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# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho [www.macaudailytimes.com.mo](http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo)



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**AT LEAST TWO MACAU RESIDENTS HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO FRAUDULENT WHATSAPP WEBSITES THAT ARE BEING ADVERTISED ON GOOGLE SEARCH: PJ**

▲ P4

**SPORTS BUREAU HINTS AT MORE COLLABORATIONS WITH LI-NING MANUFACTURER BEYOND GP**

▲ P3

**UK JURY ACQUITS KEVIN SPACEY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES**

▲ P14



AP PHOTO



**India** Thousands of Shiite Muslims were allowed to hold a religious procession marking the Muslim month of Muharram in Indian-controlled Kashmir's main city yesterday for the first time since an anti-India rebellion broke out in the disputed region more than three decades ago. The participants, mostly wearing black clothes, beat their chests and recited elegies in the commercial heart of Srinagar. Some carried copies of the Quran to protest recent public desecrations of the Islamic holy book in Sweden and Denmark.

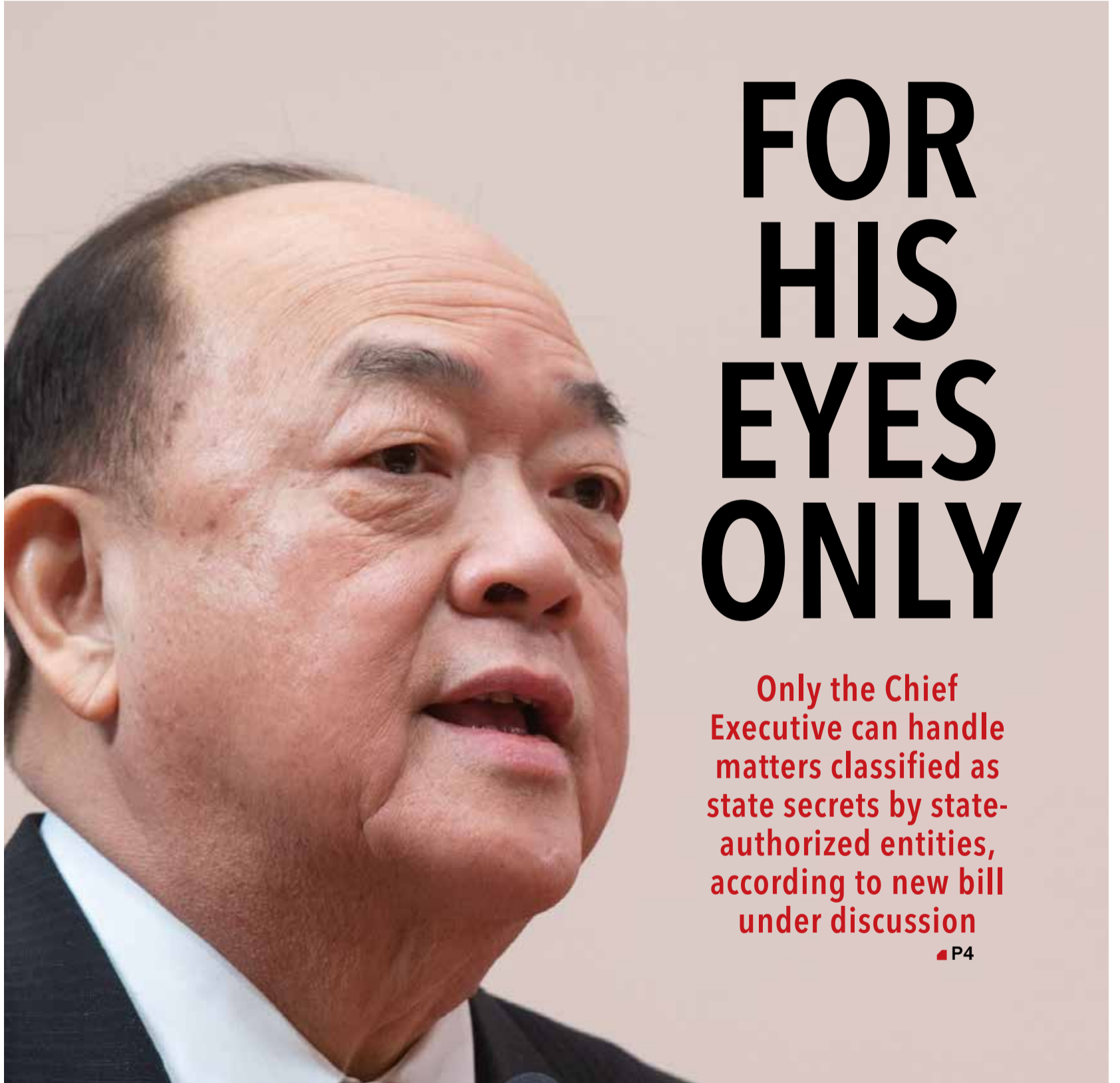
AP PHOTO



**Germany** The European Central Bank is set to raise interest rates at least one more time to fight inflation, even as worries about recession fuel speculation that the hike could be the last in its yearlong campaign to ease price hikes by making borrowing more expensive for companies and consumers. ECB President Christine Lagarde has all but promised an increase as the bank's governing council meets in Frankfurt, where interest rates are decided for the 20 European Union countries that use the euro.

**European Union** said yesterday that it has opened an antitrust investigation into Microsoft over concerns that bundling its Teams messaging and videoconferencing app with its Office productivity software gives it an unfair edge over competitors. The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's top competition enforcer, said it would carry out its in-depth investigation "as a matter of priority." The investigation stems from a complaint filed in 2020 by Slack Technologies, which makes popular workplace messaging software.

More on backpage



# FOR HIS EYES ONLY

Only the Chief Executive can handle matters classified as state secrets by state-authorized entities, according to new bill under discussion

▲ P4

GDP UP 39% IN Q1

## AMCM EXPECTS ROBUST GROWTH THROUGHOUT 2023

▲ P2



## MDT FOOD REVIEW

▲ P15

### MARATHON ON HZMB ON NOV.19

The Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates (HKAA) will be holding the first-ever half marathon on the Hong Kong-Zuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) on November 19. Professional and amateur runners from around the world are welcome to register for the race, which will involve crossing the world's longest sea-crossing bridge and tunnel. The races will be divided into three categories – Challenge (7.30 a.m.), Run 1 (8.10 a.m.), and Run 2 (8.50 a.m.). For Priority Entry, runners must submit their qualifying results for recognised races by the HKAAA between July 28 and August 6. Registration for a public ballot will also be available from August 14 to 22.

### 17TH UFI ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN MACAU IN 2024

UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, will hold its 17th UFI Asia-Pacific Conference in Macau from March 7 to 8, 2024. Synthia Chan, council chairperson for the Macau Trade & Fair Association, said, "It has been a long and winding road [to] having [the] APAC Conference in Macau," as cited in a report by Exhibition World. The original plan was to host the event in Macau in 2020, but the global pandemic delayed that by four years. The 2024 UFI Asia-Pacific Conference will feature two days of expert panels and keynote sessions from exhibition industry leaders, tackling hot topics and identifying opportunities in the APAC region.

### HOTEL OCCUPANCY AT 84.3% IN JUNE

Hotel occupancy in June rose by 44.4 percentage points year-on-year to 84.3%; the rates for 5-star (85.9%) and 2-star hotels (85.3%) outperformed the sector average, which showed growth of 52.3 percentage points and 27.0 percentage points, respectively. Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that number of guests of hotel establishments in June leapt by 168.3% to 1,142,000, albeit from a low base. In the first half of 2023, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms of hotel establishments went up by 40.3 percentage points year-on-year to 78.0%. The number of guests soared by 130.1% year-on-year to 6,049,000.

### 16TH MILITARY CAMP ATTRACTS 130 STUDENTS

The 16th Military Summer Camp for Macau Youth kicked off at the Taipa Barracks of the Chinese PLA Macau Garrison last week, with over 130 young students from Macau attending. The summer camp has multiple military training subjects, including the learning of national defense, diplomacy, and personal first aid, and organized activities such as singing patriotic songs and visiting the Zhuhai Aerospace Land. It also involves cultural and sports activities.

### ECONOMY

# GDP ROSE 39% IN Q1, AMCM EXPECTS ROBUST GROWTH THROUGHOUT 2023

**M**ACAU'S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 38.8% in the first quarter of the year as the local economy picked up sharply following the relaxation of borders.

In a report issued by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM), coupled with a low-base effect of comparison, Macau's economy is expected to register robust growth in the remainder of 2023.

In the first quarter of 2023, service exports recorded notable growth, as gross gaming revenue (GGR) surged by 94.1% amid booming inbound tourism. After subtracting service imports, net service exports recorded a robust increment of 85.9% and regained as the primary driver of the economy, contributing 44.1 percentage points to real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2023.

In the first quarter, the contraction of visible exports intensified to 40.6%, while that of merchandise imports moderated to 6.9%.



