



**SHOPLIFTING: POLICE ARRESTED THREE PEOPLE AT TWO LOCATIONS FOR SEPARATE THEFTS IN TWO DIFFERENT CLOTHING STORES IN COTAI** P2

**GOV'T: COVID-19 CASES UP, THREE POLICY SECRETARIES INFECTED** P4

**STATE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF VP HAN VISIT TO PORTUGAL** P3



AP PHOTO



**Indonesia** Southeast Asian leaders have agreed to tighten border controls and law enforcement and improve public education to fight criminal syndicates that are trafficking workers to other nations, where they are forced to participate in online fraud, according to a draft statement to be issued today at the end of a regional summit. More on p7

AP PHOTO



**Japan-South Korea** Top business leaders from Japan and South Korea announced yesterday they will use a fund meant to underscore the two countries' burgeoning ties to strengthen their cooperation in energy, industry and other sectors. Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, and its South Korean counterpart, the Federation of Korean Industry, announced a fund of 200 million yen (\$1.5 million) in March. The money comes from an initial installment of 100 million yen (\$750,000) from each side.

AP PHOTO



**USA** Former President Donald Trump will return to CNN's airwaves today [Macau time], joining the network for a two-hour town hall event in early-voting New Hampshire a day after a civil jury found him liable for sexually assaulting an advice columnist nearly three decades ago. The forum, which was publicly announced last week, was expected to be notable because it would be bringing together a network and a candidate who have long sparred with each other.

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# HO SETS HOPES HIGH ON NEW TECH EXPO

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**GAMING WYNN REVENUE DOUBLES AS COTAI LEADS RECOVERY** P4



**MDT INTERVIEW THE ARSENALE SHOW BY PATRICE MEIGNAN** P10

**RENTS DOWN 1.5%: DSEC**

The average rent per square meter of usable area for residential units in the city was MOP130 in the first quarter of 2023, down 1.5% quarter-to-quarter, according to the government's first rental statistics. The average rents for residential units in ZAPE (MOP111), Areia Preta and Iao Hon (MOP125), Barra and Manduco (MOP128), Doca do Lamau (MOP148) and Baixa da Taipa (MOP130) decreased 1.8%, 1.6%, 1.5%, 1.3% and 0.8% respectively. For non-residential units, the average rent per square meter of usable area for shops increased 3.6% quarter-to-quarter to MOP488 in the first quarter.

**HK-MACAU FERRY OPERATIONS GROW TO 14 DAILY**

Fourteen ferries currently serve Hong Kong and Macau routes, with about 76 operating daily. There are four ferries per hour, an increase of nearly four times compared to the initial period of resumption. According to the Marine and Water Bureau, ferry operators will adjust the frequency of operations according to factors such as market demand, its own shipping capacity and operating costs.

**BNU RECORDS MOP122.4 MILLION Q1 PROFIT**

The Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) has revealed its first performance of the year, highlighting an unaudited profit after tax of MOP122.4 million during Q1, compared to about MOP39.9 million for the same period last year. Interest rate rises explain the strong performance, which has led to a net income of MOP68.9 million compared to only MOP40.9 million last year. "The bank's strong Q1 2023 results and ongoing commitment to its clients and stakeholders demonstrate its strength and resilience in a volatile economic environment," the BNU said.

**MPU GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP TO 600 STUDENTS**

The Macao Polytechnic University has awarded scholarships to 600 students during its 2023 Scholarships Award Ceremony at the university auditorium. This ceremony aims to recognize students' achievements in different academic and professional fields, and to encourage continued striving for academic excellence and motivation.

**CRIME**

**THREE SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR THEFTS AT COTAI SHOPS, TWO OTHERS AT LARGE**

ANTHONY LAM

ON May 6, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) arrested three people at two locations for separate thefts concerning two different clothing stores in Cotai, the PSP told a press conference yesterday.

All of the apprehended suspects are Mongolian citizens. The police did not disclose the nationality of the remaining two, who are at large.

The first case involved a man, 34, and a woman, 36, who reportedly entered Macau on the morning of the alleged theft.

The police said that at about 3 p.m. on May 6, officers on regular patrol saw the duo "sneakily" leave a shop in a Cotai shopping mall with a bag.

The police said the duo stopped at the entrance of a washroom and counted clothing from the bag. The police confronted them, and they admitted to stealing them from the shop.

The police later learned the duo had been in the shop for nearly an hour.

The shopkeeper confirmed the 15 pieces of clothing were unpaid merchandise with a price of MOP3,000.

In another case, a shopkeeper of a clothing store in the same Cotai mall contacted the PSP on May 4, reporting that surveillance cameras had captured an alleged theft conducted by three people – two men and a woman – at 5:45 p.m. the same day.

According to the shopkeeper, a man had taken 20 pieces of clothing worth MOP5,700, while the other two people took three pieces worth MOP1,800.

After preliminary investigations, the PSP confirmed the three people had left Macau through the Border Gate checkpoint the same evening.

At 11 a.m. on May 6, the man who allegedly stole 20 pieces of clothing reentered Macau and returned to the same shop. The police intercepted him at the store.



The 50-year-old admitted to the theft and to selling the goods in Zhuhai. He also confessed he returned to the shop to steal more.

However, the man denied knowing the other two people.

**PJ LOGS SHAM CURRENCY EXCHANGE, CASH WIRE SERVICES**

Two men have fallen victim in fraudulent currency exchange services, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has announced.

The two victims are 25 and 37 years old. The former is a mainland resident while the latter is local. Both had tried to exchange currency with their friends and have lost contact with the scammer since then.

The younger victim reported losing MOP4,600 and the elder MOP715,000. The PJ said the local resident desired to exchange his Macau patacas for Chinese yuan.

The police added that both cases have connections with casino practices.

In another case, a Burmese woman lost some MOP4,500 in a fraudulent money wire transfer. The woman had come to Macau for work.

In March this year, the victim was introduced to a person by a friend. She was told the person, also a non-local worker from Myanmar, could help wire transfer money from Macau to Myanmar.

As banks in Macau do not

operate wire transfer to her home country, the victim had contacted the person for assistance. The factor that convinced her to do so is that she had successfully wired money home through this person.

At about 6 p.m. on May 4, the victim transferred MOP4,573 to the person via mobile banking, who asked her to wait upon confirming receipt of the money.

Since then, the person has not contacted her. She tried to call her using messenger apps, but the person did not answer. She checked with her family and was told no funds had been received.

Thinking she might have lost the money to a scammer,

**WOMAN FINED FOR THROWING NUMEROUS OBJECTS FROM ABOVE**

A woman in her 30's was fined for twice throwing various objects from above the Pak Vai parking lot entrance Tuesday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has announced.

She was prosecuted under the Public Space General Regulations.

No pedestrian was injured, but the incidents prompted closure of parking lot entry.

At about 9 a.m. on May 9, the police received reports of falling objects at the location. According to video footage that went viral, objects – either shattered, damaged or complete – were seen at the location as more objects were being

thrown from above.

Police unsuccessfully investigated the apartment. As the throwing had stopped, cleaners were called to clear the debris.

At about 11 a.m., the location was reopened.

At about 2 p.m., the throwing resumed. Several items of clothing and bedding materials were seen on the ground, according to local media Macao Daily News.

The location was reopened at 2:45 p.m. after being cleared.

Police located the woman in a nearby apartment and issued a fine. However, the police did not disclose the reason behind the throwing. AL

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MICE

# CE sees 'more opportunities' for city's development in Beyond Expo

ANTHONY LAM

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng sees more opportunities for Macau's development in a recent technology expo, as stated in his opening speech.

Beyond Expo is an event targeting the technological sector, focusing on technology innovation and its impact on various industries in current and future society. It highlights healthcare, sustainability and consumer technology.

He described the expo as an important platform that brings talent together to conduct trade negotiations and technical exchange.

"We hope to take this as an opportunity to leverage Macau's advantages to inject new impetus into sectors including MICE, technology, trade and others, which will in turn invigorate the diversification of the local economy and industries," said Ho.

