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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

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THE CITY HAS OVER 20% OF CELLPHONES USING 5G SERVICE, LAU WAI MENG, DIRECTOR OF MACAO POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU, SAID

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BIDEN SCRAPS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, PAPUA TO FOCUS ON DEBT LIMIT TALKS

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AP PHOTO



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un examined a finished military spy satellite, which his country is expected to launch soon, during a visit to an aerospace facility where he described space-based reconnaissance as crucial for countering the U.S. and South Korea.

AP PHOTO



Indonesian police investigating the deaths of a Chinese couple whose bodies were found bloodied and naked at a hotel in the resort island of Bali said yesterday that the boyfriend killed the woman before killing himself.

AP PHOTO



Indonesian authorities arrested the information technology minister as part of an investigation into a million-dollar corruption scandal linked to the construction of mobile phone transmission towers in remote regions.

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IFTM STUDENTS DEVELOPED INNOVATIVE SMART TOURISM CONCEPTS FOR SUSTAINCIA

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) has partnered with Macau-based high-tech enterprises consortium Sustaincia to organize courses and workshops about an innovative smart tourism concept developed by IFTM students. The students analyzed numerous scientific papers on smart tourism technology to understand the sector and interviewed almost 100 tourists to clarify tourists' perception of smart tourism technologies. The results were revealed at the Lisboa Hotel's H853 Fun Factory. Representatives from Sustaincia attended, including co-founder Terence Lee who said that "there [were] numerous novel and useful solutions worth following up in the future."

CONSTRUCTION FORUM TO BE HELD ON JUN.1

The International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum will hold its 14th edition at The Venetian Macao on June 1-2 with over 3,000 members from political, business and academic circles from more than 60 countries and regions attending. This edition aims to reinforce the global economic recovery and to highlight trends in green and low-carbon developments. It will also explore new types of energy and support cooperation between companies. According to the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the Forum has steadily gained momentum in terms of scale and international influence since it began in Macau, with registrations expected to double this year compared to 2022.

GAMING TAXES TOTAL MOP4.95B IN APRIL

Macau's April gaming tax revenue was above MOP4.95 billion with a total gross gaming revenue (GGR) of more than MOP14.72 billion. This is the best monthly performance since January 2020, the Financial Services Bureau has disclosed. From Jan. 1 to April 30, the government collected almost MOP15.07 billion in fiscal revenue from taxes on gaming, an increase of 47.6% from the prior-year period. This regained momentum corresponds to nearly half of the MOP10.11 billion gaming tax revenue collected in the first three months of the year, leading to government estimates that casino GGR might reach MOP130 billion in 2023, and that revenue from gaming taxes might reach more than MOP50 billion.

URBAN PLANNING

LAWMAKER CRITICIZES GOV'T FOR LACK OF PREPARATION FOR CITY

ANTHONY LAM

THE government in general has been lacking a long-term vision for major plans and projects, which could be seen in existing transport arrangements, lawmaker Che Sai Wang said in his written inquiry.

Che said that in creating plans for major projects for the city, the government has usually been unable to foresee problems. An example is the regular traffic congestion at New Urban Zone A and the Pearl of the Orient Roundabout.

He said that even without the 96,000 residents expected to live on the Zone, the road network has reached its limit with vehicles going to mainland China and Hong Kong.

Zone A is the connecting point for traffic between the main Peninsula and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Based on this, he expressed his concern that without well-

rounded plans, future traffic at the Border Gate would also be congested as tourism activities resume.

Meanwhile, the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line that will connect Taipa with the Border Gate through Zone A is being built. As per this plan, tourists and traffic will inevitably be driven to the Border Gate when the East Line becomes operational.

In 2011, the government commissioned a company to research planning for the Border Gate and its neighborhood. Seven years later, the government commissioned another research on the same area and topic, but no result has been available.

Besides criticizing the lack of planning for the Border Gate and its neighborhood, Che asked the government about progress on the research. He also asked when the government would explain the delay of the research to the public.



PUBLIC WORKS

Association head calls for further efforts against Inner Harbour floods

ANTHONY LAM

ALTHOUGH the government has implemented projects that managed to contain flooding in Inner Harbour, more should be done to completely eradicate the problem.

Flooding is still a phenomenon in the Inner Harbour district as storm surges caused by typhoons and heavy rains still occur every year. Countless residents and merchants in the district still regularly live in fear, Siu Chong Meng, president of District Development Promotion Association, told local media Macao Daily News.



He recalled that in 2021, his association invited several professionals and academics who were concerned with the Inner Harbour to a

forum in Macau. Their conclusion was that building higher dams on the sea not far away from the shore would be a better solution to the storm surges caused by typhoons.

To implement the conclusion, it was suggested that land be reclaimed from the sea 15 to 20 meters off the shore to make a green leisure area. The dock should be retained and rejuvenated for value-adding purposes.

Multi-level embankments with water storage underneath should be built on the periphery of the leisure area. The ground level would be

reserved for road traffic and the underground level for railway traffic. Any constructions built atop the area would be for leisure purposes.

The coast of the leisure area could be used as new docks for ships and ferries. It could also be refined as marine tourism facilities.

He considers this a key plan to improve flood management in the Inner Harbour.

He considers criticism about the elevated leisure area's potential risks to scenes and views at the Inner Harbour invalid. He does not appreciate the scene at the Inner Harbour and finds the air in the district revolting.

He describes the Inner Harbour scene as "worthless in terms of appreciation" and seldom sees people enjoying the views there.

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ANTHONY LAM

Macau ranked last in realtor's GBA Index

DESPITE seeing a four-month consecutive rise, Macau is still ranked last in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Index released by a regional realty agency.

The city has scored 91.21 points in the GBA Index for April released by regional realtor Centaline Property, in contrast to 195 points by Foshan, 188 points by Dongguan, and 128 points by Guangzhou and Shenzhen, as well as 107 points by Hong Kong.

Nonetheless, Macau has seen four consecutive months of growth in the index in the one-year to January this year. The one-year peak, meanwhile, was seen in October 2022, with 99 points scored.

The overall index for April logged 119 points, 0.96% growth month-over-month. The realtor attributed the result to the constant improvement in Macau, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Among the 12 indices in April, 10 recorded an increase, which made it the best performing month in 35 months. The increase ranged from 0.2% to 3.94%. Two cities recorded a decline though, both for less than 1%.



ANTHONY LAM

In addition, among the 12 indices, eight hit this year's new high, reflecting the ideal pace of urban recovery in the GBA, followed by a steady rise in the property market.

Chan Wing-Kit, Asia-

Pacific vice chairman and president of the residential department of the realtor, said that the Ching Ming Festival holiday in April inevitably affected property transactions, but the GBA retai-

ned the pace of recovery after Covid-19.

The index is based on the transaction prices of new and used real properties within the GBA as the core data, with each city's GDP as a weight-adder.

SECRETARY ROSÁRIO: TOO BUSY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON LAND AUCTION

THE transport and public work sector "could not make it" in progressing with land auctions, Secretary Raimundo do Rosário for the sector said yesterday.

The senior official has asked that society "give him more time" while responding to a question on the sidelines of a government event.

"It won't be too long," he said. "But it won't be within days - maybe in some weeks or even months."