Meanwhile, in terms of visitor spending, after a contraction of 32.1% in 2022, visitor spending, as measured by exports of tourism services in GDP accounting, rebounded year-on-year by 71.4% in the first quarter of 2023.

"The strong performance was broad-based, with visitor

spending on gaming and non-gaming services advancing by 100.0% and 72.9%, respectively," the report noted.

Retail sales also rose markedly on the back of vibrant visitor spending. Underpinned by the revitalisation of inbound tourism, retail sales increased 29.3% on an annual basis

in the first quarter of 2023, as against a decline of 20.6% in the preceding quarter.

AMCM also noted that the challenges faced by the labour market were ameliorated. For the three-month period through May 2023, the unemployment rate declined year-on-year by 0.6 percentage points to 2.8% while the number of unemployed persons decreased from 12,800 to 10,500. The unemployment rate of local residents dropped by 0.8 percentage points to 3.6%.

"Macau's external demand [will] be supported by the steady economic recovery in neighbouring regions, further unleashing strong pent-up demand for tourism services," the bureau said in the report.

"Rigorous promotional campaigns launched by the government and non-gaming events organised by the gaming concessionaires [will] boost the growth momentum of external demand," it added. LV

### EMPLOYMENT

# DSAL to hold three job-matching sessions next week

### RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) will host a total of three job-matching sessions aiming to fill some 405 job posts next week, DSAL said in a press statement.

The job-matching sessions will be carried out in collaboration with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) and will take place on August 3 and 4 (Thursday and Friday).

On the first day matching session will be conducted for the restaurant and bar sector, with 150 jobs being offered for the positions of Food and Beverage (F&B) supervisor, tea



team leader, kitchen assistant, cook, F&B host, bartender, and

waiter, among others.

On the second day, August 4, in the morning, a matching

session for job posts for other positions in the hotel industry will be held, with a total 125 job posts being offered for positions such as manager in the Information Technology Department, head of floor surveillance, head of security, auditor, graphic designer, among others.

The afternoon session of the same day will be dedicated to a session for the supermarket and retail sector.

The last group will offer an additional 130 job posts including supermarket manager, head cashier, head of goods, administrative and accounting staff, repositor, cashier, cleaner, packer, and meat preparer, among others.

Those interested in taking part in these matching sessions should register from 9 a.m. today till noon on August 2.

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNERS\_Miguel Bandeira, Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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GRAND PRIX

# GP x Li-Ning just for the 70th-anniversary edition, but ID hints at more collaborations

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE collaboration between the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) and the Chinese sports gear manufacturer Li Ning (China) Sports Goods Co. (Li-Ning), announced last week, will be limited to the celebratory edition of the 70th Macau Grand Prix set to take place in November, the Sports Bureau (ID) clarified to the Times in a written response.

According to the ID, "at present, this collaboration between the two parties is limited to the 70th Macau Grand Prix," although the bureau did not rule out other collaborations in future. The ID said to the Times that "it is hoped that there will be more collaboration plans in the future to achieve the long-term goal of jointly promoting the sports industry in Macau."

As announced last week during the press conference from MGPOC, the Chinese brand founded by former Olympic gymnast Li Ning will

be partnering with the local motorsport event by supplying GP staff uniforms.

From the clarification made by the ID to the Times, it is clear that this collaboration only includes some GP staff.

"This year, under the joint collaboration of the MGPOC and Li-Ning, the company is sponsoring work outfits for certain MGPOC staff," the ID said, advancing also that "through collaboration with an internationally renowned sports brand, the mutual influence can help increase the brand promotion of the Macau Grand Prix and create a win-win situation for both parties for the development of the sports industry."

Also questioned on the topic of who had the initial idea of this collaboration and why with Li-Ning, the ID only said, "as the largest and most iconic sports tourism event of the city, the Macau Grand Prix has received support from various local and world-famous brands and companies," hinting that it was the



company that initiated this collaboration.

Traditionally a sports equipment and apparel brand, Li-Ning was present last month at Paris Fashion Week, which took place at Centre Pompidou presenting its Summer 2024 collection "MY-VERSE" comprised of streetwear.

According to the brand, the idea is to show the brand's "symbol to the vast and limitless universe of China Li-Ning's characters, sports, aesthetics, genres, and global youth cultures."

On the collection presented, founder Li-Ning said, "after three decades, we are excited to leverage

our intrinsic understanding of the athlete's body and fuse it with an aesthetic, an attitude, and a sense of style that is deeply and uniquely Chinese yet intended for all. We wish to define the space where sport and imagination intersect, with a vivid approach and quality that is unparalleled."

AD

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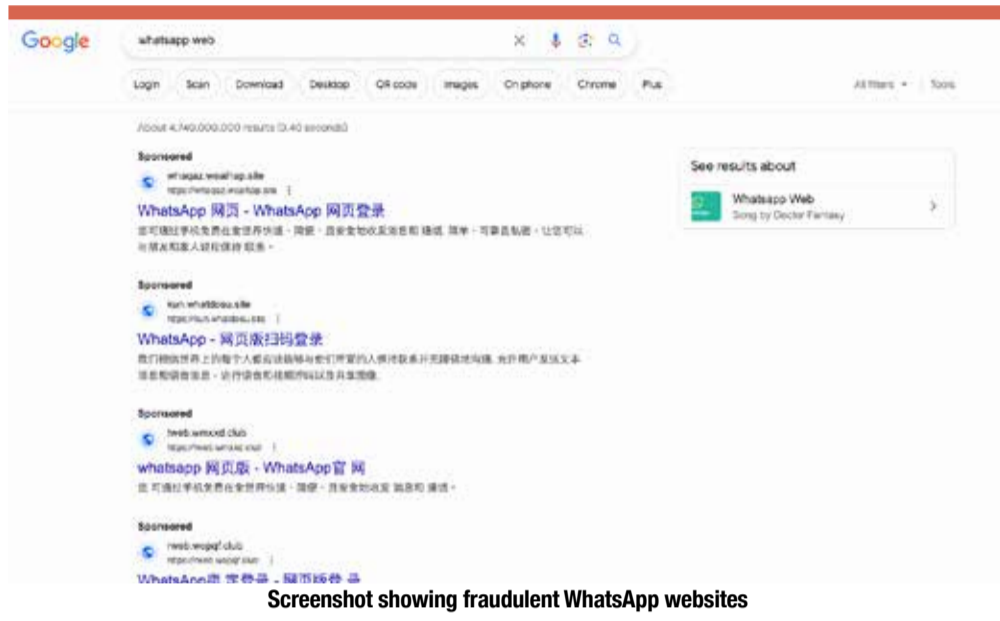
# POLICE WARN ABOUT FRAUDULENT WHATSAPP WEBSITE

ANTHONY LAM

At least four fraudulent WhatsApp websites are being advertised on Google search for the purposes of swindling people, to which at least two Macau residents have fallen victim, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday.

Two local women have fallen victim to the new type of scam, as described by the PJ, and lost a total of MOP5.7 million. They were misled by the Google search results, mistaking the fake websites for the website version of WhatsApp. The fake version had spoofed chat history from their WhatsApp cellphone app and the people behind the scam impersonated friends or relatives of the victims, asking them to make online bank transfers.

According to the PJ, a local victim received a work instruction from her impersonated superintendent, who ordered her to transfer MOP4 million dollars. The



Screenshot showing fraudulent WhatsApp websites

other victim was asked by a fake relative to transfer MOP1.7 million. Both believed the chats were real, as they saw the profile pictures depicting the real people.

The PJ discovered that they had both googled WhatsApp web and fallen into the trap set by the fake websites. The PJ suggests that the public use other chan-

nels to verify any bank transfer requests.

In another case, a teenage girl and a 20-year-old man were scammed by an online platform while looking for summer jobs. The platform asked them to purchase certain merchandise online but, instead of paying directly to the seller, pay the platform operators instead.

They were told that they would be refunded.

The practice was conducted to stage an impression of certain products or sellers being popular.

After several refunded trials, the victims ceased getting their money refunded, and thus approached the police. Both victims have lost about MOP53,000.

# ONLY THE CE MAY HANDLE 'STATE SECRETS' MATTERS

RENATO MARQUES

ONLY the Chief Executive (CE) has the authority to handle matters classified as state secrets by state-authorized entities, including determining that some matters are to be considered state secrets, as well as setting and extending the period of confidentiality and declassification conditions, the president of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ella Lei said yesterday after a meeting in which the committee was analyzing the State Secrets bill.

Lei noted that the bill establishes that only the CE can perform these tasks, which cannot be delegated to other members of the government.

The lawmaker and president of the AL Committee said that the new text of the bill also

clarifies the penalties to be enforced against those failing to meet their responsibilities, including the confidentially around some matters that are to be turned into state secrets.

