

FERRARI WINS LE MANS



P10-12

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

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www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 4264

MONDAY  
12 Jun 2023

T. 25°/30°

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AP PHOTO



**Hong Kong** One of the two giant inflatable ducks floating in the Victoria Harbor deflated on Saturday, just a day after they were unveiled to revelers. Crowds of residents and tourists flocked in the scorching heat to the promenade near the government headquarters in Admiralty to snap photos of the ducks by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman. But many who arrived in the afternoon only found one duck intact, with the other reduced to a puddle of yellow plastic. Organizers said their staff found one of the ducks was overstretched due to the hot weather and rising air pressure.

AP PHOTO



**Philippine** authorities were evacuating more than 2,000 cows and water buffaloes away from a restive volcano to minimize potential losses in case of a major eruption, officials said yesterday. The farm animals were being herded out of rural communities within a 6-kilometer radius of Mayon volcano's crater in northeastern Albay province to 25 temporary grazing areas.

AP PHOTO



**Israelis** continued protests this weekend for the 23rd week against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government to overhaul the judiciary in the country. The mass demonstrations started in January shortly after the government, made up of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox religious parties, was sworn in. Gaining momentum and seeing large turnouts of more than 200,000 demonstrators at times, protest organizers have said they will not give up until the government cancels the proposed legal changes.

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# MONEY-WASTING BUREAU



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# GOV'T ACTS ON AVIATION SECTOR LIBERALIZATION

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE local government has moved decisively to liberalize Macau's aviation sector.

The Executive Council (ExCo) announced last Friday it had concluded an evaluation of the draft bill to establish the new legal regime regulating the civil aviation market.

The change will end Air Macau's monopoly as Macau's only flag carrier and allow other players to enter the market and base their operations at the Macau International Airport.

The president of the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM), Pun Wa Kin, said he hoped the Legislative Assembly (AL) would approve the new legal regime before the current contract between the government and Air Macau ends in November this year.

Pun was speaking Friday af-

RENATO MARQUES



ternoon at the ExCo press conference at the government's headquarters.

"This bill aims to transform the former concession system into a licensing system that will

allow more companies to establish an operational base in Macau," the president of AACM said.

"The bill will implement the government policy of gra-

dually opening the local aviation market and I believe that will help to develop more international air routes and a network of other air routes," he said.

The bill proposes a new licen-

ing system for commercial passenger air transportation that requires companies wishing to operate from Macau to obtain an operating license.

Among other financial as well as technical requirements, the companies must be legally incorporated in Macau and must have Macau as their main location for business.

Responding to media questions, Pun denied that the government already has potential candidates for licenses, saying the law has not yet been approved.

The bill has now been referred to the AL which will, as per normal procedure, schedule a date for its discussion and approval by the lawmakers upon its first reading. After that, it will be further discussed at one of the AL Standing Committees before going to the plenary for a final vote.

JUNE 10

## Portuguese Community is 'an integral part of Macau': Ho Iat Seng

**T**HE Portuguese community residing in Macau has played a crucial role with unwavering loyalty and dedication, stated Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, during a reception commemorating the Day of Portugal, Camões, and Portuguese Communities (June 10).

The event, exceptionally held at the Macau Portuguese School, celebrated the "deep cultural exchange between China and Portugal" and emphasized the significance of the Portuguese community within Macau.

Ho Iat Seng reaffirmed the government's commitment "to upholding the Basic Law and ensuring improved conditions for the well-being of all Macau residents," including the Portuguese community.

Highlighting the enduring connection between Macau and Portugal, Ho Iat Seng stressed the advantages derived from the profound exchange of Chinese and Portuguese cultures. Macau, he



Ho Iat Seng, André Moz Caldas, Liu Xianfa, and Consul-general Alexandre Leitão

stated, "aims to play a pivotal role in facilitating commercial and financial services between China and Portuguese-speaking countries." The Chief Executive also emphasized the friendly diplomatic relations between Beijing and Lisbon.

In April, Ho Iat Seng visited Portugal accompanied by a delegation of 50 local busi-

nessmen, fostering stronger economic ties between the two regions. The visit marked the first overseas trip after the pandemic, dedicated to expanding collaborations in various domains such as economy, trade, scientific innovation, healthcare, culture, and Portuguese language education. **MDT**

## GOV'T TO HOST TRAVEL INDUSTRY EXPO END OF JUNE

**T**HE Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo will return to the Cotai Expo between June 30 and July 2.

This year, the event will see its 11th edition. The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) initiated the event and the Macau Travel Agency Association is coordinating it. It is also approved by The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI).

According to the MGTO, there will be several key showrooms, such as the International, the Mainland and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, the Fine Wines, the Local Innovation, as well as the "1+4" showrooms, which is appearing for the first time this year.

Another first-time event is a forum about tourism research and education.

In addition, the expo will bring the latest tourism information and products from around the world, including local and Lusophone products, special airline promotions and special products from exhibitors.

To highlight Macau's position as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, over 20 chefs from fellow Creative Cities will showcase their skills at the event. Meanwhile, 18 local caterers will offer food samples to spectators. Wine tasting workshops and beer drinking contests will also be held.

Anyone who spends MOP300 will be entitled to participate in the lucky draw to win prizes.

The expo will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on June 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 7 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 2. **AL**



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**Times**

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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# Audit report slams IAM, DSOP and ID for inefficiency and money-wasting

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Commission of Audit (CA) has issued two new reports into the construction of the box culvert and pumping station north of the Inner Harbor as well as the financial support the Sports Bureau (ID) grants to sports competitions.

The CA has criticized the lack of communication between the former Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, now represented by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), and the former Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, now represented by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP).

The CA has criticized the inefficiency of work on flood prevention equipment at the north section of Inner Harbor.

In the report, the CA noted IAM had failed to communicate effectively with the DSOP on the real drainage and capacity needs for the pumping station. Consequently, the solution was insufficient and ineffective for the problem.

The CA also noted the problem could worsen with the pumping station capacity and box culvert unable "to meet demand in the long-term," thus partially wasting public money.

The CA said the problem was due mostly to an IAM study for the design of the system, which IAM passed to the design company, which was outdated and followed standards different from those recommended for this type of system.

The audit noted the CA believed IAM had acted in a "lazy" manner.

IAM had only met the minimum legal requirements and had failed to consider its duties regarding the planning for cur-



rent practical needs or the future development of the city.

The body also did not absolve DSOP from responsibility, noting it was DSOP's duty to supervise and to ensure that current norms were being followed in the best possible way.

It noted DSOP had in its possession two reports recommending an increase of capacity but had failed to notify the IAM of them. It also did not issue any opinion when it saw the IAM adopting a lower standard.

The CA noted the problem is a serious matter and that in the last few years the resolution of the flooding problem has been mentioned in the government's Policy Address Report.

"However, the problems verified during the present audit reveal that the public services in question were not able to carry

out a good coordination and management of the works, which not only made it difficult to implement the policies and measures defined by the Macau SAR government but also prevented society's demands from being responded to in a reasonable time," it added.