He saw the fruits of the expo were that "global enterprises will deepen their understanding of Macau and the In-depth Cooperation



Zone in Hengqin, and will strengthen Macau's synergistic function to accelerate domestic and international dual circulation."

He also hoped the event will showcase China to the world.

"It is through this platform that the world can understand China's principles, trends and models," said Ho. "This will also advance China's new form of technological civilization and propagate the building of a community of shared future for humankind."

He also saw "notable development" in science and technology in Macau.

"Macau has made notable progressive development in scientific and technological innovation. Innovative technology has become the city's brand-new calling card."

To pitch more business opportunities, the head of the government described Macau as "an international free port and politically neutral," adding that the city "offers [a] free business environment."

tors focusing on consumption and healthcare.

"At this expo, I see the dream of a more inclusive Asia," said Jin Liquan, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, adding that financial inclusion achieved through technology helped reduce poverty, as cited in a report by CGTN.

"Technology is the solution to many of the challenges we face," said Andrew Sheng, chief adviser to China's Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission. It represents a cumulation of human knowledge, he remarked.

The three-day expo brings together scientists, entrepreneurs, and experts in social responsibility to exchange ideas through exhibitions and industry summits.

This year's fair features an exhibition area of 100,000 square meters with more than 600 exhibitors showcasing products from healthca-

re, sustainability, and consumer technology categories.

Established in 2020, the expo is billed as Asia's largest and most influential international science and technology fairs.

## CPTTM TO OPERATE HUAWEI-CERTIFIED TRAINING CENTER

The first day of the expo also saw the plaque-unveiling ceremony for a joint Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) and Huawei certified training center.

Victoria Kuan, director-general of the CPTTM, said the deal for cooperation was closed last year. She also said there will be more technology courses, such as cybersecurity and AI courses, in the future. The co-organization of various types of IT courses and professional certification would help promote Macau's global integration of the IT industry, she said.

Li Yingjie, general manager of Huawei Macau, said in his speech the training center will promote the opening of more IT courses, which is believed to promote the education, growth and employment of relevant talents in Macau, as well as help industrial upgrades and breakthroughs.

DIPLOMACY

## CHINA VICE-PRESIDENT PROMOTES EUROPE TIES DURING PORTUGAL VISIT

STAFF REPORTER

**C**HINESE state media yesterday highlighted Vice-President Han Zheng's meeting with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa during his visit to Portugal, where he said that China is "willing to work with Portugal and Europe to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation".

Han, who was in Lisbon, from May 7 to 9, said that China is willing to work with Portugal and Europe to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and serve their own economic development, according to international broadcaster China Global Television Network.

Rebelo de Sousa was quoted as saying that the



Portuguese side will further strengthen high-level exchanges between the two countries" and "deepen cooperation in areas such as trade and technology".

In his meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, Han described Portugal as an "an excellent window for Chinese enter-

prises to enter the European market", adding that China "encourages more Chinese enterprises to invest in Portugal".

Costa was quoted as saying that Portugal "adheres to the one-China principle and supports the practice of 'One country, two systems' in Macau."

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GAMING

# WYNN REVENUE DOUBLES AS COTAI PROPERTY LEADS RECOVERY

LYNZY VALLES

WYNN Macau's operating revenues doubled to USD600 million, compared to the USD298 million recorded a year ago, according to its first quarter earnings result.

The gaming operator's net loss narrowed to USD49.8 million from the USD188 million compared to the same period last year.

During the first quarter, Wynn generated USD156 million of EBITDA in the quarter with lower-than-normal VIP hold negatively impacting EBITDA by about USD10 million.

In the casino, mass table drop reached 82% of Q1 2019 levels, and its VIP hold normalized market share was over 14% during the quarter "despite unusually low hold in our mass business at Wynn Macau and the fact that significant portions of Wynn Macau's East casino were closed for renovation during the quarter," according to Craig Billings, Wynn Resorts' chief executive officer.

"Looking forward, market wide GGR momentum in Macau has been very impressive, building through the first quarter and accelerating into April," Billings said in an earnings call with analysts.



Wynn has seen its retail business strengthen, with tenant retail sales increasing 60% compared to the first quarter of 2019.

"Who would have thought even six months ago that the market would be run north of USD22 billion of annual GGR?" said Billings.

"In April, our mass drop per day increased versus Q1, our direct VIP turnover per day increased meaningfully versus Q1, and occupancy and retail sales were very healthy. More recently, the May Golden Week holiday period was particular-

ly strong, outperforming Golden Week 2019 in several key areas," he added.

This month, the daily April EBITDA was over the Q1 average daily EBITDA.

During the holidays, the operator's overall mass table drop was nearly 10% above 2019 Golden Week levels, while its direct VIP turnover was more than double 2019 levels.

### WYNN PALACE TO DRIVE GROUP'S RECOVERY

Performance during and after the quarter was skewed toward Wynn Palace, driven

both by the mix of customers who returned to Macau in the initial reopening wave and the renovation-related closures of Wynn Macau.

The group expects Wynn Palace will continue to pace ahead of Wynn Macau in the recovery due to various factors at play.

This includes the number of changes the group is making to Wynn Macau.

Its Macau-side property underwent significant refreshment of the East casino, which disrupted significant numbers of pits concurrently.

GBA

# GUANGDONG STRESSED FURTHER DOCKING WITH SARs IN RULES AND SYSTEMS

THE Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) held its 9th plenary meeting in Guangzhou.

Huang Kunming, Party secretary of Guangdong province, stressed the further rule and system docking with Hong Kong and Macau, to explore and introduce more reform measures in key areas as technological innovation, market-based allocation of production factors, investment and financing, and business environment development, so as to keep improving market integration in the GBA.

More attention will be paid to developing Shenzhen Pilot Demonstration Zone and Hengqin, Qianhai and Nansha cooperation platforms.

He also urged making full use of the central government's preferential policies, accelerating high-end resource pooling to promote the cooperation and development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

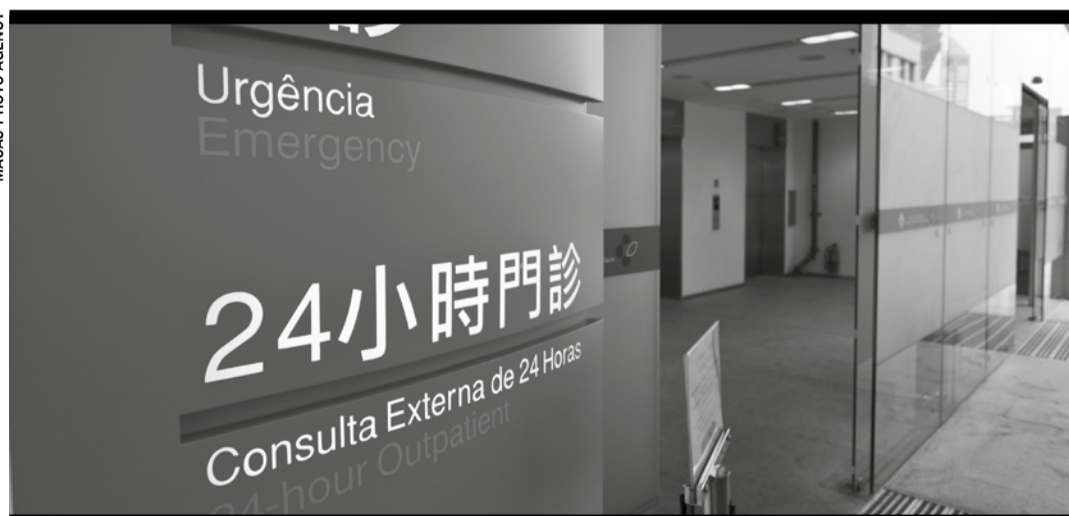
All-round connectivity should be facilitated by leveraging the leading role of Hong Kong-Shenzhen, Guangzhou-Foshan and Macau-Zhuhai poles and accelerating the urban integration of Guangdong and Foshan, so as to drive the development of neighbouring regions.