The new text of the bill also clarifies that matters that by nature must be disclosed to the population (as they are part of their life or carry important information related to it) can never be classified as state secrets.

Contrary to other laws, this bill does not have a specific timeframe for entering into force, Lei said, advancing that according to the government explanation only after the law is approved by the AL will a time be set for its enforcement. This date will take into account the need for a time period to inform all government departments of the rules and procedures.



HEALTH

# No CHCSJ staff to relocate to Cotai hospital at its opening

ANTHONY LAM

MEDICAL staff at the public hospital will not be relocated to the fu-

ture Cotai hospital during the early phase of its opening, the government has told a parliamentary committee.

The Third Standing Committee of the parliament recently concluded its discussions on the Bill of the management sche-

me concerning the future Cotai hospital, which will be managed by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH). The Bill is expected to pass at the plenary before its summer holiday commences in mid-August.

At the post-meeting press conference, committee president Vong Hin Fai recalled that the government had once said that people would be hired and trained at the current public hospital, and then relocated to the Cotai hospital when it opens. As of the latest information, the government said there is no condition for this arrangement as there is a shortage of civil servant medical staff. That is also why the government has previously made some hires in Portugal. However, civil servant medical staff may be temporarily transferred to the Cotai hospital in the future, despite the staff at the new hospital following labor schemes comparatively to private hires.

The Cotai hospital will be bound by a collection of laws and regulations governing its finances, procurement and operations.

# POST OFFICE HAS CONTINGENCIES FOR EU NEW MAILING REQUIREMENTS

NEW procedures have been formulated to cope with future EU adjustments of mailing requirements, Lau Vai Meng, director of the Post and Telecommunication Bureau (CTT), has disclosed.

The EU has announced that adjustments would be made so that mail will need to be pre-declared for customs before being sent.

Lau said that there is a transitional period currently, and airlines will still accept mail without prior customs declarations. She added that her bureau is prepared for the enactment of the adjustments. Mailing stamps, meanwhile, will likely remain at current levels despite the anticipated new requirement.

On the availability of 5G services at the New Neighbourhood project

on Hengqin Island, she said that current licenses issued to local telecom service providers are valid only in Macau. However, she added that many providers do have tariff plans that work in Macau, mainland China and Hong Kong, and that data usage will be shared and considered local usage. Despite that, the telecom official disclosed that the bureau is studying various possibilities, including but not limited to roaming services.

She revealed that, currently, there are over 1.2 million cellphone service users registered in Macau. The rate of growth of clientele in 5G services has been faster than other places. As of the end of June, the city has had about 338,000 5G users in Macau. AL

## MELCO'S COMMITMENT TO TALENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

# Enhancing colleagues' professional skills – supporting Macau's diversified economy

**T**HROUGH innovative talent development programs, Melco Resorts & Entertainment provides colleagues with an array of learning opportunities to enhance their professional skills and encourage lifelong learning, thus helping them establish fruitful careers. As Macau's tourism and leisure industry continues to recover, Melco goes on to prioritize talent development with quality and professionalism to help the city realize its goal of becoming a diversified world center of leisure and tourism.

Melco adopts a systematic approach to accelerate growth through its Whole Person Development philosophy. Dedicated talent diversification initiatives enable the nurturing of non-gaming and creative talent. Its multitude of related programs provide colleagues with cross-functional exposure into various departments other than one's own for strong foundation



development; exposure to various experiences, projects and challenges; and development opportunities ranging from singular tasks to month-long projects.

Late last month, the 5th Macao Integrated Tourism and Lei-

sure Enterprises Vocational Skills Competition 2023, co-organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau and the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), took place at Studio City. Melco continued to support the annual event with a 29-strong team of colleagues

participating in specific Vocational Skills Competitions for **Gaming & Entertainment, Hotel Services and Gastronomy**. Through the opportunity to compete against the industry's top talent in Macau, Melco's aim was to enhance colleagues' voca-

tional skills and professionalism.

The Melco team attained excellent results in the competition's various categories, fully demonstrating the company's dedication and efforts made towards colleague talent development. The Melco team's achievements include:

### GAMING & ENTERTAINMENT VOCATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

- Special Gold Award - Gaming (Service)

### HOTEL SERVICES VOCATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

- Special Gold Award and Best Floral Design Award - Housekeeping
- Special Gold Award - Property Services

### GASTRONOMY VOCATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

- Special Gold Award - F&B Western Service
- Gold Award - Chinese Cuisine

### TABLE GAMES TEAM SHOWED COMMITMENT TO QUALITY GAMING AND ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES



**Ms. Bella Lai of City of Dreams' Table Games Department**

"The instructors' meticulous and professional coaching offered to us during the training process, together with the immense trust and support received from the management team allowed us to make great progress. I must also thank my teammates with

whom I grew and developed throughout the training. With everyone's encouragement and help, we have each benefited greatly from supporting one another and improving as a team.



**Mr. Roy Chou of City of Dreams' Table Games Department**

"I wish to thank the company for allowing me this opportunity to take part in this vocational skills competition. I am grateful for all the support and training we received in preparation for and during the competition process. Looking ahead, I look forward to giving full play to

my strengths and to seize more opportunities in my career.

### HOTEL TEAM DEMONSTRATED STAR QUALITY SERVICE



**Mr. Antonio Wong of Studio City's Housekeeping Department**

"I am honored to be one of the company representatives to participate in this year's competition. We are thankful to have won the Special Gold and Best Floral Design Awards for Housekeeping in the Hotel Services Vocational Skills Competition as not only an

affirmation of our efforts, but also strong encouragement for our pursuit of self-improvement. These achievements depend on the support and encouragement of the company, leaders and colleagues from other departments. It makes me proud to be a member of such a united team.

### CULINARY TEAM PRESENTED AN EXCLUSIVE DINING EXPERIENCE



**Mr. Ka lo Tong of Studio City F&B Department's Pearl Dragon**

"It is an honor to be entrusted by the company as the competition's team leader -- and to be given this invaluable learning opportunity. Our team comprised of colleagues from Melco's different restaurants, and from the project's inception, our teammates provided their expertise for our continual improvement. We carried out research and finally confirmed the dishes for the competition. The process enabled each of

us to get to know each other, quickly developing as a team with great cooperation. Having a common goal meant we continued to improve as a team, and it fully demonstrated the spirit of teamwork at Melco.

Thanks once more to the company, management and colleagues from various departments for their support, trust and help which provided us with a great platform to enhance our skills and broaden our knowledge.



**Ms. Irene Lou of Studio City F&B Department's Lobby Café at Epic Tower**

"I joined Melco only this year, so it is a great honor for me to be able to represent the company in the Western Cuisine competition. During training, I received strong support from the company's F&B department. This allowed me to devote myself to our practice and to obtain the right resources. The company's professional and friendly training team allowed me to gradually develop confidence and professional skills during the process.



**Mr. Man Guo of Studio City's Hotel Services Department**

"I have been working in the engineering and maintenance industry for more than 20 years. This year, I was fortunate enough to be chosen to participate in the vocational skills competition, which rekindled

my fighting spirit from my days as a student. Through the competition and its practice sessions, we further improved our professionalism and service quality. In the end, we were glad to achieve the category's Special Gold Award. This experience and knowledge will surely be applicable to our daily work. Thank you once again to the management team for their wonderful support.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



EDUCATION

# BRAZIL DELEGATION VISITS UM, MUST

STAFF REPORTER

A Brazil delegation led by Secretary for Technological Development and Innovation from Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Guilherme Coutinho Calheiros, has visited the University of Macau (UM) and the Macau University of Science and

Technology (MUST)

The delegation was accompanied by deputy commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the MSAR, Sun Xiangyang. The delegation and the university exchanged views on the development of science and education, personnel training and other aspects,

in the hopes of deepening cooperation.

During the visit, the delegation was introduced to the history and development of UM, as well as the cooperation between UM and universities in Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to the UM, it will continue to deepen and

broaden its cooperation with Brazilian universities to jointly promote the development of higher education.

Carheiros said that he will continue to encourage Brazilian universities to strengthen their cooperation with UM to promote mutual academic and scientific research development.

Meanwhile, in a visit to the MUST, the delegation first visited the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines.

Carheiros expressed appreciation for the achievements of the university in this field, and hoped that the two sides could have more in-depth exchange and cooperate in the quality research of traditional Chinese medicine. The group also visited the State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences, where he also expressed his hope to expand the cooperation space and jointly promote human understanding of deep space exploration.

The visit was aimed at establishing a cooperative relationship to promote the scientific and technological development of Portuguese-speaking countries.

MACAO FOUNDATION

# APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPEN FROM AUG. 1

RENATO MARQUES

THOSE who seek financial support from the Macao Foundation (FM) for next year's activities related to academic projects, community activities, and exchanges, can submit applications for financing from August 1, the FM announced in a press statement.

From this day until September 3, the government foundation will be accepting applications through its online platform.

