



LAWMAKER RON LAM SAID HE HAS VOTED AGAINST FOUR BILLS – PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY – IN HIS FIRST YEAR AT THE PARLIAMENT

P4

MACAU 'SUPPORTS REVISION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW,' PJ CONCLUDES

P3

CHINA'S PATH WORKS AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED: HARVEY DZODIN

P7



MORE THAN ZERO

Trade unionist lawmaker Lam Lon Wai urges gov't to partially drop pandemic restrictions which are causing citizens' unwarranted hardship

P3

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong A multimillion-dollar stash of methamphetamine hidden in electrical transformers being sent from Mexico to Australia has been intercepted at Hong Kong's airport, authorities said yesterday. The 76 kilograms of crystal meth was found Friday in false compartments in the three transformers, a Hong Kong customs official said. She said the transformers appeared suspicious when they were X-rayed.

AP PHOTO



South Korean prosecutors requested arrest warrants yesterday for the former defense minister and coast guard chief in the country's previous government as they investigate its handling of North Korea's killing of a fisheries official in 2020 near the rivals' tense sea border. Since taking office in May, President Yoon Suk Yeol's conservative government has launched new probes into past issues including the 2020 killing, drawing strong criticism from supporters of the previous liberal government who say the moves are political revenge.

AP PHOTO



Myanmar A court in military-ruled Myanmar ruled yesterday that the last trial for corruption of the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi will go ahead after finding that state prosecutors submitted enough evidence to sustain her indictment. Suu Kyi, who was arrested when the military seized power from her elected government in February last year, has since been charged with a total of 12 counts under the anti-corruption law, each punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

More on backpage

AP PHOTO



GET BACK ASSOCIATION FORECASTS ECONOMY WILL RECOVER IN FIRST HALF 2023

ANTHONY LAM



P3

WHAT HAPPENS IN JERSEY ATLANTIC CITY GAMING REVENUE UP 7% IN SEPTEMBER

P10

GOV'T ACCEPTS GMM'S BID FOR GAMING LICENSE

The gaming tender commission has accepted GMM's bid for a 10-year-casino license. As cited in a TDM report, all seven contenders were notified of the decision on November 15, including the Genting Group-owned company. Following the submission of bids last month, the commission stated that GMM Limited's submission was conditionally accepted. In the largest gaming law overhaul yet, casino operators must have MOP5 billion in cash at all times during the 10-year license period. Incumbent operators have paid up to MOP47 million for their licenses to be extended to December 31, following the delays of the finalization of the new gaming law and with their contracts expiring on June 26.

CLASSES SUSPENDED DUE TO T3

Classes of secondary, primary and special education were suspended yesterday due to Typhoon Signal No. 3, which has been hoisted since 4:30 p.m. Monday. The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) canceled the signal at 11 p.m. last night. SMG expected that from tonight the city will be mainly affected by the northeast monsoon. On the other hand, it is expected that the cool and rainy weather will continue until tomorrow.

AMCM WARNS OF ILLEGAL INSURANCE MEDIATIONS

The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) has issued a note alerting the public to the illegal activities of insurance mediation by three different companies. According to the department, the companies "Unimall International Group Company (Macao), Limited," "Zong Yang International Consulting (Macao) Limited" and "派客國際集團(澳門)有限公司" have never been authorized to perform insurance mediation activities in Macau. The money authority calls on the public to not purchase insurance products and services from illegal insurance companies or intermediaries to avoid falling victim to fraud and suffering losses.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

MACAU SUPPORTS REVISION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, PJ CONCLUDES

RENATO MARQUES

THE people of Macau and its different sectors have expressed support for the proposed revision of the National Security Law, the Judiciary Police (PJ) concluded after reviewing the results of the public consultation.

A note published on the official website of the police force stated that the opinions collected from all sectors of society were unanimous in its support of the need to review the legal framework.

The conclusion came after analysis of the opinions collected during the eight public sessions held during the 45-day public consultation period that ended on October 5.

A total of 44 opinions were submitted during the five public consultation sessions held with the economic, social, cultural, public administration, and justice sectors. These representatives supported the revision, with the note stating, "the security of the State, the stability of society and the proper order of its functions are prerequisites for the well-being



of the population and economic development, which is why they considered this revision to be both timely and necessary."

Some of these participants also noted that Macau should pay attention "to the risk of young people and students being incited and used to participate in activities that endanger national security." These participants support the adding the crime of "inciting or supporting sedition."

The PJ also highlighted that several participants from sessions

expressed concern about the risk of technological-crimes and cyber-attacks, and called for further examination of the matter.

Seventy-four opinions were collected at the three sessions attended by the general public. Citing the Office of Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak said that there was "unanimous support for the revision of the law [with all 74 opinions] agreeing that without national security there would be no stability and social development, nor can there be a constant improvement in the quality of life."

As in the sectorial sessions, the majority of the opinions collected during the general public sessions were related to cyber-security.

The PJ, which is responsible for the revision of the law, also said that the services are currently analyzing and collating all opinions and suggestions. The PJ will eventually publish a final public consultation report and redraft the text of the proposal, so that it can be sent to the Legislative Assembly for discussion as soon as possible.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Judge Tong Hio Fong took office yesterday as the new judge president of the Court of Second Instance (TSI). The swearing-in ceremony took place in the Audience Room of the TSI and Court of Final Appeal (TUI) and was presided over by the TUI's judge president, Sam Hou Fai. The ceremony was also attended by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

NEWLY ELECTED AMCHAM CHAIRMAN LEADS DELEGATION TO LIAISON OFFICE

THE newly elected Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Macau (AmCham Macau), Charles Choy, led the association's new Board of Governors to visit the Liaison Office in Macau late last week.

Welcomed by director general Chen Guokai, assistant director Sun Yaohua, and assistant Zhao Su from the Economic Affairs Department, Choy expressed his gratitude for the "enormous support received over the years from the Liaison Office," adding that he "envisioned an aspirational chapter for AmCham Macau working

with a team of unanimous, inspirational and passionate individuals," as cited in a statement issued by the group.

One of the members of the chamber, vice chairman and executive director of Wynn Macau Linda Chen expressed that the AmCham has an "important presence in the Macau community and its unique role is unparalleled by other chambers," noting that its role as a bridge of connection between Chinese and US enterprises has become more important as the relationship between the two countries remain in flux. LV

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Group forecasts economy will recover from its worst troubles 1H2023

ANTHONY LAM

CONSIDERING the recovery from the July low, the Prosperity Index will likely recover from its unsatisfactory performance in the first half of next year, the Macau Economic Association (MEA) estimated.

