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CTM

**A DELEGATION OF 40 TOURISM PROFESSIONALS FROM HONG KONG CONCLUDED A TWO-DAY EXCHANGE VISIT TO MACAU AT THE INVITATION OF THE MGTO** P2

**NATIONAL SECURITY: STATE SECRETS ARE MOSTLY TOP-SECRET** P3

**DAVOS: BUSINESS TRUSTED MOST IN A MORE POLARIZED WORLD, REPORT SAYS** P10




**China-US** Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (pictured) will meet with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier Liu He, in Switzerland tomorrow to discuss economic developments between the two nations. The Zurich talks will be a follow-up to the November meeting between President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. The two world leaders agreed to empower key senior officials to maintain communication.



**Nepal** A spokesman for Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority says a flight data recorder and a cockpit voice recorder have been retrieved from the site of the crash of a passenger plane that went down on approach to a newly opened airport in the tourist town of Pokhara, killing at least 68 of the 72 people aboard. The dead, many of whom were returning home, include a pharmaceutical marketing agent who was coming to be with his sister as she gave birth, and a minister of a Korean religious group who was traveling to the school he founded.



**Myanmar** Companies from at least 13 countries have helped Myanmar build up its capacity to produce weapons that are being used to commit atrocities following a 2021 military takeover, independent international experts have found. The report released yesterday by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar details how the country has stepped up arms production since the army seized power on Feb. 1, 2021, igniting a mass public opposition movement.

# STATE OF THE UNION

**Trade Union Law passed in first reading at the parliament despite heavy criticism: a law deprived of its core rights, heartless** P4

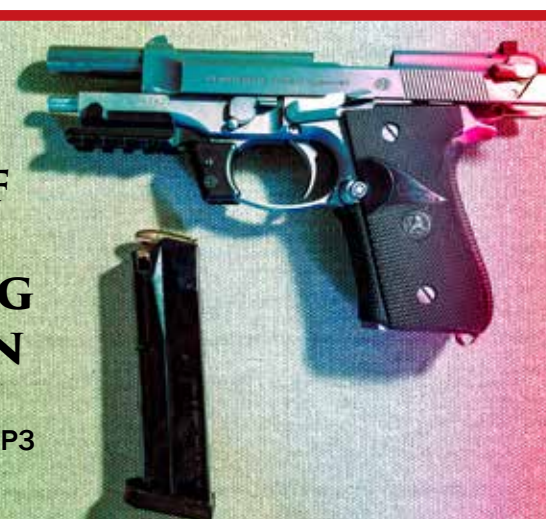


**GAMING**

**BANK RAISES DAILY GGR ESTIMATE, WARNS LACK OF PREMIUM PLAYERS HINDERS GROWTH** P2

**SECURITY CHIEF**

**ONLY 8% OF LICENSED GUNS BELONG TO 'COMMON CITIZENS'** P3





GAMING

# MORGAN STANLEY RAISES JAN DAILY GGR ESTIMATE TO MOP250M

PAULO COUTINHO

VISITATION numbers to Macau have picked up since China eased its zero-Covid policy on Jan. 8, although Chinese New Year's (CNY) visitor numbers will be "the true litmus test of how robust demand could be," Morgan Stanley analysts Praveen Choudhary and Gareth Leung said in a research report yesterday.

Last weekend, 160,000 people entered Macau, flooding downtown, the old Taipa village and shopping centers. Casino floors also started to resemble pre-pandemic days, but the numbers are still shy of optimal levels, analysts say.

According to Morgan Stanley's on-the-ground checks, ease of travel between Hong Kong and Macau is similar to pre-Covid levels, and "foot traffic in most casinos were about 35%-45% compared with 2018-2019."

Yet, the bank raised its January gross gaming revenue estimates to MOP250 million a day from its previous estimates of MOP200 million a day.



MDT ARCHIVE

However, something seems to be missing: Morgan Stanley warns that without a recovery in premium mass segment, "the sector's growth trajectory could be slower than what the market expects."

In the broader tourism and

hospitality sector, businesses are showing optimism and anticipate a better than expected performance during the CNY, due to the sudden surge of China tourists in Hong Kong and Macau.

Trip.com group has seen main-

land Chinese demand for travel continue to surge in the run-up to the Lunar New Year holiday season.

On the group's leading Chinese language travel service platform Ctrip, between December 26,

2022 and January 5, searches for outbound flights from China increased by 83% compared to the preceding two-week period, with outbound flight bookings increasing by 59% over the same period.

Bookings show the most popular cross-border destinations include, by order of magnitude, Macau Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, Singapore, U.S., Malaysia, United Kingdom, and Indonesia.

Analysis of Ctrip data shows overseas travel for the seven-day CNY holiday surged by 540% compared to last year's Spring Festival; and the average cost of bookings is said to have risen by 32% year-on-year.

Ctrip data also shows airline bookings from China to Hong Kong increased by 18 times compared with the previous year, following the announcement easing restrictions.

The number of airline bookings to Hong Kong has also increased by 36% month-on-month. Similarly, the search popularity of Hong Kong on the platform was more than double that and increased by 85% month-on-month.

Internally, the top ten most popular domestic destinations for the Spring festival are Shanghai, Beijing, Sanya, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Kunming, Hangzhou, Chongqing and Haikou, according to Ctrip.

## 40 from HK tourism trade conclude Macau visit

A delegation of 40 tourism professionals from Hong Kong have concluded a two-day exchange visit to Macau, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday.

The delegates toured around the city, "experiencing Macau's Tourism+ elements in person," the MGTO noted. They were shown several World Heritage sites and facilities at major resorts.

In terms of software, the delegates were introduced to Macau's latest development directions towards tourism, meetings, incentives, convention and exhibitions, as well as commerce and trade.

The MGTO highlighted the event as the resump-



tion of offline interactions between the tourism trades from both Special Administrative Regions (SARs).

On the second day of the group tour, the Macau government organized a lunch to welcome the delegates. They were presented

with traditional Portuguese music of Fado.

At the lunch, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong used his speech to again point out that the tourist industry in Macau had been overhauled in the past three years, but the

government and the trade had managed to overcome challenges brought forward by Covid-19.

The senior official emphasized that more would be done to support a tourism revival in Macau and "open a new chapter of Ma-

cau being a World Tourism and Leisure Center."

After the lunch, the local tourism trade joined their counterparts from Hong Kong for a 160-participants exchange forum.

At the forum, Hong Kong lawmaker Yiu Pak-leung from the tourism functional constituency highlighted the meaning of the exchange visit, describing it as "a precious opportunity for the tourism trades from both SARs to implement deeper cooperation."

He said that tours covering both SARs have long been appealing to mainland and overseas tourists.