For "Academic projects" proposals related to academic studies, academic editions, and conferences/training activities will be eligible.

The "Community activities" type includes activities and events such as lectures, workshops, colloquiums, training

sessions, exhibitions, competitions, publications, integrated activities, and large-scale festivals in community neighborhoods.

The last of the three types - "Exchanges" - provides financial support for exchange visits to the mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other countries or regions.

The regulations and forms related to the financial support plans are available on the FM website. Interested parties must ensure that they have a valid account to access the online platform to complete and submit the application form and must subsequently set a day and time for the delivery of the documents necessary to support the application. The deadline for the submission of documents is September 15.

AD

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**AUTOMAKER**

# Volkswagen takes steps to boost its China business as first-half earnings fall by 20%

**V**OLKSWAGEN saw after-tax earnings fall by 20% in the first half of the year, to 8.5 billion euros (\$9.45 billion), as the automaker tries to engineer a rebound in China.

The decline from the same period last year was due in part to a 2.5 billion euro non-cash loss on raw materials hedging in financial markets. Companies use such market strategies to offset risk and insure themselves against rapid changes in the prices of raw materials.

Volkswagen said operating earnings, excluding the hedging effect, rose 13% to 13.9 billion.

Chief Financial Officer Arno Antlitz said the company "achieved solid financial results" in the first six months of the year and that with changes in the China business, "we will improve the competitive business of the Volkswagen Group even further."

The company said its business in Western Europe was strong, given an order book of 1.65 million vehicles, including 200,000



battery-only electric cars, "demonstrating stable customer demand."

Volkswagen reaffirmed its financial outlook for the year and said it was taking steps to strengthen its business in China, where it has seen sales decline in the face of stronger local competition.

Sales revenue increased 18.2% as the company stemmed some of its losses in China, where sales were down 1.2%.

The Wolfsburg, Germany-based company has announced partnerships between its Volkswagen brand and local electric

carmaker Xpeng as well as the expansion of cooperation between its Audi luxury brand and local partners FAW and SAIC. The partnerships are aimed at developing new models for promising markets in China, the world's largest car market.

While affirming its earnings outlook for the year, the company lowered its outlook for deliveries to 9 million to 9.5 million vehicles, from 9.5 million earlier.

The company sold 4.4 million cars during the first six months of the year, up 13% on strong performance outside China. Non-China sales rose 21%. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands China holds responsible gaming carnival for parents and kids



Over 200 Sands China team members, members of local NGOs, and their children have participated in the Sands China Responsible Gaming Parent-Child Happy Carnival.

Themed "Seeking Help for Winning the Future—Smart Financial Management for a Better Future," the event featured 11 interactive activities with the objective of improving family communication, developing the concept of smart financial management, and increasing responsible gaming awareness

among families.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., said: "Sands China is very pleased to join forces with five local NGOs to hold the Sands China Responsible Gaming Parent-Child Happy Carnival. We recognise that parents' role in fostering young children's development is of the utmost significance, and we have organized the carnival as a fun way to show parents the importance of parental involvement in instilling beneficial financial management concepts in their children's minds."

AD

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Regulamento Administrativo n.º 11/2023  
**(Regulamentação do regime jurídico de segurança dos ascensores)**

Entram oficialmente em vigor em 1 de Abril de 2024

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Os responsáveis dos ascensores (ou seja, sociedade de administração, assembleia de condóminos ou operador do estabelecimento, etc.) devem **proceder, o mais cedo possível, ao registo dos ascensores já em funcionamento;**

Os assuntos específicos sobre o registo devem ser **coadjuvados pelas empresas que prestam os serviços de manutenção dos ascensores.**

**Prazo de registo: 1/4/2023 a 31/3/2024**

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**Prazo para apresentação do pedido de inscrição: a partir de 1/4/2023**

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# Sands China's mega shopping event draws 110,000 visitors, offering free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers

**T**HE city's signature shopping event, the Sands Shopping Carnival, saw 110,000 visitors flock to The Venetian Macao as Sands China hosted its annual fair for avid shoppers.

Organised by Sands China Ltd. and co-organised by the Macao Chamber of Commerce,

the Sands Shopping Carnival was held from July 20 to 24, aiming to spur economic growth and to offer a fun weekend destination hotspot for locals and tourists.

This edition saw 50 percent of the visitation come from tourists. Now in its fourth year, the carnival has welcomed over 420,000

visitors since debuting in 2020.

An opening ceremony at The Venetian Macao was attended by representatives from the government, finance, business, and community services sectors – all hailing the event's effort to boost the government's goal of supporting local SMEs.

Maria Helena de Senna Fer-

nandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, said: "[In] the first quarter of this year, 57% of tourist spending in Macau went toward shopping, making it the largest segment of tourist expenditure. Therefore, providing high-quality shopping services is vital to elevating the travel experience

of visitors to Macau."

"We are pleased to see that Sands China and Macau's retailers have shown strong support for retail fairs like this, which can help accelerate the recovery of the retail industry, enabling residents and tourists to enjoy the pleasures of shopping while promoting the integration of 'Tou-



**"** The goal and the objective is to promote the H2H: our vocational training for people in recovery who are coming from drugs and alcohol. They can learn some vocational skills [...] and partake in the integration process through this training. Of course, this platform also serves to promote our products that are made by people in recovery. Basically, it's to help society understand that people who are recovering are just like anybody else and they need support from the community to have a successful integration.

AUGUSTO NOGUIERA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASSOCIATION FOR REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS OF MACAU



**"** This is the fourth time we're joining and it is a great opportunity to promote and shop. Our major products are organic and up the booth here helps us promote to our guests. We had good sales last year, and since there are no extra costs to being here, we can offer great products to our guests. I'm hoping that this time, the booth will be a success. Some long-term customers. It's been challenging. The sentiments have changed a lot. The trend for shopping has changed. Events like these help SMEs meet each other, form partnerships and achieve win-win situations.

CANDY LAI  
MANAGER OF NEW GREEN BOX PAVILION





ses, and we have spared no effort in promoting Macao brands to support the Macao SAR government's policy of fostering SMEs," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Across the over 260,000 products, the 2023 Sands Shopping Carnival offered a limited number of special daily items for shoppers at a mere MOP1, and international brands offered extensive discounts of up to 90 percent off.

The carnival not only provides retailers with the opportunity to showcase their products in a renowned space, but it also provides a free business platform by allowing the SMEs to offer more products and services with attractive deals.

The carnival also included the BOC Smart Kids Presents: Little Master Chef Workshop, a free food-prep and decorating activity for children, led by Sands China's food and beverage team, featuring madeleines, handmade sushi, Vietnamese spring rolls, and more. Additionally, the ICBC ePay Presents: Karaoke King Singing Competition 2023 and the Bank of Communications Presents: K-POP Dance Competition 2023 offered an opportunity for teams and individuals to shine on stage and showcase their talents.

As part of Sands China's ongoing promotion of social inclusion, around 80 Sands Cares Ambassadors provided on-site support to local community organizations that were invited to participate in the carnival and helped them man their 13 booths.

In total, the ambassadors contributed over 200 hours of volunteer service during the carnival.

At the carnival's Food Court, four social enterprises that offer vocational training for their service users sold food and drinks. The carnival was an opportunity for their projects to gain exposure in the local commercial market and create job opportunities for their members. At the carnival's Macao Cultural, Creative and IP zone, nine community organisations ran booths.

rism + Shopping," she added. Fred Ma Chi Ngai, president of the Board of Directors of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, said: "Through co-organising this event, the Macao Chamber of Commerce is demonstrating unwavering support for the sustainable and far-reaching growth of local SMEs by promoting

local brands and helping Macao's SMEs and businesses expand their retail network." The carnival featured record-breaking numbers: over 580 booths and 11 exhibition zones across 21,000 square meters. Within the zones were areas promoting Sands retailers, household products, parenting and

family, gourmet products, food courts, healthy lifestyle, 'Macao cultural, creative and IP', play and fun, and three new zones – international wine and spirits, happy reading, and MinM Plaza. For Sands China, the Sands Shopping Carnival has become a highly-anticipated summer signature event for residents

and tourists from the Greater Bay Area. "Events like this play an important role in enhancing the non-gaming elements of our industry, contributing to Macao's status as a world centre of tourism and leisure. Sands China upholds the business philosophy of supporting local enterpri-

g this carnival  
e our products  
anic, so setting  
health to the  
since there are  
motions to the  
able to attract  
The customer  
opping has also  
other, form  
ions.



