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A BOY HAS BEEN APPREHENDED BY THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE WHO ALLEGED HE SEXUALLY HARASSED A GIRL

P4

BRANDED PRODUCTS FAIR TO RETURN END OF MONTH AT GALAXY EXPO

P5

ZELENSKY HAILS UKRAINE'S SOLDIERS FROM A SYMBOLIC BLACK SEA ISLAND TO MARK 500 DAYS OF WAR

P8

AP PHOTO



China Nine people are missing after a landslide sparked by heavy rains amid flooding and searing temperatures across much of the country, authorities said yesterday. Five people were rescued from under the rubble at a highway construction site in the central province of Hubei, where the accident occurred on Saturday. Crews were still excavating in hopes of finding more survivors.

AP PHOTO



South Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant. They met with Rafael Grossi in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door. The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards. More on p7

AP PHOTO



Germany Mike Knoth is more than thrilled that a far-right populist party's candidate recently won the county administration in his hometown in rural eastern Germany for the first time since the Nazi era. The gardener despises the country's established parties, he doesn't trust the media and he feels there are too many migrants in the country. The far-right party Alternative for Germany, or AfD, he hopes, will improve everything that's not going well in his eyes in Sonneberg, which is in the southeastern state of Thuringia.

More on backpage

URGENT WORKS

Gov't admitted several sports facilities and equipment in need of repair works, maintenance carried out 'according to the principle of good use of public funds'



P2

ISLANDS HOSPITAL TO OPEN DOORS BY DECEMBER



P3

COTAI WATER JET LAUNCHES PROMOTIONS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Cotai Water Jet has launched a new promotion for Macau residents, offering a 50% discount on return tickets. In an announcement on its social media page, the group confirmed that the promotion covers both standard and first class. The first trip will be launched from Macau Taipa Ferry Terminal to Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal. The discount will apply to same-day ferry services and is valid until September 29.

TAIWAN MAINTAINS TRAVEL WARNING FOR SARS OVER 'PERSONAL SAFETY' REASONS

Taiwan has restated that Taiwanese travelers should carefully assess the need to go to mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) announced last week. This also comes following the US Department of State's updated travel advice, recommending that Americans reconsider travel to China. The current yellow travel alert, which is equivalent to the US Travel Alert Level 3 ("Reconsider Travel"), is still in place. Taiwan said it will keep a travel warning issued for Hong Kong and Macau for personal safety reasons.

MGTO KICKS OFF ROADSHOW IN HONG KONG

Organized by Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the "Experience Macao Unlimited" Roadshow has been taking place in Hong Kong for three consecutive days since Friday. MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes expressed in her remarks that Macau remained a top choice of short-haul travel for Hong Kongers in the past. The Roadshow's Mega Sale – tourism product sale booth offers a variety of Macau travel packages for interested parties, who can buy Macau hotel packages on site with a chance to obtain a Macau Pass.

GOV'T TO PROMOTE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS ON LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES AHEAD OF NATIONAL GAMES

RENATO MARQUES

THE Sports Bureau (ID) is not going to build any new sports facilities for Macau's co-hosting of the 15th National Games of China (Games) in 2025, the ID confirmed to the Times in response to an inquiry on the topic.

"The Sports Bureau will strictly follow the requirement of 'Simple, Safe and Remarkable' by using existing sporting venues, without building any new venues for the Games," ID said.

The bureau further added, "The ID will keep implementing planned repair works according to the venue's circumstances, ensuring all venues comply with competition standards."

The ID did not disclose any information on which sporting events will be hosted in Macau, saying, "Currently, the final decision on which sporting events will be held in Macau is still being discussed, and the venues for holding such events are to be confirmed."

However, the Bureau's intention to make adjustments to existing local venues to meet the Games' requirements has been confirmed. In practical terms, this means that venues usually utilized for a particular sport or activity may see the area temporarily modified to host a different activity.

"The Sports Bureau will be prepared for the Games by adjusting different venue settings and adding any required equipment according to the final sporting events held in Macau," ID concluded.

While the local number of sporting competitions to be hosted is still unknown, the neighboring region of Hong Kong unveiled back in May that the city is set to host eight competitive events of the Games that are also co-hosted by Guangdong province.

In Hong Kong, the Kai Tak Sports Park will be the main venue for the events in the city. In a document submitted by the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau to the Legislative Council, it is possible to see that the Sports Bureau of Guangdong Province agreed for Hong Kong to host eight solo and four team events for the Games.

The preparation and hosting of



the Games has been budgeted at about HKD11.8 million per year for three years since the establishment of the hosting committee and until the end of the Games.

URGENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKS REQUIRED

The Times also questioned the ID on its plans for several facilities that have shown signs of needing urgent maintenance and repair works.

The ID replied that the bureau is monitoring and coordinating repairs on sports facilities, which are used for training and sports practice of athletes and other associations.

"The ID is constantly monitoring sports facilities and equipment and has carried out any necessary repair and maintenance accordingly. The Sports Bureau has noted the need for and com-

pleted repair works on the relevant facilities and equipment," the bureau said. It further added, "To ensure normal operation and public safety when using our sports facilities, the ID has been paying close attention to each venue and facility and conducting regular checkup and maintenance works according to the status and period of use of different sports facilities and equipment. Repair and maintenance works are carried out according to the principle of good use of public funds."

Repair works that the ID has already completed include maintenance of the air-conditioner of the Vitoria Sports Centre; repairs of the ground floor, protective net and spectator seats of the Tamagnini Barbosa Sports Centre - Multi-purpose Field; renovation of the Taipa Northeast Sports Centre squash court; refurbishment of

the Olympic Sports Centre tennis court and auxiliary equipment; replacement of the Olympic Sports Centre running track; and renovation of the Tennis Academy tennis court, among others.

Waterproofing works for Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion and Olympic Sports Centre multifunctional rooms are also scheduled to occur shortly, according to the IC.

Over the past few weeks, several readers of the Times – and backed up by onsite reviews from the Times reporters – have noted several instances of damage and other problems across a number of sports venues. Such issues include water ingress, humidity damage, and malfunctioning sewage systems among others.

These instances were included in the Times' inquiry to the ID, about which the ID provided a response.