On the sidelines of the event, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes reiterated the previous tourism board dis-

closure that the resumption of Chinese group tours is still awaiting approval from the national Culture and Tourism Ministry. She personally hoped that the resumption will occur soon.

Discussing the recent influx of tourists after nearly three years of Covid-19 restrictions, the tourism official pointed out that many mainland tourists have recently come to Macau to purchase Lunar New Year gifts. She hopes that there will be an average of 47,000 tourist arrivals per day during the Lunar New Year holiday period.

Senna Fernandes also hinted that after Lunar New Year, hotel promotions targeting Hong Kong residents may be available. She added that the tourism trades in both Macau and Hong Kong will continue working together to update tourism offerings. **AL**

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**Times**

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SECURITY

# Only 8% of licensed guns in Macau are in the possession of 'common citizens'

RENATO MARQUES

ONLY 8.2% of all licensed guns for personal protection use are in the possession of "common citizens," the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak said in reply to inquiries from several lawmakers.

Wong explained that until January 13 this year, there were a total of 1,486 guns licensed in Macau for personal protection, of which, only 122 are in the hands of common citizens. "The others are in the possession of police authorities and other members of the Macau Security Force as well as legislators, among others that claim a need of a gun due to professional duties," he remarked.

Wong was at the Legislative Assembly (AL) to present the bill on the Legal framework for gun con-



trol and related matters.

At the request of lawmakers, the Secretary also conducted a review of the evolution of the number of personal gun licenses approved in Macau over the years, noting that back in 1999 there were a total of 2,070 licensed guns, a figure that had grown

significantly to 2,794 by 2014.

Wong explained that in 2011 the government substantially increased the requirements for the issuing of these licenses, a fact that led to a consistent drop that we are still seeing today.

"We increased our requirements from 2011 and started to

request more documents and procedures. Some people found this inconvenient and withdrew their requests. From 2014 to 2023 there was a reduction of almost 1,000 guns. This is good news. We don't want too many guns out there. This is not a good thing," Wong said.

In the initial explanation and justification of the bill, the secretary noted that the new bill aims to update the current law that is over 20 years old and has several shortfalls. The new law is a way to "correct these shortfalls to better protect the population."

Another of the matters highlighted was the possession and use of guns for sports activities. The government said that the new bill will reduce the minimum age to have access to a sport gun license to 16 years old (instead of the current 18).

The Government's justification for lowering the age limit is to facilitate the participation of young people in sports activities. Noting that in other countries the minimum age is only 14, the representatives from the Macau Security Force said that there are no intentions to "further relax this age limit." They explained that at 15 one can request participation in sports activities involving shooting, but participation in a one-year training process is required, that will then conclude with the issuing of a license at 16 for competition.

The new law that was passed unanimously on the first reading yesterday also includes a new license for those who wish to acquire antique guns and for others who collect them, something that did not exist in the previous law and will now be added.

TOURIST PRICE INDEX

## ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UP 23% IN 2022 DESPITE SECTOR-WIDE SLUMP

RENATO MARQUES

THE average Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the whole year of 2022 dropped by 0.38% year-on-year to 116.65 points, Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated.

The decrease was mainly attributable to lower hotel room rates; however, the higher prices for local food products partly offset the decrease.

Among the goods and services sectors that registered a significant increase were the indices of Entertainment & Cultural Activities (+23.3%) and Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+5.11%).

The price index of Accommodation let the falls,

with a significant plunge of -15.52% y-o-y.

Although the general result for the whole year registered a drop (-0.38%) the TPI for the last quarter of 2022 (Q4) was already showing some recovery, rising 0.17% y-o-y.

This increase consisted mostly in the higher price of food products.

Among the various sectors of goods and services, price indices of Entertainment & Cultural Activities, Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, and Medicine & Personal Goods grew in Q4 by 23.13%, 9.52%, and 5.24% y-o-y, respectively, while the index for Accommodation dropped by 19.5%.

The increase registered in Q4 is even more signifi-

cant when compared with the Q3 of the same year. In this case, the TPI of Q4 presented an increase of 3.27% due to the recovery of the price index of Accommodation (+20.39%) quarter-to-quarter. According to the analysis made by the DSEC, this hike was mostly due to higher hotel room rates during the National Day holidays (October 1 to 5) and the Grand Prix (November 17 to 20).

The recent restocking of winter clothing by stores is also said to have pushed up the index of Clothing & Footwear by 5.6% in the same period.

TPI reflects the price change of goods and services purchased by visitors. Sectors of TPI goods and services are divided according to visitors' consumption patterns. These are: Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco; Clothing & Footwear; Accommodation; Restaurant Services; Transport & Communications; Medicine & Personal Goods; Entertainment & Cultural Activities; and Miscellaneous Goods.



NATIONAL SECURITY

## State Secrets are mostly top-secret

RENATO MARQUES

THE law that regulates state secrets was passed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) in its first reading.

Although several lawmakers questioned the "simplicity" of the bill that aims to be complimentary to the National Security Law, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, said that it is simple enough to keep state secrets well sealed.

One of the more debated topics was how the government will ensure the balance between what

is secret and what is public information the public should have access to, which was addressed by lawmakers José Pereira Coutinho and Ron Lam in several interventions.

Cheong noted that "the importance of the law is not defined by the number of definitions it contains," and rejected the idea of having a commission inspecting the matter, proposed by Pereira Coutinho. As Cheong said, "this would be just disclosing the sensitive information or intel to more people, which is contrary to the spirit of the law."

In response to Lam, Cheong also said that the law was not too broad, and that public services could only propose documents for classification; the last word on the matter would come from the Chief Executive, who would evaluate the need for classification.

In a different reply to Pereira Coutinho, the Secretary also revealed that there will be no different levels of confidentiality for documents, but rather, the classification as "State Secret" would be just a yes or no matter.

"There are no levels or degrees for the State Secret. It's either secret or not secret. There will be no documents with different types of classification," Cheong said. Further, he explained that there will be no doubts for those handling those documents [as to whether they are secret or not] as they will be clearly identified and stamped accordingly."

The Secretary also explained in a general manner the public entities and services that will produce these documents before sending them to classification, noting that there is also a legal sanction for those civil servants failing to comply with the secrecy of the information they are handling.



RENATO MARQUES





AL PLENARY

# TRADE UNION LAW PASSED IN FIRST READING DESPITE HEAVY CRITICISM

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE bill that aims to legalize and regulate the creation of Trade Unions in Macau was passed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) in its first reading.

Although the approval of the bill was never at risk since none of the lawmakers voted against it, the debate that followed its introduction by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, saw harsh criticism from most of the lawmakers who spoke in the plenary session.

Several lawmakers representing labor interests criticized the bill for, in the words of Che Sai Wang, "having significantly reduced the rights and guarantees that were proposed in other proposals submitted to the AL in the past and that were always voted down."