Wang Weizhong, deputy Party secretary and governor of Guangdong, stressed that more efforts should be made to promote the connectivity of infrastructure, to accelerate "GBA on Rail" project and foster a world-class cluster of airports and ports.

The province will also facilitate the cross-border flow of innovation factors such as research funds, instruments and equipment, thus speeding up the development of the GBA as an international centre for sci-tech innovation and a hub for high-end talent.

In addition, it will step up efforts to attract more enterprises from Macau the Hengqin Cooperation Zone, further optimise the management system and mechanism of the Qianhai Cooperation Zone, and coordinate the resources and forces of the provincial, municipal and regional governments to promote the development of Nansha.

Comprehensive reform will be deepened, while high-level opening up will be expanded. Solid steps will be taken to ensure the successful organisation of the second Global Investment Conference for the GBA. **MDT/NEWSGD**



HEALTH

# Gov't: Covid-19 cases up, three policy secretaries infected

STAFF REPORTER

THE government is again calling on the public to reinforce protection measures to reduce infection risk as it is

recording a rise in Covid-19 infections.

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has also disclosed three of the city's policy secretaries

have been infected for the first time: Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak; Secretary for Administration and Justice Andre Cheong; and Secretary for Social Affairs and

Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U.

According to a statement, two of the government members "became infected while traveling abroad on an official duty mission," and that they "show mild symptoms and are in a stable condition, not requiring hospitalization."

The center is calling on the public to get vaccinated and wear masks in accordance with the guidelines it has published.

Last week, the World Health Organization said Covid-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies and killed millions of people worldwide.

The announcement, made more than three years after WHO declared the coronavirus an international crisis, offers some relief, if not an ending, to a pandemic that stirred fear and suspicion, hand-wringing and finger-pointing across the globe.



LODGING

# Airbnb posts \$117 million profit, but 2Q outlook disappoints

DAVID KOENIG

**A**IRBNB said yesterday [Macau time] that it earned \$117 million in the first quarter as revenue rose during the ongoing recovery in travel, but the company's outlook for late spring and early summer disappointed investors.

The San Francisco-based company's shares fell nearly 12% in extended trading hours after Airbnb posted the forecast.

The weak outlook overshad-

dowed Airbnb's first profit in the first three months of the year, a seasonally slow period for travel.

The company's profit compared with a loss of \$19 million a year earlier and worked out to 18 cents per share. Revenue climbed 20% to \$1.82 billion, beating Wall Street's forecast of \$1.79 billion, according to a FactSet survey.

Nights and experiences booked, a closely watched measurement for Airbnb, increased 19% to 121 million, and the company valued the bookings made in the

quarter at \$20.4 billion, a 19% increase.

"We have seen our highest number of active bookers ever despite continued macroeconomic uncertainty," CEO Brian Chesky said during a call with analysts.

However, Airbnb said second-quarter bookings growth won't look as robust as they did a year earlier, when consumers were busy booking travel after hunkering down at home during the outbreak of COVID-19's omicron va-

riant. The company said bookings will grow more slowly than revenue in the April-through-June period, and the average daily rental rate will be "slightly lower" than a year earlier.

The company predicted that revenue in the second quarter, which includes the start of the peak summer travel season, would be around \$2.40 billion. That was below analysts' average prediction of \$2.42 billion.

In a letter to shareholders, Airbnb said its revenue and the gross

value of bookings are both double what they were before the pandemic.

Airbnb is getting a lift from people who are traveling while they take advantage of the ability to work remotely and stay away from the office. More of those people are booking international stays. The company said cross-border bookings grew 36% over last year's first quarter, helped by travel to and within the Asia-Pacific region and bookings into North America.

The average nightly rate paid by Airbnb customers was \$168, level with a year earlier, the company said. Price hikes in some places were offset by a slight shift toward in-city rentals, which tend to be lower in price than whole-house rentals in beach and mountain destinations.

Airbnb has grown increasingly concerned about rising rates, which could be pricing out some consumers.

Last week the company announced a renewed emphasis on renting rooms in hosts' houses, which it said would provide rentals averaging \$67 per room per night. Chesky said rooms would be particularly appealing to younger travelers who can't afford to rent an entire house.

Airbnb is gradually making cleaning fees — a major complaint among Airbnb customers — part of the total price that consumers see first when they search for lodging. Chesky said the pricing change should bring down cleaning fees, although there is no indication in the company's disclosures whether that is happening.

Also, the company said it is continuing to find new listings — the supply of lodgings for rent on the platform rose 18% in the first quarter, with the fastest growth in North America and Latin America. Chesky said that should help hold down prices. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Aaron Kwok to be Melco Residency Concert Series' grand finale



Dubbed "King of the Stage," Aaron Kwok has announced he will participate in the grand finale of "Melco Residency Concert Series" for

2023 with ten performances at a press conference at Studio City.

After a long wait of four years, Aaron Kwok will re-

turn to Studio City to perform his latest solo concert every weekend in July. Best known for his marvellous live shows, Aaron has specially named his exclusive "Melco Residency Concert Series" the "Aaron Kwok Amazing Dream Live on Stage in Macau 2023."

"Melco Residency Concert Series," the "Live in Asia's First Ever Residency Concert Series," brings top-notch performances exclusively designed for Studio City audiences where every pop icon creates bespoke concerts unique to their styles.

The artist last performed at Studio City in 2019 with his "Aaron Kwok de Aa Kode World Tour 2.0" concert.

### CTM signs collaboration with UM on big data development



At the Beyond Expo yesterday, "CTM and the University of Macau Cooperative Research on Big Data Collaboration Agreement Signing Ceremony" was conducted at CTM's booth. The signing

sealed a collaboration agreement to develop big data in tourism soon, and opened a new chapter for the evolution of Macau's smart tourism.

In addition, CTM also jointly held the "CTM 5G Land and

Sea Smart Public Transport Inauguration Ceremony" with TCM, Transmac and Shun Tak- China Travel Ship Management Ltd., announcing the official launch of CTM 5G in Macau's land and sea transportation system.

Until now, CTM has provided Wi-Fi services riding on mobile networks to 1,000 land and sea transport vehicles, serving more than 10 million users.

As a smart city service provider and an establisher of the "Cloud, Network, Intelligence and Security" digital foundation, the telecommunications firm said it will continue to collaborate with different partners, introducing various innovative smart applications and solutions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

# China urges Afghan changes on women's roles

**C**HINA yesterday called on Afghanistan to reform its radical policies excluding women from education and public life and "adopt a more resolute attitude in combating terrorism."

The comments from Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin came on the heels of a Pakistan-hosted mini-summit of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan that sought to promote trade and lower border tensions amid a surge of attacks inside Pakistan.

Wang said China hopes the Taliban-appointed Afghan interim government will "take solid steps in the right direction, make practical efforts to gain the understanding and trust of the international community, and create favorable conditions for Afghanistan to further develop good neighborliness with its neighbors and integrate into the international community."

China generally refrains from commenting on the internal policies of nations with which it wishes to curry favor, or can use as leverage in its campaign to combat the dominance of global affairs by the U.S. and other liberal democracies.

China has also made halting efforts to extend its Belt and Road Initiative to Afghanistan that could see construction of railways and bridges, but is chiefly concerned with Afghanistan harboring

separatists opposed to Chinese control in its northwestern region of Xinjiang.

"The international community still has a lot of concerns and expectations for the Afghan interim government, including hoping the Afghan side will make more progress in implementing moderate and prudent internal and external policies and safeguarding the rights and interests of women and children, and adopt a more resolute attitude in combating terrorism so as to produce more visible results," Wang said at a daily briefing.

Wang praised a joint statement issued Monday at the end of the trilateral meeting as the first time the Taliban had put in writing a commitment to disallow terrorist groups to use Afghanistan as a base of operations.