In response, the two government departments acknowledged their responsibilities for the matter.

The IAM said it would take the opportunity of the new works underway to make adjustments that will help to correct past mistakes and minimize the impact of flooding in the Inner Harbor district on the population.

The DSOP is said to be "reinforcing the interdepartmental communication and coordination to prudently fulfill its duties and actively promote cooperati-

ve management work between services," adding that it has already reviewed all the standards and implemented the most updated ones in accordance with the "10-Year Plan for Disaster Prevention and Reduction in Macau (2019-2028)."

ID to improve Sports Fund operation following CA report

The president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, has said the Bureau is already dealing with the CA recommendations about the Sports Fund's operation.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Sports Family Day 2023 event yesterday, Pun said the changes requested by the CA report should be ready to be enforced as soon as the end of this month.

In its report issued Friday, the commission slammed the ID for the Sports Fund's operation and for several instances of non-compliance with the general rules on the distribution of public money, namely subsidies for events and other activities of local groups and sports associations.

The CA noted there was a lot of money handed to these groups and associations without proper supervision, noting aspects such as lack of at least three quotes obtained for the acquisition of goods and services as well as inaccurate currency exchanges on the acquisition of the same goods and services in other currencies, which caused damage to the public purse.

Pun said that henceforth, the ID would strictly enforce the CA's recommendations and supervise the granting of funds through the Sports Fund. It will also introduce third-party audits namely for the cases involving large sums of public money.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY VISITS MACAU YOUTH ENTERPRISE IN SHANDONG

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, has visited an enterprise in Shandong founded and operated by Macau youth entrepreneurs, during his visit to the northeast province. The IT enterprise is one of four across the country working on AI development and accredited as market leaders by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. It is the only one in the province. Lei described the enterprise as a vivid example of Macau youth's competitiveness in the area. He hopes more Macau youth will immerse themselves in the national development master plan and play stronger roles in "1+4" development.

## TOURISM BOARD PROMOTES MACANESE CUISINE IN SHANDONG

During its marketing campaign in Shandong Province, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has taken the opportunity to present mainland residents with Macanese cuisine to persuade them to visit Macau. The showcase was held in association with Wynn Macau, which deployed Chefs David Wong and Otilia Novo from its Wynn Food and Beverage Academy. Local Macanese cuisine chef Raymond Vong also took a role in the kitchen. They co-presented pig ear salad, sautéed clams in white wine, grilled sardines, Macanese crab curry and Macanese Minchi, among other delicacies. The MGTO said the showcase attracted a big audience.

## UM PRESENTS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD TO TOURISM ACADEMIC

The University of Macau (UM) has presented this year's Teaching Excellence Award to Assistant Professor Yang Xi in the Department of Integrated Resort and Tourism Management of the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), to recognize her outstanding performance in teaching. According to the UM, the recipient was selected after a rigorous process, examining criteria such as teaching philosophy, depth of knowledge in the subject area, outstanding communication skills, teaching effectiveness and outstanding contributions to the quality of curriculum development. The UM noted that Yang's teaching philosophy and approach boils down to experience management, a key concept that originated in the service industry.

# Residential mortgages down 18.7% in April

**T**HE value of new approvals for both residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) significantly decreased month-on-month in April, statistics from the Monetary Authority of Macao show.

Compared to March 2023, the value of

new RMLs approved in April declined 18.7% to MOP1.55 billion.

Despite the significant April drop, the monthly average of new RMLs approved between February and April increased 2.4% from the previous period (January to March 2023).

New CRELs fell 6%

month-on-month to MOP2.37 billion in April.

Notwithstanding the April results, the monthly average of new CRELs approved between February and April 2023 reached MOP2.15 billion, a rise of 27.5% compared with the previous period (January to March 2023).

In both cases, residents received the larger share of new loans, recording 98.5% of the total for RMLs and 94.8% for CRELs.

Both RMLs and CRELs refer to bank loans to individuals and enterprises collateralized by residential real estate in Macau.

Not only do they include loans for residential properties but also for other purposes such as refinancing, working capital and trade financing.

CRELs include loans to construction companies to finance property development and investment. **RM**

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HUMAN RESOURCES

# Macau might run behind HK in dependent visa for talents acquired

ANTHONY LAM

**H**ONG Kong's dependent visa arrangements for acquiring talented people might be more attractive than Macau's, local media has reported.

Talented people see dependent visa arrangements as important when deciding where to relocate.

As per Hong Kong's Immigration Department, applicants under Hong Kong's Quality Migrant Admission Scheme "may apply to bring in their spouse or the other party to a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, 'same-sex marriage', opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union entered into by him/her in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration and with such status being legally and officially recognised by the local authorities of the place of celebration and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to Hong Kong under the prevailing dependant policy."

In contrast, Macau's Talent Acquisition Legal System has no clear dependent visa provision that includes couples in same-sex marriages or civil unions.

Local media Macao Daily News has reported that the Macau law



does not accept same-sex partners under marriage or civil union for dependent visas.

With the government aiming to attract professionals in "Big Health," as well as high and new technology industries, the local scheme may appear less attractive compared to its Hong Kong counterpart.

Global technology megafirms, such as Apple, Google and HP, are known to be inclusive on gender identity and sexual orientation issues.

A May 2021 story by Forbes cited a May 2020 report published by global consultancy McKinsey & Co

as pointing out that more gender diverse companies were 25% more likely to see above-average profitability.

Nonetheless, Macau's Civil Code and the talent acquisition laws allow a type of unregistered marriage – de-facto marriage – which is looser than the requirements in Hong Kong.

As the Civil Code states that such a marriage is actualized when two people cohabit voluntarily for two years in a state like married spouses, proofs of the relationship are believed to be crucial when the application is made.

The two jurisdictions have similar stipulations in the provisions for dependent children.

The Macau scheme is less flexible than Hong Kong's.

Macau's scheme is based on a law passed at the parliament. In contrast, Hong Kong's scheme is based on an Executive Order formulated by the Chief Executive. Any amendments in Hong Kong will be implemented in a simpler manner due to simpler procedures.

Applications in Macau will only be accepted during designated periods. In Hong Kong, applications are all-year-round and reviewed upon submission.

Macau will also have a black-out period for application submission. Unsuccessful applicants will be barred from re-applying within a year. In Hong Kong, these applicants can re-apply with additional supporting documents.

The schemes in Macau and Hong Kong have similar target audiences.

The local scheme targets three types of professionals, while the scheme in Hong Kong has three sub-schemes or scoring schemes to separate professionals into three categories. The categories are similar to the professionals targeted by Macau.

Over the weekend, the Executive Council (ExCo) concluded its discussion on the Executive Regulations for the implementation details for the talent acquisition law and for the Talent Development Council.

According to Secretary-General Chao Chong Hang of the Council, the first phase of talent acquisition will revolve around the "1+4" industries, namely tourism and leisure, "Big Health," modern finance, advanced and new technology, as well as MICE, business, culture and sports.

