who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 33 million people, Anwar's alliance remains on a multi-racial platform. Ethnic Chinese and Indians form large minorities in the country.

Anwar said Monday that the election will be a time for the people to vote out traitors who led to the collapse of his alliance government in 2020.

"Did you think we could reverse 60 years of entrenched corruption and kleptocracy with just one election? Did you think these conniving robbers and thieves would just give up?" Anwar said in a statement. "We don't give up, either. We don't give up, ever." **MDT/AP**

NEW ZEALAND

# Government proposes taxing cow burps, angering farmers

**N**EW Zealand's government yesterday proposed taxing the greenhouse gasses that farm animals make from burping and peeing as part of a plan to tackle climate change.

The government said the farm levy would be a world first, and that farmers should be able to recoup the cost by charging more for climate-friendly products.

But farmers quickly condemned the plan. Federated Farmers, the industry's main lobby group, said the plan would "rip the guts out of small-town New Zealand" and see farms replaced with trees.

Federated Farmers President Andrew Hoggard said farmers had been trying to work with the government



for more than two years on an emissions reduction plan that wouldn't decrease food production.

"Our plan was to keep farmers farming," Hoggard said. Instead, he said farmers would be selling their farms "so fast you won't even hear the dogs barking

on the back of the ute (pickup truck) as they drive off."

Opposition lawmakers from the conservative ACT Party said the plan would actually increase worldwide emissions by moving farming to other countries that were less efficient at

making food.

New Zealand's farming industry is vital to its economy. Dairy products, including those used to make infant formula in China, are the nation's largest export earner.

There are just 5 million people in New Zealand but

some 10 million beef and dairy cattle and 26 million sheep.

The outsized industry has made New Zealand unusual in that about half of its greenhouse gas emissions come from farms. Farm animals produce gasses that warm the planet, particularly methane from cattle burps and nitrous oxide from their urine.

The debate in New Zealand is part of a broader global reckoning about farming's impact on the environment and the steps some say are needed for mitigation.

In the Netherlands, farmers have dumped hay bales on roads and driven tractors along busy highways to protest government proposals to slash

emissions of damaging pollutants.

In New Zealand, the government has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make the country carbon neutral by 2050. Part of that plan includes a pledge that it will reduce methane emissions from farm animals by 10% by 2030 and by up to 47% by 2050.

Under the government's proposed plan, farmers would start to pay for emissions in 2025, with the pricing yet to be finalized.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said all the money collected from the proposed farm levy would be put back into the industry to fund new technology, research and incentive payments for farmers. **MDT/AP**



USA

# Majority see American relations with adversaries souring: poll

ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
AND NUHA DOLBY,  
WASHINGTON

**T**HE U.S. international outlook has undergone a major shift in recent years, a new poll shows, with a majority now expecting that U.S. relations with allies will stay the same or improve but that U.S. dealings with traditional adversaries like Russia and North Korea will only grow more hostile.

Two years into the Biden administration, the assessments look much different from four years ago, at roughly the same point in the Trump administration. Now, 60% of U.S. adults say relations with adversaries will get worse, up from 26% four years ago, according to the poll from the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Just 21% say relationships with allies will deteriorate, down from 46% then.

In general, 39% expect the country's global standing to worsen, compared with 48% who said that in 2018. Crucially, the United States' own sharply divided domestic politics influences views of the country's standing abroad.

"Those results really, clearly show that it's hyperpartisanship" affecting how confidently or bleakly, respectively, Democrats and Republicans see the U.S. standing abroad, said Sheila Kohanteb, a political scientist and executive director of the Global Forum at the Chicago-based Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts.

In terms of the opinions that people in the U.S. are expressing on U.S. dealings abroad, the key factor is "political bloc sticking with political bloc," Kohanteb said.

Four years ago, three-quarters of Democrats expected U.S. global standing to suffer. Now, roughly that same percentage see stability or improvement in the near future. By comparison, about 6 in 10 Republicans predicted improvements in 2018; now that same percentage expect the current administration to stumble.

