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**GROUND FLOOR AND UNDERGROUND FLOORS OF THE BARRA TRANSPORT HUB WILL OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE TOMORROW, THE GOV'T ANNOUNCED**

**HO IAT SENG RECAPS LESSONS FOR MACAU FROM 20TH CONGRESS AT GOV'T SEMINAR**

**HIT BOTTOM? CASINOS ON TRACK FOR WORST YEAR ON RECORD**



**Asian markets** Shares advanced in Asia yesterday after a rally on Wall Street spurred by the Federal Reserve chair's comments on easing the pace of interest rate hikes to tame inflation. Signs that China may be shifting its approach to containing COVID-19 outbreaks to focus more on vaccinations also helped drive buying of shares across the region.



**Australia** Sean Turnell (right), an Australian economist who spent almost two years imprisoned in Myanmar, received a hero's welcome yesterday at the Parliament House where lawmakers rose in a standing ovation and the prime minister praised his courage, optimism and resilience. Turnell, an adviser to Myanmar's elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, was among American, Japanese and British citizens released Nov. 17 as part of a broader prisoner amnesty during Myanmar's National Victory Day celebrations.



**USA** Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron are celebrating the long-standing U.S.-French relationship, but these are friends with differences. The French leader is using his visit to Washington to sharply criticize aspects of his ally's signature climate law as a bad deal for Europe. Biden is honoring Macron with the first state dinner of his presidency. First, the presidents are holding talks in Oval Office on Russia's war in Ukraine and their approach to assertive China. More on p10

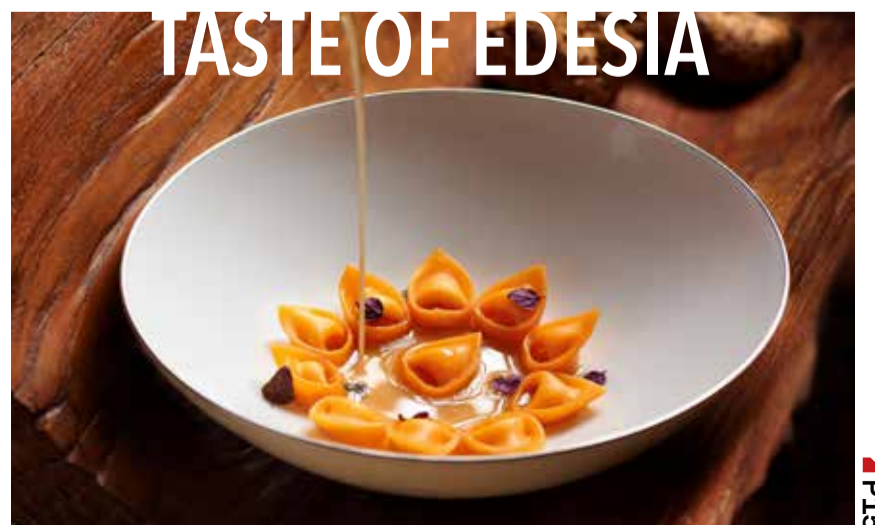
More on backpage

# SMOKE LESS

**As Macau bans vaping, survey shows Macau residents using significantly less tobacco**



**UNFIT ANYTIME FITNESS CLOSES MACAU OPERATIONS**



P4

P15



# CE RECAPS LESSONS FOR MACAU FROM 20TH CONGRESS AT GOV'T SEMINAR

ANTHONY LAM

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Lat Seng called for everyone to “diligently acquire and accurately comprehend” the spirit of the 20th Congress at a government seminar yesterday.

Yesterday the government held two seminars on the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which is commonly known as the 20th Congress. One of the two sessions accommodated government officials, and the other accommodated local association leaders.

Both sessions were presided over by the national 20th Congress seminar taskforce, comprising a group of officials from the capital city.

In his speech, Ho requested that participants cultivate in-depth understanding of the Congress’s “significant meaning” to Macau and Hong Kong, of the transformations of the past five years and those expected in the next ten years, of the fruits of innovation from the major theories garnered



by the “directive thinking”, of that nation’s mission, strategy and disposition, as well as of the version of One Country Two Systems following the Congress.

He also expressed his satisfaction about the city gradually acquiring the Congress’ spirit and his appreciation to the seminar taskforce.

At the same occasion, Vice Director Yang Wanming of the SARs Affairs Office of the State Council recapped in a speech that both Central and local governments have implemented policies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He believed that Macau’s economic revivals will happen soon and

stronger under One Country Two Systems.

Shen Chunyao, member of the seminar taskforce, reiterated the importance of One Country Two Systems, both the status of the Consitution and the Basic Law, as well as the implementation of Patriots Ruling SARs.

Most officials attended the morning session. Three officials talked to the press in the afternoon, namely U U Sang, acting president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Liu Dexue, director of the Legal Affairs Bureau, and Chang Cheong, consultant at the Office of the Secretary for Security.

All of them spoke highly of the seminar, which had given them more clear and in-depth understanding of the spirit of the Congress.

U asked how Macau should live out the spirit of the Congress in the context of the development of the Greater Bay Area. The response he received, according to U, was to comply with One Country Two Systems and the 14th Five-year Plan, as well as participating in the development of, and eventually utilizing, Macau’s position as a Lusophone-China link.

Liu and Cheong reflected on their respective areas of law and national security.

## PUBLIC WORKS

# BARRA TRANSPORT HUB TO OPEN PARTIALLY TOMORROW

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE ground floor and the underground floors of the Barra Transport Hub will open for public use tomorrow, the government announced yesterday.

Public facilities will include the leisure concourse on the ground floor, as well as the bus terminus on the first underground floor and the public parking lot on the third underground floor.

With the opening of the new bus terminus, stops for 10 bus routes will be relocated underground. At the terminus, buses will alight and board passengers on different lanes.

The current bus terminus will become a common bus stop and have its name changed to Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Sai Van/Ponte-Cais da Barra. Simultaneously, bus No 5 will henceforth skip the Macau Tower stop.

The new parking lot, meanwhile, will provide 201 spaces for light vehicles and 403 for motorcycles. Three of the 201 are accessible spaces. Payments can be made by cash, Macau Pass or MPay. Charges are identical to most government owned or commissioned parking services. No monthly ticket is available at this parking lot.

The pedestrian lanes and greening areas at the hub should be expected within the first quarter of next year. In addition, the neighborhood is set to experience more road works as auxiliary to the main hub.

## GAMING

# Casino on track for worst year on record, with November revenues plunging 56% y-o-y

MDT ARCHIVE



LYNZY VALLES

**C**ASINO revenues in November plunged 56% from the previous year to MOP3 billion patacas, another figure that is set to likely put Macau on its worst year for gaming amid tight Covid policies.

Last month’s revenue fell by 23.1% month-on-month from MOP3.90 billion.

Data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau shows until November, revenues stood at only MOP38.7 billion –

far below than the government’s optimistic expectation of MOP130 billion.

The current figure is also far lower than the MOP270 billion in revenue that the city recorded pre-pandemic.

With the gaming overhaul, the crackdown on junkets and Covid restrictions that keep gamblers away, it remains unclear whether Macau’s golden days will ever return despite the billions pledged by incumbent operators.

Visitor arrivals in Macau

fell short of the high expectations of the tourism industry, despite the eagerly awaited return of the Macau Grand Prix.

Last week, tourism industry insiders stated that daily average visitors so far this month amounted to roughly 16,000, a figure that is below the same period last year.

Meanwhile, analysts have formerly forecasted that November revenue would drop 47% from a year earlier to MOP3.6 billion patacas.

Casinos have been fast losing cash, even recording the worst ever gross gaming revenue figure in July, tumbling 95% year-on-year due to the city’s worst Covid-19 outbreak in mid-June.

With no certainty, gaming concessionaires are betting on Macau’s future, pledging some MOP100 billion in investments.

In the city’s biggest overhaul of the gaming law, the government is requiring bidders to submit proposals on future work in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in order for them to be awarded a license.

Macau chief executive Ho Iat-Seng has set a limit of 6,000 gaming tables and 12,000 machines per operator as part of the major reforms coming into effect on January 1.

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SUNCITY TRIAL

# Alvin Chau calls for Suncity workers to be acquitted

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Court of First Instance heard the final evidence in the case involving former junket mogul Alvin Chau and several other defendants concerning the former gaming promoter Suncity Group yesterday.