It also forecasted the indices for the next three months to range between 2.3 and 2.4 points.

The index run to a long-term new low of 1.2 points in July, generally due to the Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent restrictions that started on June 18. In the following month, the index saw an astonishing increase of an entire point, bringing the index up to 2.2 points.

The main reasons for the recovery were the return of tourists, hotel occupancy and gambling revenue, the MEA said. In addition, cargo imports has also jumped to MOP11.66 billion, a 2.6-



fold increase from July, as well as a 0.4% rise in M2 money supply, which was an end to a nine-mon-

th decline.

Another helpful factor, the MEA highlighted, is the resump-

tion of group tours to Macau and travel endorsement online application for mainland Chinese. In the first phase of the resumption, the policy change will take place in Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Fujian Provinces, as well as in Shanghai Municipality – colloquially referred to as four provinces and one city.

Moreover, the reinvigoration of tourist arrivals during the Mid-autumn Festival holidays and the October 1 holidays was also worth mentioning. On October 1 the city saw over 37,000 entries, which was the second highest number in a single day.

The MEA suggested that, with the non-gambling requirements set forth in the re-tender documents for casino licenses and the government's planned multitudes of public construction projects, the economic decline should be short-term.

In spite of the positive factors, certain external factors remain

uncertain and may bring fluctuations to the city's conditions, the MEA warned.

It recapped that recently, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the WTO had shrunk their forecasts for next year's global economic growth.

They also generally expect that most of the world's major economies will continue to raise interest rates next year to cope with inflation, with global economic growth slowing down. Financial markets and asset prices may be affected and will continue to face severe tests. Some European countries may even fall into economic recession.

Internally, the MEA stressed that the situation of bad loan ratios in Macau of local and non-local residents has risen to a decade-high at 0.94% and 0.93% and is concerning.

AL PLENARY

Lawmaker calls for some Covid-19 measures to be dropped so 'normal life' can resume

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Lam Lon Wai has expressed his disagreement with some of the measures in force that aim to prevent and control Covid-19.

During the period before the agenda of Monday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly, the lawmaker opined that local authorities are being sluggish in adapting preventive measures to the practical situation of the region and are insisting on ineffective measures that cause inconvenience and complications to the lives of residents.

"Authorities should learn from past experience and, together with the latest information on the epidemic from the rest of the world and the mainland, update the current preventive measures and guidelines and disseminate them to the public.



[This would] minimize the impacts on residents and, at the same time, prepare for potential [new] outbreaks," he said.

"A few days ago, a subordinate department of the National Health Commission asked the whole country to accelerate epidemiological investigations with greater precision, and not to simplify prevention and control, aiming to redu-

ce the impact on the population," he added.

Lam also noted that, while following the national policies, Macau should learn that "harsher prevention work does not mean better," calling for a reduction in the formalism of some measures and the cancellation or adjustment of "measures that are no longer effective."

Among these, he noted the case of the

implementation and handling of the health code and the location QR code, which is said to have become "a mere formality" with questionable results that cause great inconvenience to residents.

The lawmaker highlighted that the government has used, when necessary, a lot of public space for the installation of outdoor nucleic acid stations (NAT) that no longer make any sense and are restricting access to public facilities such as parks and gardens.

He called on the government to make "reasonable adjustments" like finding suitable indoor facilities to serve those that still need the tests and replacing most of the unnecessary requirements such as needing a NAT to participate in local events with the need to take a rapid antigen test instead.

TRANSPORT

LRT TO BE EXTENDED TO 24KM

THE Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system will reach a total length of 24 km, director Lam Wai Hou of the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) disclosed yesterday.

Yesterday the transport and public works branch of the government delivered a presentation to lawmakers and explained the outline of the New Urban Zone A and the LRT.

Lam expressed his confidence that the LRT's several lines – the existing Taipa Line, the East Line, besides the Barra, the Hengqin and the Seac Pai Van Extension Lines will create connections that will eventually attract more passengers.

The East Line construction will conclude in 2028.

The latest forecast for daily passenger count of the entire system is 137,000. Currently, the Taipa Line services 2,000

passengers per day.

Earlier, the Chief Executive disclosed that a small plot of land will be leased from mainland China to facilitate LRT's Border Gate Station. Yesterday, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário made assurances that negotiations will finalize soon. Tenders will be conducted concurrently. He also made assurances that over-scheduling and exceeding of the planned budget will occur as relocation of station and facilities happen.

Lam added that the government is considering building a 40-meter tunnel from the LRT Border Gate Station to the Border Gate bus terminus.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Ella Lei was promised that public facilities will have the capacity to cater to the needs of the expected Zone A population of 100,000 people. **AL**



AL WORKS

Ron Lam votes nay on four bills in his first parliamentary year

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Ron Lam said he has voted against four bills – partially or completely – in his first year at the parliament.

Last week, the lawmaker held a press conference on his first year as lawmaker in Macau.

Lam stressed that between October 2021 and August 2022, he has not missed a single meeting in the parliament. This equates to 41 plenary meetings, 53 meetings at the Third Standing Committee and five meetings at the Committee for the Follow-up of Public Administration Affairs. He is a member of the two committees.

He also said he had taken time to sit in other committee meetings in which he was not a member, provided the meeting times did not conflict with his own committee meetings.

The four bills on which the lawmaker voted nay were the non-tertiary education law and the higher education law, which were discussed on a single occasion; the 2022 Budget; the gambling law; and the elevator law.

When the Executive was rushing to pass the amended gambling law earlier this year, the lawmaker voted nay during the discussion in general terms, or the First Reading, of the bill. He pointed out the government's proposal was intended to waive partially or wholly social welfare investments by concessionaires if they manage to at-



tract foreign tourists.

The investments are set by law to be 5% of the year's gross gambling revenue (GGR).

Lam found this proposal unacceptable because it concerns local welfare.

The unyielding position of the Executive on this proposal triggered the lawmaker to vote nay once again during the discussion on specific terms, or the Second Reading, of the bill. He attributed his move once again to the importance of securing social welfare.

His "nay" vote at the First Reading of the same bill was also based on the fact that the Executive did not provide him with sufficient data and information.

Despite his repeated requests for the data, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong only reiterated that the data would be provided at the committee discussion phase.

The key here, he pointed out, is that committee discussions are not open to the public – not even to the press. Any information disclosed is only available after each committee meeting and the disclosure is made by the committee president. In fact, the president has complete discretion to decide how, and how much, detail on a particular meeting is disclosed.