The frontier industries for talent acquisition will be "Big Health" as well as high and new technology, Chao added, because "there are fewer of these professionals on a global scale and the vacancies that can be offered will be more controllable."

Despite underlining the scheme's target as "the whole world," he expects the first phase shall see more applications from mainland China, "because it's geographically closer, with easier access to our information."

Chao sees Macau being attractive because of its low tax rate, free trade, social security and education. He said many enquiries had been received even before the official opening of application.

SHOW OFF

# Exhibition to display artworks from three art collectors

STAFF REPORTER

**U**NTIL July 28, three local art collectors, Frederico Rato, Francisco Ricarte and Konstantin Bessmertny, will showcase some of their numerous artworks, collected during years and even decades, in old Taipa Village, to promote a greater understanding of the reasons for collecting art as well as promoting Macanese culture.

With differing perspectives on collecting, the three will display a diverse array of artworks, including one of Marc Chagall's lithographs, three oils on canvas and platem, six photographs and about ten ancient history and philosophy books.

"This unusual exhibition attempts to address the nature of collecting and prompt a visual conversation regarding cultural pos-



From left: Frederico Rato, Francisco Ricarte, Konstantin Bessmertny

sessions by individuals with very specific and highly personal interests," the curator of the exhibition, João Ó, said during the opening ceremony on June 7.

**THE ART OF COLLECTING**

"I consider these kinds of old books as proper artworks," the Russian painter,

Konstantin Bessmertny, explained to MDT. "For my part, I'm just collecting because I enjoy it, but of course I have read all the books in my collection. That's how I'm getting inspired."

The exhibition also includes the first artwork created by Bessmertny after he arrived in Macau entitled

"Macau - Little Landscape," which now belongs to veteran lawyer Frederico Rato.

"This is one of my favorites in my entire collection," Rato said. "I like to admire landscapes from a high place and have this feeling of flying, especially this one which shows the old Macau."

Even though the Russian artist stopped painting Macau for a while, considering it "too commercial," he's working on a new painting of the city which aims to show it from a new perspective.

"I always want to challenge myself. That's why I'm pretending to be an artist from the 19th century in this new painting of Macau that I'm working on, both in the style and the landscape represented."

"The most important thing for me is to appreciate the artworks," Rato told the Times. "If I don't like, then I don't buy. I always like to say that the art collection is also an art in itself."

For the lawyer, every community possesses its specific form of art, and the collecting is a "mix between reproduction and conservation" which shows the

emotions and feelings of the collector.

This point of view is shared by architect Francisco Ricarte, who displays many photographs in the exhibition.

"I don't have a 'portfolio' approach, meaning that the artworks have to touch me because it's a part of our identity," he said. "For me, art collecting is a kind of therapy."

The opening ceremony also featured a panel discussion where the three art collectors were able to share their thoughts and reasons about why they collect art, as well as interact with art's enthusiasts.

To facilitate access to culture in Macau, the exhibition, titled "Show Off", is open seven days a week, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., with free admission for the public.



SHIPPING

# SMART PORT EPITOMIZES VITALITY OF GREATER BAY AREA

XINHUA REPORTER

**T**HE clamor one would typically expect to see at a busy port is distinctly absent in the new automated container terminal of Nansha Port in south China's Guangdong Province. It is the newest smart port in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Nansha Port, a major part of Guangzhou Port, built container terminals in four phases, handling

over 18 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2022. The automated container terminal, Nansha Port's fourth-phase project, has a designed handling capacity of 4.9 million TEUs.

No workers can be seen on site as colossal bridge cranes precisely locate and lift containers from huge docked freighters, moving them efficiently to automated vehicles.

The fully automated port has various functions, including

smart vehicle dispatch, automated loading and unloading, driverless transport and intelligent tallying, said Song Xiaoming, deputy general manager of Guangzhou Port Group.

Intelligent management covers the whole process of production at the terminal. Advance information processing helps realize a seamless connection when cargo arrives, largely improving the efficiency of the port, Song added.

With its state-of-the-art design and technology, Nansha Port is an example of high-quality smart and automated transformation, and it epitomizes the Greater Bay Area's development vitality.

The province's development and reform commission has urged efforts to boost the development of industrial clusters, promote traditional and new consumption, and build an international consumption hub in the Greater Bay Area.

Guangdong's commerce department has revealed that the province saw exports increase 5.4 percent year on year in the first four months of 2023, with new energy vehicles (NEVs), lithium batteries and solar cells seeing outstanding performances.

The data on Nansha Port's operations is also satisfying. In 2022, the volume of cold-chain cargo imported via the port exceeded 20 billion yuan (about 2.8 billion U.S. dollars), surging over 70 percent year on year.

Imported durians have flooded into China through the port. By the end of May this year, over 5,700 TEUs of durians had been imported via Nansha Port.

It takes four days for fresh Thai durians to arrive at Nansha Port, and only 1.5 hours to unload and transport them to the largest fruit wholesale market in south China, said Chen Xi, deputy director of Nansha customs.

This speed meets the requirements of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, which is now in effect for all 15 members.

Under the agreement, specific goods are entitled to tariff reductions and exemptions. In 2022, over 60 million yuan in tariffs was deducted or exempted from cargo declared at Nansha Port worth a total of 4.2 billion yuan, Chen said.

The port has opened over 150 international freighter routes and its railway station has started handling China-Europe and China-Asia freight trains. With the full implementation of the RCEP, more routes will be explored to connect the Greater Bay Area with the world to strengthen foreign trade, Song said. **XINHUA**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Wynn presents 'Best of Macau' in Qingdao roadshow



Wynn Resorts participated in the "Macao Week in Shandong - Qingdao" roadshow, organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), from June 8 to 12 in Qingdao, Shandong province. The event aimed to showcase Macau's rich cultural experiences and cuisines, promoting it as a "Creative City of Gastronomy."

During the roadshow, Wynn brought award-winning chefs to the InterContinental Qingdao to launch the "A Delicious Inheritance of Macanese Gastronomy" promotion. This gastronomic event introduced the authentic flavors of Macau to mainland Chinese residents, fostering sustainable tourism development between the

two destinations. Macau is renowned as a "Creative City of Gastronomy," while Qingdao has been honored as an "International Marine Gourmet City."

To attract more mainland Chinese visitors to Macau, Wynn offered "attractive accommodation offers" during the roadshow.

The Wynn exhibit at the roadshow featured the iconic SkyCab and a stunning hot air balloon floral sculpture, showcasing Macau's unique entertainment.

According to a press release from the company, Wynn remains committed to working with the Macao SAR Government and the community to raise awareness about Macau and contribute to its long-term development as a prominent "World Center of Tourism and Leisure."

### Melco sponsors first heritage immersive theatre performance



Melco Resorts & Entertainment sponsored a special session of Macau's inaugural World Cultural Heritage immersive theatre performance, "The Banquet of Zheng Family."