That document is "of great significance to the future development of China-Afghanistan relations and the promotion of regional counter-terrorism and security cooperation," Wang said.

"As a traditional friendly neighbor of Afghanistan, China believes that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," he said. "The well-being and interests of the Afghan people deserve attention, the peace and reconstruction process of Afghanistan should be encouraged, and its sovereignty and territorial integrity should be

respected."

The joint statement said the three sides stressed the need to prevent any individual, group or party "to use their territories to harm and threaten regional security and interests or conduct terrorist actions and activities."

These include the Pakistani Taliban and a nebulous militant group claiming to represent the Uyghur ethnic group in China's Xinjiang region, called the East Turkestan Islamic Movement. Several hundred, possibly thousands, of Chinese Muslims are believed to live in Pakistan's largely ungoverned northern territories, but terrorism experts question whether the ETIM exists in any form other than on paper.

The Taliban have been shunned by most of the international community for sweeping restrictions on political opposition and civic life imposed after they seized power in August 2021. Those measures have rolled back educational and cultural gains made during the 20-year presence of NATO and U.S. forces, despite earlier pledges by the group that it would moderate its hard-line interpretation of Islam that have left it an outlier in the Muslim world.

Most notably, girls have been banned from education beyond the sixth grade and women banned from most jobs outside the home and kept away

A U.N. report this week strongly



Visiting Foreign Minister Qin Gang (left) shakes hand with Pakistani President Arif Alvi prior to their meeting, in Islamabad

criticized the Taliban for carrying out public executions, lashings and stonings since seizing power in Afghanistan, and called on the country's rulers to halt such practices.

At the mini-summit, the diplomats from the three nations agreed "to further deepen and expand their cooperation in the security, development and political domains based on the principles of mutual respect, equal-footed consultation and mutual benefit."

The involvement of China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang in the talks represented a further expansion of Chinese diplomacy following Beijing's hosting of talks resulting in the resumption of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

In Pakistan, Beijing is

bankrolling the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC — a sprawling package that includes road works, crop production and power plant construction.

The package is considered a lifeline for impoverished Pakistan, which is currently facing one of its worst economic crises amid stalled talks on a bailout with the International Monetary Fund.

During his visit, Qin met with President Arif Alvi, Foreign Minister Bhutto Zardari and Pakistan's powerful army chief, Gen. Asim Munir. Qin was assured that Pakistan will boost security for Chinese nationals working in the country, a major concern since a suicide bomber killed nine Chinese and four Pakistanis in an attack in Pakistan's volatile northwest in 2021. MDT/AP

DIPLOMACY

# Beijing says it won't seek to benefit from war in Ukraine

**C**HINA'S foreign minister said yesterday [Macau time] that his country has no intention of benefiting from the war in Ukraine and hopes for further discussions on a peace plan Beijing proposed earlier this year.

Speaking after a meeting with his German counterpart in Berlin, Foreign Minister Qin Gang noted the recent talks the government in Beijing had with both Moscow and Kyiv, and said China's special envoy for Europe was expected to visit Ukraine again soon.

"We won't pour oil on the fire" of the war, Qin said, according to an official interpreter.



Germany's Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock (right) and her counterpart, Qin Gang, Foreign Minister of China, attend a press conference in Berlin

Western countries have accused Beijing of providing political and material support to Russia since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Qin denied Chinese firms were doing so. He said China maintains "normal" trade relations with Russia, not mentioning a significant bump in China's purchases

of Russian crude oil at a major discount.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock urged China to use its clout to find a peaceful solution to the conflict but suggested that Beijing wasn't doing enough yet.

"As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China can play a significant role in ending the war, if it decides to do so," she told reporters in Berlin.

Baerbock welcomed recent statements by the Chinese government confirming the sovereignty of countries that once made up the Soviet Union, adding that the position must hold for Ukraine, too.

The German government is currently in the process of adjusting its policy toward China, with some in the three-party coalition government pushing for a tougher line toward Beijing.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a speech to the European Parliament that he favors a "de-risking" rather than a "decoupling" of Germany's economy from China.

The distinction did not satisfy Qin, who suggested the German government's policy eventually could hurt trade between the two countries.

"Normal economic exchange should not be politicized," he said.

Qin downplayed the recent cancellation of a meeting between China and Germany's finance ministers, saying the visit was postponed for "technical" reasons and should not be over-interpreted.

A fellow member of German Finance Minister Christian Lindner's Free Democratic Party, Education Minister Bettina Stark-Watzinger, visited Taiwan in March, prompting criticism from Beijing, which considers the island part of its territory.

"We won't allow our liberal values to be bought in return for good business," he told German news site The Pioneer. MDT/AP

PAKISTAN

# Imran Khan in court as more violence erupts across country

MUNIR AHMED, ISLAMABAD

**P**AKISTAN'S former Prime Minister Imran Khan appeared in court yesterday, a day after he was dragged from another court and arrested in Islamabad, setting off clashes between his supporters and police. Angry protesters stormed and set fire to a building housing Radio Pakistan in the northwest as the death toll from the violence rose to four.

In Islamabad, a judge was asked to approve keeping the 70-year-old opposition leader in custody for up to 14 days. Khan, who lost power last year but remains the country's most popular opposition figure, is the seventh former prime minister to be arrested in Pakistan.

His dramatic arrest on Tuesday deepened the political turmoil and sparked violent demonstrations. Two people were killed first, one Tuesday in the southwestern city of Quetta and another in the northwestern city of Peshawar overnight. Two more were in clashes with police yesterday in Peshawar.

In eastern Punjab province, where authorities said 157 police officers were injured in clashes with Khan supporters, the local government asked the army to step in and restore order.

Pakistan's GEO television broadcast footage showing Khan appearing before a judge at a temporary court inside a police compound Wednesday. The former premier was seen seated in a chair, holding documents. He appeared calm but tired.

The judge is expected to rule on the request for a 14-day detention later in the day. Meanwhile,



Smoke erupts from a burning objects set on fire by angry supporters of Imran Khan, in Peshawar

Khan's legal team challenged his arrest before the Islamabad High Court, seeking his release.

Also in Peshawar, Khan's supporters raided the building housing Radio Pakistan, damaging equipment and setting fire to it, said police official Naeem Khan. Some of the employees were trapped inside, he said, and police were trying to restore order.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party had called for demonstrators to remain peaceful, hours after mobs angered over the dramatic arrest set fire to the residence of a top army general in the eastern city of Lahore.

When he was arrested on Tuesday, Khan was appearing in court on multiple graft charges brought by Islamabad police. As he showed up in court, dozens

of agents from the National Accountability Bureau backed by paramilitary troops stormed the courtroom, breaking windows after Khan's guards refused to open the door.

Khan's supporters attacked the military's headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi near the capital, Islamabad, but did not reach the main building housing the offices of army chief Gen. Asim Munir.

Other demonstrators tried to reach the prime minister's residence in Lahore, but were driven off by baton-wielding in police. Others attacked vehicles carrying troops and hit armed soldiers with sticks. So far, police and soldiers have not fired at protesters.

The military has not commented on the attacks on its facilities.

None of the leaders from Khan's party denounced the attacks on the military.

A police statement Wednesday said officers in eastern Punjab province arrested 945 Khan supporters since Tuesday — including Asad Umar, a senior leader from Khan's party. Dozens of Khan supporters were also detained in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and elsewhere.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi, senior vice president from Khan's party, appealed for peaceful demonstrations Wednesday, urging followers: "Don't damage public property, don't attack offices, as we are peace lovers." He said the party is considering challenging Khan's arrest in the Supreme Court.

By morning, police said some 2,000 protesters still surrounded the fire-damaged residence in Lahore of Lt. Gen. Salman Fayyaz Ghani, a top regional commander. They chanted slogans at the military, including "Khan is our red line and you have crossed it." Ghani and his family members were moved to a safer place when the mob on Tuesday first attacked their sprawling house.