Other countries are "pro-



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks to the media before boarding Air Force One at Des Moines International Airport, in Des Moines Iowa in April

bably laughing at us, waiting for us to fall apart," said Kristy Woodard, a 30-year-old Republican in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She said she saw the economy and U.S. leadership as suffering under President Joe Biden.

"I don't think we really have allies anymore because the United States is just a joke at this point," Woodard said.

But David Dvorin, a 49-year-old Democrat in Pittsburgh who works as a price specialist, said Biden was winning respect abroad by rallying international allies to respond to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"The war in Ukraine has shown the leadership of the Biden administration, to be able to hold most of Europe together," Dvorin said.

Still, as Russia amps up its assault on Ukraine, tensions with China grow over Taiwan and other issues and the U.S. confronts North Korea and Iran over those countries' nuclear programs, similar percentages of Republicans and Democrats say that relationships with adversaries will get worse in the next year.

The Pearson Institute/AP-NORC poll also shows strong support for a U.S. foreign policy that protec-

ts women and minorities around the world — even though few people think the U.S. is doing a world-beating job of protecting those same interests at home.

Majorities of U.S. adults said they see preventing discrimination against women and minorities around the world as an important U.S. foreign policy goal and that the U.S. government has significant responsibility for protecting the rights of those groups. And 78% of people in the United States believe the U.S. should withhold financial support from other countries that are failing to protect the rights of women and minority groups.

However, only about 1 in 5 U.S. adults thinks the country is leading the world in safeguarding the rights of women and racial, ethnic and religious minorities, or LGBTQ people. Many think the U.S. is among several countries that are doing it well, but about a third say there are other countries doing better.

Rick Reinesch, 61, of Austin, Texas, who works as a project manager for a consulting firm and describes himself as a Democratic-leaning political independent, calls safeguarding the freedoms of women and minorities abroad "essential" for the U.S.

But the increasing Republican and Democratic divide at home means Americans' performance on that point is a "mixed bag," with rights deteriorating in states most influenced by former President Donald Trump's dismissive outlook, he said.

Chris Ormsby, 53, of Edmond, Oklahoma, an administrator in higher education who describes himself as a political independent, pointed to women's rights in Iran, where women are spearheading weeks of protests triggered by government demands that women cover their hair, as among the rights issues playing out overseas.

"Maybe we can take more proactive steps" abroad on that, Ormsby said. But "I think there's other things to worry about, nuclear proliferation and things like that." He called slowing climate change by moving the world away from fossil fuels a priority for U.S. policy abroad.

That all makes for a strange split for those charged with shaping America's policy on protections of human rights, Kohanteb, the Pearson Institute official, said.

"American policy is not as adamant about protecting our own rights as Americans believe we should be doing abroad," she said. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 2002 DOZENS KILLED IN BALI NIGHTCLUB EXPLOSION



Reports from the Indonesian holiday island of Bali say more than 50 people have been killed in two explosions.

At least 10 foreigners died and more than 120 people were injured - including tourists from Australia, the US, Britain and Europe.

One of the bombs exploded at a nightclub in Kuta Beach, the island's main tourist resort.

Another smaller explosion occurred in nearby Denpasar, Bali's capital, close to the United States Honorary Consulate.

Local police say bomb squad officers are investigating, although the cause of the explosions has not been confirmed.

The explosion in Kuta occurred at about 2330 local time when the bars would have been packed with tourists.

Witnesses say the blast destroyed the Sari Club and the resulting fire then engulfed a neighbouring bar, Paddy's Irish Club.

Other buildings and several cars were also damaged in the blast and ensuing fire.

One witness, Richard Poore, a cameraman for a New Zealand TV company, said the force of the explosion was so strong it severely damaged his hotel nearly 1km away.

"The windows of the hotel blew out, the upper floors have lost their ceilings and dropped in and there was an incredible amount of smoke in the sky."

Mr Poore explained that his "first instinct was to run up the road with a camera" to film the scenes of devastation.

"I have just never seen anything like it. It was horrendous. Total carnage," he said.

The US embassy in Jakarta has issued a series of warnings in recent weeks that its nationals could be targeted by Islamic militants linked to the al-Qaeda terror group.