The event, held at the historic Mandarin's House in São Lourenço Parish, was part of Melco's Splendors of China nationalistic learning program. The

immersive experience allowed audiences to delve into the sentiments of historical figures and deepen their understanding of China's rich history.

More than 60 Melco staff and their families attended the session, which featured Cheong Man Fai, head of education and youth development department, as event guest.

"The Banquet of Zheng Family," guided by the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, was funded by the Macao Cultural Development Fund and received support from the Macao Government Tourism Office and Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Melco Chairman & CEO, expressed "excitement about the production of a World Cultural Heritage immersive drama in Macau."

The Banquet of Zheng Family pays homage to Zheng Guanying, a prominent figure of the late Qing dynasty, and highlights the historical significance of the residence.

DIPLOMACY

# Honduras opens embassy in Beijing after breaking off ties with Taiwan

**HONDURAS** opened an Embassy in Beijing yesterday, Chinese state media reported, months after the Central American nation broke off relations with Taiwan to form diplomatic ties with China.

China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang and his Honduran counterpart Enrique Reina took part in the inauguration of the embassy yesterday morning, China's official CCTV said. The report said Honduras still needed to determine the embassy's permanent location and would increase its number of staff.

Qin pledged that China would establish a new model with Honduras of "friendly cooperation" between countries with different sizes and systems, according to a statement from China's Foreign Ministry.

The symbol of the two sides' strengthening diplomatic ties came during Honduran President Xiomara Castro's six-day visit to China.

Honduras established formal relations with China in March, becoming the latest in a string of countries to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan. China sees self-governed Taiwan as a breakaway province, to be retaken by force if necessary, and prohibits its own diplomatic partners from having formal ties with Taipei.

Castro arrived in Shanghai on Friday on her first visit since



Honduras' President Xiomara Castro waves as she arrives in Shanghai

the establishment of relations. During her stay in Shanghai, she visited the headquarters of the New Development Bank, a bank established by the BRICS nations, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Honduras requested admission to the bank, Castro's office tweeted Saturday.

The president also visited a research center for technology giant Huawei before arriving in Beijing on Saturday night, China's official Global Times newspaper reported.

The ties formed in March were a diplomatic victory for China amid heightened tensions between Beijing and the United States, including over China's increasing assertiveness toward self-ruled Taiwan. It also signaled China's growing influence in Latin America. **MDT/AP**

## SOME COUNTRIES ARE NARROW-MINDED TO SEE CHINA AS A THREAT: RAMOS-HORTA

**PRESIDENT** of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos-Horta last week said some countries see China's development as a threat to the region and the world, adding such a "tunnel vision" is narrow-minded and unconvincing.

Ramos-Horta made the remarks at the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's annual defense and security forum, held in Singapore, adding that China's influence spreads across the globe and its interests, wealth, people's well-being and security are intertwined with all countries in the world.

From the national defense strategy released by the Biden administration to the indictment of

Chinese law enforcement officers and other government officials, the U.S. has been hyping up the so-called "China threat" for years.

"The U.S. and the European countries should think about why so many countries in the world are increasingly turning to cooperate with China," he said.

Sharing details of a conversation with a Somali diplomat in the 1990s, Ramos-Horta said the diplomat pointed out that Western countries have repeatedly provoked human rights issues and accused developing countries but refused to provide them with help.

China is a real major power and a true friend to developing countries, he added. **CGTN**

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### MGM Theater Presents Global Premiere of World's First Digital Collective Movie "SHIP"



MGM Theater at MGM COTAI presented the global premiere of the world's first Digital Collective MOVIE "SHIP" by Art Tokyo Global Japan, earlier on June 2. The film "SHIP" is a revolutionized presentation of art – primarily set in a meta-universe space where music, theatrical performance and art integrate with technology, sailing through the history of human civilization to celebrate the precious solidarity in mankind. With the state-of-the-art technologies and the world's largest permanent indoor LED screen inside of Asia's first dynamic theater – MGM Theater, local

and overseas audience in the premiere event marveled at the enthralling visual effects of such innovative creation.

**Consul-General Kenichi Okada of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong** said, "With the screening of the world's first NFT entertainment art film 'SHIP' as a starting point, we sincerely hope that art will not only connect Japan with Macau, but also the Greater China region as well as other regions in Asia. We also hope to further stimulate art exchange between Japan, Macau and the rest of Asia."

**Kenneth Feng, President, Chief Strategic & Financial Officer of MGM**, said, "With arts, culture, entertainment and technology at the core of the MGM brand, it is our honor to be one of the co-organizers to premiere the experiential film 'SHIP' in Macau. The movie "SHIP" is an unprecedented integration of arts, entertainment and technology, coinciding with MGM's vision of bringing forth new sparks to the regional arts and culture scene. Empowered by its cutting-edge technologies and the world's largest permanent indoor LED screen, we believe that MGM Theater is the perfect venue to showcase this world's first immersive digital collective art film, delivering a breath-taking viewing experience for both local and overseas guests."

On behalf of the organizers, **Naohiko Kishi, Executive Producer of the film "SHIP"**, said, "It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the global premiere of Japanese art movie film 'SHIP' at the wonderful venue of MGM, sharing this joyous moment with audience from China and Japan. With 'SHIP' representing the integration of traditional art forms and emerging technology, I truly feel that we are one step closer towards an idealistic future created by new art and technology."



The global premiere event was attended by guests of honor including **Yin Rutao, Deputy Director General of Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR; Consul-General Kenichi Okada and Consul Shima Minako of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong; Cheng Wai Tong, Deputy Director of Macao Government Tourism Office; Ho Hong Pan, Head of the Department for Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government; Kenneth Feng, President, Chief Strategic & Financial Officer of MGM, Song Xiaodong, Chairman of the Macao Convention and Exhibition Industry Association, and Naohiko Kishi, Executive Director of the film SHIP**, as well as participation of prominent investors and art collectors.



MGM  
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W http://www.mgm.mo/



COLOMBIA

# Cassava flour and fruit kept four children alive for 40 days after plane crash in Amazon jungle

MANUEL RUEDA & REGINA GARCIA CANO, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

**F**OUR Indigenous children survived an Amazon plane crash that killed three adults and then braved the jungle for 40 days before being found alive by Colombian soldiers, bringing a happy ending to a search-and-rescue saga that captivated a nation and forced the usually opposing military and Indigenous people to work together.

Cassava flour and some familiarity with the rainforest's fruits were key to the children's extraordinary survival in an area where snakes, mosquitoes and other animals abound. The members of the Huitoto people, aged 13, 9 and 4 years and 11 months, are expected to remain for a minimum of two weeks at a hospital receiving treatment after their rescue Friday.

Family members, President Gustavo Petro as well as government and military officials met the children yesterday [Macau time] at the hospital in Bogota, the capital. Defense Minister Iván Velásquez told reporters the children were being rehydrated and cannot eat food yet.

"But in general, the condition of the children is acceptable," Velásquez said. They were travelling with their mother from the Amazonian village of Araracuara to San Jose del Guaviare when the plane crashed in the early hours of May 1.