At the final hearing before the verdict, Chau called on the court to acquit all former Suncity workers accused of performing illegal gambling activities and of participating in a criminal organization, TDM Radio reported.

Some defendants, including Chau, decided to speak to the court one last time, insisting on their innocence. Chau also reaffirmed that he never practiced or promoted any side betting activities in local casinos.

The defense focused on the accusations of illicit exploitation of gambling activities in an authorized place, which relates to so-called phone betting. Most of the



Alvin Chau presenting a cheque for Grand Prix sponsorship, 2016

defense lawyers argued the point, asserting that the activity falls in a legal gray area, and that there is no legal basis to consider the activity a crime.

The defense also reminded the court of a statement by Judiciary Police investigators, which, they

said, failed to clearly explain how the activity was illegal and which particular law was violated.

The defense put forward the same arguments concerning the crimes of founding, running, and being a member of a criminal organization, which they generally

refuted. The defense noted that Suncity was a legal, registered company which was operating for over 10 years in the market without any reported issues, a fact echoed by Chau himself, who said that he failed to understand how such a reputable company could

now be equated to a "gang."

On a personal note Chau told the court that he would never commit such illegal acts for "so little": he is accused of profiting by some 20 billion patacas which, according to the prosecution, was split among over 90 different companies.

Of the principal defendants, only Cheong Chi Kin, who is one of the two who has admitted to the accusations concerning side betting, said that he intends to compensate the government for the lost taxes. However, he maintains the assertion that side bets have always been common in Macau casinos and that he did not think they were illegal. Cheong said he assumed this because the side betting was done openly and never attracted any remarks, including from concessionaires and inspectors from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Another matter which raised the eyebrows of the defense lawyers concerned the use of evidence provided by mainland authorities. One of the defense lawyers requested that this evidence be discarded, since local police had only access to parts of the evidence that was pre-selected by the mainland authorities and not the entire contents.

The court will reconvene on January 18 next year to publically deliver its verdict.

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# ANYTIME FITNESS ALLEGEDLY CLOSES MACAU OPERATIONS

ANTHONY LAM

**I**nternational gym chain Anytime Fitness closed its operations in Macau yesterday, according to a noti-

ce posted by the company. The company was contacted for verification through its Instagram page. No reply has been received as of press time. The company announced

the decision in a notice dated November 28. "We regretfully announce that Anytime Fitness in Macau will close all shops in Macau from December 1," the

notice reads. Meanwhile, it has given details on arrangements to exiting memberships in a responsible fashion. As stated in the notice, the company's outlet at the Praia Park residential estate in Coloane will be closed from the aforementioned date. On the other hand, the outlet at Caravel Hotel in In-

ner Harbor will continue to operate as it had been sold to the hotel. Members were assured by the notice that their memberships will not be affected.

Those with memberships at the Coloane outlet will receive specific emails. They will be requested to submit "requisite information" to the company to receive a pro rata refund of membership fees.

There has been no announcement on the matter on any of the three Instagram pages for Anytime Fitness's operations in Macau over the past two days. The latest posts were made on February 25 and 26, and concerned Macau operations generally, as well as for the Praia Park outlet in particular.

The Caravel Hotel outlet page and the Caravel Hotel page, meanwhile, had no announcement on the matter either.

There was also no news published on the website concerning the Macau operations of Anytime Fitness. Nonetheless, there is an announcement published on the website that a gym is coming soon to the Waterfront Duet residential estate.

Anytime Fitness is a brand headquartered in the US and relies heavily on franchises for expansion.



# SSM: Survey shows Macau residents using less tobacco

STAFF REPORTER

**T**he number of cigarette smokers has fallen significantly from 79,400 to 59,700 between 2011 and 2022, according to the "Macau Population Tobacco Use Survey."

The Cigarette Use index in Macau has reached the

goal proposed by the World Health Organization to cut the tobacco use rate by 30% from 2010 by 2025, the Health Bureau (SSM) claimed.

However, emerging products such as e-cigarettes have caused new challenges for global tobacco control.

The SSM stated that companies whose profits

depend on e-cigarettes still provide false information, such as that they cause less harm than traditional tobacco. This attracts particularly young people to smoke e-cigarettes, resulting in the rapid growth of their use in various countries.

According to the "Macao Youth Tobacco Use Survey",

e-cigarettes were smoked by 4.0% of middle school students aged 13 to 15 in 2021, 1.4 percentage points higher than the 2.6% in 2015, and significantly higher than the rate for normal cigarettes in the age group (2.1%).

For this reason, the Macau government has banned the sale of e-cigarettes in Law No. 5/2011 (Smoking Prevention and Control Scheme) and has concurrently prohibited the advertising, promotion and sponsorship of e-cigarettes, which has gone some way in preventing young people from being exposed to e-cigarettes.

The ban, which will be effective from Monday next week, was approved by the Legislative Assembly in an amended law in August.

Individual offenders of the law will be fined MOP4,000 while private entities or the tobacco industry will face a fine of MOP20,000 to MOP200,000 for offences.

The bureau said it would step up legislation and law enforcement as well as campaigns and education on the harm of e-cigarettes and cigarettes to teenagers.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Amid Macau's latest Covid-19 tests, images and videos have surfaced showing a person in full personal protective equipment collecting secretion samples from what appears to be a pet dog in a cordoned off neighborhood. The images have caused considerable astonishment on social media.





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# Marathon proceeding this Sunday, only pro top athletes invited

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE 41st Macao International Marathon will be run on the streets of Macau this Sunday under pandemic restrictions that have turned the event into an almost exclusively local affair.

Speaking on the sidelines of the final press conference before the event takes place, the Chief of the Department of the Grand Prix and Major Sports Events, Lei Si Leng said that this year the orga-

nizing committee has only invited six athletes to compete in the marathon event: three from the male section and another three from female. Lei was expanding on previous comments from the president of Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun to the effect that no foreign athletes were participating from the event this year.

Questioned on the current status of the event considering the few Covid-19 cases found in Macau over the past few days, Lei said that the ID is in constant

communication with health authorities.

According to the latest updates, she said, the event will proceed on Sunday as planned. However, athletes and organizers will be subject to various health measures, including the requirement for a negative nucleic acid test (NAT) valid for 24 hours taken before the event and also a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) taken on the day of the event.

According to the organizers,

a total of 12,000 participants are expected to run in the event on Sunday at 6 a.m. running in three different categories (mini, half, and full marathon).

Of these, Lei added that around 3,000 are runners that come from the mainland, while the other 9,000 are mostly runners from Macau. A few athletes from the neighboring region of Hong Kong are also listed to join the event. However, organizers hinted that most of these Hong-Kongers are already working or studying in

Macau and are not people that have travelled from HK specially to participate in the event.

In the press conference held yesterday afternoon, Pun said that the marathon is "one of the most representative sporting events in the city," adding, "we hope that holding different types of major sporting events will promote positive cross-sector dynamics between sports, culture, and tourism, boosting economic recovery."

Speaking on behalf of the title sponsor, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), the senior vice president of the corporate office, Buddy Lam, noted the 19-year relationship between the GEG and the event. He highlighted the discount vouchers provided to those participating in the marathon for accommodation and food and beverages in GEG establishments.

The public is also reminded that traffic control and traffic detours will be implemented during the event as usual, with some roads closed to traffic from 4:45 a.m. on Sunday (December 4) until around 9:30 a.m. on the same day.

As the event uses both the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and the Sai Van Bridge, passengers wishing to take public transport during those hours should note the changes announced by the operators.

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AP PHOTO



President Xi Jinping (left), chats with late Jiang Zemin during the closing ceremony for the 19th Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, in October 2017

OPINION

# UNDER JIANG, CHINA PROJECTED A MORE OPEN IMAGE TO WORLD

TED ANTHONY

HE grinned, and — just eight years after the crackdown on democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square — the spectacle of China's ruler beaming and glad-handing people in the very heart of capitalism seemed at once charming and really, really odd.

It was an October morning in 1997 at the New York Stock Exchange, and Jiang Zemin, the powerful head of the Chinese Communist Party and government, was ringing the opening bell. "Good morning!" he boomed. "I wish you good trading!"

This was entirely in keeping with the image of Jiang, who died at age 96 on Wednesday a full generation after his rule and two Chinese leaders later. He leaves behind a country very different than the one he tried to shape. Now it's effectively Xi Jinping's nation — and a society in the throes of extraordinary protests against "zero-COVID" lockdowns that saw crowds in the streets of Beijing and Shanghai publicly criticizing the country's leadership.