"The idea came out last year, but we couldn't make it. I hope this year we can," the official added.

He did not reveal the location of the first land plot to be auctioned but said the press does know.

It was not the first time the official justified his team's slow progress by saying it was "busy and not able to make it." He once used the same reason to explain the same problem, but in a different area, to a parliamentary plenary. **AL**



RENATO MARQUES

20% of population using 5G

STAFF REPORTER

THE city has over 20% of cellphone users using 5G service, said Lau Wai Meng, director of Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT).

Speaking on the sidelines the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day ceremony yesterday, Lau said she is satisfied with the progress because when "compared with nearby localities, the growth of the user size has been rather fast." The official also said the fast-paced growth was probably due to the city's small size and population.

In addition, pursuant to the law, 5G license holders must



build a network that covers 50% of Macau's area within the first year of operation. She said all ope-

rators had achieved the threshold and some had even surpassed it.

To date, CTT has

issued two 5G licenses to CTM and China Telecom.

Yesterday morning, CTT held an

event to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. To highlight the theme of the day this year, CTT organized thematic lectures about "The Driving Force of Urban Development: Innovation and Application of Information and Communication Technology", and invited academic experts, as well as representatives from the industry in Hong Kong and mainland China, to discuss and share experiences on the topic.

The ceremony aimed to highlight the necessity of accelerating sustainable development in the places where international assistance is needed the most, tapping the full potential of the least developed countries and helping them make progress on the road to prosperity.

CRIME

PJ WARNS ON TICKET FRAUD FOLLOWING REPORTS OF UP TO MOP227K LOSSES

STAFF REPORTER

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has received more cases of online shopping concert ticket fraud over the past five days, with the value amounting to over MOP260,000.

The cases involved seven local and mainland residents, with the highest loss of about MOP227,000.

Among them, a Macau man made a report to the police. He contacted the seller who had successfully traded online before, intending to buy tickets for a concert in Macau in May.

The seller claimed delivery could be made one to two weeks before the concert. Several friends of the buyer relayed the relevant concert tickets and transferred MOP227,000 to the seller. Later, the seller continued to delay the delivery, and finally claimed the tickets were sold out, and would arrange a refund from June to July.

The victim believed he was cheated and called the police.

In the other concert ticket fraud cases, most of the victims knew they had been cheated after they transferred the deposit to the seller online.

Previously, the PJ had been receiving reports of ticketing fraud as a renowned Korean girl group is set to perform in the SAR this weekend.

RENATO MARQUES



FUTURE DETAILS OF CURRENCY ISSUANCE TO BE DETERMINED BY CE

ANTHONY LAM

DETAILS of future currency issuance, such as denominations and characteristics, will be determined in Executive Regulations, a parliamentary committee has disclosed.

The Second Standing Committee of the parliament has recently concluded its study on the bill for the Currency Issuance Legal System. President Chan Chak Mo of the committee disclosed to a related press conference that the bill will cover both physical and digital currencies.

Regarding the details of issuance, the type, denominations and

characteristics of currencies will be determined by Executive Regulations. However, the Chief Executive will be authorized to determine the initial amount and subsequent addition of currency issued by the issuance of an Executive Dispatch.

The bill has room for the issuance of currency in digital form, which will be clarified with special laws or regulations.

Chan disclosed that the committee had questioned the government if the determination of the amount by Executive Dispatches would in fact endanger the rigor of the practice. The government explained that the current proposal would allow for a quicker res-

ponse to meet needs for more or less currency. It also assured the committee that systematic studies would be conducted prior to any issuance.

In contrast to the initial version of the bill, an additional clause exists in the current version, which requires all issuing entities to submit 100% back-up funds for the currency issued. Such entities includes both private banks and the government.

Individual people and non-financial businesses will not be required to reject transactions made using currency that could be counterfeit, Chan cited the government as saying.

TOURISM

VISITOR SPENDING SURGES 130% AS ARRIVALS GROW IN Q1

STAFF REPORTER

VISITOR spending has surged 127.1% year-on-year to MOP14.98 billion in the first quarter of 2023, driven by an uplift of 163.7% in visitor arrival numbers.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows total spending of overnight visitors (MOP12.34 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP2.64 billion) leapt 131.5% and 108.7% year-on-year.

Per-capita spending of visitors was MOP3,027 in the first quarter, down 13.9% year-on-year. Per-capita spending of overnight visitors (MOP4,677) fell 40.3%, whereas same-day visitors

(MOP1,141) rose 8.1%.

Analyzed by source of visitors, those from mainland China spent MOP3,899 on average, up 8.9% year-on-year; while visitors from Hong Kong and Taiwan spent an average of MOP1,252 and MOP1,844 respectively.

Over 50% of visitor spending was on shopping (57.6%) in the first quarter, followed by accommodation (20.1%) and food and beverages (17.4%).

Per-capita shopping spending of visitors dropped 29.2% year-on-year to MOP1,744, which was mainly spent on jewelry and watches (MOP405), cosmetics and perfume (MOP393) and food products (MOP340).



HEALTH

High blood pressure diseases increasing in Macau: Gov't

STAFF REPORTER

IN light of World Hypertension Day, celebrated yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) revealed that high blood pressure diseases were rising in Macau, when considering that more than 94,000 people suffered from high blood pressure in 2021, an increase of 0.6% over 2020 figures.

Among the top 10 causes of death in Macau in 2021, high blood pressure diseases and pneumonia tied for second place, just behind malignant tumors, according to the SSM.

Hypertensive patients also have become younger in recent years according to Choi Chong Po,

RENATO MARQUES



convener of the Cardiovascular Disease Working Group of the Chronic Disease Prevention and

Control Committee, as cited in a TDM report.

"This can be explained by changes in lifestyle and

diet, long-term stress or emotional tension," Choi said. "That is why maintaining a cheerful mood and cultivating a healthy lifestyle can help prevent an increase in blood pressure," he added.

"People aged 60 or above and patients with other chronic diseases should measure their blood pressure at least once a year," a cardiologist at the public hospital, Lao Pak Kao, said. The cardiologist further advised that if blood pressure readings were still high following lifestyle adjustments, a consultation with doctors for antihypertensive drugs could be necessary to reduce complications associated with hypertension.

REAL ESTATE

TRANSACTIONS REACH MOP7B IN Q1 AS MARKET PRICES INCREASE

STAFF REPORTER

REAL estate market transaction values reached MOP6.93 billion during the first quarter of 2023, an increase of 17.5% compared to last year.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows 1,207 building units and parking spaces were sold in the first quarter of 2023, up 14.8% quarter-to-quarter, while the sale of residential units rose to 848 from 649 quarter-to-quarter, for a transaction value of MOP5.57 billion.

In addition, the overall price per square meter of residential units increased 2.6% quarter-to-quarter reaching MOP93,351. With

an average price of those in Taipa of MOP95,525 and in Coloane of MOP98,844, this was a rise of 8.1% and 6.2% respectively. The price of those in the Macau Peninsula fell 0.6%, attaining only MOP91,679.

By the end of the first quarter of 2023, 6,582 residential units were in the design stage while 2,205 others were under construction and 49 under final inspection, the DSEC disclosed.