The Cessna single-engine propeller plane was carrying three adults and the four children when the pilot declared an emergency due to an engine failure. The small aircraft fell off the radar a short time later and a search for survivors began.

"When the plane crashed, they took out (of the wreckage) a farriña, and with that, they survived," the children's uncle, Fidencio



In this photo released by Colombia's Armed Forces Press Office, soldiers and Indigenous men pose for a photo with the four Indigenous children who were missing after a deadly plane crash, in the Solano jungle

Valencia told reporters outside the hospital. Fariña is a cassava flour that people eat in the Amazon region.

"After the farriña ran out, they began to eat seeds," Valencia said.

Timing was in the children's favor. Astrid Cáceres, head of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, said the youngsters were also able to eat fruit because "the jungle was in harvest."

An airforce video released Friday showed a helicopter using lines to pull the youngsters up because it couldn't land in the dense rainforest where they were found. The military on Friday tweeted pictures showing a group of soldiers and volunteers posing with the children, who were wrapped in thermal blankets. One of the soldiers held a bottle to the smallest child's lips.

Gen. Pedro Sanchez, who was in charge of the rescue efforts, said that the children were found 5 kilometers (3 miles) away from the crash site in a small forest clearing. He said rescue teams had passed within 20 to 50 meters (66 to 164 feet) of where the children were found on a couple of occasions but had missed them.

"The minors were already very weak," Sanchez said. "And surely their strength was only enough to breathe or reach a small fruit to feed

themselves or drink a drop of water in the jungle."

Petro called the children an "example of survival" and predicted their saga "will remain in history."

Two weeks after the crash, on May 16, a search team found the plane in a thick patch of the rainforest and recovered the bodies of the three adults on board, but the small children were nowhere to be found.

Sensing that they could be alive, Colombia's army stepped up the hunt and flew 150 soldiers with dogs into the area, where mist and thick foliage greatly limited visibility. Dozens of volunteers from Indigenous tribes also joined the search.

Soldiers on helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, hoping that it would help sustain the children. Planes flying over the area fired flares to help search crews on the ground at night, and rescuers used speakers that blasted a message recorded by the siblings' grandmother telling them to stay in one place.

The announcement of their rescue came shortly after President Gustavo Petro signed a cease-fire with representatives of the National Liberation Army rebel group. In line with his government's messaging highlighting his efforts to end internal conflicts, he stressed

the joint work of the military and Indigenous communities to find the children.

"The meeting of knowledge: indigenous and military," he tweeted. "Here is a different path for Colombia: I believe that this is the true path of Peace."

Damaris Mucutuy, an aunt of the children, told a radio station that "the children are fine" despite being dehydrated and with insect bites. She added that the children had been offered mental health services.

Cáceres told reporters officials agreed with the children's relatives to allow for "spiritual work" at the jungle and the hospital "if there was no immediate emergency action" needed. She said musicians and musical instruments relevant to the children's culture will be allowed in the hospital.

Officials praised the courage of eldest of the children, a girl, who they said had some knowledge of how to survive in the rainforest and led the children through the ordeal.

Before their rescue, rumors swirled about their whereabouts. So much so, that on May 18, Petro tweeted that the children had been found. He then deleted the message, claiming he had been misinformed by a government agency. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1981 SECOND IRA PROTESTER DIES IN JAIL

A second IRA hunger striker, 25-year-old Francis Hughes, has starved to death in the Maze Prison near Lisburn in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

His death comes a week after the death of Bobby Sands on 5 May, the first to die in a republican campaign for political status to be granted to IRA prisoners.



Hughes began refusing food and medical attention a week after Sands began his hunger strike on 1 March. He lapsed into unconsciousness and died at 1743BST today.

As news of his death spread in Catholic areas of Belfast and Londonderry, women clanged dustbin lids and young men stoned army vehicles, threw petrol bombs and hijacked lorries.

Hughes's brother, Oliver, blamed the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, for his death. Speaking from his hometown of Bellaghy he said: "Margaret Thatcher and the British Government have murdered my brother and his blood is on Margaret Thatcher's hands."

The condition of two other hunger strikers at the Maze, Raymond McCreesh and Patrick O'Hara, continues to deteriorate.

Their five demands include: the right to wear their own clothes, refrain from prison work, associate freely with other republican prisoners, to have visits and parcels once a week and the right to have lost remission on sentences restored.

Security forces have said Hughes was "an absolute fanatic whose name stood for murder and nothing else".

A spokesman went on to describe him as "as vicious a man as you could meet, a ruthless killer who thrived on what he was doing".

His republican colleagues hailed him as "fearless and active".

Four years ago, Hughes became a wanted man after the home of a policeman was blown up in County Tyrone.

No-one was hurt but Hughes' fingerprints were found on adhesive tape used on the bomb.

In March 1978 he was finally caught after a gun battle at Bellaghy and eventually sentenced to a total of 83 years in prison for his six-year-long career as an IRA gunman and bomber.

The government is refusing to grant any of the hunger strikers' demands. Mrs Thatcher says they are a cover for gaining political status, a special category denied paramilitaries in the Maze since 1976.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Maze Prison was initially run along the lines of a prisoner-of-war camp, segregated according to paramilitary allegiance with military-style command structures. In March 1976 the British Government ended special category status - which had accorded the prisoners political recognition - and started to treat paramilitary offenders as ordinary criminals.

The jail became the focus of intense international scrutiny between 1976 and 1981 when Republican inmates fought for political status, initially through the "blanket" and "dirty" protests.

Their campaign culminated in two hunger strikes. During the second in 1981, 10 Republicans, led by Bobby Sands, starved themselves to death and 64 civilians, police and soldiers died in violence directly attributable to the hunger strikes.

Three days after the hunger strikes came to an end on 3 October, Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior negotiated a package of concessions for the Maze prisoners - much to the fury of the loyalist community.

He met two of the prisoners' demands - the right to wear their own clothes and the restoration of 50% of lost remission for those who obeyed prison rules for three months.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. You may cause a fuss if you come on too strongly in public. Take on positions that offer on the job training.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Your partner will be emotionally unable to cope. New relationships will surface through work related events. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Stay out of other people's affairs. You can enhance your reputation if you treat family and friends with respect and dignity. Be careful not to come on too strongly.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Be sure to double-check the house on your way out. Use your charm, but don't be phony. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Take care of your personal needs. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 You can meet friends who will let you know how valuable you are. Investments concerning your residence will be profitable. Outdoor sports events should entice you.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 You may have problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. Now is the time to concentrate on building a strong financial future for your family.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 You may want to take a serious look at your goals and objectives. Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Romance will be yours if you get out and do things in large groups. You may blow situations out of proportion when dealing with the one you love.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Rely on the one you love for support and affection. You will find their philosophies worth exploring. You will have to be careful not to let infatuations with colleagues get out of hand.