Many lawmakers considered the bill to be "halfhearted" adding that it lacks protection mechanisms for the workers involved in trade union activities.

Another common critique among the lawmakers was the fact that this proposal does not

include the right to collective negotiation agreements nor the right to protest through strike action.

As lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho also mentioned, "these rights are central to this law and they are all missing from the bill," noting also that the bill seems to limit workers to use associations and trade unions to offer opinions, and these have no force.

For Pereira Coutinho, the current bill needs to undergo some major changes when it is discussed in detail in the AL Standing Committee to be able to be "any more more than useless."

Coming from a similar point of view was Ron Lam, who said that this bill is "just a preliminary version of a Trade Union Law proposal," although adding that is "a positive first step" towards the legal production of a law that protects the workers, remarking that it "still needs to have a lot of work to go through" to reach this stage.

Another lawmaker who criticized the lack of a right to strike or take collective action was Leong Sun Iok. Like Lam, Leong admitted that this is not the law which

was expected and is needed, but he noted that it could be a starting point, sharing hopes that in the future, this bill could "evolve to a law that is best for workers."

Several lawmakers from the business sector also expressed criticism, including Chui Sai Peng, Wang Sai Man, and Ip Sio Kai who considered the bill too "exaggerated" and "unbalanced."

Wang even stated that the "rights of employers" were missing, and questioned the representative nature of a trade union group that can be constituted with only seven members.

"If a company has some 1,000 workers and only seven are part of a trade union how can these possibly represent those workers," Wang said, despite the fact that he himself represents a sector with several hundreds of people.

Ip went even further on the critique aimed at the law stating that "workers' rights are not the same in every company" and can vary according to different factors including the employer and activity sector, for which reason he disagrees with a "uniformization" of the creation of trade unions to

every labor sector.

Wang also criticized the perceived role of the trade unions, stating that, it "looks like they are going to replace the negotiation role of the government side centered in the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL)," calling for a clear definition of the role of each party.

Ip also added that in his opinion the bill "should highlight the role of the government as leader of the negotiation process [between workers and employers]."

In response to the many inquiries and opinions, Lei said that a minimum of seven members for the creation of the trade union is "balanced and proportional," reminding that for the creation of any association in Macau, the law only requires three members.

He also admitted that even if the trade unions will be part of the negotiation process in the future, their opinions are not legally binding.

The Secretary also justified the lack of a collective negotiation mechanism due to "no consensus during the public consultation on this matter."

CRIME

## Teenager loses HKD29K in fraudulent sale of Covid medicine

**A** 19-year-old local male victim has allegedly fallen into a trap and lost HKD29,111 in the hopes of purchasing Covid-19 medicines, the Judiciary Police (PJ) disclosed yesterday.

The PJ had no information as to what type of Covid-19 medicines the victim attempted to purchase. According to various sources, Pfizer's Paxlovid is sold per course of treatment for USD500 to 700 at wholesale price, which equates to approximately MOP4,000 to 5,600.

According to the police statement, on January 4, the victim saw that a shopping website was selling Covid-19 medicines. He managed to get in touch with a staff member of a company which claimed to be selling the medicines.

After some communications, he decided to purchase some of these medicines from the company.

He was told to settle the amount through an online payment intermediary platform, using his credit cards.

He told the police that between January 4 and 7, he made six purchases from the company to the value of HKD20,000.

On January 11, the company told the victim that some of the medicines he ordered would be delivered to Macau on the same day. However, at the end of the day, the medicines had not arrived.

Worse still, that the company staffer told the victim that due to certain delivery complications, he had to pay an additional HKD6,000 to have the medicine delivered. He made the extra payment through the same platform.

Without seeing his order delivered, he checked the status of his parcel with the waybill number he was

given by the company, but found it invalid. He contacted the company again but got no reply, so he then contacted the police.

The 19-year-old reported a loss of HKD29,111, including the surcharges.

In another alleged scam that the PJ discovered on January 12, the local female victim in her 30's had reportedly been added to an unknown chat group claiming to have Lai See distribution activities. In order to get Lai See, she was told to download another app.

After signing up in the app, she was told to follow some WeChat public accounts so as to obtain monetary returns. She eventually received 230 Chinese yuan.

Later, another person told her to visit a website, where she was told to make payments with her credit card. The payments were to purchase film tickets.

The victim was promised 40% of the total money spent as commission, which would be transferred to a designated account.

On January 13, the victim made the first payment but did not get her commission. On the contrary, she was told to make more payments in order to have both her money and commission refunded.

Following this instruction, she made five additional payments with her credit card. In spite of her following this advice, she did not get her money or commission. She was even told to make additional payments using various excuses, besides surrendering more personal information.

At this point, the woman realized that she might have been scammed, and approached the police. She reported a total loss of MOP176,000. **AL**

CRIME

## US STOCK MANIPULATOR WITH MACAU CONNECTIONS CAPTURED IN PHUKET

**A** 54-year-old man wanted in the US for stock manipulation and collusion in fraud was detained in Thailand on an Interpol red warrant, The Chiang Rai Times reported yesterday.

Peter Coker Jr, a citizen of the Caribbean island state of St Kitts and Nevis, was arrested at a hotel in Phuket.

Pol Maj Gen Montri Khetkhan, commander of the Crime Suppression Division (CSD), led the arresting team, which acted in collaboration with the U.S. FBI.

According to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice, the charges against Coker and others stem from share manipulation in two companies, Hometown International and E-Waste Corp, which traded on the OTC Link Alternative Trading System.

The accused, who were

business partners, took over a food company in New Jersey in 2014 and planned to open more branches in order to list their company on the stock exchange.

Coker and his partners brought Hometown International to the market in 2019, and they set the IPO price at \$1.25 before "hiring stock traders to manipulate the share prices", according to Pol Maj Gen Jirabhop, as cited by the Chiang Rai Times.

The company's share price jumped to \$12.99 on April 16, 2021, up 939% since the stock was floated two years ago.

In April, the suspect and his associates had transferred 3.5 million shares to Macau nominees. According to the CIB CEO, this made Coker a significant shareholder in the company. **PC**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



# Sands China and Nam Kwong advocate further integration with Hengqin through 'One Event, Two Locations'

**T**HE 1st China (Macao) High-quality Consumption Exhibition & Hengqin Global Bay Areas Forum (CHCE) concludes successfully Dec. 4, at The Venetian Macao.

The recent five-day CHCE event (Nov. 30-Dec.4) came to a successful close after being organized by Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited, the Trade Development Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, with the coordination of Sands China Ltd. and Nam Kwong International Conference and Exhibition Co., Ltd.