**" We are grateful as this platform helps us promote and raise awareness of the situation of stray animals and inform people about the association's structure. It also helps promote our products. We see platforms like this as important means by which we can promote the message of keeping stray animals at home and also send further messages about our own association.**

CHAN IN CHENG  
CHAIRMAN OF EVERYONE STRAY DOGS MACAU VOLUNTEER GROUP



**" I think the carnival is really a good platform because it is not only an exhibition where products are showcased, but a platform for us, SMEs. With Sands China's strong brand name appeal, the carnival can attract a significant number of people, which can then lead to an increase in revenues. I look forward to joining the next one in 2024.**

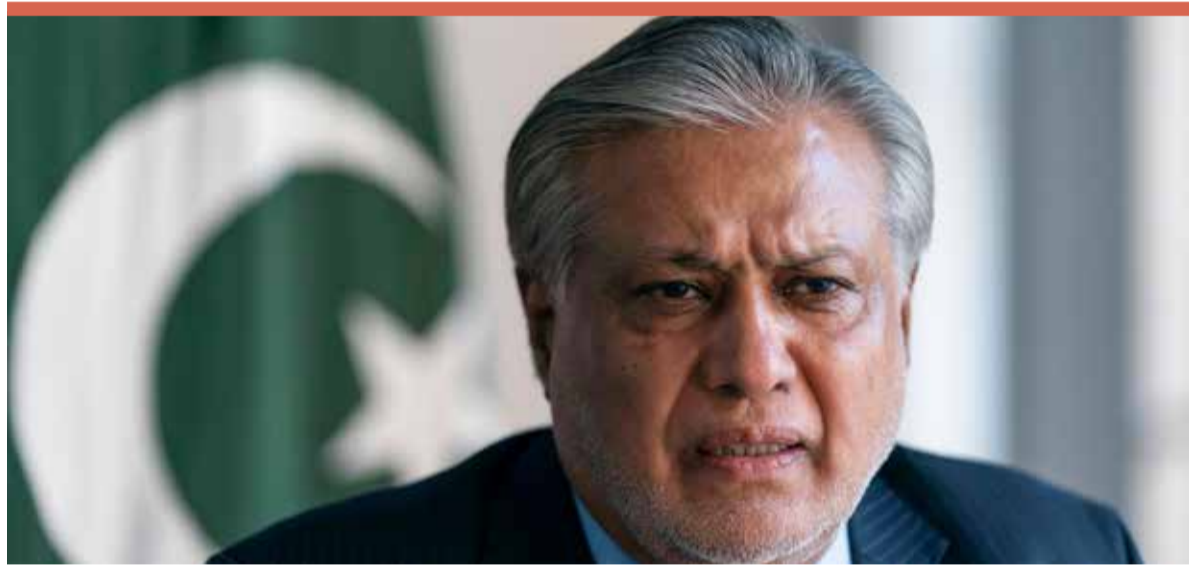
WONG YU FEI  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF WONG CHI KEI FOODS (MACAU) CO. LTD.

TRADE & INVESTMENT

# PAKISTAN'S FINANCE MINISTER SAYS BEIJING ROLLS OVER \$2.4 BILLION LOAN FOR ISLAMABAD FOR TWO YEARS

MUNIR AHMED, ISLAMABAD

AP PHOTO



Pakistani Finance Minister Ishaq Dar

PAKISTAN'S finance minister yesterday said China has rolled over a \$2.4 billion loan for the cash-strapped Islamic nation for two years, a move aimed at helping the country overcome one of its worst economic crises.

The latest extension in loan maturities by Beijing was a boost to Pakistan's fragile foreign exchange reserves, which are still only enough to pay the import bill for a period of two months.

In a post on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter, Ishaq Dar said the Chinese EXIM Bank rolled over for two years the "principal amounts" of the \$2.4 billion loan, which Islamabad was to have paid back in 2024 and 25.

However, he said Pakistan would now only make interest payments in both years.

China is a longtime friend of Pakistan and it has played a key role in helping Pakistan avoid a

default this year, though there has been concern in the country about how Islamabad would repay the growing Chinese loans.

Some analysts in Pakistan call it a debt trap, though the government says there is no truth to such assumptions. The latest development comes two weeks

after the International Monetary Fund deposited a much-awaited first installment of \$1.2 billion in Pakistan's central bank under a bailout to help Pakistan avoid default. It bolstered Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, which shrank to \$4 billion recently, raising fears of a default.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves jumped to \$14 billion last week.

The IMF loans had been on hold since December mainly because of non-compliance with the terms of the previous \$6 billion bailout by Pakistan. It forced Pakistan to seek financial

help from friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan has said China in recent months gave it \$5 billion in loans to avoid a default.

In Pakistan, Beijing is bankrolling the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a sprawling package that includes a multitude of mega projects such as road construction, power plants and agriculture.

China has already invested billions of dollars in Pakistan and the package is considered a life-line for the country, which had struggled until June to overcome the economic crisis when Pakistan and the IMF agreed to a new \$3 billion bailout.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan no longer faces the risk of default.

Since coming to power in April 2022, Sharif has blamed alleged corruption under former Prime Minister Imran Khan for Pakistan's economic downturn.

Sharif is likely to step down next month when the current parliament completes its five-year term, paving the way for new parliamentary elections, which will be held under the supervision of an interim government that will be installed next month when the National Assembly is dissolved. **MDT/AP**

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FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN MACAU (2023)



TYPHOON DOKSURI

# Shantou joins parts of Taiwan in shutting down schools, offices for storm

**T**HE coastal Chinese city of Shantou yesterday joined parts of Taiwan in shutting down schools and offices as Typhoon Doksuri brings heavy wind and rain to the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas.

Doksuri weakened further yesterday, with sustained winds of 155 kph and gusts of up to 190 kph, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau. The typhoon's center will not hit Taiwan's mainland, but its outlying bands will still bring stronger winds and rains yesterday afternoon.

Shantou, which lies on the border between Guangdong and Fujian provinces, will remain largely shut through the end of today, the local government said on social media.



Floods in Marikina city, Philippines, yesterday

Images from the area on public news broadcasts showed fishing ships tied up in port as heavy waves broke along the seawall. Apart from an occasional squall, there was no sign of heavy rain as of yesterday afternoon, reports said.

The Taiwan Strait is one of

the world's busiest routes for international trade and the typhoon has caused major disruptions to shipping and flights.

In southern Taiwan, the port city Kaohsiung and Tainan announced that offices and schools will be closed yesterday. Hualien and Tai-

tung counties along the Pacific Ocean on the island's east coast also shuttered schools and offices. Kaohsiung also evacuated some 300 residents who lived in a mountainous part of the district, according to the semi-official Central News Agency.

The storm temporarily left tens of thousands of households without power in Kaohsiung and Tainan, although most of them have had their electricity restored as of Thursday morning, according to the Taiwan Power Company.

The storm will travel through the Taiwan Strait yesterday and make landfall in Fujian province today.

The typhoon swept through northern Philippine provinces with ferocious wind and rain on Wednesday, leaving at least nine people dead, including four members of a family whose house was buried in a landslide, and displacing thousands of villagers.

Authorities expect the death toll to rise as more provincial reports come in. The storm caused widespread power outages and agricultural damage and prompted the suspension of work, classes and sea travel for about two days, disaster response officials said. MDT/AP

DIPLOMACY

## INDONESIAN PRESIDENT WIDODO ARRIVES IN CHINA, PLANS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT XI

**I**NDONESIAN President Joko Widodo arrived yesterday in China and planned to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, a state news agency reported.

Widodo was due to attend the opening of the FISU World University Games in Chengdu in southwestern China, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said the two leaders would meet but gave no details of what they might discuss.

Indonesia is, along with China, a member of the Group of 20 major developed and emerging economies.

Indonesia wants a bigger role as a supplier of nickel and other raw materials to China's fast-growing electric car brands. MDT/AP



Indonesian President Joko Widodo waves as he arrives in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, yesterday

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**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

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**MACAUCLOSER**

NORTH KOREA

# Kim meets with Russian defense minister to discuss military cooperation

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to discuss military issues and the regional security environment, state media said yesterday, illustrating North Korea's support for Russia's war in Ukraine as the isolated country celebrated the 70th anniversary of an armistice that halted fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim and Shoigu talked Wednesday in Pyongyang, and reached a consensus on unspecified "matters of mutual concern in the field of national defense and security and on the regional and international security environment."

During the meeting, Shoigu conveyed to Kim a "warm and good letter" signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, KCNA said. The report did not specify the military matters that were discussed.

North Korea has been aligning with Russia over the war in Ukraine, insisting that the "hegemonic policy" of the U.S.-led West forced Moscow to take military action to protect its security interests. The Biden administration has accused North Korea of providing arms to Russia to aid its fighting in Ukraine, although the North has denied the claim. The Kim-Shoigu meeting will help to "further boost the strategic and tactical collaboration and cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and security," KCNA said.

In a rare case of diplomatic opening since the start of the pandemic, North Korea invited delegations from Russia and China to attend the events marking the armistice of July 27, 1953. While the truce left the Korean Peninsula in a technical state of war, the North still sees it as a victory in the "Grand Fatherland Liberation War."