The embassy itself closed for several days last month after intelligence reports indicated militant groups were planning car bomb attacks.

Indonesian officials have in the past denied that militants linked to al-Qaeda are active in the country.

Known as the Island of the Gods, Bali is a popular holiday resort - 1.5 million tourists visited in 2001.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A huge car bomb killed 202 people, mainly Australians. No injuries occurred in the American consulate explosion.

The dead and injured came from as many as 24 different countries.

The regional Islamic group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), was named as a key suspect in the 2003 Bali bomb. JI has alleged links to al-Qaeda.

Three men were sentenced to death for the bombings - Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, his brother Mukhlas and Imam Samudra. Ali Imron was sentenced to life imprisonment.

More than a dozen others were given lengthy jail sentences for their part in the plot.

On 1 October 2005 Bali was targeted again when three suicide bombers blew themselves up in tourist areas killing at least 19 people, mostly Indonesians. Jemaah Islamiyah is once more suspected of carrying out this attack.

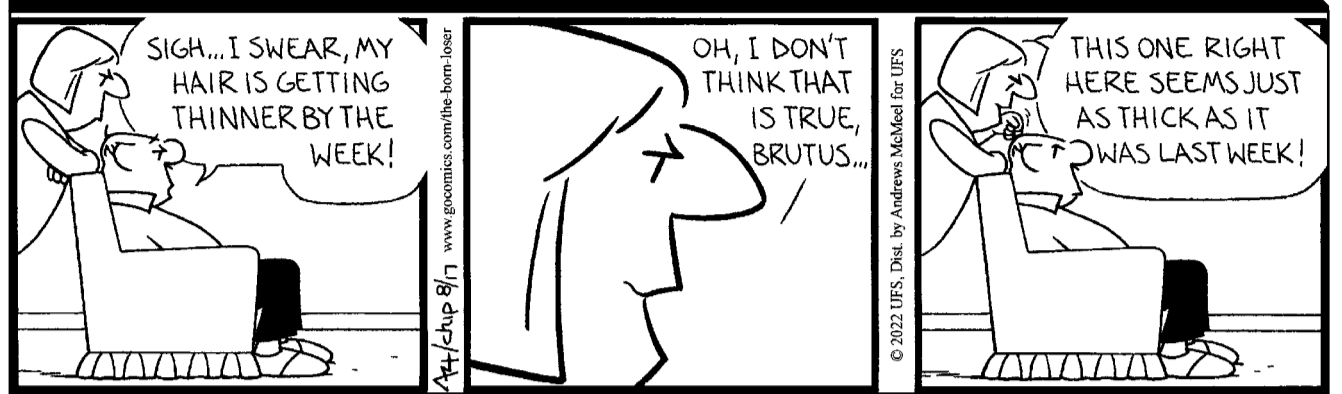


MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

<p><b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your high energy must be directed into productive goals, or frustrations will occur. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Your lover will cost you dearly if you let them. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you.</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 You can expect to face opposition on the home front. If you can work at home, do so. You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else.</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take a look at your legal position. Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly.</p>
<p><b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Don't hesitate to sign up for creative courses or physical fitness programs. Relatives will want to get together. Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable.</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 You won't get the reaction you want from your mate today. Relatives will be cordial. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work.</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Look into any educational activities involving the whole family. Be careful what you consume today. Don't bang your head against a wall.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. You must watch your tendency to spend whatever you make.</p>
<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself. Direct your energy wisely today. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. You must try to lay your cards on the table.</p>
<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed.</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. Things will be hectic and family members will be erratic.</p>