While highlighting the importance of this law to the city, Lam had said the Executive could not play hide-and-seek with the pu-

blic on data disclosure. Without sufficient information, he believes it is exceptionally difficult for members of the public to have comprehensive discussions on the matter.

Lam has also made suggestions on improving the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature.

He has suggested the Executive improve the quality of Executive Regulations, especially when they are closely related to a law passed by the parliament, as some such regulations are compiled to clarify or support the promulgation and enactment of their related laws.

A worse situation, the lawmaker added, is that there are a number of laws that have been

passed by the parliament that still do not have their auxiliary Executive Regulations, rendering the laws virtually useless.

In response to this situation, the lawmaker suggests the Executive should submit both laws and auxiliary Executive Regulations to the parliament in the future, so that the Legislature will be able to see the picture in its entirety.

He also criticized the Executive for lacking regular communication with the parliament. Therefore, even if lawmakers want to give opinions on a law during its drafting phase, they will have little information to support them.

He also said the Executive, when responding to lawmakers' inquiries or requests for information, should not put lawmakers off by giving insufficient data, providing irrelevant answers or evading further explanations by stating that an answer has been given in another occasion.

He said lawmakers are vested by law with the power to supervise the governance of the Executive, hinting that officials are required to provide sufficient information.

In his first year at the parliament, the lawmaker has also submitted 44 written inquiries, made three oral inquiries and 16 pre-agenda speeches, as well as filed 11 requests for data. He has also received 1,178 cases, enquiries and opinions from members of the public. Among them, 553 were made over the phone, 393 over Facebook and 232 over WeChat. Of all the 1,178 cases, 154 or 13% are still being followed up, the lawmaker added.

The topics of these requests were the June 18 Covid-19 outbreak, conflicting disease control measures, economic fluctuations, business difficulties, unemployment and underemployment, as well as real estate transaction conflicts.

XX CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

Report provides 'fundamental guidelines' for Hong Kong-Macau work

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's adherence to upholding and improving the policy of 'one country, two systems' has brought forth a "fundamental basis and guideline" report for work on Hong Kong and Macau.

The report also dismisses some concerns in sectors of Hong Kong's society, according to Li Xiaobing, an expert on Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan affairs from Nankai University.

Li was referring to Xi's report in the weeklong 20th National Congress of the

Communist Party of China (CPC), which opened on Sunday, when he made assurances that his government would exercise overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong and Macau, and that the two regions are administered by patriots.

"Such long-term adherence to the policy has also dispelled some concerns in some sectors of Hong Kong society, including from some political forces with ulterior motives that often hype the so-called deadline of this policy," Li told Global Times.

According to him, the policy is considered a "great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics, showing that this is the path that we have been exploring since the reform and opening up and that we will keep walking down this path."

The congress is expected to reappoint CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping as leader, who has reaffirmed a commitment to his policies for the next five years.

In a group discussion on Sunday following the report, Xia Baolong, head

of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said that the president has taken steps and has rolled out a series of measures that "addressed both the symptoms and the root causes, including the implementation of the National Security Law for Hong Kong and electoral reform, to strike down the anti-China forces that disrupted the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

He added that "the measures also put an end to the practice of the city not



having 'national security guards'."

"Those measures pushed Hong Kong to transition from chaos to order and

now toward prosperity, yielding a series of breakthroughs and significant results in Hong Kong and Macau-related work," Xia said. LV



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ZOU SHUO,
CHINA DAILY, BEIJING

REPORT TO CONGRESS INSPIRES COLLEGE STUDENTS

MANY Chinese university students have said they are inspired by the pivotal report that Xi Jinping delivered to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and are determined to incorporate their own dreams into the realization of the nation's rejuvenation.

In dormitories, classrooms and canteens, they watched the opening session using cellphones, laptops, TVs and multimedia projectors. And many have since expressed even greater eagerness to learn about the Party and the country's plans for the next five years and beyond.

Fan Shihao got up early on Sunday. He watched interviews with congress delegates while eating breakfast in his school's canteen and then viewed the opening session in a meeting room on campus with dozens of his schoolmates.

The 20-year-old undergraduate student at Beijing Jiaotong University's Jeme Tienyow Honors College said the part of the report that impressed him the most is the Party's high hopes for China's youth.

Young people should steadfastly follow the Party and its guidance, aim high but stay grou-



Students at Beijing Jiaotong University gather to watch the opening of the 20th CPC National Congress

nded, and dare to think big and take action but make sure they can deliver, the report said. Their youth and vitality will bloom in full splendor as they endeavor to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects, it said.

Fan said he is fortunate to witness the country's strength and rapid development in recent years, and he has never looked up to other countries.

"Even though some countries may have more advanced technological development, I think our country is more secure and has a better political system," he said.

As the future of China, young people are capable of living up to the expectations of the Party and the nation, he said.

The report also underscored the strategic role of education,

science and technology, and human resources as well as the importance of producing first-class innovators.

Fan said he is all the more determined to pursue a doctorate in intelligent communication and become a leading researcher in the field to help fix bottlenecks in the sector.

Renmin University of China undergraduate Zhang Xinle, who

is on an exchange program at Kedge Business School in Marseille, France, watched the replay of the opening session as soon as she got up at 7 am local time. Many other Chinese students in France also watched it on their phones.

"Although we are studying abroad, we feel that it is imperative for us to watch this critically important congress to learn about the future development direction of the Party and the country," she said.

The report stressed the need to better tell China's stories, make China's voice heard and present a China that is credible, appealing and respectable.

"As Chinese students living in France, we represent the country, and we have an important mission to tell its story and present its image to the world," she said.

Fan Jingyuan, a postgraduate student at Peking University's School of International Studies, said that as someone who aspires to become a diplomat, she will work harder to learn about the Party and country's theories of diplomacy.

"While holding a global perspective, I will stay steadfast to China's positions, and present the country's story and young Chinese people's vitality and views to the world," she said. **CHINA DAILY**

ACROSS COUNTRY

Chinese people 'inspired by blueprint for national rejuvenation'

XINHUA REPORTERS

PEOPLE from across China have been reinvigorated by a sense of mission to build the country as the Communist Party of China (CPC) convenes its five-yearly national congress this week in Beijing.

From villagers in deep mountains to jetliner designers, members of the public from all walks of life have expressed an eagerness to contribute to the country's modernization drive.

On Sunday, the CPC unveiled its blueprint for building a modern socialist China in all respects for the next five years and beyond as the 20th CPC National Congress opened.

"From this day forward, the central task of the CPC will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist

country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization," Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said in a report at the opening session of the congress.