KCNA said Kim also took Shoigu to an arms exhibition that showcased some of North Korea's newest weapons and briefed him on national plans



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, Kim Jong Un, right, with Russian delegation led by its Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visits an arms exhibition in Pyongyang, this week

to expand the country's military capabilities. State media photos and video from the exhibition showed Kim and Shoigu walking near a row of large missiles mounted on launcher trucks.

Some of the weapons in the images appeared to be intercontinental ballistic missiles that the North has flight-tested in recent months as it pursues an arsenal that can pose a viable threat to the continental United States. Kim and Shoigu also walked past what were possibly new surveillance and attack drones that had not been publicly announced by the North.

Lee Sung Joon, a spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that the South Korean military was analyzing the military assets shown in the North Korean photos but did not share specific assessments.

When asked about the possibility that Shoigu's visit was to discuss importing weapons from North Korea, John Kirby, the White House's National Security Council coordinator for strategic communications, didn't answer directly but said it was clear Putin is reaching out to other countries for support in fighting his war in Ukraine.

"Mr. Putin knows he's having his own defense procurement problems, his own inventory problems, that his military remains on the back foot, and he's trying to shore that up," Kirby said.

The last time North Korea invited foreign government delegates for a military parade was in February 2018, when it held a low-key event that excluded Kim's ICBMs. North Korea at the time was initiating diplomacy with Seoul and Washington as Kim attempted to leverage his nuclear program for badly needed economic benefits.

Those efforts led to a summit between Kim and then-U.S. President Donald Trump that June, but the diplomacy collapsed after their second meeting in February 2019, when the Americans rejected North Korean demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of their nuclear capabilities.

Kim has since ramped up the development of the nuclear arms that he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival while berating "gangster-like" U.S. sanctions and pressure.

Beijing's delegation to North Korea is headed by mid-level official Li Hongzhong, a politburo member of China's ruling Communist Party.

KCNA said senior North Korean officials led by Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the standing committee of the country's parliament, held a reception for Li's delegation in Pyongyang on Wednesday at which they honored Chinese soldiers who died while fighting alongside the North Koreans during the war.

Li said in a speech at the

event that China is ready to promote the "sound and stable" development of relations with the North, KCNA said.

Analysts say Kim sharing the center stage with Shoigu and Li at a military parade would be a key accomplishment he could show to his domestic audience as well as a statement of defiance toward the United States.

On Wednesday, Shoigu also held talks with North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam that were aimed at "strengthening cooperation between our defense departments," Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

KCNA reported that at a reception hosted by Kang, Shoigu praised the North Korean People's Army under the leadership of Kim, saying it "has become the strongest army in the world." Russian media reports did not include that comment.

The Korean War was triggered by a surprise North Korean attack on the South in June 1950. The North was supported by Chinese troops and the then-Soviet air force. South Korea, the United States, and troops from various nations under the direction of the United Nations fought to push back the invasion.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol marked the armistice anniversary by visiting a cemetery in the port city of Busan that honors the U.N. troops who died during the war. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1965 US ORDERS 50,000 TROOPS TO VIETNAM



President Johnson has committed a further 50,000 US troops to the conflict in Vietnam.

Monthly draft calls will increase from 17,000 to 35,000 - the highest level since the Korean War, when between 50,000 and 80,000 men were called up each month.

It will take the US force in Vietnam up to 125,000 but officials say at this stage demands should be met by conscription, without calling upon the reserves.

Speaking in a televised address from the White House President Johnson said: "We do not want an expanding struggle with consequences no one can foresee."

"Nor will we bluster, bully or flaunt our power. But we will not surrender, nor will we retreat," he continued.

The President gave the news conference after a week of intensive talks with senior military and security advisers in Washington.

He explained the decisions were in response to requests made by General Westmoreland, the US Commander in the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon.

Mrs Johnson and her daughter looked close to tears as Mr Johnson admitted: "I do not find it easy to send the flower of our youth, our finest young men, into battle."

The US leader also made clear his desire for peace and recalled the - unsuccessful - efforts of 40 countries to bring an end to the fighting on 15 occasions.

He called upon the United Nations to redouble its efforts to restore peace to Vietnam and detailed a personal letter to that effect being personally delivered to the UN Secretary-General, U Thant, in New York by the new US Ambassador to the UN, Arthur Goldberg.

The Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, and the Secretary of Defence, Robert S McNamara, are to persuade Congress of the need to finance the US' new military commitments, in the light of a reduced defence budget this year.

President Johnson explained: "We intend to convince the communists that we cannot be defeated by force of arms or by superior power."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

By the end of the year 180,000 US troops had been sent to Vietnam. In 1966 the figure doubled. 80,000 Americans had been killed or wounded in the Vietnam War by summer 1967. Pressure to withdraw mounted, not least because money for domestic reforms was diverted to the military. There was rioting in US cities and demonstrations on university campuses in the summer of 1967.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job. Try not to say the wrong thing at the wrong time.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
You can continue to forge ahead if you make a few long distance calls pertinent to closing pending deals. You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Depression may result if you don't get to do things your own way. You need to make your lover feel wanted, not like a piece of the furniture.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? You will feel so much better about yourself if you can control your addictions.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Don't overspend or give too freely to others. Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your words will be taken out of context if you're evasive with coworkers or employers. There might be a problem with a will or with an insurance policy.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
You may find that someone at work hasn't been trustworthy. Don't gamble unless you can afford to lose. Travel will also entice you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
The answers can only come from within. You can evade the issue as usual by being affectionate, fun loving, and far too active for your lover to catch on.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You should be able to tie up loose ends today. You're intuitive today; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. You should consider getting into self improvement endeavors. You could lose a good friend because of it.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	24	30	rain
Changchun	23	30	thunderstorms
Chengdu	22	31	showers
Chongqing	25	31	rain
Fuzhou	27	30	rain
Guangzhou	27	33	rain
Guiyang	21	26	showers
Haikou	25	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	33	rain
Harbin	22	27	rain
Hefei	25	29	rain
Nanjing	26	30	thunderstorms
Shanghai	26	30	rain
Taipei	26	29	rain
Wuhan	26	34	rain
Hong Kong	30	34	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	15	24	thunderstorms
Frankfurt	17	24	thunderstorms
Paris	17	25	thunderstorms
London	16	23	cloudy
New York	26	34	fine

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Aromatic plant; 5- Uneven; 10- Female rabbits; 14- Nabisco cookie; 15- Eucalyptus eater; 16- Devil's doing; 17- Neglected; 19- Attention; 20- Back in; 21- Knotty; 23- Singer Shannon; 25- Trash; 26- Gives a bad review; 29- Sign; 31- Refuge; 35- \_\_\_ roll; 36- Heating fuel; 37- Fix, as a shoe; 38- Shuns; 40- Person who repairs telephone wires; 41- Mental condition; 42- Indian exercise method; 43- Hot time in Paris; 44- Fishhook line; 45- Phnom \_\_\_; 46- God of war; 47- Sumptuous meal; 49- Decorative flap on a garment; 51- Person with new parents; 54- Nervous person, maybe; 58- \_\_\_ Ha'; 59- When "the livin' is easy"; 63- Lower jaw; 64- More bizarre; 65- Geraint's beloved; 66- Token taker; 67- Deputised group; 68- Sun, speeches;

**DOWN** 1- It may be happy; 2- Sea eagle; 3- Four-sided fig.; 4- Planks; 5- Supplement, with "out"; 6- Tool of a fisherman; 7- Bumbler; 8- Mantra; 9- Pulls down; 10- Diminish; 11- Egg-shaped; 12- Leprechaun land; 13- Hill toy; 18- Fish eggs; 22- Goddess of wisdom; 24- Lerner's partner; 25- Drenched; 26- They're metered; 27- Baseball Hall of Famer Cap; 28- Mother-of-pearl; 30- More, in Mexico; 32- Nose bone; 33- Delight; 34- Hawaiian state birds; 36- BB, e.g.; 37- Appropriate; 39- 8 fluid ounces; 40- First name in horror films; 42- Nevertheless; 45- Pretended; 46- Lets up; 48- Man of morals; 50- Calendar abbr.; 51- Basics; 52- Writer Roald; 53- Potpourri; 55- Motion picture; 56- Foreign dignity; 57- Cincinnati team; 60- Rx writers; 61- Parisian possessive; 62- Bard's "before";

**Yesterday's solution**

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R	I	T	E	D	A	R	E	S	W	I	T	E	
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G	R	O	T	T	O	S	M	U	D	G	E		
P	L	I	E	S	A	N	A						
J	A	R	S	P	E	C	U	L	A	T	I	O	N
O	L	I	O	I	M	A	R	I	T	S	O		
I	L	S	A	D	I	A	N	A	N	A	T	O	
N	Y	E	T		R	N	S		O	L	E	N	

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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HOLLYWOOD

# UK JURY ACQUITS KEVIN SPACEY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES BASED ON ALLEGATIONS BY FOUR MEN OVER 20 YEARS

BRIAN MELLEY, LONDON

A jury in London acquitted Kevin Spacey of sexual assault yesterday [Macau time] after the Oscar winner's star turn as a witness in his own defense spared him a possible prison term and offered him hope of a career comeback after six years without a job.