The two-part, two-location CHCE began with the Hengqin Global Bay Areas Forum, which held parallel forums Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in Hengqin, and hosted its main forum Dec. 2 at The Venetian® Macao's Cotai Expo. The China (Macao) High-Quality Consumption Exhibition was held Dec. 2-4 at Cotai Expo and at Shoppes at Four Seasons.

The unique CHCE was held as "One Event, Two Locations" in both Hengqin and Macau to further facilitate the integrated development of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Sands China's coordinating role in CHCE is part of the company's support of China's domestic-international dual circulation policy, with a greater focus on the domestic market, and in promotion of the Macau SAR government's "MICE+" policy.

Heading the government's

call for further integration in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the forum was held there, and centered on topics such as high-quality lifestyle in the Greater Bay Area, the Zone's political benefits, and the development of cultural tourism and the MICE industry.

## COMMITMENT TO FULLY SUPPORT AND UTILIZE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, said that having the conference held in Hengqin really signifies that we are gradually integrating into one region and, with future further development, the [idea of] 'One Event, Two Locations' is possible because [traveling] becomes more convenient between Macau and Hengqin.

"The important part is that we have established the model so we further improve in the future, and we are committed to fully support and utilize the economic development of Macau and Hengqin," he added.

Dr. Wong believes that the first CHCE is different from other large-scale expos. It integrates both "B2C" (business-to-customer) and "B2B" (business-to-business) marketing models, allowing consumers to conduct transactions directly on site.

"By assembling high-quality enterprises from mainland China, the CHCE demonstrates the strength of the nation's economy to customers from the Greater Bay Area, mainland China, and abroad. It meanwhile encourages more Macau enterprises to en-

ter the Greater Bay Area's market in a bid to help Macau better integrate into the overall national development and lay a solid foundation for its economic recovery after the pandemic," Dr. Wong affirmed.

## MACAU: MOST SOPHISTICATED CLIENTELE

The event venue for the China (Macao) High-Quality Consumption Exhibition spans the Cotai Expo of The Venetian Macao and the entire Shoppes at Four Seasons mall to enable guests and visitors to enjoy an immersive shopping atmosphere.

Johan Pretorius, managing director of Macau, DFS Group (whose T Galleria is located at Shoppes at Four Seasons) has praised the exhibition, as the group considers its customers in Macau as the "most sophisticated and discerning of all our clientele, who not only expect exceptional products but also authentic and personalized experiences both in-store and online to create a truly omnichannel shopping journey."

As the world's premier retail exhibition of luxury timepieces and jewelry, the group's annual Masters of Time exhibition at T Galleria has allowed it to bring together the very best brands in the world of watchmaking – and their ambassadors – together with enthusiasts and collectors alike each year. "By curating an exceptional experience and featuring more than 330 masterpieces from 40 esteemed houses, we are able to cater to both seasoned collec-

tors and first-time buyers," he added.

## CONFIDENCE IN MACAU'S ECONOMIC REVIVAL

Song Xiaodong, chairman of the Macao Convention and Exhibition Industry Association and vice president of Nam Kwong (Group) Co., Ltd., said that the holding of CHCE is a solid initiative of the central government to support Macau's economic and social development. In the "Overall Plan for the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone," it has been clarified that Guangdong and Macau will cooperate to hold the High-quality Consumption Exhibition & Hengqin Global Bay Areas Forum, and will develop a platform for showcasing imported goods in the future.

During the exhibition, Nam Kwong explored an innovative model of "One Event, Two Locations" to promote the integration of Macau and Hengqin, outline new dimensions of development, and demonstrate the new roles of state-owned enterprises – with full confidence in Macao's economic development.

"Exhibitions like these can help boost economic revival and confidence, as lots of exhibitors are coming to Macau. It has not only helped the MICE industry, but the hotel, F&B, retail and tourism sectors as well," said Song.

"I have full faith in Macau's economic revival. With the Macau SAR's efforts in boosting the economy, I think the MICE industry has reciprocated with great enthusiasm," he added.

## EXHIBITORS 'GRATEFUL AND ENTHUSIASTIC'

With businesses getting back up after the effects of the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn, exhibitors participating in the first CHCE have expressed nothing but complete gratitude to the organizers of the event, as they see the event as a platform to reinvigorate their businesses.

"I am very honored to be here. The Macau market has had an enthusiastic response to our products and the CHCE is a miracle for us," said Mu Haibin, director of the technical service department of the management committee of Ningxia Helan Mountain's East Foothill Wine Region.

"We hope to participate more often to contribute to the joint development of Guangdong and Macau. I am very honored to bring my world-class wines here and I think that it's a solid foundation for us to walk out onto the international stage," he added.

Another exhibitor, Fong Wing Ngai, is aiming to promote Made-in-China watches to the Portuguese-speaking world.

For the curator of the Macau Timepiece Museum, the platform serves as a perfect opportunity to build networks and exchange contacts to facilitate the recovery of business.

"We'd like to make use of this platform to promote watches that are made in China all over the world. We are in a pandemic situation but I hope there will be more visitors to Macau in the future so that we will make better use of this platform," Fong said.



DECORATIONS 2023

# CE honors 26 outstanding in



Medal of Merit – Industry and Commerce - Humberto Carlos Leitão Rodrigues



Medal of Merit – Tourism - Macau Hoteliers & Innkeepers Association (Cheung Kin Chung)



Medal of Merit – Education - Hou Kong School (Iao Tun leong)



Medal of Merit – Education - Lou Lan Heng Monica



Medal of Merit – Education - Lei Cheok Kin



Medal of Merit – Culture - Confraria da Gastronomia Macaense (Carlos Alberto Anok)



Decoration of Honour - Golden Lotus - Tong Sin Tong (Chui Sai Peng)



Decoration of Honour - Silver Lotus - BNU



Decoration of Honour – Silver Lotus - Macau Red Cross (Chou Kuok Hei)



Decoration of Honour – Silver Lotus - Lai Kin Hong



Medal of Merit – Culture - Lok Hei



Medal of Merit – Culture - Kuok Keng Man



Medal of Merit – Culture - Chan Ng



Medal for Dedication – GCS Information Dep't (Ieong Pou Kam)



Medal for Dedication – AMCM Financial Infrastructure & Information Technology Dep't (Lai Kuong Fai)