In Shibadong Village of central China's Hunan Province, villagers dressed in traditional attire of Miao ethnic group watched the live broadcast of the report.

Shibadong, where Xi first proposed the "targeted poverty alleviation" idea during his visit in 2013, was once a poor mountain-locked village. But it has now become known as a success story in poverty alleviation.

"Eradicating poverty is not the end of our endeavor, but rather the starting point of a new journey," said Shi Kang, an official of the village. "We have full confidence that our country will become stronger

and the villagers' lives more prosperous."

Xi said in the report that China has joined the ranks of the world's innovators, citing major successes on multiple fronts including airliner manufacturing.

Zhao Keliang, deputy chief engineer of the C919, China's first homegrown large jetliner, has every reason to be proud of what he and his colleagues have done. The C919 obtained last month the type certificate, a milestone step on its journey to market operation.

"The achievements in the past decade have shown us the power of dream," said Zhao. "It is a dream of the country and the expectation of the people to have China's homegrown large jetliner fly in the sky."

On Sunday, Xi stressed maintaining absolute Party leadership over the people's armed forces and further modernizing national

defense and the military. The remarks came through loud and clear to the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"We will never fail the Party and the people," said Qiu Tiefeng, a top fighter-jet pilot in the air force of the PLA. "We will commit ourselves to achieving the goals for the centenary of the PLA in 2027 and more quickly elevating the people's armed forces to world-class standards."

Xi also listed achieving common prosperity for all as one of the essential requirements of Chinese modernization.

East China's Zhejiang Province, a demonstration zone for achieving common prosperity, has made steady strides in the regard. As a key indicator of balanced development, the income ratio between urban and rural residents in Zhejiang decreased from 2.37 to 1 to 1.94 to 1



in the past decade.

"We will continue our efforts to promote common prosperity," said Lan Wenzhong, a village Party chief in Zhejiang. "As long as we roll up our sleeves and get down to work, a happy life will be around the corner."

China's vast number of internet users have also been closely following the congress online, giving thumbs-up to the country's achievements over the past decade.

As Xi delivered the report, about a dozen main takeaways such as "three major events in the past

decade" and "the essential requirements of Chinese modernization" instantly became trending on China's popular microblogging service Weibo.

Xi encouraged China's young people to display their full talents and realize their dreams.

Echoing Xi's expectations, an internet user by the name of "Little Bear Sister-Zora" wrote, "We are living in a remarkable time and also shouldering great responsibilities. We need to aim high but stay down-to-earth, and dare to think big and take action." **XINHUA**

INTERVIEW

China's path works and should be continued: Harvey Dzodin

JASMINE, LYDIA LIU

As many people only know China through a "cold war 2.0" filter which is started by the US government and then spread by western media outlets, the 20th CPC National Congress, in Harvey Dzodin's view, is a chance to unlearn the misperceptions and gain knowledge about China's governance and how it works.

Harvey Dzodin is a senior fellow of the Center for China and Globalization and a former legal adviser in administration of Jimmy Carter, the 39th US President. He shared insight into the CPC National Congress and how the party will lead the development of China, the second largest economy of the world, at a recent interview with GDToday.



Harvey Dzodin

HOW CHINA'S DEMOCRACY ACTUALLY WORKS?

Dzodin considers the CPC is at the top of the pyramid of China's whole-process people's democracy and through the deliberations of the CPC National Congress, outsiders can learn that the vast majority of China's 1.4 billion people are very secure in the way China's democracy works.

A total of 2,296 delegates have been elected to the 20th CPC National Congress, 33.6 percent of which are from the grassroots including workers, farmers and technicians. They participate in setting the direction of development for the Party and the country, electing the CPC's new leadership, reviewing political theory, and making decisions on

important issues.

"Democracy means that people rule. Democracy is not one size fits all, but is dependent on the history, culture and specific characteristics of a given society. The American democracy is not the ne plus ultra, but in fact, built on an 18th century model that has many flaws in which needs significant updating," said Dzodin.

He elaborated that the US has the two houses of congress while China has the two-part governing structure including the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at five levels which are central, provincial, city, county, and township. Both the NPC and CPPCC are formed via democratic elections and

include eight democratic parties.

"I'm 100 percent sure that it would surprise most Americans and Europeans that more than 2.5 million deputies are elected to the NPC which creates the top leaders of the administrative, the supervisory, the judicial and prosecutorial departments. It would shock them that over 90 percent of the deputies were directly elected by 1 billion voters in counties and townships," Dzodin added.

Instead of lobbyists in the US and Europe, Dzodin introduced that China has the CPPCC, the representatives of which put forward advice and suggestions on issues discussed by the NPC.

Dzodin furthered no form of government is perfect in the real world, and each needs to be jud-

ged by how the country's people rates it, and he quoted the Edelman Trust Barometer (ETB) which asked respondents in 28 countries to indicate how much they trusted their own countries' government, business, and media.

"The 2022 ETB shows China scored the highest at 83 percent. The US scored 43 percent, which was down 5 percent year on year. It was also a bigger drop of 10 percent from 2017," he said.

'IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT'

According to the report delivered at the 20th CPC National Congress, the central task of the CPC will be to lead the Chinese people to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China and ad-

vance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through "a Chinese path to modernization."

"China's path to modernization always shocks and surprises foreign experts. By achieving the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, China has eliminated extreme poverty, lifting more than 800 million citizens out of the depths of poverty," said Dzodin.

When talking about the concept common prosperity, Dzodin found that some American media twist it as "common property".

He considers this is completely inaccurate, saying, "this is the attitude of Trump and his followers that they don't believe in promoting the greater good. The US system gives people a license to be financially corrupt. A majority of the members of the US Congress are millionaires when the average US family's annual income is a mere 70 thousand USD."

Dzodin said the US is now facing many social problems, as a result of which its powers have been left to be able to only throw up a smokescreen. So people can't see the real picture.

Being a Democrat himself, he felt disappointed that Biden followed Trump's strategy to demonize China and he believe it will harm the interests of both countries. "We have to redouble our efforts on the issues where we have a common interest in maintaining the future of our planet, whether it's environment or public health," he said.

As for future development, Dzodin believes China will stay the course, because the system has proven that it works.

"A country that devotes itself to serving the people is the one that will not only win in the long run, but continue to maintain the confidence of the population and the stability that it brings," he concluded. **GDTODAY**

SHENZHOU XIV

Audience in space applaud for the 20th CPC National Congress report

The Shenzhou XIV crew currently stationed in China's space station watched the live broadcast of the opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and applauded for the country's ambitious space outlook.