Jiang's death, smack in the middle of the most visible demonstrations since that 1989 bloodshed on Tiananmen Square, illuminates how much has changed between the China of the late 1990s and early 2000s

— when he was at the height of his rule — and today's economic powerhouse and more powerful and dominant country.

At this micromoment in its history, China has this going on: Xi just secured a third five-year term as Communist Party general secretary just a few weeks ago. And on Tuesday, his government vowed to "resolutely crack down on infiltration and sabotage activities by hostile forces" — by implication targeting crowds in major Chinese cities who protest COVID-19 lockdowns or pretty much anything else.

Jiang, a former Shanghai mayor and onetime soap factory manager, was appointed by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping — the architect of China's post-Mao "reform and opening up" — as general secretary three weeks after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in which hundreds, perhaps thousands died.

In the ensuing years, Jiang helped guide the nation out of the isolation resulting from China's actions during that bloody saga. In doing so, he took pains to present himself to the world as a smiling bon vivant who liked to play piano, sing and find human touchpoints with other nations' leaders — a contrast to

the generally dour technocrats who surrounded him.

Jiang was no pushover, though. He was a political pro, and that engaging persona was meticulously calibrated to reflect his nation's ambitions of the moment: not only its return from the diplomatic hinterlands but its desire to sit as an equal at the table of nations, to shepherd a peaceful handover of Hong Kong back to China, to join the World Trade Organization and, eventually, to secure the 2008 Summer Olympics for Beijing.

**By contrast, China today — encouraged in no small measure by Xi himself — presents a robust, sometimes swaggering presence on the world stage**

By contrast, China today — encouraged in no small measure by Xi himself — presents a robust, sometimes swaggering presence on the world stage and, perhaps even more so than a generation ago, bristles at any suggestion that the ghosts of Western nations' Cold War "containment" policies might be co-

ming back to do some haunting.

"There was a feeling that there was more of an openness to China in the post-Tiananmen decade of the 1990s. Since then, it's clear that China has moved in a direction where political control is stronger from the top down," says Rana Mitter, a professor of the history and politics of modern China at Oxford University.

Jiang's pre-social media era of Chinese politics, Mitter says, was part of a period in which the authoritarian leadership would be willing to "incorporate a certain amount of space at the edges" when it came to freedom of expression.

No more, as the responses to this week's demonstrations suggest.

"The idea that there is this alternative, relatively slightly looser path within Chinese authoritarianism, at least for this generation, seems to have been laid to rest," Mitter said.

The comparison of two eras, while instructive, goes only so far. By many standards, Jiang was hardly a permissive leader. He cracked down on the Falun Gong spiritual movement, maintained tight controls over expression and saw to it that all manner of activists — for human rights, labor rights and

democracy in general — were jailed.

He was, after all, leading the ruling party in a one-party country and had been installed by Deng at one of the nation's most difficult moments with a mandate to set things back on track. He had potent motivation, too: Jiang's predecessor as party general secretary, Zhao Ziyang, became famous around the world by chatting openly with protesters before the crackdown — and being purged and placed under years of house arrest afterward.

Nevertheless, comparing today's China to the Jiang era does offer a reminder of an old truth: The persona of a leader and that of a nation are always intertwined, particularly when power is deeply concentrated in that single leader's hands. And from from Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping to Jiang Zemin, and now with Xi Jinping, even a behemoth like China can find itself reflecting the whims and personality traits of the person navigating its destiny.

Just before the stock exchange walkthrough in 1997, one of Jiang's English-speaking aides corralled reporters during a breakfast with former President George H.W. Bush in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The aide pointed to Jiang, chatting away with Bush, and said something to the effect of, "See? He's just a regular guy."

Today, 25 years later in a different era with a very different China, it's hard to imagine one of Xi Jinping's handlers ever wanting to convey something like that to anyone — much less daring to do so.



DIPLOMACY

# Xi urges Ukraine talks in meeting with EU's Michel

**C**HINESE leader Xi Jinping urged negotiations on a political solution to the Ukraine conflict in talks with visiting European Council President Charles Michel in Beijing yesterday, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Xi was quoted as saying that "solving the Ukrainian crisis through political means is in the best interest of Europe and the common interest of all countries in Eurasia."

"Under current conditions, we must avoid escalation and expansion of the crisis and work for peace," Xi said.

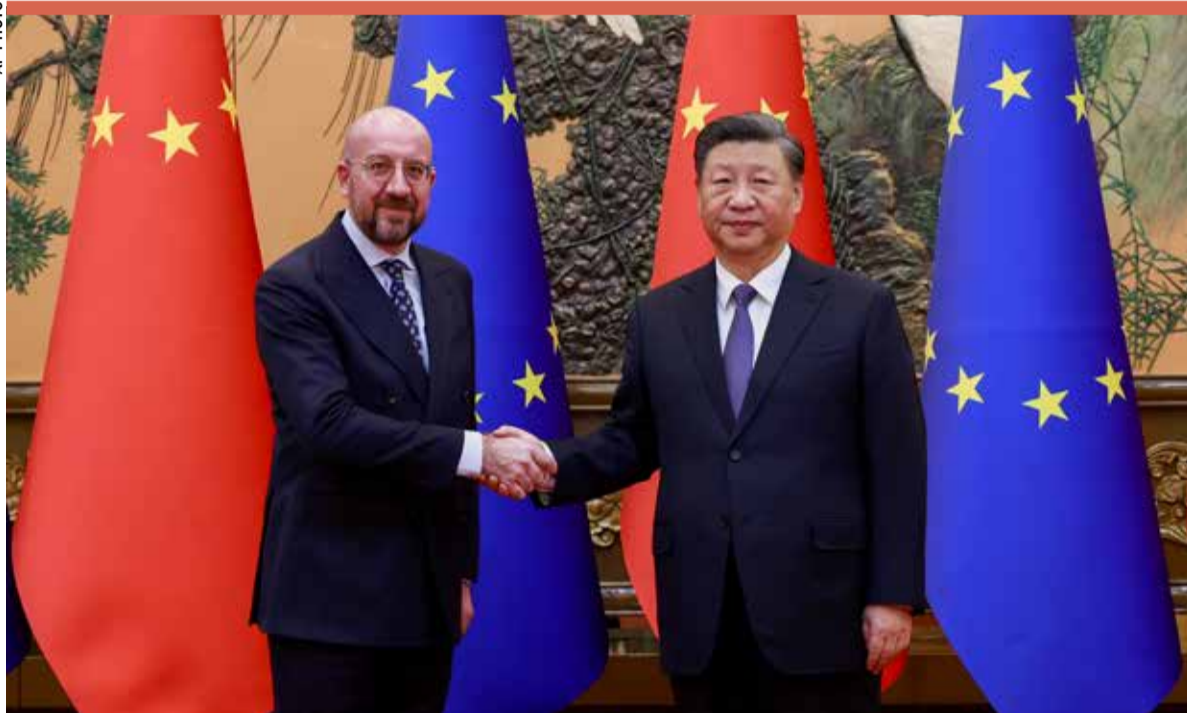
China has made such statements repeatedly in the past, while refusing to condemn Russia's invasion and criticizing sanctions against Moscow.

Weeks before the invasion, Xi and Russian leader Vladimir Putin affirmed their "no limits" relationship, and Beijing has stepped up oil purchases from Russia while their air forces held joint drills this week.

A spokesperson for Michel said he underlined that the EU is counting on China, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, to call on Russia to respect the core principles of the U.N. Charter and contribute to ending Russia's brutal destruction and occupation.

EU officials said Michel's one-day visit was aimed at seeking a

AP PHOTO



President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with European Council President Charles Michel before their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday

balance between the EU's wish for more exports to China and the need to be firm with Beijing in the defense of democracy and fundamental freedoms.

In recent years as China increased its global clout, the EU has increasingly come to see the nation as a strategic rival.

Michel's visit is also an oppor-

tunity for the 27-member bloc to show a united front after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made a solo visit to China in early November.

During that trip, Scholz urged China to exert its influence on Russia and raised human rights concerns. Michel will try to build on those discussions as the EU seeks to stand its ground against an increasingly assertive and authoritarian China.