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Times

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PUBLIC WORKS

Islands Hospital will open its doors by December, recruitment ongoing

RENATO MARQUES

THE Islands Medical Complex project is on track and will open the doors of its first phase by December this year, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong said on Friday on the sidelines of the Third Standing Committee meeting of the Legislative Assembly. The meeting was held as a discussion on the details of the facility's management regime.

Questioned on the topic, Ao Ieong told the media that everything is in order for the timeline to be accomplished and that the recruitment of staff is also taking place without delays or issues.

She reaffirmed that those Macau residents who currently enjoy free medical care (people indicated for such care for public health reasons, oncologic patients, and family planning as well as pregnant women, children up to 10 years old, and students of primary and secondary education levels and all those over 65 years of age), will be able to continue to enjoy free services, when the medical care provided by the Islands Hospital is by Health Bureau (SSM) referral.

The Secretary also noted that in addition to the 50 employees appointed by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital – whose functions will be related to the management of the facility – the government has also recruited over 400 medical personnel, prioritizing local recruitment, where possible.

She stressed that recruiting from the mainland or abroad will be resorted to as a solution only in the case of a shortage of human resources.

As for the services provided by the Islands Hospital, Ao Ieong noted that there will be three fare levels. The first is dedicated to the residents who currently enjoy free medical care. If they are transferred by the SSM, they will continue to enjoy the same privileges. The second level is for residents transferred by the SSM but who do not enjoy free medical care (i.e. the majority of the population), in which “fees will be reasonably charged,” she said. The third and last level refers to the fully private system, who are provided with “high quality private medical services.” For private patients, the fee charged “will be based on the market price,” according to the Secretary.



CENTRAL LIBRARY CAR PARK DELETION 'NOT YET DECIDED'

THE possibility was aired last week by community leaders that the government would remove the car park from the Central Library project, reserving the space for the mechanical rooms and other storage facilities. In response to questions on this topic, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong said that the matter is yet to be decided.

“However, after a preliminary analysis, we realized that if it

were to be built, there would not be many parking spaces due to the space limitations,” she said. Her response suggests that the car park may not be built.

Contributing to suggestions that the carpark idea may be abandoned, she also mentioned the construction time of the project and alluded to the need for “more efficient use of public funds.”

Partial water changes help maintain pool sanitation, ID says

ANTHONY LAM

IN reply to lawmaker Zheng Anting, the Sports Bureau (ID) made assurances that partial water changes and regular cleaning are among ways to maintain swimming pool sanitation.

In his written inquiry, the lawmaker asked the bureau to disclose how water sanitation is maintained in public swimming pools, amid the arrival of swimming season.

In addition to the aforementioned methods, ID president Pun Weng Kun stated that the bureau also relies on the water circulation system

to sanitize the water. Regular maintenance of the water circulation system is also conducted, in addition to regular complete water changes.

Health Bureau (SSM) standards on free chlorine residual levels are also observed during the sanitization process. Regular ‘top-to-bottom’ major cleans will also be undertaken every year.

Pun said that the bureau will also increase the frequency of water sampling and inspection in accordance with the popularity or other pool conditions. Tests are conducted on water temperature, pH values and free chlorine resi-

dual levels to strengthen water quality monitoring.

Regular water sampling is conducted twice per month at swimming pools in use, Pun added. All the test results are uploaded to a specific website of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

On the other hand, Pun assured that the ID had been keeping an eye on new releases of swimming pool sanitation systems or products to upgrade existing facilities “while meeting spatial and financial requirements.” He added that no such upgrade has been planned for the time being.



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PRICES FELL 3% Y-O-Y

The overall residential property price index fell by 3.1% in March to May, in comparison with the year prior. The indices for the Macau Peninsula and Taipa & Coloane dropped by 3.7% and 0.4% respectively. Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that the index for existing residential units (269.9) went up by 0.1%, and the index for those in Taipa & Coloane (309.8) rose by 0.5%, whereas the index for those in the Macau Peninsula (259.9) was similar to the previous period.

ZHUHAI-MACAU ISLAND TOUR TO BE LAUNCHED IN AUGUST

A Zhuhai-Macau island tour route will be launched in the short term, according to director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Senna Helena de Senna Fernandes. As cited in a TDM report, Fernandes believed that the tour route can further enrich the experience of leisure tourism activities in Macau and meet the needs of citizens for diversified tourism products. She said that the Zhuhai-Macau island tour project "will be launched in the short term, before August." Starting from Macau, the tour will include a boat trip to Zhuhai Island, as well as leisure activities, staycations, and water sports.

CRIME

POLICE APPREHEND BOY FOR ALLEGED SEX OFFENCE

ANTHONY LAM

A boy has been apprehended by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) who alleged he sexual harassed a girl, the police announced on Saturday.

The boy was connected to a sexual offence that reportedly took place in the afternoon of Jul. 5. The case was publicized on social media by a user and went viral.

The police disclosed that they commenced investigations immediately after becoming aware of the post. The investigations led them to the boy.

According to the police, evidence shows that the boy might have committed a sexual offence against minors, pursuant to Article 166 of the Penal Code.

The police emphasized that should members of the public witness or become victims of any offence, they should immediately report the offence to the police.

Regarding the social media post, the user said that a boy who appears approximately 15-years-



-old was seen playing with a girl who appears approximately seven-years-old in the Flower City Garden in Taipa.

The girl's pants were later seen half-off with her bottom exposed. The boy, meanwhile, was seen pulling and caressing the girl's arms and waist.

According to the user, the boy


was heard asking if the girl wanted to have sexual intercourse with him. He was also seen caressing the girl's thigh, attempting to persuade the girl to have sex with him.

When the boy saw the user filming the incident, he departed from the scene, according to the user.

The user said they notified the girl's parents, who were found walking around the garden, and also notified the garden security team.

The user was told that the boy is a frequent attendee at the garden, which explains the reduced sense of wariness and monitoring, they added.

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 Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia

Notice
Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D Application (Type A & B) of 2023

I. Objectives
In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to enhance innovation and R&D in Macao enterprises, create a research-friendly environment, and inspire enterprises to increase their R&D investment through providing financial support, so as to promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the transformation of scientific research achievements, cultivate emerging industries, and promote the moderately diversified development of related industries in Macao.