The Shenzhou XIV mission commander Chen

Dong said the crew in the space station about 400 kilometers from the surface watched the live broadcast of the opening and they were very excited and felt inspired.

The female taikonaut Liu Yang commented that when she heard about China's space exploration plan in the report, she felt inspi-

red and was more proud of their mission in the space station.

Cai Xuzhe said the Mengtian lab will soon be launched into space and they would stay true to their mission, taking careful operation and cooperating with each other to resolutely complete building the space station. **XINHUA**



Shenzhou XIV taikonauts Chen Dong (center), Liu Yang (left) and Cai Xuzhe applaud while watching the live broadcast of the opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

UK

Liz Truss' waning power brings political plots, and jokes

JILL LAWLESS
& DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

POWERLESS, humiliated, labeled a "ghost" prime minister and compared unfavorably to a head of lettuce — this is not a good week for Liz Truss.

Britain's prime minister was scrambling to recover her grasp on power yesterday after her economic plans were ripped up and repudiated by a Treasury chief whom she was forced to appoint to avoid meltdown on the financial markets.

Truss remains in office, for now, largely because her Conservative Party is divided over how to replace her.

In a bid at business as usual, Truss held a Cabinet meeting yesterday and met lawmakers from rival Conservative factions, arguing that keeping her in post can provide stability, even though she has had to ditch almost the entire prospectus on which she was elected party leader just six weeks ago.

Chastened but defiant, Truss acknowledged Monday that "mistakes were made" — but insisted she would lead the Conservatives into the next national election.

Few believe that. Britain's lively, partisan press is unusually united in the opinion that Truss is doomed. The Conservative-backing tabloid *The Sun* called her "a ghost PM" and said "for the sake of the country, we cannot go on like this." The left-leaning *Guardian* compared the Conservatives to a mutinous ship's crew, saying "Truss has not left her party. But it appears to have left her."

After *The Economist* said Truss' time in control of the government — before the Sept. 23 "mini-budget" that set the markets aflame — was "roughly the shelf-life of a lettuce," the tabloid *Daily Star* set up a livestream featuring a photo of the prime minister beside a head of iceberg, adorned with a blond wig, eyes and a mouth. It asks "Can Liz Truss outlast this lettuce?" — which, five days in, is gradually turning brown.

Truss initially tried to stay the course after her govern-



Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss

ment's package of 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in unfunded tax cuts spooked the markets, pushing up government borrowing costs, raising home mortgage costs and sending the pound plummeting to an all-time low against the dollar. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to protect pension funds, which were squeezed by volatility in the bond market.

Under intense political and economic pressure, Truss last week fired her ally Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury chief, replacing him with the Cabinet veteran Jeremy Hunt, who had been sidelined since 2019.

On Monday Hunt scrapped almost all of Truss' tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise that there will be no public spending cuts, saying there were "many difficult decisions" still to come.

The market for British government bonds and the pound weakened yesterday as relief over the government's decision to ditch the unfunded tax cuts was tempered by the recognition that the new policies are likely to mean slower economic growth.

The pound fell 0.75% against the U.S. dollar to \$1.1273 in late morning trading in London, after jumping as much as 1.2% on Monday. Yields on 10-year

government bonds rose to 4.081% after dropping to 3.973% on Monday. Bond yields, which represent the return investors receive on their money, tend to rise as a borrower's creditworthiness decreases and decline when it improves.

"While one could argue that yesterday's measures have stabilized the public finances in the short term and pulled the U.K. back into the pack as far as market perceptions of fiscal responsibility is concerned, one must question at what price to the economy next year," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

With opinion polls giving the opposition Labour Party a large and growing lead, many Conservatives now believe their only hope of avoiding electoral oblivion is to replace Truss.

Under Conservative Party rules, Truss is safe from a leadership challenge for a year, but those rules can be changed if enough lawmakers want it. Some Conservative legislators also believe Truss can be forced to resign if the party can agree on a successor. But the many divisions in the party — whose factions range from hard-right Brexiters to centrist "One Nation" Conservatives — makes that a challenge.

Truss' defeated leadership rival Rishi Sunak, House of Commons leader Penny

Mordaunt and popular Defense Secretary Ben Wallace all have supporters, as does Hunt, who many see as the de facto prime minister already. Some even want the return of Boris Johnson, who was ousted in the summer after becoming enmeshed in ethics scandals.

A national election does not have to be held until 2024, and a few Conservatives say Truss should be given a second chance. But lawmaker Charles Walker said that if Truss led the party into the next election, "I think we'll be out (of power) for 15 years."

The chaos is unprecedented even for a country that has experienced plenty of political turbulence in recent years. Since the shock 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union, Britain has seen years of bitter wrangling with the EU, two general elections and three prime ministers.

"British politics and economics is convulsed from time to time, as many countries are," said Tony Travers, visiting professor in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. "But the two coming together — where a political crisis effectively causes an economic one, which then the government has to try to bail itself out from — I think it's pretty well without parallel." MDT/AP

this day in history

1987 SHARES PLUNGE AFTER WALL STREET CRASH



The world's stock market has collapsed after shares on Wall Street suffered a wave of panic selling.

The Dow Jones industrial average plummeted by a record 508 points, registering a percentage drop of 22.5%.

On Wall Street itself, share prices crashed across the board in frenzied trading that saw collective losses worse than the infamous "Black Monday" in October 1929.

In London the value of quoted shares fell by £50bn as the FT 30-share index dived 183.7 points to 1629.2.

The previous sharpest one day fall was on March 1, 1974 after Labour's indecisive election victory, when shares fell 7.1%.

The FTSE index also crashed more than 300 points with a loss of £63bn.

The collapse was triggered by Friday's fall on Wall Street and a steep drop in Tokyo.

The White House attempted to calm investors by issuing a statement declaring that President Ronald Reagan remained convinced that the US economy was sound.

Dealers marked prices down in an effort to discourage sellers amid scenes close to hysteria.

The percentage drop was the second largest ever next to the 24.4% fall of 12 December, 1914.

Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange John Phelan said: "This is the nearest thing to a financial melt-down I've ever come across. I would not want to be around for another one like this."

But officials warned against comparisons, saying that the situation is dramatically different from 1929.

Trading activity was driven down by growing fears of rising interest rates and a falling dollar.

These were exacerbated by the news that the US had retaliated against Iranian attacks in the Gulf by bombarding an offshore oil rig.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the wake of the 1987 crash, which also became known as Black Monday, markets around the world were put on restricted trading mainly because at the time computers were dealing with so many orders that they were unable to keep up.