Police deployed in force across the country, and placed shipping containers on a road leading to the sprawling police compound in Islamabad where Khan is being held and where he appeared before a judge at the temporary court placed there for security reasons, according to the government.

Amid violence, Pakistan's telecommunication authority on Tuesday blocked social media, including Twitter. The government also suspended internet service in Islamabad and other cities. Classes at some private schools were

canceled for Wednesday.

Rights group Amnesty International said it was alarmed by reports of Pakistani authorities blocking access to mobile internet networks and social media — Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube are suspended for a second day. Amnesty urged authorities to show restraint, saying clashes between law enforcement and Khan's supporters risk human rights violations.

The National Accountability Bureau has detained and investigated former officials, including former prime ministers, politicians and retired military officers. But some view the NAB as a tool used by those in power, especially the military, to crack down on political opponents.

When Khan was in power, his government arrested Shahbaz Sharif, then the opposition leader, through the NAB. Sharif was facing multiple corruption cases when he managed to oust Khan in a 2022 no-confidence vote. The charges were later dropped, citing a lack of evidence.

Prime Minister Sharif returned to Pakistan yesterday from a U.K. trip and was to hold a Cabinet meeting on the latest developments. His brother, Nawaz Sharif, who also served as prime minister, was arrested several times on corruption allegations.

In March, police stormed Khan's Lahore residence, seeking to arrest him in a corruption case related to hiding income from the sale of official gifts.

Later yesterday, Khan appeared in a different courtroom at the high security court and was indicted in the lingering graft case, pleading not guilty, local media said.

As violence spread, diplomats from various countries and common people in Pakistan stayed home. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad canceled all its consular appointments following Khan's arrest and issued a nationwide alert, telling Americans to review their personal security plans and avoid large crowds. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

# ASEAN leaders condemn attack on aid convoy in Myanmar

**S**OUTHEAST Asian leaders condemned an attack on an aid convoy that the regional group had arranged for displaced people in Myanmar, calling yesterday for an immediate stop to violence and for the military government to comply with a peace plan.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations convened in the picturesque harbor town of Labuan Bajo in southern Indonesia at the

start of a two-day summit. Their host, President Joko Widodo, called for unity amid global economic headwinds and major-power rivalry that's lashing the region.

The 10-nation bloc has come under international pressure to effectively address the crisis in Myanmar. But ASEAN members appeared to be divided on how to proceed, with some recommending to ease punitive actions aimed at isolating

Myanmar's generals and invite its top diplomat and officials back to the high-profile summit meetings. "The time for isolation has served its purpose," said an internal ASEAN report obtained by The Associated Press.

Over the weekend, a convoy delivering aid to displaced villagers and carrying Indonesian and Singaporean diplomats came under fire in Myanmar's eastern Shan state. A security team

with the convoy returned fire and a vehicle was damaged, but there were no injuries, state-run television MRTV reported.

Indonesia, which chairs ASEAN this year, had arranged for the aid delivery after a long-delayed assessment.

"We condemned the attack and underlined that the perpetrators must be held accountable," the ASEAN leaders said in a joint statement. **MDT/AP**



UK

# Tabloid group admits it unlawfully gathered info on Harry

BRIAN MELLEY, LONDON

**T**HE publisher of British tabloid the Daily Mirror has acknowledged and apologized for unlawfully gathering information about Prince Harry in its reporting, and said it warrants compensation, at the outset of the prince's first phone hacking trial yesterday.

The admission was made in court filings outlining Mirror Group Newspapers' defense.

The group continued to deny that it hacked phones to intercept voicemail messages, and said that Harry and three less-well-known celebrities brought their claims beyond a time limit.

But it acknowledged there was "some evidence of the instruction of third parties to engage in other types of UIG (unlawful information gathering) in respect of each of the claimants," which includes the Duke of Sussex. It said this "warrants compensation" but didn't spell out what form that might take.

"MGN unreservedly apologizes for all such instances of UIG, and assures the claimants that such conduct will never be repeated," the court papers said.

The publisher said its apology was not a tactical move to reduce damages but was done "because such conduct should never have occurred."

The trial is Harry's opening salvo in his legal battle against the British press. Harry and the other celebrities are suing the former publisher of the Daily Mirror for alleged invasion of privacy.

The case is the first of the duke's three phone hacking lawsuits and threatens to do something he said his family long feared: put a royal on the witness stand to discuss embarrassing revelations.

The activities in question stretch back more than two decades, when journalists and private eyes intercepted voicemails to snoop on members of the royal family, politicians, athletes, celebri-



AP PHOTO

ties and even crime victims. A scandal erupted when the hacking was revealed.

Harry is expected to testify in person in June, his lawyer has said. It won't be his first time in the High Court, following his surprise appearance last month to observe most of a four-day hearing in one of his other lawsuits.

He did not show up for opening statements in the trial. Harry breezed through London for Saturday's coronation of his father, King Charles III, before leaving immediately after the ceremony to fly back to California to be with his family for his son's birthday.

The prince has waged a war of words against British newspapers in legal claims and in his best-selling memoir "Spare," vowing to make his life's mission reforming the media that he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car wreck in Paris in 1997 while trying to evade paparazzi.

Harry has also sued the publishers of the Daily Mail and The Sun over the phone hacking scandal that metastasized after a year-long inquiry into press ethics in 2011 revealed that employees of the now-defunct News of the World tabloid eavesdropped on mobile phone voicemails.

Harry has outlined his grievances against the media in court papers, saying the press hounded him since his earliest days and created a narrative that portrayed him as "the 'thicko,'

the 'cheat,' the 'underage drinker.'" His relationships with girlfriends were wrecked by "the entire tabloid press as a third party."

"Looking back on it now, such behavior on their part is utterly vile," he said in a witness statement in a similar case.

His lawsuits could further roil family relations that have been strained since Harry and his wife, Meghan, left royal life in 2020 and moved to the United States after complaining about racist attitudes from the British press.

Mirror Group Newspapers and other publishers have primarily defended themselves by asserting that Harry failed to bring his cases within a six-year year time limit. The duke's lawyer has argued that an exception should be applied because publishers actively concealed the skulduggery.

In a stunning revelation last month that dredged up an embarrassing chapter in his father's life, Harry blamed his delay in bringing suit, in part, on his family.

He asserted he was barred from bringing a case against The Sun and other newspapers owned by media magnate Rupert Murdoch because of a "secret agreement" — allegedly approved of by Queen Elizabeth II — that called for reaching a private settlement and getting an apology.

"The reason for this was to avoid the situation where a member of the royal family would have to sit in the witness box and recount

the specific details of the private and highly sensitive voicemails that had been intercepted," Harry said in a witness statement against News Group Newspapers.

"The institution was incredibly nervous about this and wanted to avoid at all costs the sort of reputational damage that it had suffered in 1993," he said, alluding to a transcript of a leaked recording — published in the Sunday Mirror — of an intimate conversation his father, then Prince of Wales, had with his paramour, now Queen Camilla, in which he compared himself to a tampon.

Harry said his brother, Prince William, had quietly settled his own hacking claims with News Group for "huge sum of money" in 2020. He also claimed his father had directed palace staff to order him to drop his litigation because it was bad for the family.

Murdoch's company denied there was a "secret agreement" and wouldn't comment on the alleged settlement. The palace hasn't responded to requests for comment.

Harry has alleged that reporters at the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People used illegal methods to gather material from his family and friends for nearly 150 articles. The newspaper has said he is wrong about how its reporters got information, saying they used legal methods for many articles.

In 2015, publishers of The Mirror printed a front-page apology for phone hacking and tripled its fund to 12 million pounds (\$15 million) to compensate victims.

Mirror Group said more than 600 of some 830 claims had been settled. Of the remaining 104 cases, 86 were brought too late to be litigated, it said in court papers.

"Where historical wrongdoing has taken place, we have made admissions, take full responsibility and apologize unreservedly," a spokesperson for Mirror Group Newspapers said in advance of the trial. "But we will vigorously defend against allegations of wrongdoing where our journalists acted lawfully."