The bureau also indicated that 129 residential units, all located in the Macau Peninsula, received the license of use, including 65.9% of studio flats and 20.9% of one-bedroom units.

PHILANTHROPY

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, receives Ms. Foundation's Woman of Vision Award

GLENN GAMBOA, NEW YORK

MEGHAN, the Duchess of Sussex, encouraged women to find inspiration to fight for equity as she accepted the Ms. Foundation Women of Vision Award yesterday [Macau time], with Black Voters Matter co-founder LaTosha Brown.

"It's never too late to start," Meghan said at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in Manhattan. "You can be the visionary of your own life... There is still so much work to be done."

Her acceptance speech closed out the Ms. Foundation for Women's annual gala, part of the nation's oldest women's foundation celebration of its 50th anniversary. The gala also kicked off the foundation's largest fundraising campaign ever — \$100 million over the next 12 months — that will be used to further the organization's equity-centered initiatives and its mission of advancing women's collective power.

The foundation is already more than halfway to its goal. It announced that the late photographer and philanthropist Lucia Woods Lindley donated \$50 million, the largest bequest in the foundation's history. Proceeds from the gala itself raised another \$1 million, and nearly \$500,000 was donated by attendees during dinner.

With her mother, Doria Raganland, in the audience, Meghan recounted how Ms. Magazine was always in their house and



AP PHOTO

how it affected her world view.

"I am a woman who remains inspired and driven by this organization," she said, looking over at Ms. Foundation co-founder Gloria Steinem, who introduced her alongside current foundation CEO Teresa C. Younger. "It allowed me to recognize that part of my greater value and purpose in life was to advocate for those who felt unheard, to stand up to injustice, and to not be afraid of saying what is true and what is just and what is right."

Though the event was her first public appearance since she skipped the coronation of her father-in-law King Charles

III earlier this month in order to stay at home in California for her son Prince Archie's fourth birthday, she made no mention of the ceremony. Her husband Prince Harry attended the coronation in London and then rushed back to California.

Meghan and Prince Harry direct their philanthropy through their Archewell Foundation, which provided nearly 13 million COVID-19 vaccines with partner Global Citizen and helped resettle nearly 175,000 refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan in the United States with partner Welcome.US, according to its 2022 annual report.

Global Citizen CEO Hugh Evans said the Archewell Foundation leaders helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the COVID-19 vaccines through Global Citizen VAX Live, while also helping convince the world's wealthiest nations to provide some of the doses to those living in other nations. Evans said he was impressed with Meghan's work ethic as they teamed up at roundtables promoting the event in 2021.

"I would say she's willing to roll up her sleeves and be practical," Evans told The Associated Press. "When you see someone willing to spend their time, not doing the glamorous stuff, but willing to do the behind-the-scenes stuff, that's always a good sign."

Black Voters Matter co-founder LaTosha Brown received her Woman of Vision award from her longtime friend #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke, who led the attendees in song to welcome Brown to the stage. Brown then delivered an uplifting song of her own, before delivering a poignant speech about working for change.

"Even pain has a purpose," she said. "What's happening in this country right now, this isn't just a matter about what the Republicans or the Democrats are going to do. It really is a question about what is it that we're going to do collectively to lean into this moment of discomfort and recognize it as an opportunity to get it right because we haven't gotten it right."

Broadway star Audra McDonald took a break from her current tour to attend the gala to show her support for the Duchess of Sussex and Brown. "I love her so much," McDonald said of Brown. "It's an honor getting to know her a little bit and picking her brain and getting to see that passion and that drive and that wisdom. She's a hero."

Brown's organization Black Voters Matter works with communities in 25 states and the District of Columbia to make their voting more effective, while her Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute funds voter education, registrations and other programs to expand access to voting.

"I don't know how she does it all," McDonald said. "She put the boots on the ground."

The Ms. foundation also honored Wanda Irving, co-founder of Dr. Shalon's Maternal Action Project, and Kimberly Inez McGuire, executive director of URGE, as well as Texas abortion rights activist Olivia Julianna and LGBTQ+ advocate Rebekah Bruesehoff.

"I no longer say I am fighting for equality," said Julianna, accepting her award as an emerging leader. "In modern day America I am not fighting for equality. I am fighting for liberation from a white supremacist patriarchal system. As an openly queer Latin woman, make no mistake, I do not want to be equal to men in this country. I do not want the power to oppress with intention." **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

MUST launches poster to warn citizens of hypertension



In line with the World Hypertension Day, observed annually on May 17, the Faculty of Medicine at the Macau University of Science and Technology has produced a poster to remind citizens of this si-

lent killer. The main message of the poster is "Measure your blood pressure, live a better life".

Professor Brian Tomlinson, at the Faculty of Medicine, said "It is important to seek

medical advice immediately if your blood pressure is elevated or high. Hypertension can only be diagnosed by a doctor, but regular blood pressure measurements will let you know when to see a doctor. Hypertension can be controlled by lifestyle changes and medication."

Hypertension affects over 1.3 billion people worldwide, contributing to heart disease, stroke and other serious health complications. In Macau SAR, it is the second largest killer, accounting for around 11% of all deaths. Unfortunately, it often goes undiagnosed as it typically presents no symptoms, earning it the reputation of a "silent killer."

CTM showcases smart solutions in World Telecom Day



In celebration of the "5.17 World Telecom Day", CTM demonstrated the "road cracks detection" smart solution built on Baidu's PaddlePaddle framework. This application uses visual sensors installed on road inspection vehicles, together

with 5G Edge-in-a-Box and Baidu Maps to provide real-time labelling of road surface defects and carry out statistical analysis using Baidu's PaddlePaddle, delivering more accurate management analysis for urban management with

higher flexibility and lower costs.

Also, CTM demonstrated a smart health application that brings together online patient consultation system, telesurgery system, remote doctor consultation and intelligent ward inspection. The smart solution has also adopted facial recognition and AI tools for real-time health data analyses.

Vandy Poon, CEO of CTM said that with the construction of the "Cloud, Network, Intelligence, Security" digital foundation, CTM will continue to "invest in the introduction and self-development of smart solutions to meet the needs of Macau."

TAIWAN

Former British PM Truss warns of 'China threats' during visit

FORMER British Prime Minister Liz Truss warned of the economic and political threats to the West posed by China during a visit yesterday to rival Taiwan.

Truss is the first former British prime minister since Margaret Thatcher in the 1990s to visit the self-governing island republic that China claims as its own territory, to be conquered by force if necessary.

Still a sitting member of the House of Commons, Truss follows a growing list of elected representatives and former officials from the U.S., EU nations and elsewhere who have visited Taiwan to show their defiance of China's threats and attempts to cut off the island and its high-tech economy from the international community.

"There are those who say they don't want another Cold War. But this is not a choice we are in a position to make. Because China has already embarked on a self-reliance drive, whether we want to decouple from their economy or not," Truss said in an address to the Prospect Foundation at a hotel in Taipei.

"China is growing its navy at an alarming rate and is undertaking the biggest military build-up in peacetime history," she said.

"They have already formed alliances with other nations that want to see the free world in decline. They have already made a



Former Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss delivers a speech on the second day of her five-day visit in Taipei

choice about their strategy. The only choice we have is whether we appease and accommodate — or we take action to prevent conflict," Truss said.