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

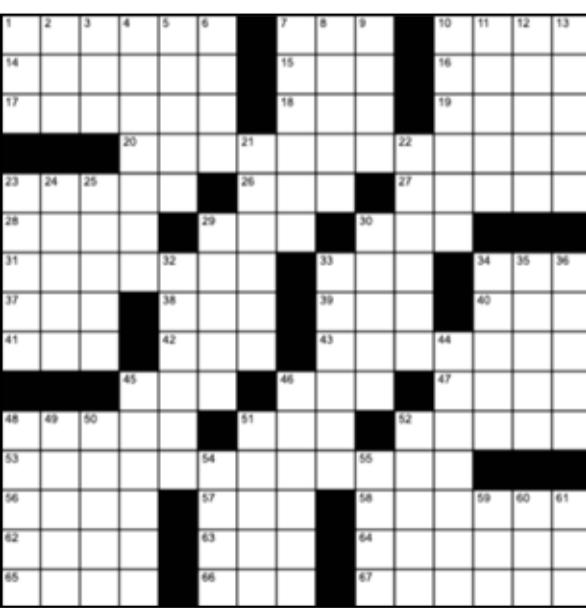
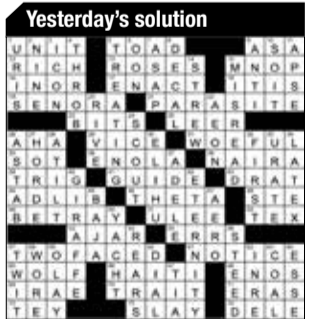
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	3	19	fine
Changchun	0	13	fine
Chengdu	12	19	overcast
Chongqing	15	23	cloudy
Fuzhou	16	24	fine
Guangzhou	16	28	fine
Guiyang	10	16	overcast
Haikou	22	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	19	cloudy
Harbin	0	13	fine
Hefei	8	19	cloudy
Nanjing	7	18	fine
Shanghai	11	19	fine
Taipei	19	21	rain
Wuhan	8	20	fine
Hong Kong	22	27	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	4	11	fog
Frankfurt	8	17	overcast
Paris	11	19	overcast
London	11	18	overcast
New York	15	21	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Surrogate; 7- Loser to DDE; 10- Four-sided fig.; 14- Ring combo; 15- \_\_\_-Cat; 16- JFK postings; 17- Inflammation of the ear; 18- \_\_\_ Aviv; 19- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 20- Bug killer; 23- Apply, as pressure; 26- Negative vote; 27- Donkeys; 28- Remove from text; 29- Wildcatter's find; 30- CPR specialist; 31- Wearing; 33- Mme., across the Pyrenees; 34- Pub drink; 37- Cleaning implement; 38- "Losing My Religion" band; 39- Tasteless items, junk; 40- Accelerate; 41- Send packing; 42- \_\_\_ roll; 43- Jock; 45- Besides; 46- Latin I verb; 47- A party to; 48- New Zealand aboriginal; 51- Marseilles Mrs.; 52- Barely enough; 53- Loving; 56- Separate by a sieve; 57- Buckeyes' sch.; 58- Poe maiden; 62- Hydrox rival; 63- RR stop; 64- Mortarboard feature; 65- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 66- Concorde, e.g.; 67- Potemkin setting;

DOWN 1- \_\_\_-wop; 2- Med. specialty; 3- Architect I.M.; 4- Spoken; 5- Between, old-style; 6- Baseball's "Walking Man" Eddie; 7- Stellar; 8- Other side; 9- Arias, usually; 10- Overhaul; 11- Les \_\_\_-Unis; 12- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 13- Former Russian rulers; 21- Riddle; 22- Super Bowl III MVP; 23- Accumulation of fluids; 24- Brand name for a copying machine; 25- Run away with a lover; 29- Continuously; 30- One of the Muses; 32- Sardonic; 33- Pollen producer; 34- Ring; 35- Admit; 36- Blessed \_\_\_; 44- Official permit; 45- Playground retort; 46- Quantity; 48- Person who dresses stones; 49- Burning; 50- Proposal; 51- Thin fogs; 52- Place; 54- Chuck; 55- Choir member; 59- Old spy org.; 60- In medias \_\_\_; 61- Guido's high note;



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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HKD 7,500/mth 1 bed 1 bath



MILLENNIAL MONEY

# LEARN — DON'T RUN — FROM YOUR INNER CRITIC

LAURA MCMULLEN,  
MDT/NERDWALLET

I can be so mean to myself. My inner critic roasts my actions like a political attack ad, with claims that are cruel, overstated and often inaccurate. My ad would assert that I'm stupid with money, bad at decision-making and a crybaby to boot — all endorsed by yours truly.