The lawsuits were combined as a test case that could determine the outcome of hacking claims also made against Mirror Group by former Girls Aloud member Cheryl, the estate of the late singer George Michael, and former soccer player Ian Wright. MDT/AP

## this day in history



### 1986 SOVIETS LAUNCH SPACE STATION MIR



The Soviets have opened a new phase in space exploration with the launch of the world's biggest space station, Mir.

The successful launch of Mir comes just over three weeks after the American space shuttle Challenger disaster, in which seven astronauts died.

At next week's Communist Party congress in Moscow the Mir project is likely to be hailed as proof that the Soviets are leading the peaceful exploration of space.

Mir, which means both peace and world in Russian, is intended to provide a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

It succeeds the Soviet Salyut models, the last of which, Salyut 7, was launched in April 1982 and is still in orbit.

The Americans also had a space station, Skylab, which suffered damage on its initial launch and eventually proved too costly to maintain and fell back to Earth in 1979.

Soviet officials say their new craft represents the transition from research to large-scale production activities in space.

The station has six docking stations, which means other modules or laboratories can be added to it, expanding its size and capability.

The deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, Alexei Leonov, said it would only be possible to determine how long Mir would remain in orbit after it had completed its first flight.

He said the cosmonauts, now taking part in a special training programme, would have separate cabins with windows and even individual desks and armchairs.

Mr Leonov explained that Salyut 7 was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

It has only two docking stations and can support a crew of only three, whereas Mir can carry between six and ten people.

The main work of the first cosmonauts on board Mir will be to continue with the experiments in materials processing, begun on Salyut 6 and 7.

Other activities will include observation of the Earth using high-powered cameras, as well as helping locate mineral deposits on Earth and monitor the seas for trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The first crew arrived on board Mir on 15 March 1986 and it remained more or less continuously occupied until November 2000. Crew member Valeri Polyakov stayed up a record 439 days.

The end of the Cold War marked a new era of space co-operation.

In September 1993 US Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced plans for a new space station, which would later be called the International Space Station, or ISS.

In preparation for this new project, the US became more closely involved with Mir.

From March 1995 seven US astronauts consecutively spent 28 months on Mir, during which time the spacecraft suffered a number of emergencies including a large fire on 23 February 1997 and a collision with an unmanned cargo ship on 25 June 1997.

Mounting costs contributed to the decision to bring down Mir.

While Mir contributed little in the way of scientific advances, it did allow scientists to learn more about how astronauts can survive in space for long periods of time.

Mir remained in space until 23 March 2001, during which time it orbited the Earth more than 86,000 times.

It re-entered the Earth's atmosphere near Nadi, Fiji, and what remained of the 135-tonne craft fell into the South Pacific Ocean.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. If you've been really busy, try to schedule some time to spend with loved ones.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You may be looking through rose colored glasses. You won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional disputes.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. You can get a lot done if you get your hands on the right equipment.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. You need more time to think this whole situation through.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You can come up with future trends in creative fields. You could easily lose your temper at work. Don't push your opinions or ideas on others.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your lover probably won't put up with your behavior. You can make financial gains through your unique and creative approach to business.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. You can make money if you work on personal investments. Your partner's a little jumpy.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

New relationships will surface through work related events. For now just do the best you can. You will get along well in social situations.

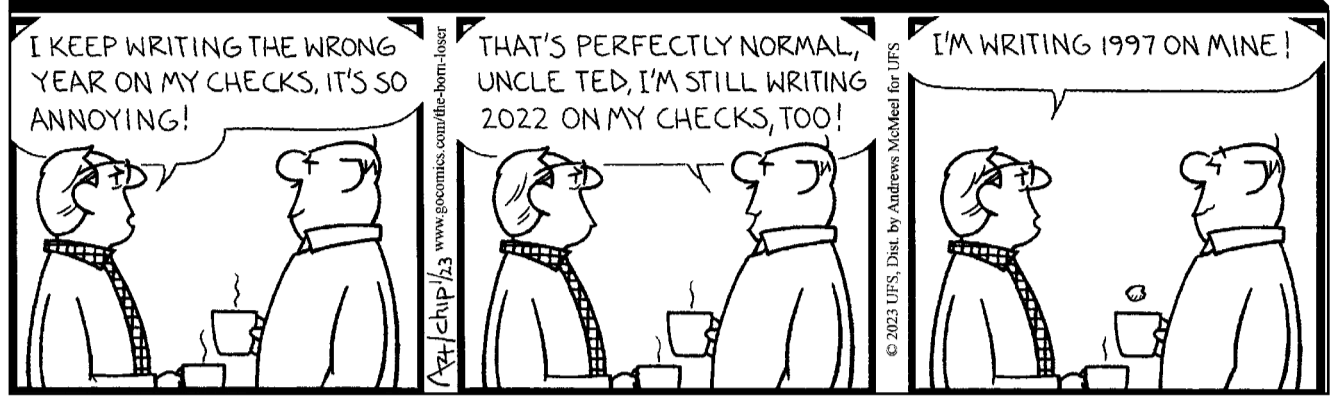


### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Difficulties relating to children will be stressful. Find out what they're up to, and see if you can pick up where you left off.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

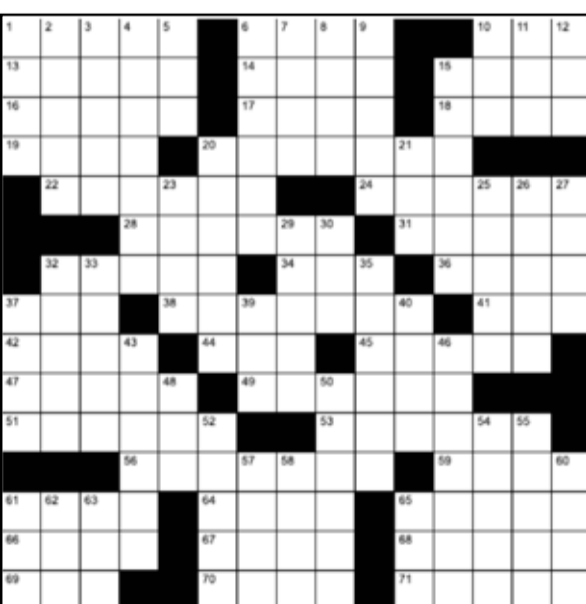
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	14	26	overcast
Changchun	5	22	cloudy
Chengdu	15	25	cloudy
Chongqing	17	25	cloudy
Fuzhou	16	24	overcast
Guangzhou	22	26	thunderstorms
Guiyang	12	17	showers
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	15	21	rain
Harbin	3	22	fine
Hefei	15	23	cloudy
Nanjing	16	22	overcast
Shanghai	16	22	overcast
Taipei	18	25	cloudy
Wuhan	15	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	8	19	overcast
Frankfurt	11	16	rain
Paris	9	17	overcast
London	9	17	rain
New York	17	28	overcast

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Reserved; 6- Glass ornament; 10- French vineyard; 13- Mea \_\_\_; 14- Advocate forcefully; 15- Actress Harper; 16- "As You Like It" forest; 17- High schooler; 18- Trace; 19- Antlered animal; 20- Coupling; 22- Puff, for one; 24- Bog; 28- Like a professor's jacket; 31- Gadget; 32- Chirp; 34- Loser to DDE; 36- Celestial body; 37- Sticky stuff; 38- Potassium \_\_\_ (saltpeter); 41- Ballpark fig.; 42- Like \_\_\_ not; 44- Feline; 45- Cattle spot; 47- Travels on; 49- Fancy home; 51- Discover; 53- Follows; 56- Final part; 59- Pitfall; 61- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 64- Leprechaun land; 65- Papal garment; 66- Child's toy; 67- In case; 68- Attacks; 69- Foster Brooks persona; 70- Membership fees; 71- Snow conveyances;