By the end of October, stock markets in Australia had fallen by 41.8%, Hong Kong 45.8% and the United Kingdom 26.4%.

The effects of the crash were not as crippling as expected because it was not followed by a depression.

Over the next decade interest rates went down and investors showed new faith in the market. The debate over the cause of the crash continued for many years after the event but economists have never been able to name a single factor that ushered in Black Monday.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you encounter. You can make changes to your home that will be pleasing to all concerned.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can change your living arrangements. Don't put your professional reputation on the line. Rest and relaxation will be more favorable than you think.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You will have no problem getting along with clients. You could be quite erratic regarding your personal relationship. Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. You may want to take extra special care of your luggage if you are traveling today.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You must consider yourself for a change. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. If you have to deal with large institutions, be careful not to make waves.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You will communicate easily and should be able to develop new friendships. You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events. Be careful not to take on other people's problems.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
It's a good time to make changes to your living quarters that will give you more space. Think of starting a new business or emotional partnership.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. Concern yourself with legal matters and formulating contracts rather than finalizing your objectives.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Remember; talk to them, not at them. You will have the discipline to make changes you feel are necessary. Direct your energy into physical entertainment.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 2 | 17 | fine |
| Changchun | -2 | 10 | fine |
| Chengdu | 14 | 24 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 15 | 26 | cloudy |
| Fuzhou | 19 | 22 | overcast |
| Guangzhou | 15 | 23 | overcast |
| Guiyang | 11 | 20 | cloudy |
| Haikou | 21 | 25 | rain |
| Hangzhou | 10 | 19 | cloudy |
| Harbin | -3 | 8 | fine |
| Hefei | 6 | 17 | fine |
| Nanjing | 7 | 18 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 12 | 19 | fine |
| Taipei | 19 | 20 | rain |
| Wuhan | 11 | 22 | fine |
| Hong Kong | 24 | 26 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 3 | 9 | rain |
| Frankfurt | 8 | 18 | overcast |
| Paris | 16 | 23 | overcast |
| London | 14 | 17 | overcast |
| New York | 6 | 13 | fine |

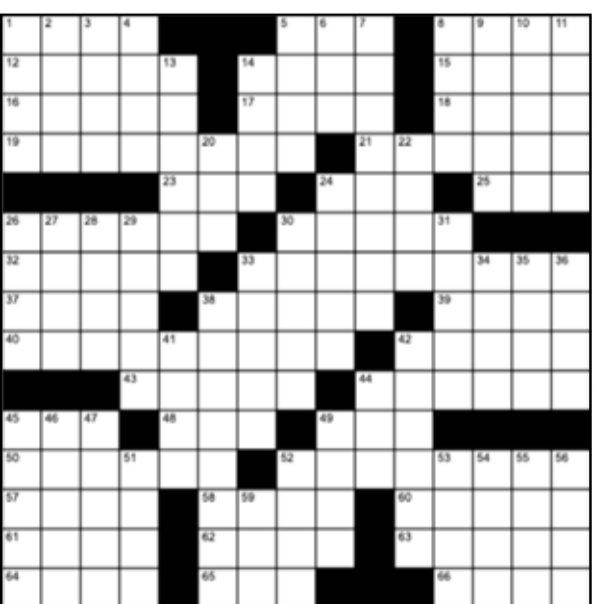
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- James of "The Godfather"; 5- Nocturnal bird; 8- Letters, e.g.; 12- Shady recess; 14- Golfer Aoki; 15- Cross inscription; 16- Seventh sign of the zodiac; 17- Clarinet range; 18- All-male; 19- Wading bird; 21- Not rough; 23- Paulo, Brazil; 24- Actress Arthur; 25- After taxes; 26- Prize; 30- Sanctify; 32- Bedouin; 33- Native of France; 37- "A Jug of Wine..." poet; 38- Greek epic poem; 39- Alleviate; 40- Tender emotion; 42- Merchandise; 43- Cozy; 44- Clawed; 45- Grab a bite; 48- Univ. aides; 49- Stutz contemporary; 50- Be short with; 52- Compassion; 57- Scrabble piece; 58- Israeli weapons; 60- Conger catcher; 61- Those, to Juan; 62- Acting part; 63- Currency unit in Nigeria; 64- Mailed; 65- Many, many moons; 66- C.S.A. soldiers;

DOWN 1- A little lower?; 2- Seed cover; 3- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 4- Standard; 5- 1952 Winter Olympics setting; 6- Buddhist temple; 7- Unfinished detail; 8- Japanese soup; 9- Composer Bruckner; 10- Steamed; 11- Luminous; 13- Elevated; 14- Othello villain; 20- Where some vets served; 22- Not fem.; 24- Sheep cry; 26- Seth begat him; 27- A bit; 28- Counterfeiter catcher; 29- Third in a series; 30- Salty; 31- Clip wool; 33- Skedaddles; 34- Female horse; 35- On or towards the Mediterranean, for example; 36- Hotbed; 38- Not ripe; 41- Bit; 42- Uncomfortably stiff; 44- X; 45- Adlai's running mate; 46- Biscotto flavoring; 47- Claw; 49- Greet the day; 51- Nudnik; 52- Potter's oven; 53- At hand; 54- Peace Nobelists Wiesel; 55- Balkan native; 56- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 59- Animal park;

Yesterday's solution

| | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| ETUI | ANIL | POET |
| WARN | COCOA | RULE |
| ERAS | INEPT | EGOL |
| SALT | DOOR | TECHIE |
| TRIS | TILE | |
| RELIC | HUMIDITY | |
| DEALT | RATE | GROO |
| ILS | RAVES | ANG |
| MATS | OBOE | GOTTA |
| SYSTEM | IGROMEO | |
| LEGAD | MINI | |
| PATRON | BAS | TBSP |
| APIN | CHUNK | TEAR |
| RENU | EROSE | EDGE |
| EDAM | EYED | DEEP |



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
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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

GAMING

NJ CASINO, SPORTS BETTING, ONLINE REVENUE UP 7% IN SEPTEMBER

WAYNE PARRY, ATLANTIC CITY

NEW Jersey's casinos, horse tracks that offer sports betting and the online partners of both types of gambling outlets won nearly \$485 million from gamblers in September, up nearly 7% from a year earlier.

And the nine casinos collectively edged past the amount they won from in-person gamblers in September 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic hit. They won nearly \$252 million, up 1.3% compared with three years ago.

But much of that came from the performance of just two casinos: Hard Rock and Ocean; the other seven are still trailing the in-person revenue levels they had before the pandemic hit.