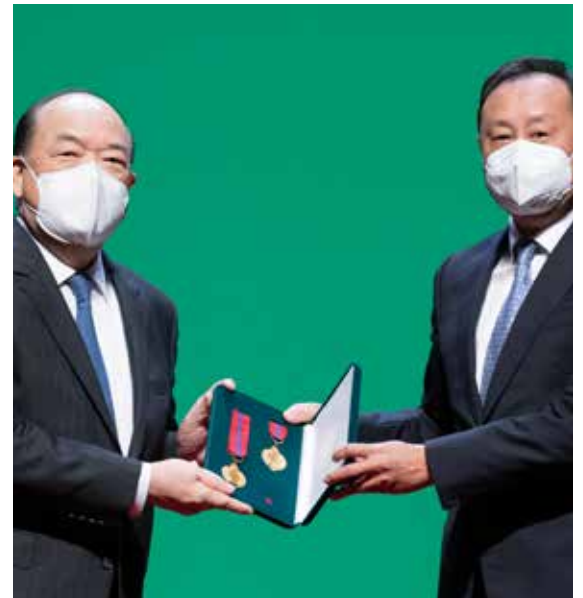
Medal for Community Service – Macau Machinery Engineering Association (Leon)



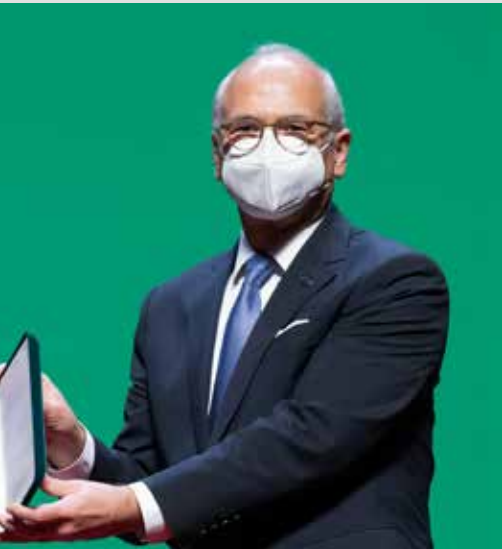
# Individuals, entities in awards



Medal of Merit – Professions - Mo Hui



Medal of Merit – Industry and Commerce - China Taiping (Macau) (Jiang Yi Dao)



Carlos Manuel Sobral Cid da Costa Álvares)



Decoration of Honour - Silver Lotus - Tai Fung Bank (Zhou Peng)



Medal of Merit – Industry and Commerce - Transmac (Liu Hei Wan)



Medal of Merit – Professions - Macao Water (Kuan Sio Peng)



Medal of Merit – Professions - CEM (Fu Jianguo)



Pun Chi Meng



Medal of Merit – Philanthropy - Pun Chi Meng



Medal of Merit – Sports - Swimming Club Lok Pó (Lu Mei Sio)



Honorary Title - Merit - U Lai Wa



Honorary Title - Merit - Chan Pak Ian (U Lai Wa)



Honorary Title - Merit - Choi Ka Wai



Twenty-six people or organizations were celebrated with medals or certificates of the Macau Special Administrative Region last week. The awards were presented by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng. Recipients were given the medals in recognition of either personal achievement, contribution to the community, or distinguished service to society. Medals and certificates come in several tiers and categories. Decorations of Honor are in the categories: Grand Lotus, Golden Lotus, and Silver Lotus. Such awards are for individuals or entities who have made outstanding contributions either locally or abroad to the image and reputation of Macau, or who have made exceptional

contributions in any field beneficial to the development of the city. There are seven categories of the Medal of Merit. They recognize individuals or organizations having had notable or excellent performance in professional service, industry and commerce, tourism, education, culture and arts, philanthropy and social service, as well as sports. Medals for Distinguished Service are in the following categories: Medal for Bravery, Medal for Dedication, and Medal for Community Service. Certificates of Merit, including Honorary Title – Prestige, and Honorary Title – Merit, commend those who have made major contributions to the reputation, development or social progress of Macau. AL



DIPLOMACY

# Rounding off Africa tour, Qin visits Egypt

SAMY MAGDY, CAIRO

CHINA'S chief diplomat was in Cairo over the weekend for talks with Egyptian and Arab League officials, marking his last stop in a multi-leg trip to Africa that aims to consolidate Beijing's footprint across the resource-rich continent.

Foreign Minister Qin Gang met separately with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit. He also met with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry.

In a joint news conference, Foreign Minister Shoukry said the talks addressed Sino-Egyptian relations and increasing Chinese tourism to the Middle Eastern country, which has for years struggled to revive its vital tourism sector.

Both ministers said they also discussed regional issues including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Tensions have risen after the return to office last month of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is heading Israel's most right-wing and religiously conservative government.

Responding to a Chinese reporter's question, Qin urged Israel to "stop incitements and provocations, and to refrain from taking unilateral actions that could worsen the situation."

He also called for "maintaining the status quo" at Jerusalem's most important holy site, after an ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet mi-



Foreign Minister Qin Gang (left) listens during a press conference with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry, at the foreign ministry headquarters in Cairo

nister visited it earlier this year. That visit drew fierce condemnation from across the Muslim world and a strong rebuke from the United States.

Qin also reiterated China's longstanding position of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on "the two-state-solution and the land-for-peace principle."

In his meeting with el-Sissi, the Chinese foreign minister said Beijing would continue to develop its investment in Egypt's infrastructure projects including those with links to China's Belt and Road initiative.

China has invested billions of dollars in Egyptian state-led projects such as the Suez Canal Economic Zone and the new administrative capital, which is being built east of Cairo.

Aboul-Gheit, the Arab League chief, meanwhile, said China's growing cooperation with the Arab world

would not negatively impact Arab ties with the West.

"This cooperation doesn't cause any damage to any third party," he said in a separate news conference with the Chinese foreign minister.

Qin arrived in Cairo Saturday afternoon. His weeklong trip included Ethiopia, where the African Union headquarters is located, as well as Gabon, Angola and Benin. It was Qin's first overseas trip since his appointment in December.

His Africa tour came a month after President Joe Biden hosted dozens of African leaders in Washington, pledging government funding and private investment to help the continent develop in the fields of health, infrastructure, business and technology.

For more than three decades, China's foreign ministers have started their terms by visiting Africa, whose growing population

as a continent rivals China's. Beijing has invested heavily in infrastructure in African countries, including roads, energy infrastructure, telecommunications, railways, and hospitals.

The Chinese financial groups and funds also gave out \$160 billion in loans to Africa between 2000 and 2020, according to the Chinese Loans to Africa Database. Qin said last week China has been Africa's largest trading partner for the past 13 years, with mutual trade expected to exceed \$260 billion in 2022.

Amide the coronavirus pandemic, China raced to provide vaccines to Africa, which received only 1% of global COVID-19 vaccine supplies. China also funded the construction of a new headquarters for the African Center for Disease Control in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The new center was opened last week during Qin's visit. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1995 EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES KOBE



Hundreds of people are feared dead and thousands injured after a powerful earthquake struck Japan at dawn.

Worst hit was the port of Kobe, a city of 1.5 million. Whole buildings, apartment blocks and an elevated highway collapsed killing at least 200 people and injuring some 13,000.