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Met highlights; 6- Alaskan city; 11- PIN requester; 14- Blank look; 15- Quality; 16- Sticky substance; 17- Macho guys; 18- Pizazz; 19- Stephen of "The Crying Game"; 20- Match up; 22- Movie critic Roger; 24- Employ too often; 28- Traders; 30- Trifling; 31- Iraqi port; 32- Conductor Dorati; 33- Directly; 37- Sailor; 38- Same here; 39- Corp. bigwig; 40- Pachyderms; 43- Course with pluses and minuses; 45- Creepy; 46- Excrement used as fertilizer; 47- Inns; 50- Legendary king of Thebes; 51- Olds model; 52- Escudo replacement; 53- Thrice, in prescriptions; 54- Not moving; 57- Food and water; 62- Aliens, briefly; 63- Church council; 64- Rock bottom; 65- Actress Charlotte; 66- Ditto; 67- Flummoxed;

**DOWN** 1- Bat wood; 2- Hwy.; 3- Cartesian conclusion; 4- Exist; 5- Carnal; 6- Rock; 7- Camaro model; 8- Skye cap; 9- Hide of a small beast; 10- Deep down; 11- Come to a consensus; 12- Start of a saying on forgiveness; 13- Castle water pits; 21- Fashion monogram; 23- Drab; 24- Like Humpty Dumpty; 25- Open to bribery; 26- \_\_\_ nous; 27- Inlet; 28- Pub game; 29- Canadian gas brand; 31- Please, in Potsdam; 33- Conclusion; 34- Malfunction; 35- India's first prime minister; 36- Prescribed amounts; 38- Phooey!; 41- Noble; 42- Bravery; 43- Virgin Mary; 44- Singer DiFranco; 46- Debussy's "La \_\_\_"; 47- Spud; 48- Prince Valiant's wife; 49- Piece of poetry; 50- Top; 52- Switch back?; 55- Comic Louis; 56- Med. specialty; 58- Grab a bite; 59- Begley and Wynn; 60- Fizzle out; 61- Mme., across the Pyrenees;

**Friday's solution**

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	17	31	cloudy
Changchun	14	23	thunderstorms
Chengdu	21	33	cloudy
Chongqing	23	28	overcast
Fuzhou	24	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	35	cloudy
Guiyang	19	23	showers
Haikou	26	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	23	31	cloudy
Harbin	15	25	thunderstorms
Hefei	20	31	cloudy
Nanjing	20	30	cloudy
Shanghai	22	31	cloudy
Taipei	24	26	rain
Wuhan	23	32	rain
Hong Hong	27	33	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	8	21	fine
Frankfurt	13	23	overcast
Paris	16	29	overcast
London	16	27	rain
New York	12	26	rain

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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<b>Fire department</b> 28 572 222	<b>Water Supply</b> – Report 2822 0088
<b>PJ (Open line)</b> 993	<b>Telephone</b> – Report 1000
<b>PJ (Picket)</b> 28 557 775	<b>Electricity</b> – Report 28 339 922
<b>PSP</b> 28 573 333	<b>Macau Daily Times</b> 28 716 081
<b>Customs</b> 28 559 944	
<b>S. J. Hospital</b> 28 313 731	
<b>Kiang Wu Hospital</b> 28 371 333	
<b>Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)</b> 28326 300	
<b>IAM</b> 28 387 333	
<b>Tourism</b> 28 333 000	
<b>Airport</b> 59 888 88	

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**OPINION**



**SELECTED GRAPES**

Sérgio de Almeida Correia

1. The Sotheby's auction pavilion was very crowded, and numerous curious individuals had the opportunity to admire some classic car models, some of which had participated in endurance races. I would like to highlight the 1984 Lancia LC2 Martini, with an expected sale price between 2,300,000 and 2,400,000, the 1985 Porsche 962, which raced in Le Mans, with a value set between 6 and 9 million Euros, and the fantastic 1955 Ferrari 121 LM Spider, a classic car with a value set between 5.5 and 6.5 million Euros. These are extraordinary values for "old" cars.

2. It is remarkable how the organization maintains cleanliness and hygiene throughout the circuit, despite the presence of 300,000 people. There is no litter scattered, whether it's papers, cups or anything else on the ground. The trash bins and containers, always with recycling containers, are kept impeccable, with the lids always closed.

3. The campers at Le Mans are in a league of their own. Camping is usually associated with a kind of budget tourism accessible to the less fortunate. But at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, it is a spectacle in itself to see the motorhomes, caravans and tents aligned with the owners' vehicles. It must be the only place in the world where campers come in top-of-the-line brands such as Porsche, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Mercedes, Jaguar or Bentley, leaving them parked until the end of the races.

4. The manufacturer pavilions were another pleasant surprise, with the Ford pavilion standing out. The brand is also preparing a return to Le Mans to relive the successes of a few decades ago.

5. This year, more Americans came to Le Mans. NBA star LeBron James was among the newcomers, and had the honor of starting the race. The friendliness of the Hendricks Motorsports Garage 56 team did not go unnoticed. They brought the Chevrolet Camaro from the NASCAR championship, which also celebrates its 75th anniversary, to race by invitation from the organization in the Innovative Car category. They entered with a fifth overall place in the Pit Stop Challenge, a tire-changing contest between mechanic teams, using a manual jack and completed the race in 10.364 seconds.

6. The drivers' parade continues to be a must-see event. The contagious joy, the good spirits, the wide and polite smiles, the perfect harmony between the public, residents and visitors are constant, always under the watchful eye of discreet security personnel, police and firefighters in an atmosphere of total peace and freedom.

SÉRGIO DE ALMEIDA CORREIA



**LE MANS**

**NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF ENDURANCE**

SÉRGIO DE ALMEIDA CORREIA, MDT, LE MANS

Le Mans is deeply committed to reducing carbon emissions in their races and this year they continued to show they are good at it – this was the main message organizers and motor racing top officials raised at the highly attended ACO press conference.

This time, in addition to Pierre Fillon, President of the ACO, Mohammed Ben Sulayem, President of the FIA, Richard Mille, President of the FIA Endurance Commission, and Frédéric Lequien, Management Director of Le Mans Endurance Management,

Tom Kristensen and Toyota President Akio Toyoda were also present.

The introduction of the Hypercar class in 2021 has proven to be a success, and next year, three more manufacturers are expected to enter the competition: BMW, Lamborghini, and Alpine. Hypercars are vehicles with a maximum weight of 1030 kg, a maximum power of 500 kW, limited to a speed of 330 km/h, a single tire supplier, and controlled costs.

In 2026, there will be a new class for cars powered by hydrogen, as the FIA, WEC, and ACO maintain their commitment to reducing carbon

emissions. Partnerships with GreenGT, TotalEnergies, Michelin, Symbio, Plastic Omnium, Richard Mille, Dietsmann, and Essilor will continue.

Akio Toyoda made a surprise announcement of a hydrogen-powered Toyota Hypercar for the team competing in the WEC. They are the first major manufacturer to do so. The Toyota GR H2 Racing Concept was presented at the Hydrogen Village Friday afternoon and made a demonstration lap over the weekend. Two weeks ago, a hydrogen-powered Corolla participated in the 24 Hours race in Fuji.