The visit also comes amid high tensions over self-governing Taiwan, which China has threatened to invade, and follows a United Nations report on China's human rights alleged violations against Uyghurs and other ethnic groups in its Xinjiang region. Increasing numbers of politicians from the European Parliament and EU member nations have been visiting Taiwan, sparking anger in Beijing. Lithuania's decision to upgrade relations with Taipei prompted Beijing to freeze ties and ban trade with the Baltic nation. At the same time, Michel is seeking to improve the EU's economic standing in the world's second largest economy, which has experienced significantly slower growth partly as a result of rigid anti-COVID-19 restrictions that also limited Michel's visit to just one day. The EU has an annual trade deficit in goods and services with China amounting to about 230 billion euros. It specifically seeks to reduce its dependence on China for tech equipment and the raw minerals used to make items such as microchips, batteries and solar panels. **MDT/AP**

DYNAMIC-ZERO

# China eases some virus controls, searches pedestrians

**M**ORE Chinese cities eased some anti-virus restrictions as police patrolled their streets to head off protests yesterday while the ruling Communist Party prepared for the high-profile funeral of late leader Jiang Zemin.

Guangzhou in the south, Shijiazhuang in the north, Chengdu in the southwest and other major cities announced they were easing testing requirements and controls on movement. In some areas, markets and bus service reopened.

The announcements didn't mention last weekend's protests in Shanghai, Beijing and at least six other cities against the human cost of anti-virus restrictions that confine millions of people to their homes. But the timing and publicity suggested President Xi Jinping's government was trying to mollify public anger after some protesters made the politically explosive demands.

With a heavy police

presence, there was no indication of protests. Notes on social media complained that "people were being stopped at random for police to check smartphones, possibly looking for prohibited apps such as Twitter, in what they said was a violation of China's Constitution," sources say.

"I am especially afraid of becoming the 'Xinjiang model' and being searched on the excuse of walking around," said a posting signed Qi Xiaojin on the popular Sina Weibo platform, referring to the northwestern region where Uyghur and other Muslim minorities are under intense surveillance.

Protesters have used Twitter and other foreign social media to publicize protests while the Communist Party deletes videos and photos from services within China.

Yesterday, the government reported 36,061 new coronavirus cases in the

past 24 hours, including 31,911 without symptoms.

Meanwhile, Beijing was preparing for the funeral of Jiang, who was ruling party leader until 2002 and president until the following year. The party announced he died Wednesday in Shanghai of leukemia and multiple organ failure.

No foreign dignitaries will be invited in line with Chinese tradition, the party announced. It has yet to set a date for the funeral or announce how it might be affected by anti-virus controls.

Xi's government has promised to reduce the disruption of its "zero COVID" strategy by shortening quarantines and making other changes. But it says it will stick to restrictions that have repeatedly shut down schools and businesses and suspended access to neighborhoods.

The protests began Friday after at least 10 people were killed in a fire in an apartment building in

AP PHOTO



A health worker in protective suit on his way to collect Covid samples from the lockdown residents in Beijing yesterday

Urumqi in Xinjiang. That prompted questions about whether firefighters or victims trying to escape were blocked by locked doors or other controls. Authorities denied that, but the deaths

became a focus for public frustration.

The government says it is making restrictions more targeted and flexible, but a spike in infections since October has prompted

local officials who are threatened with the loss of their jobs if an outbreak occurs to impose controls that some residents say are excessive and destructive. **MDT/AP**





White House executive chef Cris Comerford, left, and White House executive pastry chef Susie Morrison

USA

# Red, white, blue theme for French White House state dinner

DARLENE SUPERVILLE,  
WASHINGTON

**B**UTTER-poached Maine lobster, beef with shallot marmalade and an American cheese trio will be served when French President Emmanuel Macron takes his seat Thursday as the guest of honor at a red-white-and-blue themed White House state dinner, the first for President Joe Biden.

Dessert will be orange chiffon cake, roasted pears and creme fraiche ice cream.

Everything from the menu to the entertainment to the table settings and other touches for the glitzy dinner were designed by the White House — and first lady Jill Biden — to highlight the ties that bind America and its oldest ally, France.

A state dinner is a high diplomatic honor that the United States reserves for its closest allies.

“The design of this dinner was inspired by the shared colors of our flags, red white and blue, and our common values, liberty and democracy, equality and fellowship,” Biden said. “These form the bedrock upon which our enduring friendship was built.”

The first lady said she was handling the dinner the way that her mother handled family dinners when she was growing up. Her mother

brought out the china, fresh flowers and lit candles “even if we were only having fish sticks from the freezer.”

“I learned that setting a table can be an act of love,” she said, before journalists were permitted to see the tablecloths for the dinner, which is part of a broader state visit to the United States by Macron and his wife, Brigitte. Macron landed in the U.S. on Tuesday night.

Biden said the first White House state dinner since 2019 will be “an expression of welcome and friendship, a way to connect through a language that transcends words.” She did not take questions from reporters and left the preview room after her brief remarks.

White House social secretary Carlos Elizondo, who has worked for the Bidens for more than a decade, said “making people feel comfortable and at home” matters most to the couple.

The glitzy, black-tie dinner party will be held in a heated pavilion on the South Lawn with an expected 300 or so guests. They will be seated at a mix of square and rectangular tables, covered with dark blue silk cloths and decorated with red candles and arrangements of red, white and blue flowers, including roses and irises, the official flower of France.

China from the White House collection will not be used since it is not allowed outside of the executive mansion. Guests will dine on outside tableware.

An image of the Statue of Liberty, a gift to the U.S. from France in the 1800s, will be the backdrop for toasts by the presidents. American sparkling wine poured into silver French champagne vessels will be served for the toasts.

White House executive chef Cristeta Comerford reserved a special shout-out for Maine’s lobster workers.

“They had to ship 200 live lobsters to us yesterday morning,” she said.

Oceana, an international advocacy group focused on ocean conservation, objected to the use of Maine lobster, which recently was declared unsustainable by the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch and the Marine Stewardship Council. The sustainability organizations cited concerns about risks to rare North Atlantic right whales from fishing gear. Entanglement in gear is one of the biggest threats to the whales.

Dinner guests, who typically are supporters and friends of both presidents, government officials, business people and some celebrities, will have the added bonus of arriving at a White House

that has been decked out for the holidays with Christmas trees, wreaths and garland. Trolley cars will ride them down to the see-through pavilion on the South Lawn.

Music will be provided by Jon Batiste, a Grammy Award-winning New Orleans native who most recently was bandleader and musical director of “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.” Joining Batiste will be his father, Michael Batiste, the U.S. Marine Band and the Army and Air Force Strolling Strings.

The event was produced with help from Fete, an event planning company based in New York City.

Jill Biden recalled that, when she flew to Japan to support Team USA in the Olympics, she ended up cheering alongside Macron during a three-on-three basketball game. Although they were rooting for opposing teams, “there was a comradeship that we shared,” she said.

With the state dinner, she said “our hope is that the end result will be a night that balances the beauty of our friendship with a seriousness of purpose, and we hope that French citizens everywhere feel the warmth of our welcome.”

Wednesday night, the Bidens and the Macrons dined at Fiola Mare, an Italian seafood restaurant on the Georgetown waterfront. They spent about two hours at the restaurant before heading their separate ways.

Yesterday’s dinner, the first in three years, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will not be a new experience for Macron. The French president was invited to the U.S. on a state visit by then-President Donald Trump in 2018.

Trump and his wife, Melania, took Macron and his wife on a helicopter ride over Washington — a city designed by Frenchman Pierre L’Enfant — and the Potomac River to Mount Vernon, the estate of George Washington, America’s first president. Macron was also recognized at a state dinner.

The first state dinner of a new administration always attracts a lot of attention and sets the bar for how the president and first lady approach entertaining, said Anita McBride, who worked for three presidents and was chief of staff to Laura Bush when she was first lady.

“In terms of the public, most visible event that any White House or any president and first lady could have entertaining on the global stage that is the White House, this is it,” McBride said. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1954 US SENATE CONDEMNS McCARTHY

The United States Senate has censured Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy for conduct unbecoming to a senator.

The vote was 67 to 22, with all the Democrats and about half the Republicans voting against him.

He has been condemned on two counts:

Contempt and abuse of a Senate committee that looked into his financial affairs in 1952

Insulting members of this committee on national television thereby bringing the Senate “into dishonour and disrepute” and obstructing the constitutional process.