The amount won from in-person gamblers is a key metric for Atlantic City casinos, and is among the industry's biggest concerns as the seaside gambling resort works to recover from pandemic-related declines. Six of the nine casinos won more from in-person gamblers last month than



they did in September 2019.

"September's mild weather helped contribute to a strong start to the fall season for Atlantic City's casino operators," said Jane Bokunewicz, director of the Lloyd Levenson Institute at Stockton University, which studies the Atlantic City gambling market. "At this rate, Atlantic City's casino operators are likely to meet and potentially exceed pre-pandemic end-of-year totals for both brick-and-mortar and total gaming revenue."

The in-person revenue num-

bers are less encouraging when compared to September 2019, before the coronavirus outbreak.

Over the first nine months of this year compared to the same period in September 2019, Bally's was down 10.3%; Borgata was down 1.2%; Caesars was down 9.3%; Golden Nugget was down 25.2%; Harrah's was down 17.2%; Resorts was down 5.9% and Tropicana was down 16.8%, according to the Casino Association of New Jersey.

Over that same period, Ocean was up 68.3% and Hard Rock

was up 51.8%.

The casinos and the three horse racing tracks that offer sports betting took nearly \$867 million worth of sports bets in September, keeping nearly \$98 million as revenue after paying off winning bets and other expenses. The sport betting revenue figure was up nearly 19% from a year ago.

Internet gambling brought in over \$135 million in September, an increase of over 10% from a year ago.

Bally's won nearly \$15.9 million from in-person gamblers in September, up 12.8% from a year ago. It won over \$3.7 million online, compared with just \$337,000 a year earlier, and it won over \$905,000 from sports betting, up from \$126,000 a year ago.

Borgata won \$62.3 million from in-person gamblers, up 3.5% from a year ago. It won \$41.1 million online, up 7.6%, and it won over \$10 million from sports bets, down from over \$13.4 million a year ago.

Caesars won \$22.4 million from in-person gamblers, up 1.8%

from a year ago. It won nearly \$1.5 million in sports bets, compared to a loss of over \$380,000 a year ago.

Golden Nugget won nearly \$13.5 million from in-person gamblers, up 4.3% from a year ago. It won over \$34 million online, up 10%, and it won just over \$224,000 from sports betting, about twice what it did a year earlier.

Hard Rock won \$43.6 million from in-person gamblers, up 6.3% from a year ago. It won nearly \$5.7 million online, down 2%, and it won \$1.8 million from sports bets, marginally above what it won a year earlier.

Harrah's won \$23.2 million from in-person gamblers, down 15.5% from a year ago. It lost almost \$83,000 online, compared with winnings of nearly \$386,000 a year ago.

The Ocean casino won nearly \$30.6 million from in-person gamblers, up 5.2% from a year ago. It won nearly \$2.4 million online, about double what it did a year ago, and it won over \$536,000 in sports bets, down from the \$1.6 million it won on such bets a year ago.

Caesars Interactive Entertainment NJ, affiliated with Caesars, Harrah's and Tropicana, won over \$9 million online, down nearly 11% from a year ago. MDT/AP

AD

ALBERGUE SCM 婆仔屋文創空間 24.10.2022 - 01.11.2022 鳳凰天空創刊14週年封面人物圖片展

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FOOTBALL

Liverpool-Man City has become England's ugliest rivalry

JAMES ROBSON, LONDON

AS the Manchester City team bus made its way out of Anfield, there came a parting shot.

An object, supposedly thrown by home fans after the bad-tempered 1-0 loss to Liverpool on Sunday, caused a small crack in the windshield.

It's a rivalry that has turned ugly, the bitterest in the Premier League.

City manager Pep Guardiola has already successfully avoided coins being hurled in his direction during the match. Liverpool, meanwhile, condemned the behaviour of the away fans after offensive chants relating to Hillsborough — the tragedy in 1989 that resulted in the deaths of 97 of its fans.

As fierce as the competition has been on the field during a four-year period when the teams have dominated English soccer, so has the feud been off it. A per-



son with knowledge of the bus incident said City will make an official complaint to the English Football Association.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because City has yet to publicly comment on the events surrounding the match. The coin-throwing and Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp's pre-match comments will also be included in the complaint, the person said.

"There are three clubs in world football who can do what they want financially," Klopp said on

Friday, an apparent reference to City, Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle, who are backed by Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

Tensions between the clubs have been building for some time — dating back to before their recent battle for supremacy at the top of the Premier League.

Raheem Sterling's transfer to City in 2015 pointed to a shift in the balance of power from one of European soccer's traditional giants to its newly-enriched ri-

val, which was bought by the Abu Dhabi royal family in 2008. As a result, the England forward was heavily-criticized for what was perceived as a financially motivated move.

"Trophies don't get handed out, you've got to earn them," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said at the time. "You've got to deliver in big games and he hasn't done that yet."

Sterling went on to win four titles at the Etihad Stadium and 10 major trophies.

But the rivalry really intensified when Klopp emerged as the greatest threat to Guardiola's dominance.

Liverpool beat City in three-straight games in the second half of the 2017-18 campaign, which saw Guardiola's team crowned champion with a record 100 points.

It was a notice of intent from Klopp, while Liverpool fans appeared determined to intimidate City, not only with the famously daunting atmosphere in-

side Anfield, but also by attacking the visiting team bus ahead of a Champions League quarterfinal match.

The damage caused was so severe that a replacement bus was required to get the team back to Manchester.

The small crack left on the windshield on Sunday was not as dramatic, but it was the latest incident involving two teams that have set standards on the field that have not been matched by their fans off it.

Liverpool said it wants to work with City to eradicate "vile chants."

Meanwhile, Klopp, who was sent off for angrily charging out of his technical area to remonstrate with the referee's assistant, apologized for the coin-throwing.

"Horrible," he said. "I am sorry. It never should happen."

How the FA unpicks a game that was overshadowed by flash points off the field is not straightforward. It has limited jurisdiction over isolated incidents of objects being thrown from the crowd from individuals. And while it has condemned the chants from City fans, it would only normally act when discrimination is involved.

Klopp's fate is also uncertain.

The Liverpool manager won't face an automatic suspension for his red card, the FA said. **MDT/AP**

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FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**COUNTRY'S DOOR
 WILL ONLY BE
 OPENED WIDER**

The report delivered at the opening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in Beijing on Sunday stressed that China will continue to open-up to the outside world, and accelerate the building of a new development pattern in which internal circulation is the mainstay and internal and external circulations are mutually reinforcing.