Tears rolled down Spacey's cheeks as the final "not guilty" verdict was read. The Oscar winner looked at the jury, placed his hand over the lapel of his blue suit and pink shirt, and mouthed "thank you." It was his 64th birthday.

"I imagine that many of you can understand that there's a lot for me to process after what has just happened today," a humbled Spacey said outside Southwark Crown Court after thanking a handful of jurors in the lobby. "I am enormously grateful to the jury for having taken the time to examine all of the evidence and all of the facts carefully before they reached their decision."

Spacey's two days of testimony culminated with him choking up as he spoke of his six years without work since the sex abuse allegations against him surfaced in 2017.

"My world exploded," Spacey testified. "There was a rush to judgment and before the first question was asked or answered, I lost my job, I lost my reputation, I lost everything in a matter of days."

Three men accused Spacey of aggressively grabbing their crotches, describing him as "vile" and a "slippery, snaky" predator. A fourth, an aspiring actor, said he awoke to the actor performing oral sex on him after falling asleep or passing out in Spacey's London apartment where he had gone for career advice and a beer.

Spacey said he was a "big flirt" who had consensual flings with men and whose only misstep was touching a man's groin while making a "clumsy pass."

Defense lawyer Patrick Gibbs said three of the men were liars and that their encounters had been "reimagined with a sinister spin." He accused them of hopping on a #MeToo "bandwagon" in the hope of striking it rich. Two of the men have sued Spacey.

Prosecutor Christine Agnew called Spacey a "sexual bully" who preyed on younger men.



Actor Kevin Spacey addresses the media outside Southwark Crown Court in London after being acquitted by a jury: "Thank you."

She said he was shielded by a "trinity of protection" — he knew men were unlikely to complain; they wouldn't be believed if they did complain; and if they did complain, no action would be taken because he was powerful.

Spacey had faced nine charges, including multiple counts of sexual assault and one count of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent. Jurors deliberated for 12.5 hours over three days before reaching their verdict.

Spacey had viewed the London case as a chance for redemption, telling German magazine Zeit last month that there were "people right now who are ready to hire me the moment I am cleared of these charges in London."

During deliberations, jurors asked Justice Mark Wall to summarize the testimony of a man who said the actor grabbed his crotch so forcefully while he was driving to a gala at Elton John's that he almost ran off the road.

In a cameo appearance, the rock star and his husband, David Furnish, testified by video from Monaco and offered a ti-

meline that cast doubt on the driver's account. They said Spacey didn't attend the White Tie & Tiara Ball the year the man said, but had been a surprise guest three or four years earlier in 2001.

That was significant because the man said he had begun working with Spacey in the early 2000s and suffered from unwanted fondling for years. He said the incident in the car was the final straw and he avoided the star afterwards.

The accusations dated from 2001 to 2013 and included a period when Spacey — after winning Academy Awards for "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty" — had returned to the theater. He served as artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre in London for most of that time.

The men came forward after an American actor accused Spacey of sexual misconduct as the #MeToo movement heated up in 2017.

One of the men called his encounter with Spacey "completely traumatic and life-ruining." One said he sought solace by working out and drinking more. Several said they couldn't bear to watch productions starring

the actor.

With the confidence of a seasoned performer, Spacey took his seat in the witness box in what had to be the smallest stage of his career — a laminated oak desk at the front of a brightly lit courtroom.

He spoke in the warm, rich, calming voice that most audiences would instantly recognize. When pressed by Agnew, he did not take the menacing, cold tone of some of his characters, but maintained his composure and showed only flashes of indignation delivered with a flourish.

Asked about grabbing the genitals of a man backstage at a charity event, he snapped: "Absolute bollocks!"

As laughter rose in the gallery, Agnew retorted: "That's exactly where you did grab him, isn't it?"

"Really?" Spacey said as he looked up at Wall in disbelief.

He then denied the act and later dismissed the prosecution case as weak.

Jurors laughed and smiled at parts of his testimony and Wall occasionally had to rein him in when he strayed into seemingly irrelevant anecdotes.

Spacey sounded like a regu-

lar guy at times, speaking of how he liked to smoke marijuana but was incapable of rolling a joint, and acknowledging that he sought sex during lonely periods, quipping "welcome to life." He said being promiscuous does not make him a bad person.

At other moments, he illustrated his life as an award-winning actor. He talked about performing in high school with Val Kilmer, buying the most expensive Mini Cooper ever at Elton John's charity gala, and how he taught Judi Dench to play table tennis while filming "The Shipping News" and later bought her a ping pong table.

Gibbs said Spacey was "monstered" on the internet and became toxic in the entertainment industry.

Spacey was booted from the runaway Netflix success, "House of Cards," and his scenes in "All the Money in the World," were scrubbed and he was replaced by Christopher Plummer. Aside from some small projects, he has barely worked as an actor in six years.

The court victory is his second since he beat a \$40 million lawsuit last fall in New York brought by "Star Trek: Discovery" actor Anthony Rapp.

Prosecutors in Massachusetts dropped charges when the alleged victim suddenly refused to testify.

Los Angeles prosecutors declined to bring charges after the death of a massage therapist who said Spacey forced him to touch the actor's genitals during a rub down at Spacey's home in Malibu in 2016.

Spacey said that being out of work had left him with bills he's still paying.

An arbitrator in LA ordered Spacey to pay nearly \$31 million to the makers of "House of Cards" for violating his contract by sexually harassing crew members.

Spacey can now resume his career "without a stain on his character" said Mark Stephens, a London media lawyer.

"These were allegations made at the height of the #MeToo allegations in Hollywood, and out of an abundance of caution, essentially Kevin Spacey was canceled by Hollywood," Stephens said. "I suspect he'll be snapped up by Hollywood producers desperate to get on and make new movies." MDT/AP

MDT FOOD REVIEW

# Galaxy celebrates sumptuous Hokkaido sea urchins at Hotel Okura Macau

ANTHONY LAM

**S**EA urchin lovers will savor sumptuous delights this summer at Nagomi at Hotel Okura Macau, Galaxy Macau Resort, with the prestigious bafun uni breed of sea urchin sweeping the menu.

Sashimi donburi is a celebrated dish in Japanese gastronomy that highlights freshness and partial culinary simplicity. Eaten chilled, sashimi donburi is a primary dining option for many on hot summer days to relax and take the edge off the suffocating heat.

At Nagomi, this summer, there will be two limited-offer sea urchin donburi to excite diners' palates. The duo is Hokkaido bafun sea urchin and salmon roe don (MOP588), as well as medium fatty tuna belly (chu-toro), minced tuna and Hokkaido bafun sea urchin don (MOP498).

The two options come in teishoku, or as a set menu in English, with chilled tofu, miso soup with clams, fresh fruits, cake of the day and coffee or tea, besides the main course of donburi.

As an eatery upholding an elegant dining philosophy, Nagomi's donburi comes in an appropriate size. The fresh seafood is laid exquisitely on a bed of warm and fluffy Japanese rice, so well-arranged that some may find it emotionally challenging to start eating. However, the feeling can be spectacular when the salmon roes explode and the



sea urchin melts on the palate.

Nagomi also has a variety of cooked donburi to attend to the

needs of a wider range of diners.

The menu is available during the opening hours of the café

from 12nn to 8pm. Diners paying with the ICBC Galaxy Macau credit card may enjoy

discounts of up to 20%. All prices are subject to 15% surcharge and tax.

tTUNES

# Indie-folk quartet Darlingside sings the blues with a lovely, inviting intimacy

**E**VEN the percussion is pretty.

Darlingside's "Everything Is Alive" achieves a melancholy-inducing beauty from the sum of its parts. That includes the quartet's vocals, whether individually or in harmony, and arresting arrangements with chifon textures that make a kick drum sound tender.

There's variety thanks to the Boston-based band's

democratic approach — lead vocals are shared by all four members, as are writing credits. Don Mitchell evokes fire and rain contemplating mortality on "Darkening Hour," and Auyon Mukharji's tenor shines atop baroque strings on "Down Here," which has the subtle sway of a courtly Sarabande. Harris Pasetliner offers "Green Light" as an Irish blessing paired with an

intricate melody, while David Senft somehow creates an ethereal mood on "All the Lights in The City" even as he sings of boustrophedon.