DOWN 1- Mil. school; 2- Enticed; 3- More mature; 4- Run; 5- Devoted follower; 6- Colorless flammable gas; 7- ... \_\_\_ saw Elba; 8- Antiquing agent; 9- Fabric of jeans; 10- Corp. honcho; 11- Queue after Q; 12- \_\_\_ Today; 15- River in SW Asia; 20- Beautifully imaginative; 21- Seasonal beverage; 23- Singer Stefani; 25- Early Mexican; 26- Shatter; 27- Rifle (through); 29- Bar game; 30- Indeed; 32- Fields of comedy; 33- Tree covered land; 35- Maroon; 37- Encircle; 39- \_\_\_-Bo; 40- Diner sign; 43- Type of thermometer; 46- Not aligned; 48- Madrid Mrs.; 50- Principles; 52- Give up; 54- Clear the boards; 55- Cobb, e.g.; 57- Stead; 58- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 60- Teachers' favorites; 61- Show stoppers?; 62- You stink!; 63- Sandwich order; 65- Cries of surprise;



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

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TheArsenale CEO Patrice Meignan



## EVENTS

# THEARSENALE DISPLAYS NEW EXHIBITION ON 'THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY' AT CITY OF DREAMS

RAPHAEL ROUAULT

SINCE May 1, TheArsenale – a brand dedicated to mobility via air, sea, and land – has held its fifth exhibition in Macau in partnership with City of Dreams. “This kind of event is unheard of in Asia and even in the world,” CEO Patrice Meignan told Macau Daily Times.

Taking its name from the Arsenale di Venezia built in 1104, which was home to the most innovative shipyards and armories of its time and furrowed by many illustrious navigators such as Marco Polo and Vasco de Gama, the company returns to Macau for its 2023-24 exhibition.

TheArsenale’s first exhibition in the city, back in 2018-19, recorded around 700,000 visitors, and “made an impression on Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng who said, ‘This is what Macau needs,’ while attending the show” Meignan recalls.

This year will feature the theme “We have seen the future,” highlighting the desire of TheArsenale to innovate and create new types of mobility in

all the sectors, including sea, land and air, with sustainability in mind.

**PRIORITY ON DESIGN**

“Since I was 5 or 6, I really developed a frenzy for culture. I took pleasure in cultivating my eye and analyzing the design of all things,” Meignan said. The 47-year-old Frenchman already has a solid career behind him, creating his first riding culture magazine “Blast” in 1997. He then co-founded another magazine called “Intersection,” which was already covering the future of mobility, subsequently working for the Formula 1 team Renault from 2014-2016 as the Creative Director. He has been CEO of TheArsenale since 2015.

“I really have a passion for design. That’s why I place it number 1 at TheArsenale. It involves ongoing graphical experimentation and most of the models are designed by myself,” the CEO said. For its models, the company chose simple colours such as black and white, but also displays neon orange, yellow and green, aiming to represent both safety and the desire to try and innovate.

To this end, TheArsenale tries to work with small and independent designers: “We really want to be a federator of all these designers, because it is important to show that they exist and to highlight their ideas.” In addition, the company has partnerships with Chinese brands such as Ehang, meaning that around 50% of TheArsenale’s line-up is composed of Chinese companies, the CEO explained.

**NEW MODES OF MOBILITY**

“There are numerous new models of vehicles in this exhibition,” said Meignan. The goal of TheArsenale is to produce less, consume less and highlight electrical vehicles. “I am a strong supporter of moving the problem of ground mobilities into the air, meaning that we want to make a great network of flying cars piloted by AI, which will have the ability to generate very accurate routes, across different levels and scales.”

All the models which are presented are functional and for sale, some with only one exclusive edition while others have had up to a hundred prototypes pro-

duced. “We have many different types of models, including cutting-edge custom bikes, concept-cars and real-life homologated flying car such as the XPENG X2, a two-seater eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) flying car,” the CEO added.

**TRANSMISSION THROUGH A CULTURAL EMBASSY**

“Today, my ambition is to transmit passion and the keys to success,” Meignan said. “I want to share a mindset which shows that with a great conviction and without imposing limits on oneself, we can achieve everything.” Meignan also issued a reminder of the importance of meeting many people in different sectors, as this has helped him achieve his goals. “I’m proud to say that I met Elon Musk 11 times, worked for Carlos Ghosn, and become friends with Alain Prost and Lewis Hamilton,” he said.

Established in New York and Miami, the objective of TheArsenale at the moment is to become a kind of “cultural embassy of mobility” in Macau, leading the company to be more and more integrated with the Maca-

nese creative community. “Afterwards, we want to set up like 5, 6 or 10 other places like this in the world,” the CEO explained.

To this end, the company has launched some workshops. At the moment these are only in Miami and New York, and the intention is to invite people to partake in the overarching goal of developing new modes of mobility, with a focus on the design elements. “People love that. We have at least 150 attendees each time we organize this kind of event,” the 47-year-old entrepreneur said.

For example, on the 30th anniversary of the French car “Twingo,” TheArsenale invited its community to create a new design for the car, adding that the best design would be developed and prototyped by the enterprise. “We had more than 16,000 proposals in three months!” Meignan exclaimed. “We have a very involved community, and that’s what we were looking for.”

The 2023 edition of TheArsenale’s exhibition is now open to public in the City of Dreams, seven days a week from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. until May 2024.

FOOTBALL

# Madrid, City draw in Champions League semifinals

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

REAL MADRID 1, MAN CITY 1

**R**EAL Madrid's Vinicius Júnior and Manchester City's Erling Haaland were relaxed and laughing as they embraced after the final whistle at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

They both seemed satisfied following an even first leg that ended in a 1-1 draw and left the Champions League semifinal wide open going into next week's return match in Manchester.

Vinicius and Kevin de Bruyne scored with long-range strikes in a match in which Madrid's defense successfully kept Haaland — the Champions League's leading scorer — from being decisive.

"I think both teams have the feeling that it was a good result," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, who took charge of his 190th Champions League match as coach. "Maybe we played a bit better



Manchester City's Jack Grealish runs with the ball during the semifinal vs Real Madrid

to deserve a victory, but it's a series that will be even until the last minute."

Madrid beat City in last year's

semifinals and went on to win a record-extending 14th Champions League title while the English club again fell short of Euro-

pean success.

"It was an even match," City coach Pep Guardiola said. "They scored when we were better and we equalized when they were better. It will all be decided in Manchester."

The first leg of the other semifinal between Italian rivals Inter Milan and AC Milan is today.

"Both teams played well. It's a good draw," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "There's everything to play for next week."

City controlled possession but couldn't translate it into significant scoring opportunities. Haaland wasted a few chances early but wasn't much of a threat throughout the game at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Norwegian came into the match having scored 12 of City's 26 goals in the Champions League this season and was five short of Cristiano Ronaldo's single-season record of 17 for Madrid in 2013-14.

Vinicius created problems for

the City defense and opened the scoring in with a shot into the top corner in the 36th minute for his seventh Champions League goal this season. The Brazil forward picked up a pass by Eduardo Camavinga and used one touch to set up his right-footed shot from outside the area.

City struggled to come close to Madrid's goal but De Bruyne found the net in the 67th with a powerful one-timer from outside the area after Madrid lost possession because of a poor pass across the field by Camavinga.

Madrid complained that it was not awarded a corner in the buildup of City's goal.

"It was a shame that we conceded that goal," Madrid midfielder Luka Modric said. "I think we deserved more. They had more possession but didn't create a lot of chances. It's still 50-50 and we will go into the second match with confidence."

Haaland had not yet joined City when it lost 6-5 on aggregate to Madrid in last year's semifinals. Vinicius, Rodrygo and Karim Benzema combined for all of Madrid's goals that time.

Madrid is making its 11th semifinal appearance in 13 seasons and is trying to win its sixth title in 10 years. City played in its first Champions League final two seasons ago, losing to Chelsea. MDT/AP

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**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**INCREASING CHINESE INVESTMENT IN PORTUGAL**

According to the 2022 statistics from the Bank of Portugal, China ranks as the fourth-largest exporter of goods imported by Portugal. However, there is ample room for further growth in foreign trade between the two countries.