II. Support Areas
The research projects shall align with the Second Five-Year Plan of Macao economic and social development, the Macao SAR Government's Policy Address for 2023, related planning and programs of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, etc., especially the projects that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.

III. Applying Entities - Funding Amount - Duration and Requirements for Expected Project Findings of Type A&B

Type A	Type B
<p>A. Applying Entities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more; The enterprise is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR; 50% or more shares of enterprises shall be held by Macao residents; No less than three full-time employees; In case of full-time employees less than three, the applying entity shall be recommended by a nation-level makerspace established in Macao. <p>B. Funding Amount and Project Duration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The amount applied for each project shall not exceed MOP 1,000,000; Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years. <p>C. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The supporting funds invested by the applying enterprise for R&D shall not be less than the funding amount of FDCT; The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project; The project proposed shall aim at reaching TRL(Technology Readiness Level) 4 or above upon its conclusion. 	<p>A. Applying Entities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more; The enterprise is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR; No less than five full-time employees; The applying entity shall be an "enterprise engaged in scientific and technological innovation activities" accredited by the "Scientific and Technological Innovation Commercial Enterprise Accreditation Committee" according to law as stipulated in Article 6 of Law No. 1/2021 - Tax Preference System for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities, or an enterprise previously funded by FDCT, without prejudice to the high-tech enterprise certification issued by other government departments. <p>B. Funding Amount and Project Duration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The amount applied for each project exceeds MOP 1,000,000, but shall not exceed MOP 3,000,000; Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years. <p>C. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The supporting funds invested by the applying enterprise for R&D shall not be less than the funding amount of FDCT; The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project; The expected TRL of the project proposed shall be TRL 4 or above upon its conclusion.

IV. Assessment Criteria

- The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the Financial Aid Grant Regulation approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021.
- Key considerations will be given to the followings: (Please refer to the online Application Guidelines for further information)
 - Assessment of technologies and research findings
 - Competence of the applying entity
 - Project planning
- The priority goes to the industry-university-research projects conducted in partnership with higher education institutions or scientific research institutions inside or outside Macao.

V. Application Period
10th July, 2023 to 11th August, 2023

VI. Application Method
The applying entities shall log in the online application system to complete the proposal prior to the deadline of application: <https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>
Office Address: Room K, 11/F, Macau Square, No.43-53A Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, Macao.
Tel.: 28788777

Acting President of FDCT Administrative Committee,
Cheang Kun Wai
2023 / 07 / 07

MICE

Branded products fair to return end of month at Galaxy expo

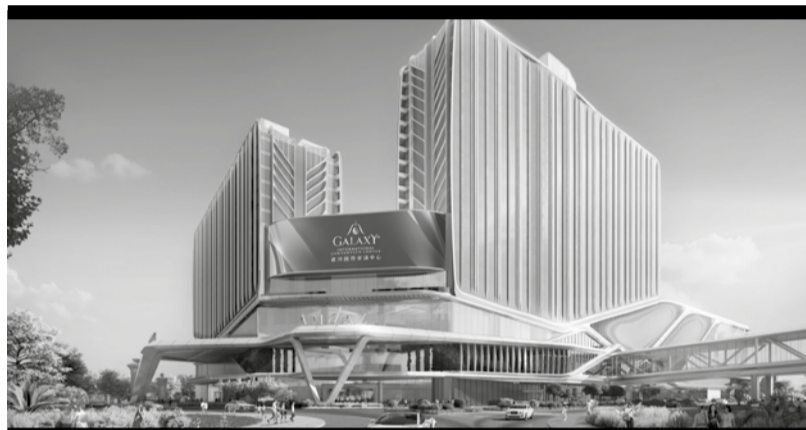
ANTHONY LAM

THE Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair will return on the last weekend of July on a larger scale at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC), the government announced yesterday in a statement.

Co-organized by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong, this year will be the 15th time the event has been held. It is also the first time it has been relocated to Cotai, which "will give exhibitors and audience a new experience," the IPIM said.

Moving the annual expo to a new venue "will also exhibit the high versatility of Macau's MICE venues and the 'soft power' entailed by the MICE-organizing capabilities of the city," the IPIM added.

This year's event will feature the



sale of products from the Belt-and-Road as well as Lusophone countries, in addition to the two organizing localities. Types of merchandise will include ready-to-cook foods, smart appliances, daily necessities, clothing and creative merchandise, among others.

For the first time, this year's expo will be held over four days, with one of the days allotted to a professional

audience. The organizers have invited buyers from mainland China, Belt-and-Road countries, as well as those focusing on Lusophone products for this additional day.

According to the IPIM, the event will take up all 8,888 square meters of the entire ground floor of the GICC. The ground floor of the 16,000-seat Galaxy Arena will also be used.

2023 PPRD CONFERENCE

GOV'T TO TAKE PART IN SCIENCE AND TECH INNOVATION WITHIN GBA: CE

STAFF REPORTER

MACAUI would also take part in the development of the "science and technology innovation corridor" within the Greater Bay Area, said Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

Ho delivered a speech at the 2023 PPRD Regional Cooperation Chief Executive Joint Conference held in Guiyang municipality, capital of Guizhou Province. The Joint Conference had as its tagline "Embark on a new journey and pursue new prospects through cooperation."

The official added that Macau would strengthen scientific and technological cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and advance a "China-Portuguese Science and Technology Centre", in order to encourage projects from Portuguese-speaking countries to have a presence in Macau, the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, or in other parts of

the Greater Bay Area.

To align with the law on pharmaceutical enterprises related to traditional Chinese medicine and the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines, further effort was being made to optimize the operation model of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Co-operation Between Guangdong and Macau.

The focus was on developing traditional Chinese medicine classic-prescription pharmaceuticals, traditional Chinese medicine testing and certification, upscaling from pilot testing, manufacturing, and other matters.

Regarding the development of modern financial services, the focus was on the bond market, wealth management, financial leasing, renminbi clearance, private equity funds, and promotion of cross-boundary transfer of 'green' financial assets.

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Notice

Funding Scheme for Scientific Research and Innovation Application (Type A & B) of 2023

I. Applying Entities

1. Local higher education institutions under the supervision of the Macao SAR Government;
2. Laboratories or other entities engaged in scientific and technological R&D in the Macao SAR;
3. Private non-profit organizations registered in the Macao SAR;
4. Researchers engaged in R&D activities in the Macao SAR.