I'm not the only one talking trash about myself. Most people face negative self-talk at some point, and it comes up often in the practice of New York City-based financial therapist Aja Evans. Even financial therapists serve themselves harsh burns. "My inner monologue is brutal," Evans says.

Personal finance is a prime topic for inner critics to judge, as it can be emotionally loaded and involve major decisions. Learn how to identify this voice and reframe its message.

## WHY YOU SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THIS VOICE

Internal criticisms can be limiting when they become self-fulfilling prophecies, says Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, an Ann Arbor, Michigan-based financial therapist and author of "The Financial Anxiety Solution." For example, why try to reel in your shopping if you've already labeled yourself as an overspender?

Or say your inner voice insists you'll never understand investing. That statement could queue the following negative thought loop, Bryan-Podvin says: Because you already assume you can't grasp investing, maybe you're intimidated by the idea of opening a retirement account. So you don't set one up or learn to



do so. Then, well, you don't have retirement savings or pick up any knowledge about investing. So you continue feeling like you'll never understand it.

This kind of spiral reinforces the initial unhelpful claim, Bryan-Podvin says.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY UNHELPFUL SELF-CRITICISM

To address overly critical thinking, you must first recognize it. The fancy term for these thoughts is "cognitive distortions." In a Harvard Medical School article, Dr. Peter Grinspoon describes them as "internal mental filters or biases that increase our misery, fuel our anxiety and make us feel bad about ourselves."

Or consider this simpler definition of a cognitive distortion, from Bryan-Podvin: "an unhelpful or untruthful thought."

Look for clues to identify cognitive distortions. According to the Harvard article, those could

include labeling, like calling yourself a bad saver, and fortune-telling, like insisting you won't ever make much money. Watch for absolute terms, too, such as "always" and "never," Bryan-Podvin says.

## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR INNER CRITIC

When it comes to quieting these criticisms — or changing any behavior — Evans says that "building awareness and tracking matters." That's why people log calories to eat healthier foods, for example, and track spending to save money.

Similarly, Evans says that acknowledging unfair claims is key to wrangling them. Perhaps in the moment, you simply say, "There's my inner monologue again, being too harsh," she suggests.

If noting your cognitive distortion in the moment is too hard, she says it's fine to write or talk about your feelings later.

One way to do so is by schedu-

ling recurring "worry sessions," says Alex Melkumian, a licensed marriage and family therapist and founder of the Financial Psychology Center in Los Angeles. Dedicate those times to reflect on the financial challenges worrying you and how you tend to judge yourself about them.

Or attach this reflecting time to an existing habit, like your daily walk, Bryan-Podvin says. Another route: Identify when that inner voice tends to yell the loudest and get ahead of it, she says. For example, if checking your spending always stresses you out, "maybe five minutes before you log in to that budget app, you spend some time lovingly challenging that inner critic," she suggests.

Whether you silently note your feelings, jot them down or speak them aloud to yourself or a friend, Evans says, "the key is to be brutally honest with yourself." Examine what your voice

says and how you typically react, as well as these criticisms' impact on your life, she says.

Then brainstorm activities that typically get you "back to a more neutral place" when you're overwhelmed, she says. Perhaps jogging outside, calling a buddy or scrolling through dog photos tends to make you feel better. Aim to tap those coping mechanisms the next time your inner monologue gets the best of you.

## WAYS TO LEARN FROM YOUR INNER CRITIC

"The goal is not to get rid of the inner critic completely," Melkumian says, adding that doing so would likely be exhausting — and fruitless.

Try to contain, rather than eliminate, the voice, Melkumian says. Think of your mind as a house and the critic as your roommate. "It doesn't have to be sitting right next to us, talking in our ear," he says.

And like a rent-paying, dish-washing roommate, your inner critic can have value. Recognize its overly harsh claims, and ideally you could learn from them. "Ask which part of what the inner critic is saying is true," Melkumian says.