Elsewhere, Truss praised her successor, Rishi Sunak, for describing China as "the biggest long-term threat to Britain" in comments last summer and for urging the closure of Chinese government-run cultural centers known as Confucius Institutes, which have been criticized "as outlets for Communist Party propaganda." Such services, she then said, could instead be provided by people from Taiwan and Hong Kong who come to the United Kingdom of

their own volition.

In Beijing, spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office Mao Xiaoguang accused Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party of "spending the tax money of the Taiwanese people to bribe some anti-China politicians who have stepped down from office to stage a farce of seeking external support for independence in Taiwan."

Ma also renewed China's military threats against Taiwan, a day after the Chinese Defense Ministry condemned U.S. military assistance to the island.

"If they continue to challenge and force us, we will have to take

decisive measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Ma told reporters at a biweekly news conference. "No one should underestimate our strong determination, unwavering will and strong ability."

Next year is seen by some as a crucial period for tense relations between the sides, with U.S. and Taiwanese voters going to the polls. Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen has served the maximum two terms and her No. 2 Lai Ching-te, a strong independence supporter, will be running for the DPP.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, yesterday nominated local politician Hou Yu-ih as its candidate in the January election. Hou rose to prominence as a top police official but has relatively little experience dealing with China and Taiwan's international partners.

Taiwan will also elect a new legislature, which is currently controlled by the ruling party.

China's relations with Britain and most other Western democracies have been in steep decline in recent years, largely as a result of disputes over human rights, trade technology, Hong Kong, and China's aggressive moves toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea.

China has said a key previous bilateral agreement on Hong Kong no longer applies and has rejected British expressions of concern as interference in Chi-

na's domestic political affairs. China has also been angered by a joint Australian-U.S.-British agreement known as AUKUS that would provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines in part to counter the perceived rising threat from China.

Truss, who served an ill-fated seven weeks as prime minister last year, also said China "could not be trusted to follow through on its commitments" in areas from trade to protection of the environment.

And she praised Taiwan as "an enduring rebuke to totalitarianism" whose fate was a "core interest" to Europe.

"A blockade or invasion of Taiwan would undermine freedom and democracy in Europe. Just as a Russian victory in Ukraine would undermine freedom and democracy in the Pacific," Truss said.

"We in the United Kingdom and the free world must do all we can to back you," she said.

Truss' remarks also stood in stark contrast to published comments from French President Emmanuel Macron last month that elicited doubts about whether Macron's views were in line with other European countries on Taiwan's status.

"The question we need to answer, as Europeans, is the following: Is it in our interest to accelerate (a crisis) on Taiwan? No," Macron was quoted as saying in the interview.

"The worst thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the U.S. agenda and a Chinese overreaction."

Shortly afterward, Macron denied any change on France's views toward Taiwan, saying, "We are for the status quo, and this policy is constant." **MDT/AP**

TRADE SECRETS

US announces criminal cases involving flow of technology, information to China, Russia and Iran

THE Justice Department announced a series of criminal cases yesterday [Macau time] tracing the illegal flow of sensitive technology, including Apple's software code for self-driving cars and materials used for missiles, to foreign adversaries like Russia, China and Iran.

Some of the alleged trade secret theft highlighted by the department dates back several years, but U.S. officials are drawing attention to the collection of cases now to highlight a task force created in February to dis-

rupt the transfer of goods to foreign countries.

"We are committed to doing all we can to prevent these advanced tools from falling into the hands of adversaries who wield them in a way that threatens not only our nation's security but democratic values everywhere," said Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, who heads the Justice Department's national security division.

One of the newly unsealed cases, in federal court in San Francisco, accuses a former Apple software en-

gineer of taking proprietary data related to self-driving cars before his last day at the company in 2018 and then boarding a one-way flight to China on the night that FBI agents were conducting a search at his house. Prosecutors say the defendant, identified as Weibao Wang, is believed to be now "working at a China-based autonomous vehicle competitor."

Other cases disclosed have resulted in arrests.

One defendant, Liming Li, 64, was arrested earlier this month on charges that

he stole thousands of sensitive files from his California employer, including technology that can be used in the manufacturing of nuclear submarines and military aircraft, and used them to help competing Chinese businesses.

Li has been in custody since his arrest. A lawyer who has been representing him declined to comment.

Additionally, two Russian nationals, Oleg Sergeyevich Patsulya and Vasilii Sergeyevich Besedin, were arrested in Arizona this month on charges of

conspiring to send aircraft parts to Russian airline companies. Lawyers for both men did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment.

The Justice Department also unsealed a separate criminal case accusing a Chinese national of conspiring to transmit isotactic graphite, a material that can be used in the nose of intercontinental ballistics, to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. And it charged a Greek national with participating in the smuggling of dual-use technology with a

military application, including quantum cryptography, to Russia.

The departments of Justice and Commerce and other agencies earlier this year launched the Disruptive Technology Strike Force as a way to prevent U.S. adversaries from acquiring sensitive technology and address what officials said is a growing problem.

"Our greatest national security concerns stem from the actions of nation-states like China, Russia, Iran and North Korea — nation-states that want to acquire sensitive U.S. technology to advance their military capabilities with their ultimate goal being to shift the world's balance of power," said Matthew Axelrod, an assistant secretary at the Commerce Department. **MDT/AP**

INDIAN OCEAN

39 missing after Chinese fishing boat capsizes in the middle of the ocean

SEVERAL ships and aircraft searched yesterday for 39 people reported missing after a Chinese fishing boat capsized in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the accident happened around 3 a.m. Tuesday. The report said the crew includes 17 from China, 17 from Indonesia and five from the Philippines.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang have ordered Chinese diplomats abroad, as well as the agriculture and transportation ministries, to assist in the search for survivors.

"All-out efforts" must be made in the rescue operation, Xi was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. Li ordered unspecified measures to "reduce casualties and strengthen safety management of fishing vessels at sea to ensure safe maritime transport and production," Xinhua said.

No word was given on the cause of the capsizing.

Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines have also expressed their willingness to join in the search. Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency said the capsizing occurred about 4,600 kilometers (2,900 miles) northwest of Australia.

Several ships and an Australian Defense Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft have been searching the area. The Indian Ocean stretches from South Asia and the Arabian Peninsula to east Africa and western Australia. No survivors or life rafts have been spotted.

The Philippine Coast Guard Command Center said yesterday it was monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Chinese Embassy in Manila, as well as search and rescue teams operating near the vessel's last known location.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said it was coordinating the search in what it called a remote location in the Indian Ocean, about 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles) northwest of the coastal city of Perth. It said the agency received a



distress beacon signal from the fishing vessel at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Australian time, and that weather conditions in the area Tuesday were "extreme," but had improved by yesterday.

Along the Bay of Bengal at the Indian Ocean's northern end, Myanmar and Bangladesh were undergoing recovery from a powerful cyclone that smashed into their coastlines, causing widespread destruction and at least 21 deaths, with hundreds of others believed missing.

Merchant and fishing vessels in the area were also searching for survivors yesterday.

A Perth-based Challenger rescue aircraft will drop a buoy to help with drift modelling to further assist in the search, the agency said.