II. Types of Application and Application Requirements

1. Type A: For research projects conducive to enhancing scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability;
2. Type B: For research projects with application-oriented scientific research findings;
3. The amount applied for each project shall not exceed MOP 3,000,000;
4. Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years.

III. the objectives, support areas and requirements for Supporting Fund and expected project findings of type A & B

Type A	Type B
<p>A. Objectives In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to assist local research institutions and researchers in launching all kinds of in-depth research projects, for the purposes of enhancing their scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability in Macao and maintaining the leading position of Macao's dominant discipline.</p> <p>B. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings The expected project findings, not limited to academic or applied achievements, may include papers, monographs, research (consultation) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc.</p>	<p>A. Objectives and the support Areas In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the production of application-based research findings, so as to improve the contribution of scientific and technological innovation to social and economic development in Macao, specially the projects that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.</p> <p>B. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings 1. The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project; 2. The expected TRL (Technology Readiness Level) of the project proposed shall be TRL 4 or above upon its conclusion.</p>

IV. Assessment Criteria

1. The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the Financial Aid Grant Regulation approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021.
2. Key considerations will be given to the followings: (Please refer to the online Application Guidelines for further information)
 - 2.1 Scientific value and cutting edge
 - 2.2 Competence of the applying entity
 - 2.3 Project planning
3. The priority goes to the collaborative projects jointly proposed by the applying entities and commercial institutions inside or outside Macao.

V. Application Period

10th July, 2023 to 11th August, 2023

VI. Application Method

The applying entities shall log in the online application system to complete the proposal prior to the deadline of application: <https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>
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Acting President of FDCT Administrative Committee,
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2023 / 07 / 07

US-CHINA

Yellen says Washington might 'respond to unintended consequences' due to tech export curbs

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

TREASURY Secretary Janet Yellen yesterday said she agreed Washington will listen to Chinese complaints about security-related curbs on U.S. technology exports and might "respond to unintended consequences" as she ended a visit to Beijing aimed at reviving strained relations.

Yellen defended "targeted measures" on trade that China's leaders complain are aimed at hurting its fledgling tech industries. She said the Biden administration wants to "avoid unnecessary repercussions" but gave no indication of possible changes.

Relations between the two biggest economies are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, security and other irritants. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other U.S. technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's development of smartphones, artificial intelligence and other industries.

"We will open up channels so that they can express concerns about our actions, and we can explain and possibly in some situations respond to unintended consequences of our actions," Yellen said at a news conference.

Yellen talked with China's No.



2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials during 10 hours of meetings. She had a five-hour session Saturday with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Treasury officials said in advance there were no plans for her to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Yellen received a warm welcome and prominent coverage by the state press, but Chinese officials gave no sign they would change industrial or other policies that Washington and other governments say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments. On Saturday, He said Washington should "adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude" to improve relations.

Yesterday, Yellen announced

no agreements on major disputes or plans for future activity but said her department and Chinese officials would have "more frequent and regular" communication.

U.S.-Chinese political strains are adding to uncertainty that is dampening the willingness of consumers and businesses to spend and invest.

China's economic growth rebounded to 4.5% in the first quarter of 2023 from last year's 3% after anti-virus controls on travel and business activity were lifted in December. But factory activity and consumer spending decelerated in the quarter ending in June.

Xi accused Washington in March of trying to hold back

China's industrial development.

Beijing has been slow to retaliate for U.S. technology restrictions, possibly to avoid disrupting its own industries. But three days before Yellen's arrival, the government announced unspecified controls on exports of gallium and germanium, metals used in making semiconductors and solar panels. China is the biggest producer of both.

Yellen said she tried to reassure officials Washington doesn't want to decouple or separate its economy from China, while it tries to "de-risk" trade.

The Biden administration is pressing semiconductor makers to move production to the United States to reduce reliance on Taiwan and other Asian suppliers, which is seen as a security risk. Washington wants to develop alternatives to Chinese supplies of rare earth elements, metals used in smartphones, wind turbines and other products.

"They have expressed some concern that de-risking amounts to decoupling," Yellen said. She said she tried to "assure my Chinese counterparts that this is by no means the same thing."

"The de-risking involves attention to clearly articulated and narrowly targeted national security concerns, as well as broader concern with diversifying our supply chains, which the United States is doing in a few important sectors," she said.

Throughout her visit, Yellen

appealed for "healthy economic competition," a reference to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by subsidizing and shielding politically favored industries from private and foreign competition.

Yellen said she had expressed concern to Chinese officials about "coercive activities" against U.S. companies.

On Saturday, Yellen appealed to He for cooperation on climate change, the debt burdens of developing countries and other global challenges. She said their governments shouldn't let disagreements about trade and security derail economic and financial relations.

Beijing broke off climate discussions with Washington last August in retaliation for a visit by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the House of Representatives to Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy claimed by China as part of its territory.

President Joe Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, is due to become the next senior official to visit China next week. China and the United States are the world's top emitters of climate-changing carbon.

China signed an agreement last month to restructure the debt of Zambia, including billions of dollars lent under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative to build ports and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa. Treasury officials pointed to that as successful cooperation. MDT/AP

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

TECH

CHINESE regulators are fining Ant Group 7.123 billion yuan (\$985 million) for violating regulations in its payments and financial services, an indicator that over two years of scrutiny and crackdown on the firm that led it to scrap its planned public listing may have come to an end.

The People's Bank of China imposed the fine on Friday, stating that Ant had violated laws and regulations related to corporate governance, financial consumer protection, participation in business activities of banking and insurance institutions,

Ant Group fined \$985 million by regulators in signal that tech crackdown may end

payment and settlement business, and attending to anti-money laundering obligations.

The fine comes over two years after regulators pulled the plug on Ant Group's \$34.5 billion IPO — which would have been the biggest of its time — in 2020. Since then, the company had been ordered to revamp its business and behave more like a finan-

cial holding company, as well as rectify unfair competition in its payments business.

"We will comply with the terms of the penalty in all earnestness and sincerity and continue to further enhance our compliance governance," Ant Group said in a statement.