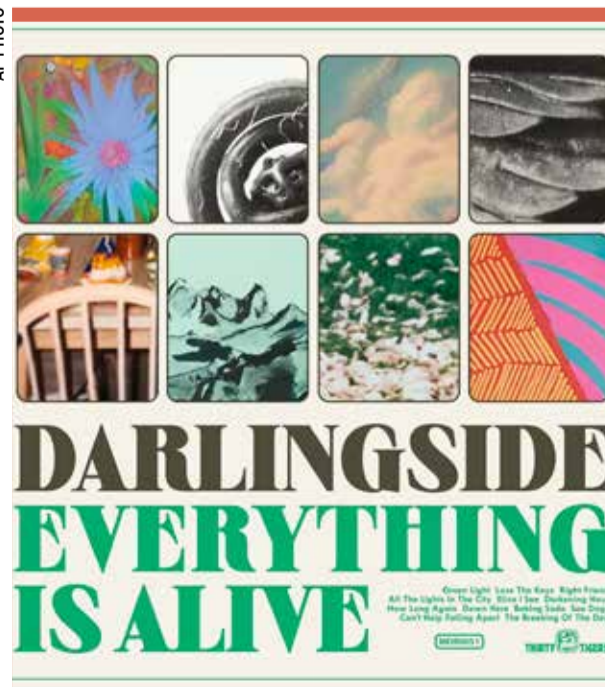
Keep the dictionary handy: There are also lofty lyrics about a Robitusin dream and cerulean embrace, which perhaps is to be expected with a band from a college town. Recurring themes of loss and darkness, however,

are plain enough.

"Lose the keys, the marbles, lose a parent, lose the count, lose the plot," Mitchell laments on "Lose the Keys."

Darlingside sings the blues with a lovely, inviting intimacy. These are songs made for bedroom headphones — good ones, not the cheap kind. "Everything Is Alive" is worth the investment. STEVEN WINE,MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



"Everything Is Alive," Darlingside (Thirty Tigers)

**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**BRICS ACTS FOR COLLECTIVE GOOD OF GLOBAL SOUTH**

The BRICS platform, which began life as a dialogue mechanism for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has evolved into a key platform for cooperation among the world's developing countries and emerging markets.

Because of opposition from Russia, French President Emmanuel Macron will not take part in the bloc's upcoming summit in South Africa, to be held in Johannesburg from Aug 22 to 24. But the fact that the French leader sought an invitation to attend the summit reflects the growing stature of BRICS.

That explains why so many developing countries are seeking to join the group. So far more than 40 countries including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Iran have expressed an interest in joining, with 22 of them having already formally applied to do so.

Together, the five current BRICS members already account for 40 percent of the world's population and just over one-fourth of the global GDP. They are helping to drive the development of the Global South through the New Development Bank that BRICS created in 2015 to meet the specific funding needs of developing countries. The bank, which provides development funding without any political strings attached, has so far approved more than \$30 billion in loans for infrastructure projects in developing countries.

Since its first summit in 2009, BRICS has been committed to upholding multilateralism, reforming the global governance system and amplifying the voice of the developing countries in the international arena. This, in addition to its pledge that it will remain open and inclusive, and strive for win-win results, has made the group an ideal development partner for countries that have been marginalized or left behind by the West-dominated world economic order.

A highlight of this year's summit is that the heads of state of all African countries have been invited to the meeting. This unprecedented move indicates that BRICS has now become a constructive force for reshaping the existing global order. "Our continent was pillaged and ravaged and exploited by other continents and we therefore want to build the solidarity in BRICS to advance the interests ... of the continent as a whole," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said. His country now holds the BRICS chair. Indeed, "BRICS is no longer an 'alternative', it is an established feature of the global landscape", as Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said.

It is to be hoped that the upcoming summit will further contribute to building a fairer and more open global development architecture to the benefit of all developing nations.

**MUTINOUS SOLDIERS CLAIM TO HAVE OVERTHROWN NIGER'S PRESIDENT ON TV**

**THE BUZZ**

Mutinuous soldiers claimed to have overthrown Niger's democratically elected president, announcing on state television yesterday [Macau time] that they have put an end to the government over the African country's deteriorating security.

The soldiers said all institutions had been suspended and security forces were managing the situation. The mutineers urged external partners not to interfere.

The announcement came after a day of uncertainty as members of Niger's presidential guard surrounded the presidential palace and detained President Mohamed Bazoum. There was no immediate indication of whether the mutiny was supported by other parts of the military.

"This is as a result of the continuing degradation of the security situation, the bad economic and social governance," air force Col. Major Amadou Abdramane said on the video. Seated at a table in front of nine other officers, he said aerial and land borders were closed and a curfew was imposed until the situation stabilized.

The group, which is calling itself National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, said it remained committed to its engagements with the international and national community.

AP PHOTO



A church personnel inspects damages inside the Odesa Transfiguration Cathedral in Ukraine

**ANGRY RUSSIA REFUSES TO SPEAK AT UN MEETING ON ITS ATTACKS ON ODESA**

**I**n an escalation of Russia's anger at Ukraine and its Western backers, Russia refused to speak at a U.N. Security Council meeting called to discuss Moscow's recent devastating attacks on the key port of Odesa immediately following its refusal to extend the Black Sea grain deal.

The confrontation began at the start of a council session called by Russia on the divided Orthodox Church in Ukraine. Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, protested that Britain, which holds the council presidency, was allowing only two briefers and Moscow wanted a third — Archbishop Gideon of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The Ukrainian government has cracked down on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church over its historic ties to the Russian Orthodox Church, whose leader, Patriarch Kirill, supported Russian President Vladimir Putin over the invasion of Ukraine.

Polyansky accused the UK of bias, censorship and obstruction for limiting the number of briefers.

Deputy British ambassador James Kariuki responded that because of a tight time schedule to fit in two council meetings, the UK had offered a compromise to allow a third Russian briefers to submit a state-

ment to the council, which he said was "not unreasonable."

Polyansky was not satisfied, and Kariuki then put Russia's proposal to have the archbishop speak to a vote. Russia got support only from China and Brazil, with the 12 other council members abstaining.

Polyansky called the council's refusal to allow the archbishop to speak an "egregious" example of double standards on human rights and freedom of religion.

As "a sign of protest," he said, Russia wouldn't speak in the Ukraine-backed council session called by Ukraine to take up the Odesa attacks.

The meeting on the Orthodox Church then went ahead. The director of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations, Nihal Saad, told the council that the division between Ukraine's Orthodox bodies "has existed for decades." But she said it has been exacerbated since the February 2022 Russian invasion and has "reverberated worldwide as Orthodox churches have struggled with how and whether to take sides."

Saad said the "heart-breaking" damage to Odesa's historic church, the Transfiguration Cathedral, caused by a Russian missile strike Sunday was condemned by many, including

the U.N. secretary-general. The cathedral is in Odesa's historic city center that is a UNESCO world heritage site and had been largely spared since the beginning of the war.

Saad lamented that it was one of 116 religious sites damaged since the invasion, according to a preliminary assessment by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In her briefing, Saad cited restrictions to freedom of religion by both Russia and Ukraine since the invasion, saying "the politicization of religion in the war in Ukraine fuels intercommunal tensions, stokes fear and triggers violence."

Polyansky called the devastation to the cathedral "a horrible tragedy" and reiterated Russia's claim that the cathedral was damaged by a piece from Ukraine's anti-air defenses — not a Russian missile. If a Russian missile targeted the cathedral, he said, "then there would be nothing left of the cathedral at all."

The Russian deputy ambassador left the council chamber at the end of the session.

The council meeting that followed on the Russian attacks on Odesa came days after that enabled Ukraine to export more than 32,000 tons of foodstuff to many countries facing the threat of hunger. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



**Ukraine** has launched a major push to dislodge Russian forces from the country's southeast as part of its weeklong counteroffensive, committing thousands of troops to the battle, according to Western and Ukrainian officials and analysts. The surge in troops and firepower has been centered on the region of Zaporizhzhia, a Western official said. The official was not authorized to comment publicly on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

**Ukraine** has signaled it will no longer bar its athletes from competing against Russians who are taking part in sporting events as "neutral athletes," a significant easing of its boycott policy a year before the Paris Olympics. A decree dated Wednesday says Ukrainian athletes and teams will only be required to boycott if competitors from Russia or Belarus are competing under their national flags or other symbols, or have signaled allegiance to either of those countries in another way.

AP PHOTO



**Netherlands** A cargo ship packed with nearly 3,000 cars was still ablaze yesterday close to a world-renowned bird habitat off the Dutch coast as firefighters and salvage crews waited for the flames to subside before attempting to board the vessel. The Fremantle Highway was sailing from the German port of Bremerhaven to Singapore when it caught fire shortly before midnight Tuesday about 27 kilometers north of the Dutch island of Ameland, sparking fears of an environmental disaster.

AP PHOTO



**UK** Prince Harry's lawsuit accusing the publisher of The Sun tabloid of unlawfully snooping on him can go to trial, but not on claims of phone hacking, a High Court judge ruled yesterday. The Duke of Sussex alleged the publisher of The Sun and the now-defunct News Of The World had hacked his phone and used investigators and deception to unlawfully gather information on him dating back two decades.