The search covered an area virtually in the center of the Indian Ocean. The capsized hull was spotted and the transmitter detected more than 1,000 kilometers south of Sri Lanka, with nearest port appearing to be the island chain of the Maldives, about 500 kilometers to the north of the search area.

The Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 was based in the eastern coastal province of Shandong, operated by the Penglai Jinglu Fishery Co. Ltd., according to the reports.

Another Chinese vessel, Lu Peng Yuan Yu 018, is operating near to the upturned hull and has been asked to conduct a grid search for survivors, according to the Indonesian agency.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said additional rescue assets were on their way to the scene.

"We will continue to take all measures possible with all parties to search and rescue the missing persons. The Chinese side thanks the Australian maritime search and rescue department for promptly dispatching aircraft and coordinating passing foreign ships to participate in the search and rescue," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

China is believed to operate the world's largest fishing fleet. Many of them stay at sea for months or even years at a time, supported by Chinese state maritime security agencies and a sprawling network of support vessels.

Chinese squid fishing ships have been documented using wide nets to illegally catch already overfished tuna as part of a surge in unregulated activity in the Indian Ocean, according to a report released in 2021 by a Norway-based watchdog group that highlighted growing concerns about the lack of

international cooperation to protect marine species on the high seas.

The group, called Trygg Mat Tracking, found that

the number of squid vessels in the high seas of the Indian Ocean — where fishing of the species is not regulated — has increased

six-fold since 2016.

The U.S. Coast Guard was also involved in a dangerous confrontation with Chinese vessels not far from Ecuador's Galapagos Islands in 2022 during a mission to inspect the vessels for any signs of illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing.

Chinese fishing vessels operating illegally are known to sail "dark," with their mandatory tracking device that gives a ship's position either switched off, transmitting intermittently, or providing false identifiers.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 was believed to have gone down somewhere in the Indian Ocean with 239 people aboard. That Boeing 777, which remains missing, became invisible to civilian radar when its transponder locating device stopped transmitting during a flight from Kuala Lumpur. MDT/AP

AD

USA

Biden scraps planned visit to Australia, Papua New Guinea to focus on debt limit talks

AAMER MADHANI,
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said yesterday [Macau time] he's curtailing his upcoming trip to the Indo-Pacific, scrapping what was to be a historic stop in Papua New Guinea as well as a visit to Australia for a gathering with fellow leaders of the so-called Quad partnership so he can focus on debt limit talks in Washington.

The scuttling of two of the three legs of the overseas trip is a foreign policy setback for an administration that has made putting a greater focus on the Pacific region central to its global outreach.

Biden said he still plans to depart today for Hiroshima, Japan, for a Group of Seven summit with leaders from some of the world's major economies. He will return to the U.S. on Sunday.

"I'm postponing the Australia portion of the trip and my stop in Papua New Guinea in order to be back for the final negotiations with congressional leaders," Biden said at the start of a Jewish American Heritage Month event at the White House. He added, "The nature of the presidency is addressing many of the critical matters all at once. So I'm confident we're going to continue to make progress toward avoiding the default and fulfilling America's responsibility as a leader on the world stage."

Biden said he spoke to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese earlier yesterday to inform him he was postponing a visit to Australia and invited him to Washington for an official state visit at a yet-to-be determined date. White House staff broke the news to Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape.

White House officials did not offer an immediate response to questions about when Biden might reschedule visits to the two countries.

"Revitalizing and reinvigorating our alliances and advancing partnerships like the Quad remains a key prio-

AP PHOTO



riority for the President," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. "This is vital to our ability to advance our foreign policy goals and better promote global stability and prosperity. We look forward to finding other ways to engage with Australia, the Quad, Papua New Guinea and the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in the coming year."

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has invited Albanese, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as Pacific Island leaders to come to Hiroshima during the G-7. Albanese in an Australian Broadcasting Corp. interview said that the Quad leaders are now hoping to hold a meeting in Hiroshima.

"We'll also hopefully be able to find a time when the four of us can sit down," Albanese said. "We will have to organize the logistics of the Quad meeting now in Sydney and we'll be discussing with our partners in the U.S., but also Japan and India over the next day or so."

Biden had been scheduled to travel on to Papua New Guinea to meet with Pacific Island leaders and then to Australia for a meeting of the leaders of the Quad partnership, made up of the U.S., Australia, India and Japan. The Papua New Guinea stop would have been the first visit by a sitting U.S. president to the island country of more than 9 million people.

The Quad partnership first formed during the response

to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed some 230,000 people. Since coming into office, Biden has tried to reinvigorate the Quad as part of his broader effort to put greater U.S. focus on the Pacific and counter increasing economic and military assertiveness by China in the region.

Biden announced his decision soon after he wrapped up a meeting in the afternoon with Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies, D-N.Y., for talks on the debt limit standoff.

Earlier, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby expressed administration officials' frustration that the debt talks are having an impact on the president's dealings on the international stage.

"We wouldn't have to have this conversation. I wouldn't have to answer these questions if Congress just did the right thing," Kirby said.

Some Republican lawmakers questioned Biden's decision to travel overseas considering the consequences of the debt limit talks.

"I think he should not leave and he should focus on the debt limit here at home," Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla.

With the brief stop in Papua New Guinea to meet with Pacific Island leaders, Biden had hoped to demonstrate

that the United States is committed to remaining engaged for the long term in the Pacific Islands.

The area has received diminished attention from the U.S. in the aftermath of the Cold War and China has increasingly filled the vacuum — through increased aid, development and security cooperation. Biden has said that he's committed to changing that dynamic.

Last September, Biden hosted leaders from more than a dozen Pacific Island countries at the White House, announcing a new strategy to help to assist the region on climate change and maritime security. His administration also recently opened embassies in the Solomon Islands and Tonga, and has plans to open one in Kiribati.

As vice president, Biden saw up close how domestic politics can complicate foreign policy during the 2013 government shutdown. President Barack Obama was forced to bail on attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and the East Asia Summit in Brunei as well as a visit to Malaysia and the Philippines in the midst of a government shutdown as he negotiated with GOP leaders.

President Bill Clinton opted to skip his scheduled participation in the APEC summit in Japan in the midst of the 1995 government shutdown. He opted to send Vice President Al Gore in his place. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1950 US AND EUROPE AGREE NATO AIMS



Almost exactly a year after signing the North Atlantic Treaty, 12 nations have agreed a permanent organisation for the defence of the United States and Europe.

The final meeting of the fourth session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or Nato as it has become known, was held in front of cameras at Lancaster House in London.

The 12 foreign ministers sat around a horseshoe table, with the United States Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, at the centre. A large audience of newspaper and newsreel correspondents, cameramen and photographers broadcast their speeches around the world.

During negotiations over the past few days, the ministers have reached agreement over a communiqué outlining the aims of the Organisation, and setting out a six-point plan for strengthening ties between their countries.

Key among these was the establishment of a council of deputies, with a permanent chairman and a full-time staff, to put the objectives of the Treaty into action.

Opening the meeting, Mr Acheson thanked all his colleagues for their "tireless efforts" and said that "genuine progress" had been made.

"Throughout its deliberations, the council has recognised that only through coordinated plans and effort could its great objectives be achieved," he said.

He then went on to read the communiqué, which spoke of the principles behind Nato and outlined the objectives the organisation is working towards.