The move is widely seen as wrapping up Beijing's probe into the firm and

to allow Ant to revive its initial public offering. Chinese gaming firm Tencent, which operates messaging app WeChat, also received a 2.99 billion yuan fine (\$414 million) for regulatory violations over its payments services, according to the central bank Friday, signaling that the crackdown on the Chinese technology sector could ease. MDT/AP



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Main opposition Democratic Party lawmaker Woo Won-shik, left, his party lawmaker Wi Seong-gon and Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, right

SOUTH KOREA - JAPAN

Lawmakers berate IAEA chief over plans to release treated Fukushima wastewater

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog yesterday for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

They met with Rafael Grossi in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door.

Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general, arrived in South Korea over the weekend to engage with government officials and critics and help reduce public concerns about food safety.

The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's government has also endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans.

In his meeting with members of the liberal Democratic Party, which controls a majority in South Korea's parliament, Grossi said the IAEA's review of the Japanese plans was based on "transparent" and "scientific" research. He acknowledged concerns over how the Japanese plans would play out in reality and said the IAEA would establish a permanent office in Fukushima to closely monitor how the discharge process is implemented over the next three decades.

"Our conclusion has been that this plan, if it is carried out in the way it has been presented, would

be in line, would be in conformity with the international safety standards," Grossi said.

The lawmakers responded by harshly criticizing IAEA's review, which they say neglected long-term environmental and health impacts of the wastewater release and threatens to set a bad precedent that may encourage other countries to dispose nuclear waste into sea. They called for Japan to scrap the discharge plans and work with neighboring countries to find safer ways to handle the wastewater, including a possible pursuit of long-term storage on land.

The party has also criticized the government of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol for putting people's health at risk while trying to improve relations with Japan.

"If you think (the treated wastewater) is safe, I wonder whether you would be willing to suggest the Japanese government use that water for drinking or for industrial and agricultural purposes, rather than dumping it in the sea," Woo Won-shik, a Democratic Party lawmaker who attended the meeting, told Grossi. The party said Woo has been on a hunger strike for the past 14 days to protest the Japanese discharge plans.

Further details from the meeting weren't immediately available after reporters were asked to leave following opening statements. Closely watched by parliamentary security staff, dozens of protesters shouted near the lobby of the National Assembly's main hall where the meeting was taking place, holding signs denouncing the IAEA and Japan. **MDT/AP**

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MGM Embraces Culinary Exchange among UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy

Being one of Macau's major integrated resorts enterprises, MGM was honored to participate and devote its undivided support towards the 11th Macao International Travel Expo (MITE), which concluded with success earlier this month. Besides setting up a themed booth in the event, this year, MGM fully embraced the theme of gastronomy by taking part in the Bartender Live Event and partnering with two chefs from Portugal and the United States, who were among the 23 guest chefs from different UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy invited by Macao Government Tourism Office, for an exchange of culinary arts. This collaboration was part of MGM's endeavors in promoting local culinary culture, and more essentially strengthening Macau's legacy as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.



Chef Collaboration of UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy

As one of the fascinating highlights, MITE brought together chefs from 23 UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy to demonstrate culinary skills. Leveraging this precious occasion, MGM pledged to collaborate with Chef Sara Rute Mendes de Oliveira Santos from Portugal and Chef Stephen M. Paprocki from the United States. The two guest chefs were invited to the kitchens of Grill 58 at MGM COTAI and Rossio at MGM MACAU for culinary and cultural exchange sessions, where they shared their culinary philosophies, techniques and skillsets during the culinary cultural exchange session for over 40 chefs from MGM.



Followed by sharing sessions, Chef Santos and Chef Paprocki teamed up with the culinary teams of the aforesaid MGM restaurants to present exquisite cross-cultural flavors for residents and visitors at the four-hands culinary pop-up events. Chef Sara Santos worked with Chef de Cuisine of Rossio, Ricardo de Oliveira, to line up a four-hands long table dinner for 20 guests exclusively, where she showcased the variety of Portuguese dishes from different regions of the country. On the other hand, Chef Paprocki worked with Tiago Reis, Chef de Cuisine of Grill 58, to line up a four-hands pop-up in the regular brunch station, which highlighted the Western culinary art of traditional techniques with contemporary twists. The collaboration showcased the exotic Tex-Mex flavor, Beef Enchiladas, with interesting use of fermented ingredients from Chef Paprocki's recipe together with the dry-aged ingredients and the grills at Grill 58.

Bartender Show Highlighting Macau's Rich Heritage

During the three-day Expo, MGM also took part in the Bartender Live Event to showcase unique cocktails that infuse oriental cultures. Nino J. Angeles Silan, an award-winning mixologist who is also the supervisor of Bar Patuá at MGM COTAI, was invited to flaunt his meticulous mixology skills to the locals and tourists in MITE. He has especially crafted a line-up of the bar's signature cocktails, such as Patuá, a staple that pays homage to the endanger Macanese language, which also best represents Macau's East-meets-West culture and unique heritage.



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PUTIN'S WAR

Zelenskyy hails Ukraine's soldiers from a symbolic Black Sea island to mark 500 days of war

FELIPE DANA,
KYIV, UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy marked the 500th day of the war Saturday by hailing the country's soldiers in a video from a Black Sea island that became the symbol of Ukraine's resilience in the face of the Russian invasion.

Speaking from Snake Island, Zelenskyy honored the Ukrainian soldiers who fought for the island and all other defenders of the country, saying that reclaiming control of the island "is a great proof that Ukraine will regain every bit of its territory."

"I want to thank — from here, from this place of victory — each of our soldiers for these 500 days," Zelenskyy said. "Thank you to everyone who fights for Ukraine!"

It was unclear when the video was filmed. Zelenskyy was returning from Turkey on Saturday.

He announced that five commanders of the defense of the Azovstal steel plant, a grueling months-long siege early in the war, were returning on the plane with him.

The sprawling steelworks was the last bastion of resistance as Russian forces took control of the port city of Mariupol. Its defenders became renowned among Ukrainians for holding out in wretched conditions in the plant's tunnels and corridors.

Azovstal's more than 2,000 defenders left the steelworks in mid-May 2022 and were taken into Russian captivity. The five leaders, some of whom were part of the Azov national guard regiment that Russia denounces as neo-Nazi, were freed in a September prisoner swap and taken to Turkey.