During the conference, the

FIA presented the Sustainable Endurance Award, with Porsche declared the winner. Scuderia Ferrari took second place, followed by the American team, Cadillac, in third.

A new category is on its way. In 2024, the LMGT3, with a single tire supplier (Good Year), will replace the current LMP2 and require an agreement with the manufacturer for participation.

Regarding the race calendar for 2024, there are some changes, including the exclusion of the Portimão race. The WEC championship will begin with a prologue on Feb. 24 and 25, followed by the first race in Qatar on March 2. The race in Imola will debut on April 21, followed by races in SPA-Francorchamps on May 11, Le Mans on June 15 and 16. Brazil is another new addition with the 6 Hours of São Paulo on July 14. The championship will continue in Japan with the 6 Hours of Fuji on Sep. 15, concluding on Nov. 2 in Bahrain.

As for the Asian Le Mans Series championship, five races have been announced for a tight schedule. The first two races will take place in Sepang (Malaysia) later this year on Dec. 2 and 3. The Dubai race is scheduled for Feb. 4, 2024. The short championship will conclude the following weekend at the Yas Marina Circuit (Abu Dhabi) with races on Feb. 10 and 11.

For simulator enthusiasts, the Macau Sim Association should be aware that a new game called Le Mans Ultimate will be released in 2024. Some ACO simulators with the new game are already installed and can be experienced.

SÉRGIO DE ALMEIDA CORREIA



FOOTBALL

# Mission completed: Man City beats Inter Milan to end wait for first CL title

JAMES ROBSON,  
ISTANBUL

## MAN CITY 1, INTER MILAN 0

**B**ILLIONS of dollars have been spent and many tears shed on Manchester City's journey to the summit of European soccer.

The mission was completed in Istanbul's Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium yesterday [Macau time] as the Abu Dhabi-backed club won the Champions League title for the first time and perhaps heralded the start of a new era of dominance in the competition.

"It was written in the stars. It belongs to us," said Pep Guardiola after the 1-0 win against Inter Milan, as tears flowed again from the manager, his players and a sea of blue-shirted fans.

On this occasion, the emotion was pure ecstasy after so many disappointments on this stage.

The victory, courtesy of Rodri's 68th minute goal, has been 15 years in the making since Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan transformed City into one of the richest teams in the world overnight.

This was the final frontier for Guardiola's team, which also completed a rare treble of trophies after winning the Premier League title and FA Cup this season.

The Champions League had always been a step that seemed out of reach even for a team that has spent more than \$1.5 billion on the world's best players and hired probably the greatest coach of his generation in Guardiola.

With that psychological barrier broken and the spending power to further improve a team that has already proved too good for the rest, the potential is there to win European club soccer's biggest prize on multiple occasions.

Guardiola joked about being "just 13 Champions Leagues away" from Real Madrid.

"If you sleep a little bit we will catch you," he said. "But I don't want after one Champions League to disappear, so work harder next season and be in there. There are



Manchester City are the champions: "It was written in the stars"

teams that win the Champions League and after one or two seasons disappear. This is what you have to avoid. Knowing me this is not going to happen. But at the same time I have to admit it, it is a big relief for the club, for the institution, for everyone to have this trophy. Because now, finally, they don't have to ask me if we are going to win the Champions League or not."

This trophy will also strengthen the case to declare Guardiola the greatest coach ever as he collected his third Champions League title and 30th major piece of silverware.

It was his second treble of trophies, having emulated the feat he achieved with Barcelona in 2009. City became just the second English club to complete a sweep of the three biggest trophies after Manchester United did it in 1999.

There were questions about whether Guardiola could ever win the Champions League again without the aid of Lionel Messi, who was the inspiration of his Barcelona team that was twice crowned champions of Europe.

Those questions have now been answered, yet for all the talk of City's superiority leading up to the game, it was won by the finest of margins through Rodri's strike.

Even after that goal, Inter had great chances to force extra time.

The best one fell to substitute Romelu Lukaku in the 89th minute, but he headed

straight at Ederson from about four meters (yards) out.

Federico Dimarco hit the bar from close range almost immediately after Rodri's goal and then turned the rebound against the legs of Lukaku.

"We didn't deserve to lose," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi. "We played against a top team, but even Inter played a great final."

"Manchester City has deserved the Champions League considering what it has done in the past years. But tonight it played against a great Inter which cornered them."

City found a way through on a night when it was far from its best and showed few examples of the flowing play that saw it blow away Bayern Munich and Real Madrid on the way to the final.

"Today we made history," City captain Ilkay Gundogan said. "We knew everyone was talking about the treble. The pressure was there but this team is built to handle the pressure in the best possible way."

Gundogan lifted the trophy as an explosion of gold ticker tape was set off and Queen's "We are the Champions" rang out around the stadium.

Sheikh Mansour was in attendance to see the crowning moment, watching his team in person for only the second time since buying the club in 2008.

"One of the main reasons why this club became what we are is because

people from Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mansour, take over the club," Guardiola said. "Without that we would not be here. They are the most important people. ... They support me uncondi-

tionally in the defeats in this competition. At many clubs when that happens you are sacked."

The victory ended Guardiola's wait to win the trophy for the first time since 2011

and came despite losing inspirational midfielder Kevin De Bruyne to an injury in the first half.

The club's fans likely feared the worst when he went down holding his right leg. It was as if history was repeating itself after injury had also forced the Belgium international off when City lost to Chelsea in its only other Champions League final in 2021.

But the decisive moment came when Rodri collected Bernardo Silva's cutback and fired through a crowded penalty box.

The relief was unmistakable as he raced towards City's fans and slid on his knees in celebration.

Inter pressed for an equalizer.

City held on. Europe had been conquered. A mission that began 15 years ago, completed. MDT/AP

An advertisement for The Roadhouse Macau. The top part features the text "The Roadhouse Macau WELCOMES YOU!" with a logo of a roadhouse and a car. Below this is a large image of a burger with fries and a drink. To the right, there are smaller images of a cocktail and a person playing a guitar. At the bottom, there is a "FREE Limo Service" offer and a "WE DELIVER!" logo. The address "THE ROADHOUSE MACAU, R/C, SHOP E-6016 - 6019, BROADWAY HOTEL, ROTUNDA DO DIQUE OESTE, TAIPA" and the phone number "PLEASE CALL US AT: 2875 2945 FOR RESERVATIONS" are also included.

**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**TIMELY REMINDER FOR VON DER LEYEN THAT EUROPE IS EUROPE, NOT THE US**

With her idea of “de-risking” now becoming the official trademark of the West’s China policy, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is now pushing for that to be translated into a tougher European policy on China.

As her leadership prepares the European Union member nations for what would be an early-stage road map for her “de-risking” crusade, however, representatives from several major EU members have reportedly expressed worries about Brussels “mimicking” Washington’s “gung ho” approach. The EU chief may be confident she can finally bring all member countries on board as she did previously in maneuvering a Europe-wide reassessment of China policies, but abusive politicization does no good to European interests.