It stressed the importance of seeking a diplomatic solution before military force is used, but where some nations are not willing to cooperate, it said, "the maintenance of peace and the defence of freedom require the organisation of adequate military defence."

The communiqué also includes directives on defence, finance and economics, and establishes a North Atlantic planning board for shipping.

The British Foreign Minister, Ernest Bevin, called the agreement one of "historic significance".

"I'm afraid we cannot arrive at sensational decisions," he told the meeting. "This business of building for peace is a very grim business, and it has to be worked for day in and day out."

"We must never give up faith in its ultimate trials."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 12 nations who signed the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949 were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States.

Later in 1950, US general and future president Dwight D Eisenhower was appointed Nato's first supreme commander.

Nato soon ran into controversy when West Germany was included in the Treaty in 1955. The Soviet Union saw it as a direct threat, and in the same year created a counter-alliance called the Warsaw Pact. When the Cold War ended, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991.

No longer directed at the perceived threat of Soviet aggression, Nato formed closer ties with Eastern Europe and began a major re-evaluation of its role.

The Organisation's first aggressive action took place in 1995, in a campaign of airstrikes launched against Bosnian Serb positions in the former Yugoslavia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. You may be emotional and quick to judge others.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can expand your circle of friends if you get out and socialize. If you take on too much, you will find yourself in martyrdom.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
The information that you gain can be used in every aspect of your life. You can meet new and exciting lovers through work related projects.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Compromise if you have to, to avoid verbal battles. You're in the mood to do things such as competitive sports, or perhaps a night on the town.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Chronic health problems are likely to surface if you are keeping your problems locked up inside. Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. You have to feel free to come and go as you please to achieve happiness.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You need time to put your house in order and sort out what you are going to do about your personal direction. Don't rely on others to handle the workload.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Verbal abuse may lead to walkouts; don't make any rash statements you may regret later. However, you may not attract the kind of interest you had in mind.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Business and emotional partnerships will run smoothly. Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your involvement in organizational events could open doors to new and exciting opportunities. Ask others to help, or you may feel that a burden is weighing you down.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Don't get into heated discussions. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

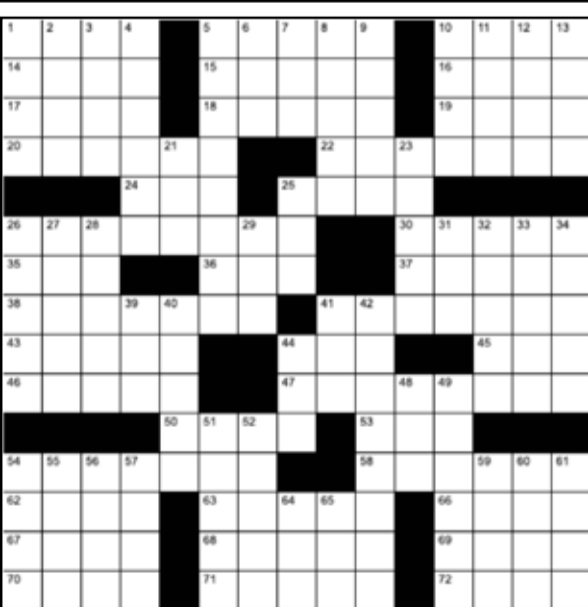
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	27	cloudy
Changchun	8	23	fine
Chengdu	20	32	overcast
Chongqing	22	29	cloudy
Fuzhou	23	34	rain
Guangzhou	22	29	thunderstorms
Guiyang	19	28	cloudy
Haikou	25	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	19	27	rain
Harbin	6	24	fine
Hefei	18	29	overcast
Nanjing	20	27	overcast
Shanghai	18	23	overcast
Taipei	22	29	cloudy
Wuhan	19	31	fine
Hong Kong	27	30	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	14	26	overcast
Frankfurt	8	18	overcast
Paris	8	18	overcast
London	11	18	cloudy
New York	11	17	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Baseball glove; 5- Swedish imports; 10- Nourishment; 14- Doozy; 15- Equip; 16- Hungary's Nagy; 17- Final Four org.; 18- Expiate; 19- Coscant's reciprocal; 20- Import or export duty; 22- Voted into a seat; 24- Get thee nunny; 25- He sang about Alice; 26- Maintain; 30- Satisfies; 35- Loose; 36- Auditory apparatus; 37- That is, in Latin; 38- Adorn with "oyster gems"; 41- Pardon; 43- Movie critic Roger; 44- NATO member; 45- ___ Aviv; 46- Kind of battery; 47- Piece of luggage; 50- Get in a hand; 53- Classical beginning; 54- Warship; 58- Pre-Easter; 62- Run smoothly; 63- Terra ___; 66- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 67- Bhutan's continent; 68- Sacred text of Islam; 69- Corrosion; 70- Cong. meeting; 71- Swiftiness; 72- To ___ (perfectly);

DOWN 1- ___ Blanc; 2- Quechua speaker; 3- Pull apart; 4- Characteristics; 5- Ocean traveler; 6- As a female, you could be queen or worker; 7- Flap; 8- Stupid mistake; 9- Bulge; 10- Money-related; Abbr.; 11- Fail to include; 12- Writer Sarah ___ Jewett; 13- Exploit; 21- Opponent; 23- Red fluorescent dye; 25- ___ Lingus; 26- Layers; 27- Stallone role; 28- Eject; 29- Actor Kilmer; 31- Summer drink; 32- Outer coat of a seed; 33- Adlai's running mate; 34- Elegance; 39- Historic time; 40- Gillette razors; 41- Tempe sch.; 42- Continent; 44- Exercise; 48- Driving aid; 49- Against; 51- Makes out; 52- Scout unit; 54- Tax experts; Abbr.; 55- Subterfuge; 56- "Trinity" author; 57- Some nest eggs; 59- Lacking slack; 60- More; 61- ___ Dogg; 64- It's past due; 65- ___ kwon do;



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

SCOTT D. MCDONALD,
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

IN the mid-1990s, I picked up the military classic "Art of War" hoping to find insight into my new career as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

I was not the only one looking for insights from the sage Sunzi, also known as Sun Tzu, who died over 2,500 years ago. "Art of War" has long been mined for an understanding of China's strategic tradition and universal military truths. The book's maxims, such as "know the enemy and know yourself," are routinely quoted in military texts, as well as business and management books.

Initially, I was disappointed. It seemed Sunzi's advice was either common sense or in agreement with Western military classics. However, a few years later the Marine Corps trained me as a China scholar, and I spent much of my career working on U.S. policy in the Indo-Pacific region. This deepened my desire to understand how leaders in the People's Republic of China see the world and choose strategies. Looking for insight, I turned to classical Chinese philosophy and finally encountered concepts that helped illuminate the unique perspective of Sunzi's "Art of War."

Today, I am an academic researching how Chinese philosophy and foreign policy intersect. To comprehend "Art of War," it helps readers to approach the text from the worldview of its author. That means reading Sunzi's advice through the prism of classical Chinese metaphysics, which is deeply shaped by the philosophy of Daoism.

DAOIST ROOTS

China's intellectual tradition is rooted in the Warring States period from the 5th to 3rd century B.C.E., the era during which Sunzi is thought to have lived. Though a time of conflict, it was also a time of cultural and intellectual development that led to the rise of Daoism and Confucianism.