In April this year, McCarthy attacked Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens and General Ralph Zwicker for refusing to help him in an investigation of espionage at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After years of witnessing his crusade against alleged Communists in government, the entertainment industry, and education, his attack on the army was the final straw and a committee was set up to look into the senator’s behaviour and its impact.

The Watkins Committee, chaired by Republican Senator Arthur Watkins, deliberated from 31 August until 13 September.

Its final report said the senator from Wisconsin should be censured for his conduct in Senate and treatment of General Ralph Zwicker.

Sen McCarthy called the Watkins Committee “the unwitting handmaiden of the Communist Party” and told American TV audiences the whole proceeding was a “lynch party”.

His words led to this latest motion to condemn him.

In a news conference soon afterwards, the senator told journalists he was relieved “the circus” was over so that he could return to his job of rooting out “Communism, crime and corruption”.

But the Democrats, who won this year’s elections, take over in January and he will no longer be allowed to chair the Senate Permanent Investigating Subcommittee charged with looking into Communist influence on government.

Mr McCarthy became a senator in 1946 but it was not until 1950 that he came to prominence. In February of that year he made a speech at Wheeling, West Virginia where he held up a piece of paper claiming it to be a list of 205 communists working in the State Department.

Although a Senate committee under Millard Tydings exonerated the State Department, Mr McCarthy continued to make accusations on radio and television but was never able to produce any solid evidence.

But in March 1951 the conviction of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing atomic secrets to the Russians helped boost popular support for McCarthy’s campaign.

After the Republicans took control of Congress in 1953, he began his anti-Communist crusade in earnest and ruined the careers of many.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

This was the beginning of the end of Senator Joseph McCarthy’s reign of terror in the United States in which he exploited the public’s fear of Communism. His unsubstantiated and sensationalist attacks gave rise to the term “McCarthyism”. After the 1954 censure his influence rapidly declined, as did his health. He died on 1 September 1957 from cirrhosis of the liver induced by years of heavy drinking. Although McCarthy and his exaggerated and embarrassing accusations were silenced, there was still a general paranoia about “reds under the bed”. Throughout the 1950s the congressional House Un-American Activities Committee made its own investigations and accusations that ruined the careers of many prominent personalities in the movie industry during the 1950s. This was finally abolished in 1975.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing. Disappointments regarding partners will be subject to the way you react to their personal comments.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20

You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items. Join groups of a humanitarian nature. You will communicate with ease today.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21

Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence. You can expect to have a passionate time if you go out with someone you are romantically interested in.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Try to concentrate on research and acquiring information that will be of value in your chosen field.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Be prepared to have relatives or close friends introduce you to new and exciting individuals. You could find yourself having problems with coworkers and employers.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires. Relationships may be hard to handle.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues today. Educational courses will be stimulating and successful.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Take the day to relax and pamper yourself. You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Competitive games will be your forte.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You will find the perfect outfit if you shop today. Try not to judge too quickly. Business partnerships should turn out to be quite lucrative.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Short trips to visit others will do the whole family a world of good. Don't be shy to promote your own interests. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job.

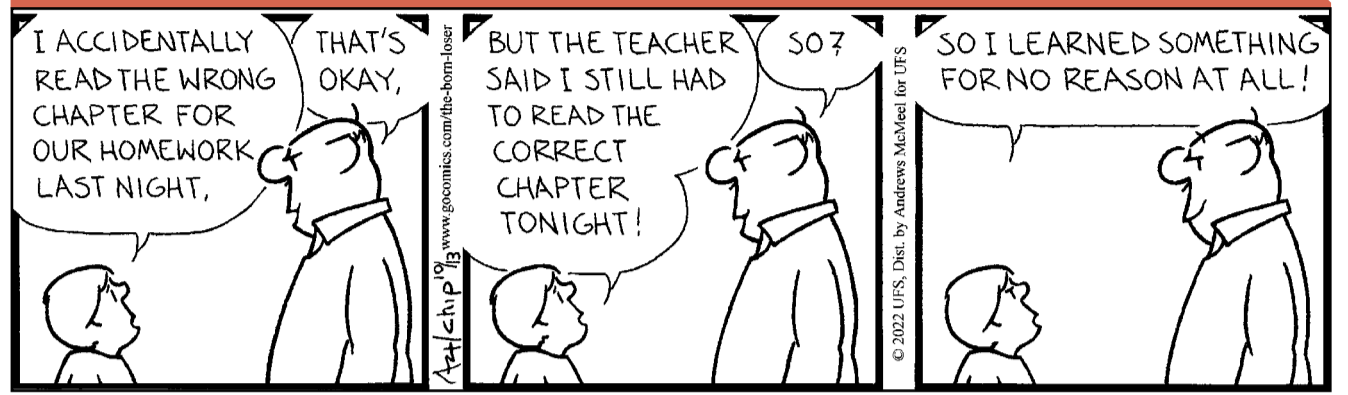
**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Direct your energy wisely today. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Old friends may not like your choices. Your mate may not have been honest with you.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Try not to skirt issues if you think you'll hurt someone's feelings. Travel opportunities should be your first choice. Do not ruffle feathers if possible.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

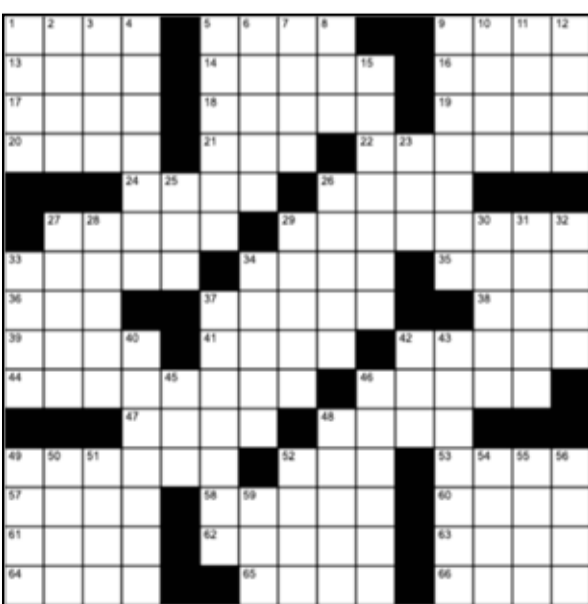
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-7	2	cloudy
Changchun	-15	-5	fine
Chengdu	3	6	overcast
Chongqing	6	11	overcast
Fuzhou	11	16	rain
Guangzhou	9	14	overcast
Guiyang	-1	11	cloudy
Haikou	16	20	rain
Hangzhou	0	7	rain
Harbin	-20	-8	fine
Hefei	-1	6	fine
Nanjing	-1	7	cloudy
Shanghai	3	9	rain
Taipei	16	21	rain
Wuhan	0	6	fine
Hong Kong	17	21	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-8	-11	overcast
Frankfurt	-1	3	rain
Paris	2	5	cloudy
London	4	8	overcast
New York	6	9	clear

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Basics; 5- Wild party; 9- Mimic; 13- Wyoming resource; 14- Politico Kefauver; 16- Actress Hatcher; 17- Kachina doll maker; 18- Onto; 19- Follow; 20- Recipe amt.; 21- Low island; 22- Compel by intimidation; 24- Lowly worker; 26- Molecular component; 27- Body of salt water; 29- Meat fat; 33- Mission-stopping command; 34- Mower brand; 35- Kit item; 36- President pro \_\_\_\_; 37- Massenet opera; 38- Song syllable; 39- Gave the once-over; 41- Don Juan's mother; 42- Plait; 44- Keep at a distance; 46- Mikhail's wife; 47- Now \_\_\_\_ me down...; 48- Campus mil. group; 49- Asian deer; 52- Distress call; 53- Lyric poems; 57- No \_\_\_\_; 58- Plant problem; 60- Playthings; 61- Earth Day subj.; 62- Floor worker; 63- Legal wrong; 64- Pigeon coop; 65- Ruse; 66- Mars, to the Greeks;

DOWN 1- Zwei cubed; 2- Simpleton; 3- Hats; 4- Cinderella candidate; 5- Lighthouse; 6- Dam extending across the Nile; 7- Corset stiffener; 8- Part of H.R.H.; 9- Try; 10- Fleishy fruit; 11- Actor Stoltz; 12- Make angry; 15- Subdivision; 23- Alley-\_\_\_\_; 25- Devour; 26- \_\_\_\_ con pollo; 27- Follows orders; 28- Celestial body; 29- Recipient; 30- Little bits; 31- Water wheel; 32- Delighted; 33- To \_\_\_\_ (perfectly); 34- Sharp; 37- Mosque tower; 40- Trickle; 42- Cricket need; 43- Soft cheese; 45- In the manner of; 46- Series of prayers; 48- Lover of Juliet; 49- Blueprint detail, for short; 50- With the bow, in music; 51- Debatable; 52- Offer; 54- Entrance; 55- Bronte heroine; 56- Fast fliers; 59- Immerse;



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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AD



AP PHOTO



THE KING

# Brazil coach sends message of support to Pelé from Qatar

**B**RASIL coach Tite sent a message of support to Pelé from the World Cup yesterday.

Pelé was hospitalized Tuesday in Sao Paulo to regulate the medication in his fight against a colon tumor, his daughter Kely Nascimento said. She added that there was "no emergency" concerning her 82-year-old father's health.