Take the investing example. Assuming you'll never understand investing is extreme, but maybe the topic does confuse you. Use that bit of truth as a prompt to learn about investing in a beginner-friendly way.

By acknowledging and examining these unfair claims, they can become more helpful and less hurtful. "As soon as we start paying attention," Melkumian says, "we start getting some of our power back."

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands China honors long-serving employees



Sands China Ltd. honored over 6,000 team members who are celebrating their 15- or 10-year company anniversaries in 2022 at ceremonies at The Venetian Macao and The Londoner Macao in June and September.

More than 3,000 Sands China team members are marking their 15-year company anniversaries this year, and nearly 3,000 are celebrating their 10-year anniversaries.

At the "Our 15 Years of

Excellence" and "Our Perfect 10, Thank You" events, team members celebrating 15 years received an Honorable Service Award — a 15th anniversary souvenir box containing an anniversary certificate, special edition pin designed by a team member, and a commemorative tie or scarf. They also received a gift certificate for a special 15-year anniversary meal to enjoy with a loved one at their choice of one of 11 Sands China restaurants.

The 10-year anniversary team members were recognized with a commemorative plaque, a special edition pin and a gift certificate for a special 10-year anniversary meal.

### Artyzen Grand Lapa rolls out 'Macanese Nights'



To honor Macau's cultural and culinary legacy, Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau presents the 'Macanese Nights' at Café Bela Vista, transporting guests back 450 years to explore the melting pot of influences that makes Macanese cuisine what it is today.

This gastronomic journey

is brought by Pedro do Carmo, Chef de Cuisine of Café Bela Vista and Chef Antonieta Fernandes Manhão, also known as Chef Neta.

The menu features Macanese dishes, including African chicken, traditional Minchi, Capela (the oven baked meat loaf), as well as tamarind pork

cooked with a special shrimp paste called Balichão.

"Macanese Cuisine is established as a treasure and cultural identity that reflects Macau's history over hundreds of years. We are proud to present Macanese Nights, another unique culinary experience at Café Bela Vista after the success of Fado Nights last year," said Rutger Verschuren, area vice president, Macau Operations of Artyzen Hospitality Group and General Manager of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau.

The 'Macanese Nights' will be hosted every Tuesday to Thursday at Café Bela Vista from October 18 to November 3, 2022.



**GOLF**

# LIV players should get ranking points, Matsuyama says

STEPHEN WADE, INZAI CITY

**T**HE players who left to compete in the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series should be entitled to earn ranking points, former Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama said yesterday.

Speaking at the Zozo Championship, which opens Thursday, Matsuyama called the ranking-points question "difficult" and didn't offer any details, solutions or clarifications.

"I think they should be able to," he said, speaking in Japanese. "However, there's a procedure they'll have to follow."

LIV Golf is funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. Matsuyama suggested he was staying with the PGA Tour.

"I'm a member of the PGA Tour," Matsuyama said. "The players who left did so because they thought it was the right thing to do. So I can't say anything about them."

Viktor Hovland also said LIV



Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, hits from the sixth tee during their singles match at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, in September

players shouldn't get an automatic exemption for ranking points.

"If you want to get world ranking points, you obviously have to follow the process," the Norwegian said. "And I think they're ob-

viously making an effort to get those points, but I don't think it's right to give them an exemption to just get points overnight. They obviously have to follow the process, whatever the process might be."

Matsuyama won last year's Zozo Championship — the only PGA Tour event in Japan — with a final-round 65 for a five-shot victory over Brendan Steele at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country

Club, the same venue for this year.

He'll be the local favorite at the course located about an hour outside Tokyo. The purse is \$11 million.

"The energy that the fans provide really helps out, it helps my game," Matsuyama said. "But on the other hand, there's pressure that goes along with it."

Xander Schauffele may be under more pressure than Matsuyama, and also will have his own Japan-related following.

The American's mother has roots in Taiwan but grew up in Japan. He said his wife, Maya, was born in Japan's southern island of Okinawa, and her mother is from a small island off the Okinawa coast — Miyakojima.