Osaka and the ancient city of Kyoto were also severely damaged.

The earthquake measured 7.2 magnitude and was the biggest to hit Japan for 47 years.

It struck at 0546 local time just as commuters were starting their journey into work.

Scientists say the epicentre was 15 miles (24km) below the island of Awajisima, 20 miles (32km) from Kobe.

The NHK national television station has broadcast pictures of a devastated Kobe, with smoke billowing over large sections of the city.

Hundreds of people are trapped under the rubble of flattened buildings, but damaged gas and water pipes are hampering the rescue effort.

Reports say at least two people died when the elevated section of the Hanshin motorway connecting Osaka to Kobe collapsed in three places.

It threw 50 cars off the edge and left a bus hanging over the edge.

Trains were derailed and power cut in some areas, leaving a million people without electricity.

Many hundreds of people are out on the streets wrapped in bedding, too afraid to go home in case of more after-shocks.

Eyewitnesses said the terrifying shaking lasted for about 20 seconds and was followed by several aftershocks.

British journalist Dennis Kessler living in Osaka described the moment he was woken by a loud roar and watched his second-floor flat sway like a pendulum.

"Every single object in our room was flying around," he told the Evening Standard newspaper.

"The walls and ceilings were moving and creaking, the whole room was moving around like it was made of jelly."

The prime minister, Tomiichi Muruyama, has ordered the creation of an emergency committee to handle the effects of the quake and sent troops to help the rescue operation.

Courtesy BBC News

PANJIN

# Two killed, 12 missing in chemical plant explosion

A massive explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China has killed at least two people and left 12 missing.

Another 34 people were injured in the explosion Sunday on the outskirts of the city of Panjin in Liaoning province east of the capital Beijing.

News releases from the local government showed photos of flames and thick black smoke rising from the complex of chemical processing machinery, pipes and storage containers.

Fire crews have brought the blaze under control and the local environmental depart-

ment was monitoring the impact on air quality in the area, the government of Panshan County in the city's suburbs said in a news release.

The cause of the accident remained under investigation, authorities said. People posting on social media said they felt the shock of the ex-

plosion, but the damage did not appear to extend beyond the plant.

China, with the world's second-largest economy, suffers deadly industrial accidents on a regular basis.

The central government has pledged stronger safety measures ever since an explosion in 2015 at a chemical warehouse in the northern port city of Tianjin killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers. In that case, a number of local officials were accused of taking bribes to ignore safety violations. **MDT/AP**

## IN CONTEXT

Japan is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries and experiences thousands of minor tremors each year. But the Kobe earthquake was one of the worst in the country's history - 6,433 people died. Nearly 27,000 people were injured, and more than 45,000 homes were destroyed. The total cost of repairing the damage was estimated at more than \$100 billion. Japanese scientists have since tried to improve prediction of quakes, but seismology is an inexact science and it is extremely difficult to forecast when and where quakes it will occur. Kobe struggled to overcome the huge impact of the 1995 earthquake. New office blocks and malls were built to attract back the 50,000 people who left after the quake.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. Don't let an incident at work play on your mind. Catch up on correspondence.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Difficulties with female members of your family may result in estrangement's. Be cautious when dealing with coworkers.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. You can make financial gains through your unique and creative approach to business.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts. You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Debates will stifle passion and result in estrangement. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 You will be in a high cycle regarding work. You could find that children will be a handful. You need an outlet that will help take your mind off any troubles at work.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Do not trust others with important information. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries. Think of changes to your home that will please and add to everyone's comfort.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures. You may find yourself in a heated dispute with a friend if you try to change your mind.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to sit back and enjoy. Financial investments that deal with joint money can be extremely prosperous. Those you care about may oppose your ideas.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Changes in your home will be positive. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. You may find that your quick wit and charm will help you in obtaining allies.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can ask for favors but don't take them for granted. You are best to work at home if you can. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

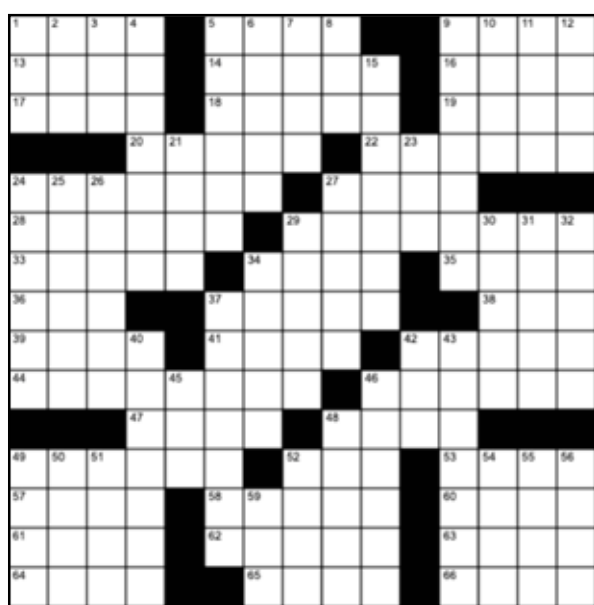
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-8	3	fine
Changchun	-17	-7	fine
Chengdu	0	9	overcast
Chongqing	1	6	overcast
Fuzhou	7	15	fine
Guangzhou	6	14	cloudy
Guiyang	-3	1	overcast
Haikou	9	16	cloudy
Hangzhou	-2	5	fine
Harbin	-25	-11	fine
Hefei	-4	5	fine
Nanjing	-3	6	cloudy
Shanghai	-1	5	fine
Taipei	10	14	rain
Wuhan	-3	8	cloudy
Hong Kong	12	17	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-1	1	rain
Frankfurt	-1	4	cloudy
Paris	-1	5	rain
London	-3	2	overcast
New York	5	8	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Like some dorms; 5- Busy as \_\_\_; 9- Some DVD players; 13- Thomas Edison's middle name; 14- Oscar de la \_\_\_; 16- Effortlessness; 17- June 6, 1944; 18- Bay window; 19- That's \_\_\_; 20- Tied; 22- Underground room; 24- Compunction; 27- Painter of limp watches; 28- New World songbird; 29- Mimosa; 33- Inclined to gluttony; 34- Due; 35- Planetary revolution; 36- Second sequel tag; 37- Malice; 38- Cabinet dept.; 39- Final Four org.; 41- Female lobsters; 42- Danny's daughter; 44- Gaming; 46- German emperor; 47- Turkish titles; 48- German Mister; 49- Heavenly body; 52- \_\_\_ Quentin; 53- Part of a process; 57- Square; 58- Take hold; 60- Nimbus; 61- \_\_\_ uncertain terms; 62- Useful; 63- Nile wader; 64- High time?; 65- Hurler Hersheiser; 66- Attention-getting sound;