It would be unfair to assume Von der Leyen’s commission has no concerns about pragmatic European interests when it comes to relations with China, or that it has not tried to distance itself to a degree from Washington’s all-out assault on China. Or it would not have come up with the proposal of “de-risking” instead of simply joining Washington’s “decoupling” drive. But despite sounding less aggressive than Washington’s initial concept of “decoupling”, the Von der Leyen-led “de-risking” is quite similar in that it attempts to “reduce dependencies” on China via trade and investment controls. And, as many have observed, she is increasingly focusing EU attention on China as a “systemic rival”, although officially it also identifies China as a “partner for cooperation and negotiation” and “an economic competitor”. In official EU narratives, cooperation with China is increasingly being reduced to such realms as climate change, just like in those of Washington.

No wonder there are reports that diplomats from France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have displayed reservations about Von der Leyen’s road map last week. They are obviously not ready for the dramatic changes proposed. Echoing French President Emmanuel Macron’s recent remarks on European autonomy and the need to avoid the scenario of Europe becoming a US pawn, the diplomats reminded Brussels that Europe is Europe, not the US.

Europe’s relations with China should be independent from those between the US and China. The China-EU relationship is not only a natural outcome of pragmatic mutual needs, but features long-standing mutual respect. Europe will naturally act in what it considers to be its best interests, but a clear-eyed review of EU-China relations will find the so-called risks from economic and trade ties with China have been disproportionately exaggerated.

From Beijing’s perspective, neither the differences on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, nor disagreements on such topics as human rights and the Taiwan question need get in the way of China-EU cooperation. Europe should not swallow Washington’s line lest it be drawn so tight that it ends up cutting off its nose and spiting its face.

**CHINA COMPLAINS TO SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN TIT-FOR-TAT MOVE AFTER SEOUL SUMMONED ENVOY**

**THE BUZZ**

A Chinese official lodged a complaint with South Korea’s ambassador to China, in a tit-for-tat move after Beijing’s envoy to South Korea was summoned last week over his comments accusing Seoul of tilting toward the United States.

Assistant Foreign Minister Nong Rong expressed dissatisfaction with Seoul’s response to last week’s meeting between Chinese Ambassador Xing Haiming and a South Korean opposition leader, according to a statement yesterday from China’s Foreign Ministry.

Nong said it was Xing’s duty to meet with different people in

South Korea and he hoped Seoul would reflect on the relationship between the two countries and work with China to promote healthy and stable ties, the statement added.

The diplomatic row between China and South Korea comes amid fierce competition between Washington and Beijing for global influence.

South Korea, whose economy depends greatly on exports of computer memory chips and other technology products, has struggled to strike a balance between the United States, its decades-long military ally, and China, the biggest buyer of its goods.



LE MANS

**FERRARI TOPPLES TOYOTA IN RETURN TO 24 HOURS AFTER 50-YEAR ABSENCE**

JENNA FRYER, LE MANS

**F**ERRARI ended a 50-year absence from the 24 Hours of Le Mans by toppling mighty Toyota in the centenary running of the most iconic sports car race in the world.

Ferrari last competed at Le Mans in 1973 but returned to Circuit de la Sarthe this year as part of a new hyperclass category that features hybrid technology.

The hyperclass came from a rules convergence that both allowed competitors from the United States’ sports car series, IMSA, to compete at Le Mans, and also created an enticing platform automakers viewed as an opportunity to showcase their street car technology.

Ferrari developed its program — a two-car effort that competes in the World Endurance Championship — over several years in a strategy similar to what was depicted in “Ford v Ferrari,” the film that focused on the boardroom pressures and drama surrounding Ford’s 1963 successful effort to end Ferrari’s reign at Le Mans.

Only this time it was Ferrari trying to knock down a giant; the two-car Toyota Gazoo effort, which had entered the twice-around-the-clock race that ended

yesterday on a five-year winning streak.

Toyota was dealt a blow before the race even began when race officials this week added additional weight to the dominant GR010s in a controversial “balance of performance” adjustment designed to level the playing field.

Ferrari in a pair of 499Ps pounced and swept the front row in qualifying and handled every challenge from Toyota. Its chances were aided overnight when Kamui Kobayashi was wrecked out of the race, making it two versus one in favor of Ferrari.

The trio of Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado and Antonio Giovinazzi — with Ferrari Formula One driver Charles Leclerc in the garage watching — were the easy winner. The trio had a solid lead even before defending race winner Ry Hiraoka locked the brakes on his Toyota and hit the wall with 1 hour, 44 minutes remaining.

It took roughly three minutes for repairs to the car, not enough time to help Chip Ganassi Racing, which carried the American flag at Le Mans for IMSA.

The centenary marked the first year IMSA’s top class was granted participation at Le Mans, and the new hyperclass brought Cadillac back to both IMSA

and WEC with Ganassi, same for Porsche with Roger Penske in the 86-year-old’s attempt to win one of the very few races missing on his list. It also brought a slew of new manufacturer interest to sports car racing, which helped draw a sold-out crowd of 300,000-plus spectators to the sprawling 8.467-mile track.

The Ganassi Cadillacs were running third and fourth when Hiraoka spun — eliminating the defending champions’ chances at a repeat. But it briefly created an opportunity for one or both Cadillacs to improve their finishing position.

Toyota executed flawlessly on its pit stop and the Cadillacs gained no ground. It was the WEC team of Earl Bamber, Alex Lynn and Richard Westbrook taking the final spot on the podium, with the IMSA team of Sebastien Bourdais, a Le Mans native, Renger van der Zande and Scott Dixon finishing fourth.

Ferrari’s second car finished fifth, one spot ahead of the top-finishing Porsche from Team Penske. His other two 963s both had early retirements.

The third Cadillac, fielded by Action Express Racing out of IMSA, crashed on the first lap of the race and was never in contention. (See p10) **MDT/AP**



**Ukrainian** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that counteroffensive and defensive actions are underway against Russian forces, asserting that his top commanders are in a “positive” mindset as their troops engaged in intense fighting along the front line. The Ukrainian leader, at a Kyiv news conference alongside Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, responded to a question about Russian President Vladimir Putin’s comment a day earlier that Ukraine’s counteroffensive had started — and Ukrainian forces were taking “significant losses.”



**Turkey** An explosion at a rocket and explosives plant caused a building to collapse on Saturday, killing all five workers inside, an official said. The explosion occurred at the compound of the state-owned Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation, on the outskirts of the capital, Ankara, Gov. Vasip Sahin told reporters. Sahin said the explosion was likely to have been caused by a chemical reaction during the production of dynamite.



**UK** Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson left chaos in his wake Saturday after quitting Parliament with a blast at fellow lawmakers he accused of ousting him in a “witch hunt.” As opponents jeered, the Conservative government absorbed the shock of yet another Johnson earthquake, while a band of loyal supporters insisted Britain’s divisive ex-leader could still make a comeback. Two Johnson allies joined him in quitting the House of Commons, piling pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.