Confucian philosophy focuses on maintaining proper social relationships as the key to moral behavior and social harmony. Daoism, on the other hand, is more concerned with metaphysics: trying to understand the workings of the natural world and drawing analogies about how humans should act.

Daoism views existence as composed of constant cycles of change, in which power ebbs and flows. Meanwhile, the "Dào," or "the way," directs all things in nature toward fulfilling their inherent potential, like water flowing downhill.



Painting of a battle between Chinese and Vietnamese forces during the Qing invasion of Vietnam in 1788

MILITARY HISTORY

SUNZI, SHÌ AND STRATEGY: HOW TO READ 'ART OF WAR' THE WAY ITS AUTHOR INTENDED

HELPING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE

The Chinese word for this concept of "situational potential" is *shì*, or *shì* – the name of Chapter Five in "Art of War." Almost every Western version translates it differently, but it is key to the military concepts Sunzi employs.

For example, Chapter Five explains how those who are "expert at war" are not overly concerned with individual soldiers. Instead, effective leaders are able to determine the potential in the situation and put themselves in position to take advantage of it.

This is why later chapters spend so much time discussing geography and deployment of forces, rather than fighting techniques. One does more to damage an opponent's potential by undermining their scheme than by merely killing their soldiers. Sunzi is concerned about long supply lines, because they lower an army's potential by making it harder to move and vulnerable to disruption. A general who understands potential can evaluate troops, terrain and scheme, then arrange the battlefield to "subdue the enemy without fighting."

In Daoist thought, the correct way to manage each situation's potential is to act with *wúwéi*, which literally translates as "nonaction." However, the key idea is to disturb

the natural order as little as possible, taking the minimum action needed to allow the situation's potential to be fulfilled. The term does not appear in "Art of War," but a contemporary reader of Sunzi's would have been familiar with the connection between nurturing *shì* and acting with *wúwéi*.

The importance of acting with *wúwéi* is illustrated by the Confucian philosopher Mengzi's story about a farmer who pulled on his corn stalks in an attempt to help them grow tall, but killed the crop instead. One does not help corn grow by forcing it but by understanding its natural potential and acting accordingly: ensuring the soil is good, weeds are removed and water is sufficient. Actions are most effective when they nurture potential, not when they try to force it.

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE UN

In a Daoist understanding, leaders hoping to chart an effective strategy must read the situation, discover its potential, and position their armies or states in the best position to take advantage of *shì*. They act with *wúwéi* to nurture situations, rather than force, which could disturb the situation and cause chaos.

Therefore, in foreign policy, a decision-maker should attempt to make small policy ad-

justments as early as possible to slowly manage the development of the international environment. This approach is evident in Beijing's use of "gunxi." Meaning "relationships," the Chinese term carries a strong sense of mutual obligation.

For example, the PRC waged a decadeslong effort to take over the United Nations "China seat" from Taiwan, where the Republic of China government had fled after Communists' victory in the civil war. Beijing accomplished that by slowly building friendships, identifying shared strategic interests and accruing owed favors with many small states around the world, until in 1971 it had enough votes in the General Assembly.

TREND-WATCHING TODAY

The concept of *shì* also provides a lens for understanding the PRC's increasing pressure on Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing claims is its own territory.

Sunzi might say that discerning the current trend in the Taiwan Strait is more essential than conventional questions about comparative military strength. Several factors could push Taiwan closer to Beijing, including the island's loss of diplomatic allies and the pull of the PRC's massive economy – not to mention Beijing's growing global clout vis-à-vis the U.S. If so, *shì* is in Beijing's

favor, and a nudge to persuade the U.S. to stay out is all that is needed to keep the situation developing to the PRC's advantage.

Or is the potential developing in the other direction? Such factors as a growing sense of a unique Taiwanese identity and the PRC's troubled economic model may make closer ties with the mainland less and less appealing in Taiwan. In that case, Beijing may see a need to appear strong and dominant so Taiwan will not be lulled into counting on support from Washington, D.C.

A surface reading of Sunzi can easily support an emphasis on troop deployments, intelligence and logistics. However, an understanding of *shì* highlights Sunzi's emphasis on evaluating and nurturing situational potential. It is not that the former are unimportant, but a decision-maker will use them differently if the goal is to manage situational trends rather than seek decisive battle.

That "Art of War" continues to top sales lists demonstrates its lasting appeal. However, to be useful as a guide to understanding security policy and strategy, my experience in the Indo-Pacific region suggests one must dig into the principles that shaped Sunzi's view of the world and continue to shape the view of leaders in Beijing. **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

FOOTBALL

Inter beats city rival to reach first CL final in over a decade

DANIELLA MATAR, MILAN

INTER MILAN 1, AC MILAN 0

INTER Milan reached its first Champions League final in more than a decade with a 1-0 victory against city rival AC Milan yesterday [Macau time].

Inter had a 2-0 lead from the first leg of the semifinal and Lautaro Martinez's 74th-minute goal ended any hopes for Milan to stage a comeback.

Several players from both teams fell to the ground in tears at the final whistle as the Nerazzurri won the so-called "Euroderby" 3-0 on aggregate to progress to its first final since it won the league, Italian Cup and Champions League under José Mourinho in 2010.

Inter players and staff celebrated for long afterwards with their fans, singing and dancing in front of the Curva Nord packed full of Nerazzurri suppor-



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez celebrates after scoring his side's goal

ters in an electric atmosphere at San Siro — the stadium that both teams share.

"It's obviously a great emotion, a dream that I had together with the guys, that we nurtured right from when the draw was made," Inter coach Stefano Inzaghi said. "We had to believe in ourselves and we have got here by merit, no one has gifted us anything."

"We had a long road, with difficulties but I think we earned it. I think probably from tomorrow we'll realize more what we have

done. But it's a wonderful night with the fans, with our family, you can't ask for anything more."

Inter will face either 14-time champion Real Madrid or another juggernaut in Manchester City on June 10 in Istanbul.

"Whoever we end up with, we will be unlucky, because they are two really great teams with incredible quality," Inzaghi said with a wry smile. "I will watch tomorrow's match, like I watched the first leg. ... Obviously we will follow it closely."

For Milan, the lengthy wait

goes on. It last reached the showpiece event in 2007, when it won the last of its seven titles.

"At the moment there's only disappointment, there's only disappointment because we could have been in a Champions League final," Milan coach Stefano Pioli said. "But if we think that last year we went out in the group stage and this year we managed to reach the semifinals we can and should be proud."

"But it's clear we dreamt of reaching the final, we wanted the final, we wanted to beat our rivals."

Milan was able to welcome back Rafael Leão. He missed last week's loss with a thigh injury and the Rossoneri were hoping his comeback would inspire the team to do the same.

The difference was immediately apparent as Milan played with an intensity it sorely lacked in the first leg amid a frantic start from both teams. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

SMART BALL TECHNOLOGY TO BE TRIALED AT U20 WORLDS

WORLD Rugby will trial smart ball technology at the under-20 world championship in South Africa next month, assisting officials in getting more accuracy about lineouts, potential forward passes and whether the ball has crossed the try line.