**DOWN** 1- No gentleman; 2- On in years; 3- Sister of Zsa Zsa; 4- Diary; 5- Stir up; 6- European capital; 7- Geraint's lady; 8- Hot time in Paris; 9- Fact; 10- Equal a bet; 11- Bhutan's continent; 12- Clairvoyant; 15- Mayor having judicial powers; 21- Air France destination; 23- North American deer; 24- Lassoing; 25- Beethoven's Third; 26- Sister of Moses; 27- Eats to a plan; 29- Move to and fro; 30- Brings up; 31- Specimen of genus Aquila; 32- Slip; 34- Unfolds; 37- Japanese massage technique; 40- Forsake; 42- Damage; 43- Floating craft; 45- Bigger than med.; 46- Shelter for a dog; 48- \_\_\_ Selassie; 49- Nabokov novel; 50- Carson's successor; 51- Florence's river; 52- Arouse; 54- Bar bills; 55- Some Ivy Leaguers; 56- Pillar; 59- DDE's command;




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



RICH & POOR

# BUSINESS TRUSTED MOST IN A MORE POLARIZED WORLD, REPORT SAYS

COURTNEY BONNELL,  
LONDON

PEOPLE worldwide are more gloomy about their economic prospects than ever before and trust business far more than other institutions like governments, nonprofits and the media in an increasingly divided world, according to a survey from public relations firm Edelman.

Released yesterday [Macau time] to coincide with the World Economic Forum's gathering of business elites and government leaders this week in Davos, Switzerland, the online survey conducted in 28 countries shows that fewer people believe their family will be better off in five years.

Those who believe they'll be better off dropped to 40% from 50% last year and hit all-time lows in 24 nations. That is because 89% fear losing their job, 74% worry about inflation, 76% are concerned about climate change and



A woman walks in front of signs displaying prices of products in US dollars, outside a grocery store in Caracas, Venezuela

72% worry about nuclear war.

The Edelman Trust Barometer also says 62% of respondents see business as both competent and ethical, compared with 59% for non-governmental agencies, 51% for governments and 50% for the media. That was attributed to how companies treated workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and return to offices as well as many businesses vowing to exit Russia after it invaded Ukraine.

People still said they distrusted CEOs as well as government leaders and journalists, while trusting their own corporate executives, co-workers and neighbors. Scientists were trusted the most — by 76% of respondents.

"The increased level of trust in business brings with it higher-than-ever expectations of CEOs to be a leading voice on societal issues," said Richard Edelman, CEO of Edelman. "By a six-to-one margin,

respondents want more societal involvement by business on issues such as climate change, economic inequality and workforce reskilling."

But companies face stirring contention by jumping into those topics, with 52% saying businesses can't avoid politicization when they tackle divisive social issues, he said.

Despite the uncertainty, people want companies to stand up for them: 63% say they buy or advocate for brands based on their beliefs and values.

Most respondents say business should do more, not less, to deal with climate change, economic inequality and other issues.

This comes as social divisions have become entrenched, creating a polarized world that has left people feeling like they can't overcome their differences or even willing to help others who don't share their beliefs, the survey says.

Less than one-third of respondents said they would help, live with or work with someone who strongly disagrees with their viewpoints. Six countries — Argentina, Colombia, the U.S., South Africa, Spain and Sweden — were listed as severely polarized, driven by distrust in government and a lack of shared identity.

If divisions are not addressed, people fear the result will be worsening prejudice and discrimination, slower economic development and violence in the streets, the report said.

More than 40% in the survey believe governments and companies must work together to solve social issues, with the onus on the most trusted institution — business — to bring people together.

Most respondents — 64% — said companies supporting politicians and media outlets that build consensus would help increase civility and strengthen society.

In its 23rd year, the Edelman Trust Barometer surveyed more than 32,000 people online in 28 countries from Argentina to Saudi Arabia to the U.S. from Nov. 1 to Nov. 28. MDT/AP

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TENNIS

# Nadal struggles at times during 4-set win at Australian Open

HOWARD FENDRICH,  
MELBOURNE

**R**AFAEL Nadal never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago.

Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into yesterday's matchup against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece.

He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there,



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a backhand return to Jack Draper of Britain

though, Nadal would not drop another game, beginning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win that took more than 3 1/2 hours in Rod Laver Arena.

"I need a victory, so that's the main thing," Nadal said. "Doesn't matter the way."

That's good, then, because the 36-year-old from Spain was

not in peak form. All in all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless, given his recent track record and knowing that he tore an abdominal muscle twice in the past six months.

"I was humble enough to accept that (there were) going to be a little bit of ups and downs during the match," Nadal said. "(That's a) typical thing when

you are not in a winning mood."

Both men are left-handers, but that is pretty much where the similarities end, whether in terms of style or age or experience or accomplishments.

Nadal, who is seeded No. 1 because top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz is sidelined with an injury, is appearing in his 67th Grand Slam tournament. Draper, ranked a career-best No. 38 this

week, was making his fourth trip to a major and his best showing was getting to the third round at the U.S. Open last September.

Draper also has faced problems dealing with steamy conditions: In his ATP Tour debut at the Miami Open in March 2021, he collapsed on court and needed to stop playing after one set.

"Real honor to play against him, someone I've idolized growing up. To go toe-to-toe with him on a big court like that is special," Draper said. "I can take away the fact that my tennis is getting closer and closer. And physically, I'll be first to say I'm still a work in progress."

This time, signs of trouble showed up early, and Draper was treated by a trainer during changeovers. Later, he massaged his right thigh between points.

Nadal, not surprisingly, wore Draper down from the baseline, engaging in exchanges before finding an opening to yank a big forehand this way or that.

"When you win matches, you are more relaxed," Nadal said. "You are more confident."

His next opponent will be Mackie McDonald, a past NCAA champion at UCLA who won an all-American matchup against Brandon Nakashima that lasted 4 hours by a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 1-6, 6-7 (10), 6-4 score. **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**REAL ISSUE  
 GOVERNANCE  
 DEFICIT, NOT DEBT**

With the United States' federal debt expected to hit the existing ceiling on Thursday, the US Treasury Department has announced that it will have to take unusual means to sustain the operation of the government if the ceiling is not raised.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged lawmakers to act quickly to raise the debt ceiling, which at \$31.38 trillion is already more than the economies of China, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom combined.

Republicans, who now control the House of Representatives, want to use the debt ceiling as leverage to force the Joe Biden administration to cut spending on a "far-left" agenda that is anathema to them. As one Republican lawmaker said there's no reason for them to help facilitate policy that they disagree with.