He said he has a pre-tournament meal in the Tokyo area planned with some of his extended family in Japan.

"I think there's going to be probably roughly 30 of us is what I've heard. It will be nice to see all my grandparents, my uncles, aunts and my cousins," he said.

Schauffele was asked precisely how many he expected for dinner.

"As many as I can get out," he said.

After the tournament, he's heading to the Okinawa area for another family event with his "wife's grandparents."

"I've never met them," he said, "so I'm very excited to go and spend a couple nights." **MDT/AP**


AD

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OPINION

China Daily  
Editorial, China Daily

UK SPY CHIEF BARKING  
UP WRONG TREE BY  
HYPING UP CHINA  
TECH THREAT

In excerpts from a speech for a security lecture of a think tank in London that were released on Monday, Jeremy Fleming, director of Government Communications Headquarters of the United Kingdom, warns Western countries of the "threat" from China taking advantage of technology.

In the extracts from the speech Fleming was to deliver on Tuesday at the annual Royal United Services Institute "security lecture", the UK spy chief hyped up the tired old "China threat" in a bid to big up his agency whose "privilege and duty" is "to see the sliding door moments of history" he boasted.

With deep government spending cuts impending in the UK, it was a good opportunity for him to stake GCHQ's claim to funding by playing up the threats the country faces. Without providing any substantial evidence, he cited China's digital currency and its Beidou satellite navigation system, as "tools to gain an advantage".

Although he exposed the West's real fears by claiming that the digital renminbi would "enable China to partially evade the sort of international sanctions currently being applied to (President Vladimir) Putin's regime in Russia" and that Beidou was evidence China was developing powerful anti-satellite capability, "with a doctrine of denying other nations access to space in the event of a conflict".

In scaremongering about Chinese technologies, Fleming conveniently ignores the fact that such allegations were leveled at Huawei's 5G technologies, into which the UK's cyber-security agency, prompted by the incessant pressure from the US administration at the time, conducted an investigation and concluded that although there were vulnerabilities, those were not an indication of any hostile intent.

It is no secret that it is the US that has analyzed and stored UK citizens' and entities' phone data and internet and email records through its National Security Agency under a secret deal approved by the UK government itself, as whistleblower Edward Snowden has exposed.

It was later revealed that the NSA was using a partnership with Denmark's foreign intelligence unit to spy on senior officials of the US' European allies, including the UK, according to an internal investigation by the Danish Defense Intelligence Service.

What spurs Fleming and others to hysterically stigmatize Chinese technologies and companies is their fear that China's technological progress is reducing the West's "future strategic technology advantage".

They know that Chinese companies and technologies have not only provided customers in developed countries with products and services of high cost-performance but also greatly promoted common development of the less-developed economies by offering them a timely ride in the new technology revolution. But since they exploit technology in less wholesome ways, they perceive all technologies in such a light.

It is not China and its technologies that should be the focus of concerns, but rather the US and its compulsive need to be omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent.

Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. said yesterday that it plans to sell its Russian operations to its local partner and withdraw from manufacturing there.

The company said its executive committee approved the sale to Russia's Central Research and Development Automobile and Engine Institute, or NAMI. The sale includes Nissan's factory and R&D facilities in St. Petersburg and its sales and marketing center in Moscow, it said. The company will operate under a new name.

Nissan did not give a dollar value for the sale but said it would log a 100 billion yen (\$680 million) "impact" from its

exit from Russia.

"While we cannot continue operating in the market, we have found the best possible solution to support our people," Nissan President and CEO Makoto Uchida said in a statement.

Nissan began making SUVs in St. Petersburg in 2009. It suspended manufacturing in Russia in March after the invasion of Ukraine. The company said the terms of the sale give Nissan the option to buy back its Russian business within the next six years.

Nissan said its employees in Russia would receive "employment protection" for a year.

AP PHOTO



Foreign travelers gather upon arrival at the Haneda International Airport yesterday

TOURISTS FLOCK TO  
JAPAN AFTER COVID  
RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

EAGER to admire colorful foliage, eat sushi and go shopping, droves of tourists from abroad began arriving in Japan yesterday, with the end of pandemic-fighting border restrictions that had been in place for more than two years.