Under the exchange, the leaders were to remain in Turkey until the end of the war under the Turkish president's protection. There was no immediate official explanation from Ankara or Kyiv



about why they were allowed to return to Ukraine.

"The return of the leaders of the Azovites from Turkey to Ukraine is nothing more than a direct violation of the terms of the existing agreements. Moreover, in this case, the terms were violated by both the Ukrainian side and the Turkish side," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

Russian forces took control of Snake Island on Feb. 24, 2022, the day Moscow launched its invasion, in the apparent hope of using it as a staging ground for an assault on Odesa, Ukraine's biggest port and the headquarters of its navy.

The island took on legendary significance for Ukraine's resistance, when Ukrainian troops there reportedly received a demand from a Russian warship to surrender or be bombed. The answer supposedly came back, "Go (expletive) yourself."

The island's Ukrainian defenders were captured but later freed as part of a prisoner exchange. After the island was taken, the Ukrainian military heavily bombarded the small Russian garrison there, forcing the Russians to pull back on June 30, 2022. The Russian retreat reduced the threat of a seaborne Russian attack on Odesa and helped pave the way for a deal to

resume Ukrainian grain exports.

"Let the freedom that all our heroes of different times wanted for Ukraine and that must be won right now be a tribute to all those who gave their lives for Ukraine," Zelenskyy said. "We will definitely win!"

Intense battles continued to rage Saturday in the country's east and south as Ukrainian forces pressed their attacks against multi-layered Russian defenses in the initial stages of their counteroffensive.

Ukraine's interior ministry said that a Russian rocket strike on the town of Lyman killed eight civilians and wounded 13 others early Saturday. Pavlo Kyrlyenko, the governor of the eastern Donetsk region, posted images showing some of the dead, including a body lying under a bicycle and body fragments on the pavement next to a damaged vehicle, saying that "the Russian terrorists are continuing to strike civilians in Donetsk."

Lyman is a few kilometers (miles) from the front line, where Russian troops have recently intensified fighting in the forests of Kreminna.

The U.K. Ministry of Defense said in its latest intelligence update that the eastern town of Bakhmut that was captured by the Rus-

sians in May has seen some of the most intense fighting along the front during the last week.

It said that Ukrainian forces have made steady gains to both the north and south of Bakhmut, noting that "Russian defenders are highly likely struggling with poor morale, a mix of disparate units and a limited ability to find and strike Ukrainian artillery."

Amid the fighting, Russia and Ukraine accused each other of planning to sabotage the Russia-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is Europe's largest, fueling fears of a radiation catastrophe. Ukraine's military intelligence claimed Saturday that Russian troops have planted more mines around the plant, a claim that couldn't be independently verified.

The head of the United Nations nuclear agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, told The Associated Press on Friday that the International Atomic Energy Agency experts had recently gained access to more of the site, including the cooling pond and fuel storage areas, and found no mines there. Grossi said he was still pushing for access to the rooftops of reactors where Ukrainian officials accused Russia of planting explosives. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1972 WHITELAW'S SECRET MEETING WITH IRA



The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland William Whitelaw has been involved in secret talks with the provisional IRA in London.

Mr Whitelaw broke the news to the House of Commons as he announced that the two week ceasefire in Northern Ireland had come to an end.

Six IRA leaders were involved in the meeting that took place in a private house on Friday 7 July.

After numerous approaches by the IRA this was the first time that Mr Whitelaw had met with provisional leaders and he claims that he did so to preserve the peace.

In the face of criticism by Conservative backbenchers, Mr Whitelaw said: "I decided that if I were to see these people personally I might be able to do something to save lives."

The meeting lasted three hours and gave the IRA an opportunity to make demands that they claimed were a fair exchange for continued peace.

The demands were: a total withdrawal of British forces; the right to self-determination by the Irish people; and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Mr Whitelaw knew the British Government would not accept what was essentially a re-statement of routine and unworkable demands.

Before he had chance to discuss the matter with his cabinet colleagues hostilities recommenced in Belfast over the distribution of housing amongst Catholics and Protestants.

Mr Whitelaw points to intimidation on both sides and says: "I want to make it perfectly clear that terrorism and extremism in the community cannot be tolerated, that the rule of law and justice must be restored."

He has sent a further 1,800 troops to Northern Ireland in preparation for the marching season and to respond to IRA threats that they will use the "utmost ferocity".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

William Whitelaw was the first Secretary of State for Northern Ireland after Direct Rule was established there by UK Prime Minister Edward Heath in March 1972.

With 467 deaths in 1972 alone this was the height of the Troubles and a period that Willie - later Viscount - Whitelaw regarded as the most challenging of his career.

In March 1973 he published a White Paper that proposed the election of a 78 member power sharing executive and in December the Sunningdale Agreement was signed.

By May 1974 Unionist divisions caused the fledgling Council of Ireland to collapse and Direct Rule was re-imposed.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Try not to take everything so seriously. You will get drawn into groups that are not favorable to you. Involve yourself in group endeavors.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. You will gain new friends if you get involved in environmental issues.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create. Property investments, insurance, taxes, or inheritance should bring you financial gains.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Try not to allow superiors or those in a higher position to take advantage of you. Don't bother complaining, do the work yourself. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Concentrate on yourself or your work. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Try not to get backed into corners. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 There are ways of making extra cash if you put your mind to it. You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Your intellectual wit will bring greater popularity with your peers. You can have a great time if you go out with the one you love. Try to be precise in your communications.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment and children; it could set you back. Don't jump as quickly as you usually do.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	39	fine
Changchun	20	26	rain
Chengdu	26	36	cloudy
Chongqing	27	37	cloudy
Fuzhou	28	39	fine
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Guiyang	20	30	cloudy
Haikou	26	35	fine
Hangzhou	25	37	thunderstorms
Harbin	19	26	rain
Hefei	22	35	rain
Nanjing	26	34	thunderstorms
Shanghai	27	34	rain
Taipei	26	32	fine
Wuhan	28	36	fine
Hong Kong	28	31	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	overcast
Frankfurt	16	30	overcast
Paris	18	30	clear
London	17	23	overcast
New York	21	26	thunderstorms