"We all want to wish good health to Pelé," Tite said in Qatar a day before Brazil's next match against Cameroon.

Brazil, seeking its first World Cup title in

two decades, reached the round of 16 after two group matches. The team needs a draw against Cameroon to finish first in Group G.

"(Pelé) is our biggest extraterrestrial representative," Tite joked.

Pelé was listed in stable condition after arriving at the hospital "for a reevaluation of the chemotherapeutic treatment of the tumor." The hospital said the former great "has full control of his vital functions" and was not taken to intensive or semi-intensive care units for treatment. **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

Group D	<b>Australia</b>	1	0	Denmark
Group D	<b>Tunisia</b>	1	0	France
Group C	Poland	0	2	<b>Argentina</b>
Group C	Saudi Arabia	1	2	<b>Mexico</b>

MATCH OF THE DAY

# SWISS, SERBIA GO HEAD-TO-HEAD TO REACH ROUND OF 16

GRAHAM DUNBAR, DOHA

**W**HEN Serbia plays Switzerland at the World Cup today [Saturday, 03:00], it will be a head-to-head elimination match to get into the knockout rounds.

The European rivals seemed destined for a win-and-advance final group stage match at 974 Stadium ever since the tournament draw in April placed them in Group G with heavily favored Brazil.

"We knew at the beginning of the tournament that the game against Serbia would be the final in this group," Swiss captain Granit Xhaka said after a 1-0 loss to Brazil on Monday.

That result sent Brazil to the round of 16 even before playing its last game against Cameroon, and left Switzerland in second place likely needing only a draw with Serbia to advance. Not that the Swiss plan on playing for a tie.

"I don't know a single team in the world that would go on the pitch aiming for a 0-0. That's really dangerous," Swiss midfielder Djibril Sow said.

Still, Switzerland have a proven record of managing these situations in modern tournaments, advancing out of the group to the round of 16 at the past two World Cups and in the past two European Championships.

Serbia has not played a World Cup knockout match since becoming an independent nation, and a relative lack of tournament experience — playing at three of the four World Cups since 2010 but no Euros — perhaps showed in Qatar.

Leading Cameroon 3-1 on Monday after dominating the play either side of half-time, the Serbians lost control and conceded back-to-back goals quickly to draw the game.

The five goals Serbia has so far conceded is as many as the rest of the group combined, while Switzerland has let in just Casemiro's rising shot that was a late winning goal in Brazil's 1-0 win.

Switzerland could not

AP PHOTO



Serbia's Aleksandar Mitrovic, 9, celebrates scoring his side's third goal during the World Cup group G soccer match between Cameroon and Serbia

force Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker into a save, but should have two fit creative threats restored Friday: Xherdan Shaqiri in a playmaker role and Noah Okafor, whose pace and direct play can be used late in games.

Shaqiri and Xhaka were key figures — with their goals and provocative celebrations — when the Swiss won this same fixture 2-1 at the last World Cup. Shaqiri was born in Kosovo, the former Serbian province that declared independence in 2008. Serbia doesn't recognize Kosovo's independence and relations between the two countries remain tense. Xhaka's parents are originally from Kosovo and they are of Albanian heritage. His brother plays for Albania's national team.

That was a game in Russia that Serbian fans still remember ruefully for a penalty call not given for an apparent foul by two defenders on forward Aleksandar Mitrovi.

Mitrovi scored his first goal in Qatar against Cameroon, though a partnership with Dušan Vlahovi was not developed.

Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovi did not call on Vlahovi against Cameroon, after the Juventus forward lacked match sharpness from a recent groin injury when coming on late in the opening 2-0 loss against Brazil.

Barring an unlikely big win for Cameroon against Brazil on Friday, Switzerland and Serbia are playing for second place in the standings and a last-16 game next Tuesday against

the Group H winner — likely to be Portugal.

That could suit either team. Serbia qualified to come to Qatar by winning in

Lisbon to top their qualifying group, while the Swiss and Portuguese traded home wins in June in the UEFA Nations League. **MDT/AP**

GROUP STANDINGS

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>Netherlands</b>	3	2	1	0	5 - 1	7
<b>Senegal</b>	3	2	0	1	5 - 4	6
Ecuador	3	1	1	1	4 - 3	4
Qatar	3	0	0	3	1 - 7	0
Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>England</b>	3	2	1	0	9 - 2	7
<b>United States</b>	3	1	2	0	2 - 1	5
Iran	3	1	0	2	4 - 7	3
Wales	3	0	1	2	1 - 6	1
Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>Argentina</b>	3	2	0	1	5 - 2	6
<b>Poland</b>	3	1	1	1	2 - 2	4
Mexico	3	1	1	1	2 - 3	4
Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	3 - 5	3
Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>France</b>	3	2	0	1	6 - 3	6
<b>Australia</b>	3	2	0	1	3 - 4	6
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	1 - 1	4
Denmark	3	0	1	2	1 - 3	1
Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Spain	2	1	1	0	8 - 1	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	2 - 2	3
Costa Rica	2	1	0	1	1 - 7	3
Germany	2	0	1	1	2 - 3	1
Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Croatia	2	1	1	0	4 - 1	4
Morocco	2	1	1	0	2 - 0	4
Belgium	2	1	0	1	1 - 2	3
Canada	2	0	0	2	1 - 5	0
Group G	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>Brazil</b>	2	2	0	0	3 - 0	6
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	1 - 1	3
Cameroon	2	0	1	1	3 - 4	1
Serbia	2	0	1	1	3 - 5	1
Group H	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
<b>Portugal</b>	2	2	0	0	5 - 2	6
Ghana	2	1	0	1	5 - 5	3
Korea Republic	2	0	1	1	2 - 3	1
Uruguay	2	0	1	1	0 - 2	1



GROUP C

# Lewandowski celebrates 'happy defeat' as Poland advances

CIARÁN FAHEY, DOHA

POLAND 0, ARGENTINA 2

**R**OBERT Lewandowski left the field with a huge smile on his face after blowing kisses to fans and hugging teammates.

You'd never know his team just lost a crucial World Cup game 2-0 to Argentina.

But Poland scraped into the knockout stages of the tournament, despite yesterday's (Macau time) loss to the South American champions, after Salem Aldawsari's stoppage-time goal for Saudi Arabia in a 2-1 defeat to Mexico.

That late goal ensured Poland finished as runner-up in Group C, ahead of Mexico on goal difference, to set up a last 16 game against France on Sunday.

"You can say it's a happy defeat," said Lewandowski, who failed to even have a shot on target. "I'm not happy with the way we played. Of course not. We can't be happy with the game itself."



Poland's Robert Lewandowski (left) interacts with Argentina's Lionel Messi at the end of the World Cup group C soccer match

Poland had been thoroughly outplayed by Argentina with Lewandowski an ineffective isolated figure as his team was pegged back for the duration of the game. Argentina had 24 attempts at goal, 13 on target. Poland had three, none on target.

"We didn't want to take any risk and, you know, we achieved

our result because we reached the next round," Lewandowski said with a smile. "Even though we lost, we can be happy."

Poland coach Czeslaw Michniewicz said his team's lack of attacking threat wasn't Lewandowski's fault.

"I'm not attacking anyone from the team, but we didn't help him

to score," Michniewicz said. "If (Lionel) Messi played for us and Robert played for Argentina, Robert would have scored five goals. Robert needed to get assistance and the match was played in our half. There were so many players covering him."