The trial comes after match officials expressed a desire for innovations to be explored to support accurate and quick decision-making. There are no plans for the technology to be implemented at the Rugby World Cup in France in September and October, but could offer a glimpse into the future of the game.

The smart ball will be tracked in 3D and in real time, with beacons positioned around the field to determine the exact position of the ball up to 20 times per second and provide immediate feedback on every kick, pass and throw.

The technology will ensure lineouts are taken from the spot the ball left the field of play and provide instantaneous feedback about whether a lineout throw is straight by measuring the angle from release to the moment it's touched by a lineout jumper. **MDT/AP**

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FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

SUMMIT STABILIZER FOR CENTRAL ASIA

The China-Central Asia Summit to be held on Thursday and Friday in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, is expected to give a shot in the arm to regional development under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has evolved to be an international public good and an open platform to promote common development.

The leaders from all five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — are scheduled to attend the summit, which will be chaired by President Xi Jinping.

Last year, China's trade with the five countries reached \$70 billion, a historical high, and the region has not only become an important trade partner of China, but also developed into a pillar of the new Eurasia Land Bridge formed by the China-Europe freight train services.

Since he proposed to build a Silk Road Economic Belt during his visit to Kazakhstan in 2013, President Xi has maintained close contacts with the heads of state of the five Central Asian states, outlined the blueprint for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and reached important consensuses on synergizing the development strategies of the Belt and Road Initiative with those of the five Central Asian states.

The upcoming summit will further consolidate the consensus of China and the Central Asian countries on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, which will extend from infrastructure, energy and agriculture to more high-tech sectors, and financial and services industries that are crucial to realizing sustainable and green development, improving people's livelihoods and maintaining regional peace, unity and stability.

That will help further squeeze the space that external forces can take advantage of to incite unrest in the region, through which they intend to sow seeds of discord or create conditions to implant their puppet regimes.

As Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, in Xi'an, the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, China and the Central Asian countries will take advantage of the meeting to reinvigorate the millennia-old Silk Road and make new and greater contributions to building a closer China-Central Asia community with a shared future.

Over the past decade, thanks to the joint efforts of all participants, the Belt and Road Initiative has delivered tangible benefits to the central Asian countries under the principle of extensive consultation and joint contributions. This has further consolidated the high level of political trust between the two sides.

With the global turmoil intensifying, optimizing the development trajectory of the region will help it maintain and consolidate the conditions conducive to maintaining peace and stability.

UN SAYS PROSPECTS DIM FOR ROBUST GLOBAL RECOVERY DESPITE UPTICK FOR CHINA, US AND EU

THE BUZZ

The United Nations yesterday [Macau time] forecast a slight uptick in economic growth in the United States, the European Union and China, but said prospects for a robust global economy recovery this year remain dim, pointing to stubbornly high inflation, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, and the worsening impact of climate change.

For many developing countries, it said, growth prospects have deteriorated amid tightening credit conditions and rising costs of external financing.

According to the report, the world economy is now expected to

grow by 2.3%, up from the U.N.'s forecast of 1.9% on Jan. 25, but still well below the estimated 3.1% in 2022.

Global inflation is now projected to decline from 7.5% last year to 5.2% this year.

In the U.S., "resilient household spending" this year led the U.N. to increase its 2023 forecast from 0.4% in January to 1.1%. In the EU, lower gas prices and robust consumer spending led to an increase in projected growth this year from 0.2% to 0.9%. And as a result of China's lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, its economic growth is now forecast to increase from 4.8% to 5.3% in 2023, the U.N. said.

AP PHOTO



Johnny Depp and director Maiwenn pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Jeanne du Barry' in Cannes

AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL, JOHNNY DEPP SAYS 'I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR HOLLYWOOD'

JAKE COYLE, CANNES

APPEARING at the Cannes Film Festival the day after premiering his first film in three years, Johnny Depp said yesterday that he has "no further need" for Hollywood.

Depp made a rare public appearance to face questions from the press following the opening-night premiere of "Jeanne du Barry," in which Depp plays King Louis XV. The French film, directed by and starring Maiwenn and featuring a French-speaking Depp, is the actor's first film since a jury last year largely sided with him in his legal battle with his ex-wife, Amber Heard.

Part of Depp's argument in that 2022 defamation trial was that he had lost work due to Heard's allegations. Heard was ordered to pay Depp \$10 million in damages, vindicating his allegations that Heard lied about Depp abusing her before and during their brief marriage. Heard was also awarded \$2 million.

"Did I feel boycotted by Hollywood? You'd have to not have a pulse to feel like, 'No. None of this is happening. It's a weird

joke,'" Depp told reporters. "When you're asked to resign from a film you're doing because of something that is merely a function of vowels and consonants floating in the air, yes, you feel boycotted."

Depp was most notably asked to step down from the "Harry Potter" spin-off franchise "Fantastic Beasts." Now, though, he says he's not interested in returning to studio projects.

"I don't feel boycotted by Hollywood, because I don't think about Hollywood. I don't have much further need for Hollywood, myself," Depp said. "It's a strange, funny time where everybody would love to be able to be themselves, but they can't. They must fall in line with the person in front of them. If you want to live that life, I wish you the best."

"Jeanne du Barry" opened Tuesday in French cinemas. It doesn't have U.S. distribution as of yet.

The "Jeanne du Barry" press conference was among the most circus-like in recent years at Cannes. The press conference began unusually late and started with Maiwenn and other cast members there,

but no Depp. He arrived about 20 minutes in, and quickly took the spotlight.

Depp called the majority of what's been written about him in recent years "fantastically, horrifically written fiction."

"It's like asking the question: 'How are you doing?' But the subtext is, 'God, I hate you,'" said Depp.

Some have debated whether Cannes ought to have given Depp such a prominent platform. Asked how he would respond to such critics, Depp made a comparison that suggested few people feel that way.

"What if one day, they did not allow me to go to McDonald's for life because somewhere there'd be 39 angry people watching me eat a Big Mac on a loop?" pondered Depp. "Who are they? What do they care?"

"I've had my 17th comeback, apparently," said Depp. "I keep wondering about the word 'comeback.' I didn't go anywhere. As a matter of fact, I live about 45 minutes away. Maybe people stopped calling out of whatever their fear was at the time. But I didn't go nowhere." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



South Africa Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have agreed to separate meetings with a delegation of leaders from six African countries to discuss a possible plan to end the war in Ukraine, South Africa's president said. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said he spoke with Putin and Zelenskyy by phone over the weekend and they each agreed to host "an African leaders peace mission" in Moscow and Kyiv, respectively.

AP PHOTO



Turkey Russia agreed to extend a deal that has allowed Ukraine to ship grain through the Black Sea to parts of the world struggling with hunger, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced yesterday, a boost to global food security after the war launched more than a year ago drove up prices. "With the efforts of our country, the support of our Russian friends and the contribution of our Ukrainian friends, the Black Sea Grain Initiative has been extended by another two months."

AP PHOTO



Italy This weekend's Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix in northern Italy was canceled yesterday because of deadly floods in the region. Formula One said it made the decision for safety reasons and to avoid any extra burden on the emergency services, after consulting with Italian political figures. Drivers including Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen gave their backing, and Ferrari said the team supported the decision to call off its home race.