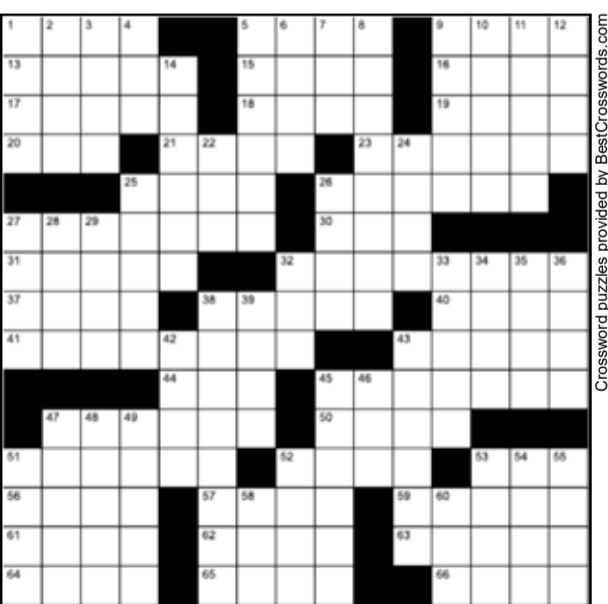
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Joe; 5- Perched on; 9- After John in the NT; 13- Follows orders; 15- Electronics giant; 16- Skater Lipinski; 17- Norwegian dramatist; 18- Just okay; 19- Legal claim; 20- Writer Hentoff; 21- Trompe l'...; 23- Polish seaport; 25- Electronic music pioneer; 26- Tantalizes; 27- Civilian; 30- Even one; 31- Make amends; 32- Living; 37- Constituent; 38- Funnel-shaped; 40- HOMES part; 41- Companion of a child; 43- Tremble; 44- Big-league; 45- Matured; 47- Revolve; 50- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 51- Outcast; 52- Manitoba Indigenous People; 53- How was ___ know?; 56- Token; 57- Jai ___; 59- Pine sap; 61- Impediment; 62- Goldfinger portrayer; 63- Get around; 64- Actress Daly; 65- Whirlpool; 66- Stares at;

DOWN 1- Connect; 2- "Dancing Queen" quartet; 3- Sleeveless garment; 4- Affirmative vote; 5- Allot; 6- Kit item; 7- Switch positions; 8- Generating pus; 9- Geographical reference; 10- Queeg's command; 11- Long lock of hair; 12- Subsidized; 14- Doze; 22- Fair-hiring abbr.; 24- 24 hour periods; 25- Like some mouthwashes; 26- Prepare for takeoff; 27- Andy of the comics; 28- Romance lang.; 29- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 32- Hydrocarbon ending; 33- Titter; 34- Ayatollah's land; 35- Greek goddess of victory; 36- Turned right; 38- Ancient city-state in N Africa; 39- Oklahoma Native; 42- Movie-rating org.; 43- Round body; 45- A chicken's tooth?; 46- Bump off; 47- Coming down; 48- Church instrument; 49- Hint; 51- Attention-getting sound; 52- Part of a hand; 53- ___ old chap!; 54- It may turn; 55- Singles; 58- Spearheaded; 60- Time of anticipation;

Friday's solution

A	S	I	F	S	C	A	R	E	V	A	I	L
T	O	B	O	N	A	T	A	L	K	I	S	E
V	A	A	L	A	T	A	R	I	R	I	S	
A	R	R	I	V	I	S	T	E	T	A	I	N
H	O	G	G	I	S	T	R	H	O	D	I	U
A	I	R	E	D	O	P	I	E	A	N	N	E
I	L	L	E	T	R	O	N	E	P	D	A	
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BASKETBALL

NBA reveals long-awaited plans for in-season tournament that'll start in November

TIM REYNOLDS

COMING soon: the NBA Cup. The NBA unveiled the details Saturday of its inaugural in-season tournament, which will have a prize pool of about \$18 million and will be capped by a championship game — which won't count in the standings — in Las Vegas on Dec. 9. It's an event that NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wanted for years, giving teams a trophy to play for during the regular season.

And now, it's finally reality. "This is a concept that has been rumbling around the league office for about 15 years," Silver said. "It's not a new concept in sports. For those that follow particularly international soccer, it's a long tradition of having in-season tournaments ... so we thought, what a perfect opportunity for a global league like the NBA and it's a perfect fit for our game."

The tournament payouts for players on standard contracts will be \$500,000 apiece for those on the winning team, \$200,000 apiece for those on the runner-up, \$100,000 apiece for those on the teams that lose semifinal games and \$50,000 for those on the teams that lose in the quarterfinals.

Two-way players on any of those teams are eligible for up to half those amounts, depending on how many games they spend on a roster during the tournament.

"I can see what the aim could be," said Miami guard Josh Richardson, who follows global soccer closely and understands the parallels Silver makes when comparing it to in-season tournaments that sport has around the world. "It gives you another chance to win something, for real. I think that's a big part."

Games will start on Nov. 3, being played mostly on Tuesdays and Fridays in November — except for Nov. 7, when the

NBA will play no games to commemorate Election Day. That announcement came Saturday, and will mark the second consecutive year when the NBA has no games on that date with hopes of promoting civic awareness and engagement.

The Final Four will be in Las Vegas.

"This city knows how to host big events," Silver said.

Teams were assigned to a five-team group. They'll play one game against each other; the six group winners will make the quarterfinals, as will the best two second-place teams from the groups.

"I'm excited about this mid-season tournament," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "I think it's going to add an element of energy and excitement for the players and coaches and the fans. I think it's a great idea."

Joe Dumars, the league's executive vice president of basketball operations and a Hall of Famer as a player, said he thinks



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver announces the 13th pick in the NBA basketball draft, last week

players will like the idea — even if it takes some time.

"Everybody's not going to buy in right away," Dumars said. "That can't be the goal, that

everybody's going to buy in from Day 1. These things take time. And I think as time goes on you can build this up and people can really get into it." MDT/AP

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britcham Pirates of Macao

Nathan Kwan, Assistant Professor at UMAC, specializes in studying the maritime history of the Qing Dynasty in the Pearl River Delta. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas, Austin, a Master's from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. from King's College London and the University of Hong Kong.