Poland had goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny to thank for a string

of saves — including a first-half penalty from Messi — and Karol Swiderski for a goal-line clearance that avoided a heavier defeat.

Yet Poland's players celebrated like they'd won, spraying each other with water bottles on the field.

It had been an anxious wait.

Poland's game finished but Mexico was leading Saudi Arabia 2-0 and desperately pushing for the third goal that would have been enough to progress at Poland's expense.

Both Poland and Mexico had four points, with two goals scored and two goals conceded each at that moment. Poland only had the edge by having fewer yellow cards than Mexico's players.

Poland defender Bartosz Bereszynski covered his face. He couldn't bear the tension.

Then Aldawsari scored for Saudi Arabia to end Mexico's hopes.

"I guess it's the first time I felt you can be happy after a loss," Lewandowski said.

The Poland star is already looking ahead to Sunday's game against France.

"It's another favorite to win the world championship and we've nothing to lose," he said. "We know what kind of players they have but we have to enjoy it and do our best. We have to fight ... France will be a huge challenge and we have to play better than today." **MDT/AP**

GROUP D

# Australia may have new Golden Generation

STEPHEN WADE,  
AL WAKRAH

AUSTRALIA 1, DENMARK 0

**A**USTRALIAN soccer may have a new golden generation.

Mathew Leckie scored and the Socceroos beat Denmark 1-0 yesterday [Macau time] to advance to the round of 16 at the World Cup for only the second time.

"I'm just so proud we've been able to put smiles on people's faces," coach Graham Arnold said, noting this is the first Australian team to win two straight games at a World Cup. "Maybe we're talking about a new golden generation."

The last Socceroos team to earn that honor got Australia into the knockout stage in 2006. This team did it again, and Arnold believes the achievement is worthy of a national holiday.

"Give the people a day off," he said. "I think there will be some hangovers and some joy."



Australia's Mathew Leckie scores his side's win goal

The leader of the new generation could be Leckie, who took a pass near the center circle from Riley McGree in the 60th minute and moved around a defender before hitting a left-footed shot past Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

"I went left and swang the left foot," Leckie said, who was then mobbed by his teammates on the field and off the bench. "I think I got slapped in the head about 100 times."

Now Leckie wants more. "We want to dream big," he said. "I think the key

was when we came to this tournament we always said we wanted to get out of the group. And now we've done that. Now the most important thing is to get ourselves ready because we worked super hard tonight. I think most of the boys are exhausted. That's exactly what we needed to do to get a result today."

Australia finished with six points in Group D. Defending champion France won the group on goal difference despite losing to Tunisia 1-0 in the other group match.

The World Cup proved

to be a major disappointment for Denmark after reaching the semifinals at last year's 2020 European Championship. They slogged through a 0-0 draw in their opening match with Tunisia and then recovered in a 2-1 loss to France.

Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand was unable to say why one of the world's top-ranked teams played so poorly.

"No explanation," he said. "Questions will be asked. But I think it's important just to get a bit of distance to it so I can think rationally. I can't do that ri-

ght now. The emotions are too big. The frustrations are too big."

Denmark dominated possession through much of the game but couldn't generate enough chances against Australia's tenacious defense.

Mathias Jensen had one of his team's best chances of the game in the 10th minute, but Australia goalkeeper Matthew Ryan came up with a point-blank save.

Australia started the second half well as Jackson Irvine sent a good chance over the crossbar. But the Socceroos quickly rever-

ted to defending before breaking through with Leckie's goal.

By the end of the match, all 11 Denmark players were pressing for an equalizer.

On two late corners, Schmeichel sprinted upfield to put himself into the mix in front of the goal. Ryan caught one corner and Schmeichel scurried back. He came all the way back on a second corner with about a minute remaining, but that attempt also amounted to nothing.

Hjulmand said the buck stopped with him.

"We did not reach our level. There is not doubt about that," Hjulmand said. "What else is certain is it's my responsibility." **MDT/AP**

## WEEKEND MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
<b>Fri</b>	Dec 2	23:00	Ghana	Uruguay	H 5.2, D 3.85, A 1.79
<b>Fri</b>	Dec 2	23:00	Korea Republic	Portugal	H 4.7, D 4.2, A 1.76
<b>Sat</b>	Dec 3	3:00	Serbia	Switzerland	H 2.64, D 3.4, A 2.92
<b>Sat</b>	Dec 3	3:00	Cameroon	Brazil	H 9, D 5.2, A 1.4
<b>Sat</b>	Dec 3	23:00	Netherlands	United States	H 1.98, D 3.4, A 4.6
<b>Sun</b>	Dec 4	3:00	Argentina	Australia	H 1.21, D 7.4, A 18
<b>Sun</b>	Dec 4	23:00	France	Poland	H 1.31, D 5.75, A 13
<b>Mon</b>	Dec 5	3:00	England	Senegal	H 1.56, D 4.1, A 7.8



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

# 'THE INSPECTION,' BOOT CAMP FROM A FRESH GAZE

LINDSEY BAHR,  
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

**ELEGANCE** Bratton is certainly not the first person to turn to the military to fill a hole in his life. But the filmmaker also knew he had a boot camp story that hadn't been told a dozen times before. His feature debut, "The Inspection," is an intensely personal and truthful, if not entirely fact-based, account of joining the Marines as a gay Black man in the "don't ask, don't tell" era.

It is the type of film — brave, raw and poetic — that will rightly put Bratton on the map as someone to watch, not to mention the standout performances of Jeremy Pope and Gabrielle Union.

Pope plays the Bratton stand-in Ellis French, a quiet soul who has run out of options. A gut-wrenching early scene lets the audience know that he is not really welcome in his mother's apartment. He knocks on the door, flowers in hand, and she opens it only as far as the chain latch will go. When she reluctantly lets him in to the cluttered space, she places a newspaper on the couch before he can sit down. She is, we understand, disgusted by her son.

It is a visceral introduction to



AP PHOTO

Jeremy Pope in a scene from "The Inspection"

this fractured family. Ellis is not at all disgusting, of course. He is kind and soft-spoken and eager to please this mother who lives in near squalor, with cardboard boxes and papers and blankets stacked chaotically around, refuses to offer her son anything to eat and can barely look at him without a scowl. Ellis's visit is two-fold: He

needs his birth certificate, but he also wants to tell his mother that the reason is because he's joining the Marines. He still has hope.

Union gets the tricky task of playing the mother, Inez, who has all but disowned her still-young son for being gay. It is a staggeringly difficult role that Union masters despite just being in a han-

dful of scenes that are the most powerful in the movie. She is an actor who, despite all her years and success in Hollywood, is still somehow undervalued. Hopefully "The Inspection" shows the industry that she has range and depths that have yet to be explored on screen.

The mother and son rela-

tionship is both throughline and bookend to the taut film, which is mostly set at boot camp. There, you see many familiar things: Screaming drill sergeants, recruit exhaustion, camaraderie, fear and violent homophobia. Bokeem Woodbine is especially effective as a drill sergeant Leland Laws. Raúl Castillo also makes an impact as a more empathetic officer.

But Bratton has some surprises up his military-issued sleeve as we are occasionally transported into the vivid fantasies of Ellis. The film nods to the glaring hypocrisy of having a "don't ask, don't tell" policy for some sexual preferences and not others.

The most surprising element of the film is that it is not an all-out treatise against the military, but moreso a portrait of a complex organization that's a microcosm of a broader societal homophobia. And yet, Ellis, and perhaps by extension Bratton, seems to be fundamentally hopeful despite having every reason not to be.

**"The Inspection," an A24 release in theaters now, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "violence, language throughout, some nudity, sexual content." Running time: 94 minutes. ★★★★★**

AD



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TASTE OF EDESIA

# Diamond of Alba

IRENE SAM, MDT

**T**HIS season, white truffle is one of the most precious and luxurious ingredients sought after by serious gourmets. Throughout years of its establishment, Ristorante Il Teatro has maintained its excellence and finesse in offering Italian cuisine and this month's white truffle menu is no exception.

To start, the Fassone veal tenderloin, Alba white truffle, tonnato cream, artichoke, caper berry sets the tone of the gastronomic journey with its rich and creamy texture and sumptuous expressions of flavours. Tortellini in brodo di cappone, Alba white truffle delights with its simplicity and respect to the originality of ingredients. Other highlights on the menu also include Olive fed Kagawa A5 way beef, paired with Barone Ricasoli Brolio Chianti Classico 2017. Lastly, Vanilla bean panna cotta concludes the meal with its smooth and aromatic characteristics, sensorial pleasures that are not to be missed.



## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



### THE KAT O 1050 METRES SAND 2022-12-03|Sat|14:50

**J**OY of Friendship did well to finish sixth first up in his first MJC outing, his first run looks he got potential to go further up in his rating. Expect he can improve from that effort and going with a light weight and a good draw this Saturday he can atone. It looks like his trainer should give **Joy of Friendship** a real shake in this Class 4&5 contest, he should get his opportunity to get a solid run tracking his way to get his first win in Macau. I will take an each way chance on him this Saturday. Hope he can reward us with decent odds and his connection from his second up.

Race 2 Horse no. 9 Joy of Friendship Win & Place bets





**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**MEETING REINFORCES  
 CHINA-EU  
 COOPERATION  
 CRUCIAL TO  
 SAFEGUARD  
 EUROPEAN INTERESTS**

President Xi Jinping's appeal that the European Union strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination with China and jointly foster new growth engines should have made visiting European Council President Charles Michel fully realize how much the two sides can accomplish were it not for the institutional obstacles that the EU has put in the way of cooperation.

Michel's acknowledgement that China does not seek expansion and is an important partner in upholding the purposes of the UN Charter and supporting multilateralism is an objective statement on China that has long been absent from the bloc's China discourse. And it is particularly good to hear that he confirmed to the Chinese leader the EU's readiness to work with China to push forward implementation of the EU-China investment treaty. This hard-earned pact that the two sides finally agreed on after years of hard negotiations was frozen by EU legislature before its final authorization due to the interference of the United States.

Since Angela Merkel, a key supporter of multilateralism and the EU's independence, retired as German chancellor late last year, the EU has subjected itself to the US influencing its China policy. However, the shocks the EU has received from doing the US' bidding should have made clear to the bloc the fact that the shared values that the US talks of are nothing but shackles intended to bind countries closer to it.

As Xi urged, China and the EU should work together to ensure the security, stability and reliability of industrial and supply chains, oppose "decoupling and chain breaking" and protectionism, and oppose politicizing and weaponizing trade, scientific and technological exchanges. The EU should rest assured that China will always remain open to European companies. Reciprocally, China hopes that the EU can provide a fair and transparent business environment for Chinese companies as well.

It can be said that to ensure the stability of China-EU economic cooperation is an effective way to protect Europe's interests in the volatile world. Something the EU has no reasons not to do together with China. The way the meeting between Xi and Michel unfolded in Beijing on Thursday was exactly the opposite of what the China-bashers expected. Both the host and guest focused on the broad common interests between China and the EU and great potential of cooperation.

In enabling him to gain first-hand knowledge of China's clearly-defined strategic intentions, Michel's visit should help the EU recalibrate its China policy in a way that allows for greater mutually beneficial cooperation.

The differences between the two sides are by no means justifications for estrangement and decoupling, but rather reasons for more effective communication.

**GOLD RUSH TREASURES FROM 1857  
 SHIPWRECK UP FOR RENO AUCTION**

**THE  
 BUZZ**

Since the recovery of sunken treasure began decades ago from an 1857 shipwreck off the coast of South Carolina, tens of millions of dollars worth of gold has been sold.

But scientists, historians and collectors say that the real fortunes will begin to hit the auction block tomorrow. For the first time, hundreds of Gold Rush-era artifacts entombed in the wreckage of the S.S. Central America will go on public sale.

Known as the "Ship of Gold," the steamship sank on Sept. 12, 1857, in a hurricane on its way from Panama to New York City. Most

of the passengers boarded the S.S. Central America in Panama after traveling from San Francisco on another ship and taking the train across the isthmus.

Some 425 lives were lost and 153 people were rescued. For more than a century, many of their possessions — some still sealed in safes and passenger trunks — were preserved in the chilly, oxygen-deprived gravesite 7,200 feet under the surface of the Atlantic Ocean.

Full story on [macaudailytimes.com.mo/tag/the-buzz](http://macaudailytimes.com.mo/tag/the-buzz)

AP PHOTO



The Mauna Loa volcano as it erupts Wednesday

**PRAYERS? BOMBS?  
 HAWAII HISTORY SHOWS  
 STOPPING LAVA NOT EASY**

**AUDREY MCAVOY,  
 HONOLULU**

**P**RAYER. Bombs. Walls. Over the decades, people have tried all of them to stanch the flow of lava from Hawaii's volcanoes as it lumbered toward roads, homes and infrastructure.

Now Mauna Loa — the world's largest active volcano — is erupting again, and lava is slowly approaching a major thoroughfare connecting the Big Island's east and west sides. And once more, people are asking if anything can be done to stop or divert the flow.

"It comes up every time there's an eruption and there's lava heading towards habited areas or highways. Some people say 'Build a wall' or 'Board up' and other people say, 'No don't!,'" said Scott Rowland, a geologist at the University of Hawaii.

Humans have rarely had much success stopping lava and, despite the world's technological advances, doing so is still difficult and dependent on the force of the flow and the terrain. But many in Hawaii also question the wisdom of interfering with nature and Pele, the Hawaiian deity of volca-

noes and fire.

Attempts to divert lava have a long history in Hawaii.

In 1881, the governor of Hawaii Island declared a day of prayer to stop lava from Mauna Loa as it headed for Hilo. The lava kept coming.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Princess Regent Lili'uokalani and her department heads went to Hilo and considered ways to save the town. They developed plans to build barriers to divert the flow and place dynamite along a lava tube to drain the molten rock supply.

Princess Ruth Ke'elikani approached the flow, offered brandy and red scarves and chanted, asking Pele to stop the flow and go home. The flow stopped before the barriers were built.

More than 50 years later, Thomas A. Jaggar, the founder of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, asked U.S. Army Air Services to send planes to bomb a Mauna Loa vent to disrupt lava channels.

Lt. Col. George S. Patton (who later became famous as a general in Europe during World War II) directed planes to drop 20 600-pound (272-kilogram) demolition bombs,

according to a National Park Service account of the campaign. The bombs each had 355 pounds (161 kilograms) of TNT. The planes also dropped 20 smaller bombs that only had black powder charge.

Jagger said the bombing helped to "hasten the end of the flow," but Howard Stearns, a U.S. Geological Survey geologist onboard the last bombing run, was doubtful. In his 1983 autobiography, he wrote: "I am sure it was a coincidence."

According to the park service, geologists today also are doubtful the bombing stopped the lava flow, which didn't end with the bombing. Instead, the flows waned over the next few days and didn't change paths.

Rowland said authorities could use a bulldozer to pile a big berm of broken rock in front of Daniel K. Inouye Highway. If the terrain is flat, then lava would pile up behind the wall. But the lava may flow over it, like it did when something similar was attempted in Kapoho town in 1960.

Rapidly moving lava flows, like those from Kilauea volcano in 2018, would be more difficult to stop, he said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



**UK** Prince William's office said "racism has no place in our society" as he sought to prevent the backlash over his godmother's treatment of a Black advocate for survivors of domestic abuse from overshadowing his trip to the United States. Lady Susan Hussey, 83, resigned as an honorary member of the royal household after the chief executive of an east London women's refuge said Hussey repeatedly asked her where she "really came from" after she told the older woman that she was British.

**Egypt** At least two tourists were killed and five others seriously injured yesterday after a mini-bus collided with a truck in southern Egypt, authorities said. In a statement, the Egyptian authorities said one of the victims was a Chinese national and the other an Italian. The two victims, aged 27 and 40, were killed on Thursday morning when the minibus they were traveling in collided with a truck near Abu Simbel, the seat of the ancient temples of Ramses II, a popular tourist destination toward the Sudanese border. Five others were seriously injured in the crash.

AP PHOTO



**Hollywood** "Scream Queen" Jamie Lee Curtis will be this year's recipient of AARP The Magazine's Movies for Grownups Awards career achievement honor. Curtis will receive the honor at the AARP's annual Best Movies and TV for Grownups ceremony. Alan Cumming returns to host the ceremony, which will be telecast on "Great Performances" on PBS on Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. U.S. Eastern time. "Jamie Lee Curtis' longstanding, ever-increasing career shatters Hollywood's outmoded stereotypes about aging.