The struggle between the two parties is further indication that the country is evolving in exactly the direction its founders made so many institutional preparations to avoid.

The rise of Trumpism was an inevitable response of the nation to the weakening, if not fake, representativeness of the US political system, which has been hijacked by the private interests of the wealthy. But that has only aggravated the situation.

The Republicans make budget cuts a prerequisite for their agreeing to a new debt ceiling, which will only sustain the US debt crisis as before instead of addressing it, and create spillover effects for the world as the US prints more dollars. Meanwhile, the Democrats think the GOP is turning a serious governance procedure into a "political game", as the White House spokesperson called it. "This should be done without conditions," Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters. "There's going to be no negotiation over it."

The Democrats accuse the Republicans of not really caring about the US people, while the Republicans claim the Biden administration is putting future generations in debt.

The horse-trading over the debt ceiling only serves to show how much the nation pays for the political tussle between the two parties, whose only point of agreement is fabricating a fake, external enemy in the form of China.

They are both willing to borrow big so they can spend money like water to contain China. This serves their common interest of keeping the people uninformed of the true nature of their governance, which hijacks the country's interests for their own.

In fact, there is no real debate between the two parties and the widely anticipated debate over the federal debt ceiling is just the latest round of bargaining over future exchanges of interests between them. The haggling over the debt ceiling makes clear that the zero-sum game does not exist between the US and China, but between US politicians and the US people.

**ITALIAN FILM LEGEND  
 GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA DIES AT AGE 95**

Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida, who achieved international stardom during the 1950s and was dubbed "the most beautiful woman in the world" after the title of one of her movies, died in Rome yesterday, her agent said. She was 95.

The agent, Paola Comin, didn't provide details. Lollobrigida had surgery in September to repair a thigh bone broken in a fall. She returned home and said she had quickly resumed walking.

A drawn portrait of the diva graced a 1954 cover of Time magazine, which likened her to a "goddess" in an article about Italian movie-making. More than a half-century later, Lollobrigida still turned heads with her brown, curly hair and statuesque figure, and preferred to be called an actress instead of the gender-neutral term actor.

Full story on [macau.dailymtimes.com.mo/category/buzz](http://macau.dailymtimes.com.mo/category/buzz)



AP PHOTO



A composite picture showing a computer generated image released by the Italian Police and a picture of Mafia top boss Matteo Messina Denaro

**ITALY ARRESTS NO 1  
 FUGITIVE MAFIA BOSS,  
 30 YEARS ON THE RUN**

FRANCES D'EMILIO, ROME

ITALY'S No. 1 fugitive, convicted Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro, was captured yesterday at a private clinic in Palermo, Sicily, after three decades on the run, Italian paramilitary police said.

Messina Denaro was captured at the clinic where he was receiving treatment for an undisclosed medical condition, said Carabinieri Gen. Pasquale Angelosanto, who heads the police force's special operations squad.

A pair of Carabinieri officers, each holding an arm, walked him down the front steps of the upscale clinic and led him to a waiting black van on a gray morning. Messina Denaro was wearing a brown leather jacket trimmed in shearling and a matching white-and-brown skull cap and his trademark tinted glasses. His face looked wan and he looked straight ahead. He was taken to a secret location by police immediately after the arrest, Italian state television reported.

A young man when he went into hiding, he is now 60. Messina Denaro, who had a power base in the port city of Trapani, in western Sicily, was considered Sicily's Cosa Nostra top boss even while a fugitive.

He was the last of three longtime fugitive top-level Mafia bosses who had for decades eluded capture, and hundreds of police officers over the years had been tasked with tracking him down.

Messina Denaro, who was tried in absentia and convicted of dozens of murders, faces multiple life sentences.

He is set to be imprisoned for two bombings in Sicily in 1992 that murdered top anti-Mafia prosecutors, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, Falcone's wife and several of their bodyguards. Among other grisly crimes he was convicted of is the murder of a Mafia turncoat's young son, who was abducted and strangled before his body was dissolved in a vat of acid.

The arrest yesterday came 30 years and a day after the Jan. 15, 1993, capture of convicted "boss of bosses" Salvatore "Totò" Riina, in a Palermo apartment after 23 years on the run. Messina Denaro went into hiding in summer of that same year, as the Italian state stiffened its crackdown on the Sicilian crime syndicate following the murders of Falcone and Borsellino.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni tweeted that Messina Denaro's capture is a

"great victory of the state, which shows that it doesn't surrender in the face of the Mafia."

Italy's Mafia boss who set the record for the longest time on the lam was Bernardo Provenzano, captured in a farmhouse near Corleone, Sicily, in 2006 after 38 years as a fugitive. Once Provenzano was in police hands, the hunt focused on Messina Denaro, but despite numerous reported sightings of the boss, he managed to elude arrest, until yesterday.

That all three top bosses were ultimately arrested in the heart of Sicily while they conducted decades of a clandestine life won't surprise Italy's police and prosecutors. Law enforcement have long said that such bosses rely on contacts and confidentiality of fellow mobsters and complicit family members to move the fugitives from hideout to hideout, supply basic needs, like food and clean clothing and communication, and a code of silence known as "omerta."

Riina and Provenzano lived out the last years of their life in the strictest of Italian prison conditions reserved for unrepentant organized crime bosses and refused to cooperate with investigators. MDT/AP

**Cambodia** Fifteen Ukrainian deminers are being trained by experts in Cambodia who are among the world's best because of experience from clearing the leftovers of nearly three decades of war. The Ukrainian deminers are being hosted by the Cambodian Mine Action Center, a government agency that oversees the clearing of land mines and unexploded ordnance in Cambodia. The weeklong program began yesterday and is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

AP PHOTO



**Greece** With occasional renditions of the Greek national anthem, thousands of people began lining up long before dawn yesterday outside Athens' cathedral to pay their final respects to Greece's former and last king, Constantine, who died last week at the age of 82. Royalty from across Europe, including the Spanish and Danish royal families who were closely related to Constantine, were attending the funeral, while hundreds of police were deployed in the Greek capital.

**Austria** A famous Vienna theater said yesterday it would cancel all shows starring one of its actors after reports surfaced that he was charged with possession of tens of thousands of files with child pornography. On Friday, the Burgtheater in Vienna fired Florian Teichtmeister, the actor who also plays Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph in the film "Corsage." The 43-year-old actor is scheduled to stand trial on Feb. 8 on child pornography charges after 58,000 media files with suspected child pornographic material were found in his possession, the Austria Press Agency reported.

**Senegal** A bus swerved to avoid hitting a donkey and collided with a truck, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens of others in Senegal yesterday, authorities said. The collision happened near Ngeun Sarr in the country's north, President Macky Sall tweeted. "Yet another fatal accident on our roads," he said. "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speedy recovery to the injured."