Nathan's talk will discuss the history of piracy in Macao from the 16th to the 20th century and its impact on the city's development. Nathan, who previously gave a talk, in April, on the British occupation of Macao, will now focus on pirates in Macao for this second presentation. This talk also examines some of the more notorious pirates and discusses their role in shaping developments in Macao. In the process, it will seek to uncover an often overlooked, yet nonetheless important, aspect of Macao's Maritime Heritage.

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**YELLEN'S VISIT COMES
 WITH PRAGMATIC
 EXPECTATIONS**

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to China from Thursday to Sunday comes at a critical time for bilateral ties, and therefore technically it is a test of whether she can take the decade-long good working relations she has built with her "old friends" in China forward and allay, if not altogether eliminate, the increasing distrust between the world's two largest economies.

Yellen faces a tough challenge, for she has to convince Beijing that the slew of "de-risking" measures Washington, and some of its allies, have been taking are not intended to contain China or decouple the two economies. Her job is all the more difficult because it is the United States that has been making all the wrong moves targeting China.

Yellen's is perhaps the only voice of reason amid the belligerent anti-China din in Washington. She has termed the tariffs that the US has imposed on China as "taxes on consumers" and warned "decoupling" could be "disastrous".

No wonder an official in her delegation told the media: "We don't expect specific policy breakthroughs in these meetings, but we do hope to have and expect to have frank and productive conversations that will help lay the groundwork for future communication, including at the sub-Cabinet level."

Yellen had a "frank and productive discussion" on mutual concerns with Xie Feng, China's ambassador to the US, shortly before leaving for Beijing, so she could come prepared to get straight to the point during her meetings with her Chinese hosts.

Not surprisingly, both sides deem Yellen's visit as a high-stake one and both hope her meetings with her Chinese hosts will yield ways to address the problems of mutual concern and thus ease the tensions between the two sides.

Yellen can take advantage of her pragmatic style as an economist to help ease, or better still end, the tariff war and thus ensure the healthy growth of bilateral trade which, despite the US' tariff war since 2018, has been growing.

Hopefully, Yellen, the economist and pragmatist, will at least be able to help prevent the tariff war from intensifying and overall bilateral relations from further deteriorating.

It is encouraging that during their meeting on Friday, Yellen told Premier Li Qiang that the US does not seek "decoupling", and is willing to work with China to strengthen cooperation in stabilizing the macro-economy, and addressing global challenges, so as to seek mutual benefits and win-win results.

China and the US need to and have the capability to increase economic exchanges and cooperation. Hopefully, Yellen's visit will help stabilize market expectations and create conditions for the enterprises of the two countries to conduct normal economic, trade and investment activities.

Pope Francis yesterday announced he has chosen 21 new cardinals, including prelates from Jerusalem and Hong Kong — places where Catholics are a small minority — as he continues to leave his mark on the body of churchmen who will select his successor.

The pope announced his picks during his customary weekly appearance to the public in St. Peter's Square, saying the ceremony to formally install the churchmen as cardinals will be held on Sept. 30.

Among those tapped are several prelates holding or about to assume major Vatican posts, including the archbishop from La Plata,

Argentina, Archbishop Victor Manuel Fernández, 59, whom the pope just named to lead the Holy See's powerful office for ensuring doctrinal orthodoxy and overseeing processing of allegations of sexual abuse against clergy worldwide.

The new cardinals also include Hong Kong Bishop Stephen Sau-yun Chow, 64, and the Vatican's top official in the Middle East, Monsignor Pierbattista Pizzaballa, 58, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Those two churchmen guide flocks in geopolitical areas of keen concern to the Vatican.

AP PHOTO



U.N. secretary General Antonio Guterres

**UN CHIEF SAYS SUDAN ON
 THE BRINK OF A 'FULL-SCALE
 CIVIL WAR' AFTER NEARLY 3
 MONTHS OF FIGHTING**

SAMY MAGDY, CAIRO

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan was on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated yesterday in the capital, Khartoum.

He warned on Saturday evening that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the secretary-general.

Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and his rival Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April.

Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim said in televised comments last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher. More than 2.9 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to U.N. figures.

The fighting came 18 months after the two gene-

rals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transitional government. The conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful transition to democracy after a popular uprising forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields.

Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital. The warring factions were using heavy weapons in the battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih.

In his statement, Guterres also condemned an airstrike Saturday that health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the capital, Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict.

The RSF blamed the military for the attack in Omdurman. The military, in turn, denied the accusation saying in a statement Sunday that its air force didn't carry out any airstrikes in the city that day.

The secretary-general

also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the ongoing conflict, Haq said in a statement.

"There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said.

U.N. officials have said the violence in the region has recently taken an ethnic dimension, with the RSF and Arab militias reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes in Darfur, a sprawling region consisting of five provinces. Last month, the governor of Darfur, Mini Arko Minawi, said the region was sliding back to its past genocide, referring to the conflict that engulfed the region in the early 2000s.

Entire towns and villages in West Darfur province were overrun by the RSF and their allied militias, forcing tens of thousands of residents to flee to neighboring Chad. Activists have reported many residents killed, women and girls raped, and properties looted and burned to the ground.

There were clashes between the military and the RSF elsewhere in Sudan yesterday including the province of North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte visited the king Saturday to hand in the resignation of his four-party coalition, setting the deeply divided Netherlands on track for a general election later this year. King Willem-Alexander flew back from a family vacation in Greece to meet with Rutte, who drove to the palace in his Saab station wagon for the meeting to explain the political crisis that toppled his administration.

AP PHOTO



Libya A court in the capital sentenced three people to harsh prison terms on charges of human trafficking, in a first such ruling in a North African nation where migrants are routinely mistreated. The Criminal Court of Tripoli convicted the three of human trafficking, detaining, and torturing migrants, and extorting their families to pay ransom to release their relatives, according to a statement Friday by the office of Libya's chief prosecutor.

AP PHOTO



Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Saturday met with his Colombian counterpart Gustavo Petro to build momentum for an upcoming regional summit on the Amazon rainforest and enhance efforts for its protection. The encounter took place in Colombia's Leticia, a town in the Amazon's triple border region between Colombia, Brazil and Peru, where organized crime has recently increased its hold. The meeting aimed to lay groundwork for the Amazon Summit the Brazilian government is organizing in Belem next month.