For several years, Portuguese business entities have been attempting to place Portuguese products on Chinese online sales platforms. AICEP has established a dedicated virtual pavilion on JD.com for the sale of Portuguese products. However, this endeavor is unlikely to yield immediate results due to the lack of scale of Portuguese products, uncertainties in after-sales service in a distant and different market, and historical delays in certification and other procedures required to enter the Chinese market.

In the services sector, particularly in tourism, there is significant potential to increase sales by Portuguese entities.

Chinese authorities have already indicated their willingness and that has been reiterated during the current visit of Chinese Vice President Han Zheng to Portugal. It is crucial for the institutional bodies of the Portuguese State (such as the Tourism Board of Portugal) and business entities (Chambers of Commerce and sectorial associations) to adequately prepare for this tremendous opportunity.

However, the area with the greatest economic potential in the relations between Portugal and China lies in investment.

Historical circumstances are highly favorable. On one hand, an increasing number of Chinese companies are internationalizing, and the European market is the most desirable, especially as the US market becomes increasingly closed to Chinese companies. The US government keeps adding more Chinese companies to blacklists and prohibiting "US Persons" from any relation with them.

Although there is some European legislation regarding strategic sectors where European authorities reserve the right to restrict the entry of foreign companies (read: Chinese), there is no comparison to the aggressive persecution seen in the United States. This is likely because the EU, albeit a significant economic and commercial power, does not aspire to be the dominant global superpower.

However, even within the EU, China and Chinese companies in the process of internationalization are seeking countries where they feel secure, where their investments will not be endangered by anti-Chinese governments or public opinion.

Portugal, due to its longstanding friendship with China, largely stemming from the Macau Question, as well as its traditional neutral position combined with current geopolitics, is a natural destination for numerous Chinese companies that wish to establish themselves in the European market. Many established Chinese companies in Portugal, both state-owned and private, can attest to operating in Portugal with confidence in the future.

It is possible to substantially increase Chinese investment in Portugal.

To achieve this goal, it is essential to strengthen institutional mechanisms. AICEP should significantly increase its efforts in investment scouts in China, either directly or by engaging third-parties, particularly those with a presence and the ability to penetrate the Chinese business network. It is unrealistic to expect Portuguese technocrats with limited knowledge of China and no local network to achieve results in the highly competitive market of attracting Chinese investment.

For those who have doubts, the best example of this is the failure to attract entities producing electric vehicles (EVs) or gigafactories by the Portuguese government and its agencies. It is not due to a lack of political commitment (primarily verbal, as successive governments maintain Hong Kong - an exit platform for significant foreign Chinese investment - on the list of jurisdictions with privileged tax regimes) or a lack of effort by AICEP.

It so happens that nobody at AICEP has the access or status to convince the relevant Chinese companies in these sectors. CALB, one of the world's largest producers of EV batteries, decided to invest in a gigafactory in Portugal because a Chinese businesswoman and investor in Portugal, Mrs. Ming Chu Hsu, has that access and status. Lessons should be drawn from this.

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**BRITAIN: FIRTS BABIES BORN IN COUNTRY USING DNA FROM 3 PEOPLE**

THE BUZZ

Britain's fertility regulator said the first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people have been born, in an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases.

Britain's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way, but no further details have been released to protect the families' identities. The news was first reported by the Guardian newspaper.

The U.K. was the first country in the world to adopt legislation in 2015 specifically regulating such methods, which help prevent women with faulty mitochondria — the energy source in a cell — from passing on to

their babies defects that can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and intellectual disabilities.

About one in 200 children in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder.

For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take the genetic material from her egg or embryo. They then transfer that into a donor egg or embryo that still has its healthy mitochondria but has had the rest of its key DNA removed.

The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. The genetic material from the donated egg comprises less than 1% of the child's genetics.

AP PHOTO



This frame grab from video, provided by the Mexican government, shows Ovidio Guzman Lopez, Joaquín's brother, being detained in Culiacán, Mexico, Oct. 17, 2019

**ORGANIZED CRIME**

**EL CHAPO'S SON, SINALOA MEMBERS FACE SANCTIONS OVER FENTANYL**

FATIMA HUSSEIN, WASHINGTON

The United States yesterday [Macau time] sanctioned a son of Mexican drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, three members of the powerful Sinaloa cartel and two Mexican-based firms, alleging they trafficked fentanyl and other drugs into the U.S.

The sanctions came the day Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador talked with President Joe Biden by phone about immigration and the fentanyl crisis.

A White House readout of the call said the two presidents recognized their nations' recent efforts to counter fentanyl and arms trafficking "by dismantling criminal networks."

The Treasury Department designated El Chapo's son Joaquín Guzmán López and others for financial sanctions, including a freeze on American-owned assets and bank accounts and a ban on Americans doing business with them. A Culiacán, Mexico, chemical and lab equipment company and a real estate business also were targeted for sanctions.

The latest penalties by

the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control follow a set of April fentanyl trafficking charges brought against three other Guzmán sons, Ovidio Guzmán López, Jesús Alfredo Guzmán Salazar and Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar, known as the Chapitos, or Little Chapos, and two dozen members of the Sinaloa cartel.

El Chapo was extradited in 2017 to the U.S., where he was convicted of a massive drug conspiracy that spread murder and mayhem for more than two decades. He was sentenced in 2019 to life in a U.S. prison.

Fentanyl is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 71,000 people died in the U.S. from overdosing on synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in 2021, up from about 58,000 the year before.

López Obrador has denied that drug cartels make fentanyl in Mexico, although he has acknowledged that precursor chemicals and finished fentanyl are smuggled into Mexico from China, a claim China has denied.

Mexico and China are

the primary sources for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, which is tasked with combating illicit drug trafficking.

Growing tensions between the U.S. and China on multiple fronts have made efforts to stop the importation of fentanyl more difficult, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

Most of the fentanyl trafficked in the United States comes from the Sinaloa cartel, the DEA says.

The Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, Brian Nelson, said that the department "in close coordination with the Government of Mexico and U.S. law enforcement, will continue to leverage our authorities to isolate and disrupt Los Chapitos and the Sinaloa Cartel's operations at every juncture."

Guzmán López was not in custody yesterday, and it was unclear if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf about the sanctions. A lawyer for El Chapo didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



USA Robert De Niro has welcomed another child. The 79-year-old is now the father of seven. A representative for De Niro confirmed the birth to The Associated Press on Tuesday but said no other details were expected. At a film premiere yesterday [Macau time], De Niro told The Associated Press about becoming a father again: "It's always good and mysterious and you don't know what the hell is going to happen."

EU A top court yesterday ruled the EU was wrong to approve a plan for Germany to come to the rescue of Lufthansa with billions of euros in state aid to help the airline deal with the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. In June 2020, Germany notified the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, of its intention to provide 6 billion euros (\$6.6 billion) in aid to Lufthansa. The 27 EU member countries must seek commission approval when supplying financial support to companies.

AP PHOTO



Italy For decades, Italy has worked to recover ancient Roman-era statues, Etruscan vases and other treasures that were looted from its soil and sold to museums around the world. Now, the country is coming to terms with the fact that it, too, has stolen items in its museum collections: the relics of a brutal colonial empire in North Africa that it hasn't fully reckoned with. For over a year, a team of experts has been conducting a "census" of the collections in the 498 Italian state museums to know what exactly they contain.

Tunisia A naval guard shot and killed a colleague and two civilians as he tried to reach a synagogue on the Mediterranean island of Djerba during an annual Jewish pilgrimage, the Interior Ministry said. The attacker was slain by security guards, and 10 people were injured. The motive for the attack was under investigation. It came as Tunisia, once a prized tourist destination and birthplace of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprisings, has fallen into political and economic crisis.