"We got the news that we can finally come. We are really, really happy," said Nadine Lackmann, a German who was among the crowd of tourists arriving at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

Travelers like Lackmann are expected to deliver a sorely needed 5 trillion yen (\$35 billion) boost to the world's third-largest economy. And the flood of visitors is expected to keep growing.

A daily limit of 50,000 arrivals is gone. Airlines have added flights in response to the full re-opening of borders. Visa-free travel is back for short-term business visits and tourism from more than 60 countries.

David Beall, a photographer based in Los Angeles who's been to Japan 12 times, has already booked a flight, planning to go to Fukui, Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo. The last time he was in Japan was in October 2019. But it's everyday things the American is looking forward to, like eating Japan's popular pork cutlet dish, tonkatsu.

"As cliched as it sounds, just being back in Japan af-

ter all this time is what I am most looking forward to. That of course includes hopefully meeting new people, eating the food that I've missed like good tonkatsu, being in nature at that time of the year, riding the trains," he said.

As a tip for others planning trips, he recommends getting a Japan Rail Pass and a Suica or some other pre-paid card that allows cashless payments for easy travel.

About 32 million tourists visited Japan in 2019, before COVID-19. Their return is welcome for good reason. Many will have more spending power because the Japanese yen has declined in recent months in value compared to the U.S. dollar, the euro and other currencies.

The only protocols left for entry are that you must be fully vaccinated with one booster or have a negative PCR test within 72 hours of departure. Virtually all visitors from the U.S., the rest of Asia, Europe and South America who fulfill those requirements won't have to quarantine.

In August, during the most recent coronavirus surge in Japan, nationwide daily new infections topped 200,000. By now, both case numbers and deaths have dwindled. Last week, daily deaths averaged eight people nationwide. The govern-

ment has provided free COVID-19 vaccines, especially encouraging the elderly and the medically vulnerable to get inoculated.

Visitors may have to adjust to face masks, worn by most Japanese just about everywhere outside their own homes. Many stores and restaurants require customers to wear masks and sanitize their hands. Some establishments still close early, or have shuttered completely.

But bookings from abroad with Japanese carrier All Nippon Airways Co., or ANA, have already jumped five-fold compared to last week, while bookings of flights out of Japan have doubled.

Air Canada said bookings for Canadian travel to Japan jumped 51% this month compared to September, while the number of travelers from Japan to Canada grew 16% over the same period.

The Japanese economy can use the influx of tourist spending.

Fitch Ratings forecasts that Japan's economy will grow at a 1.7% annual pace this year and by 1.3% in 2023, supported by easy credit, a recovery for service industries and a gradual fix for supply-chain problems, which will boost manufacturing and exports. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Ukraine Russian forces strafed Ukraine with a fresh barrage of missiles and munition-carrying drones yesterday, a day after widespread strikes killed at least 19 people in what the U.N. human rights office described as a "particularly shocking" attack that could amount to war crimes. Air raid warnings extended throughout the country in the morning, sending some residents back into shelters after months of relative calm in Kyiv and many other cities. The earlier lull had led many Ukrainians to ignore the regular sirens, but Monday's attacks in the capital and 12 other regions gave them new urgency.

AP PHOTO



UK The head of Britain's cyber-intelligence agency yesterday accused China of trying to "rewrite the rules of international security," saying Beijing is using its economic and technological clout to clamp down at home and exert control abroad. Jeremy Fleming, director of GCHQ (pictured), said that despite war raging in Europe since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Beijing's growing power is "the national security issue that will define our future." Fleming alleged that Beijing's Communist authorities want to "gain strategic advantage by shaping the world's technology ecosystem."

AP PHOTO



UK Scottish champion Celtic was fined 15,000 euros (\$14,600) because fans displayed an anti-monarchy banner at a Champions League game days after the death of Queen Elizabeth, UEFA said yesterday. A slogan with an expletive about the British crown was shown in Warsaw during Celtic's 1-1 draw with Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk on Sept. 14.