The report represents a guidance for China's future opening-up.

There are some voices, both at home and abroad, alleging that focusing on domestic circulation means that China will contract its opening-up and pursue self-sufficiency. This is a false assessment, as the new development paradigm comprises both circulations and is being implemented in accordance with a careful assessment of the risks and uncertainties arising from the complicated domestic and international development environments.

Although a few countries are endeavoring to roll back globalization and trying to suppress China's industries and technologies, China's door to the outside world has never been closed; instead it has been opened wider.

Statistics show that from 2012 to 2021, China's foreign trade volume increased from 24.4 trillion yuan (\$3.39 trillion) to 39.1 trillion yuan, and its international market share increased from 10.4 percent to 13.5 percent. It is the largest trading partner of 166 countries and regions. Moreover, China has been the most important engine for the global economy, as its contribution to the world's economic growth has remained stable at over 30 percent for many years.

China's role as one of the world's most important suppliers of goods and services has been strengthened at a critical time when the COVID-19 pandemic shocks and geopolitical conflicts are threatening to disrupt global industry and supply chains. China has held high the banner of free trade, responding to anti-globalization with "globalization", and the unreasonable suppression of its enterprises and the technological blockade with continued openness and inclusiveness.

China has introduced a series of effective policies to improve its domestic market and it continues to be a hot destination for foreign direct investment. In the first eight months this year, the amount of foreign investment actually used in China was 892.74 billion yuan, up 16.4 percent year-on-year.

And making domestic circulation the mainstay does not mean rejecting openness. It is a natural move at this stage in the country's development to transition from investment and exports to domestic demand as the main driver of growth. The implementation of the dual circulation paradigm is a manifestation of the country's modernization, rather than it turning inward to isolation and exclusion.

The country's decision-makers are well aware that the trend of global economic globalization is irreversible, and no country can pursue development behind closed doors.

**GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER URGES
 CAUTION IN CHINA RELATIONSHIP**

**THE
 BUZZ**

Germany must avoid repeating with China the mistakes that it made in its relationship with Russia over recent years, the German foreign minister said yesterday.

Annalena Baerbock said Germany must face up to a "competition of systems" between countries "that believe in international law and cooperation and authoritarian regimes."

"We must first of all learn from the mistakes of our Russia policy of recent decades," Baerbock said at a foreign policy forum in Berlin organized by the Koerber Foundation think tank. "I say very clearly that one-sided economic dependence exposes us to political blackmail."

"As far as Russia is concerned, that's spilt milk now," Baerbock said, acknowledging that Germany ignored warnings from eastern European partners about its dependence on Russian energy. "We must ensure that we don't make such a mistake again, and that means that we will have to take account of this more strongly in our policy toward China."

She noted that a "national security strategy" being drawn up by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government will include a German China strategy, which will be embedded in a European Union strategy.

German companies have invested heavily in China in recent years, and China is one of Germany's biggest trading partners.

AP PHOTO



The Chinese consulate in Manchester, England

**CHINA DEFENDS RIGHT
 TO PROTECT CONSULATE
 IN UK AFTER ASSAULT CLAIM**

SYLVIA HUI, LONDON

CHINA'S Foreign Ministry said yesterday its diplomatic missions abroad have the right to "take necessary measures" to maintain security after British police opened an investigation into the assault of a Hong Kong protester who alleged he was dragged into the Chinese Consulate in Manchester and beaten up during a demonstration.

Britain's foreign secretary summoned the charge d'affaires at the Chinese embassy in London yesterday to express the U.K.'s "deep concern" about the assault allegations and to demand an explanation for the actions of the Chinese consulate staff.

Police in the English city of Manchester said a peaceful protest outside the Chinese Consulate on Sunday turned into a "hostile" situation when unidentified men came out of the building, dragged one of the protesters into the consulate grounds and assaulted him. Police said officers had to intervene and remove the man.

The man, who is in his 30s, told reporters that he

was "beaten up when protesters tried to stop the masked men from tearing down their anti-government placards outside the gates of the consulate."

The protesters had gathered at the consulate on Sunday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin rejected the accounts of the protester and Manchester police, telling reporters that the protester had "illegally entered" the consulate and "jeopardized the security of the Chinese diplomatic premises."

"The diplomatic missions of all countries have the right to take necessary measures to maintain the peace and dignity of the premises," Wang said in Beijing. "What I want to stress is that the peace and dignity of Chinese embassies and consulates abroad must not be violated."

He added that the British government should step up protection for Chinese diplomatic posts and personnel in the U.K.

Downing Street said the incident was "deeply concerning," and U.K. lawmakers pressed the British government to take tougher action during an

urgent questions session in Parliament yesterday.

Foreign Office minister Jesse Norman said his department has clearly told the Chinese embassy that "all those on our soil have the right to express their views peacefully without fear of violence."

Video on the BBC website showed a scuffle breaking out in front of the consulate after masked men tore down and took away the protesters' placards. The video appeared to show several men wearing face masks beating up someone who had been pushed to the ground amid the clashes.

Police said the protester was taken to a hospital to treat his injuries. No arrests have been made.

The Chinese Consulate in Manchester didn't respond to a request for comment.

At a media briefing yesterday, Hong Kong leader John Lee said he did not have the full details about the case but trusted that the U.K. government would handle the incident in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and British law. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Australian and Singaporean leaders announced yesterday what they described as a world-first agreement to cooperate in transitioning their economies to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese outlined their so-called Green Economy Agreement between the two countries after an annual meeting in the Australian Parliament House.

AP PHOTO



Russia A warplane crashed into a residential area in a Russian city on the Sea of Azov after suffering engine failure, leaving at least 13 people dead, three of whom died when they jumped from upper floors of a nine-story apartment building to escape a massive blaze. A Su-34 bomber came down in the port city of Yeysk after one of its engines caught fire during takeoff for a training mission, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

AP PHOTO



Germany Senior members of the environmentalist Greens party indicated yesterday that they would accept Chancellor Olaf Scholz's decision to extend the lifetime of the country's three remaining nuclear plants for a few months. The reactors were long scheduled to be switched off at the end of the year, but Economy Minister Robert Habeck agreed to let two plants run until mid-April amid a feared energy crunch.

Danish officials yesterday confirmed that there has been "extensive damage" to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea off Denmark and that the cause of the damage was "powerful explosions." In a statement, the Copenhagen Police said it had carried out a number of preliminary investigations of what it called "the crime scenes," with assistance from Denmark's Armed Forces and in collaboration with, among others, the Danish security and intelligence agency.