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THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ELECTORAL LAWS HAS COME TO AN END WITH OVER 6,000 OPINIONS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED

P2

SECRETARY AO IEONG REITERATES 'GOOD CUSTOMS' AS KEY TO GRANT SEEKERS

P2

STEVE WYNN FINED \$10M TO END FIGHT OVER CLAIMS OF WORKPLACE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

P8



AP PHOTO



Thailand A large explosion at a fireworks warehouse in southern Thailand on Saturday killed at least ten people and wounded dozens, officials said. The Narathiwat province's Public Relations Department also said that at least 118 people were hurt, and that residents of more than 200 households were affected. It said that officials believe there are still a number of people trapped under the debris waiting to be rescued. Videos posted on social media from the site show a huge plume of smoke over the area and many damaged structures, cars and motorbikes.

AP PHOTO



Australia Four air crew members were missing after an Australian army helicopter ditched into waters off the Queensland state coast during joint military exercises with the United States, officials said Saturday. The MRH-90 Taipan helicopter went down near Lindeman Island. A search involving U.S., Canadian and Australian personnel was underway to find the crew who are all Australian men, officials said.

Niger Days after after mutinous soldiers ousted Niger's democratically elected president, uncertainty is mounting about the country's future and some are calling out the junta's reasons for seizing control. The mutineers said they overthrew President Mohamed Bazoum, who was elected two years ago in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from France, because he wasn't able to secure the nation from growing jihadi violence. But some analysts and Nigeriens say that's just a pretext for a takeover that is more about internal power struggles.

More on backpage

MACAU AESTHETIC

Art Macao opens doors as large-scale artworks and installations bring color to city in bid to boost cultural tourism

P3



UNIVERSITY GAMES TEAM MACAU SECURES TWO MEDALS

P5



LAWMAKER CALLS FOR INSPECTIONS OF QUALITY OF PUBLIC WORKS

P4

CROSS-BORDER VEHICLE TRAFFIC JUMPS 148.8%

Macau's cross-border vehicle traffic increased 148.8% year-on-year to 624,321 trips in June, the statistical service said. The latest report from the Statistics and Census Service showed that the gross weight of port containerized cargo went up 49.2% year-on-year to 16,776 tonnes last month. Arriving and departing commercial flights totaled 3,281 trips in June, a sharp rise of 525% year-on-year, the report showed. The report also showed that traffic accidents last month rose 49.4% year-on-year to 1,351, with 470 people injured.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS UNCHANGED IN APRIL-JUNE

The general unemployment rate from April to June remained unchanged from the March-May period at 2.8%, according to the Statistics and Census Service. The unemployment rate of local residents was 3.5%, down slightly by 0.1 percentage point from the March-May period. The underemployment rate remained unchanged at 1.8%, while the labor force participation rate was 67.7%. The labor force living in Macau totaled 371,800 people from April to June. Total employment was 361,400 and the number of employed residents totaled 282,600, up by 2,100 and 1,400, respectively, from the previous period.

ULISBOA TO DEEPEN COLLABORATION WITH UM

The Rector of the University of Lisbon (ULisboa) Luís Ferreira has visited the University of Macau (UM), where he exchanged views on deepening cooperation in areas such as scientific research, education, and talent cultivation with the local university. Ferreira expressed hope that UM and ULisboa would continue to strengthen their cooperation and exchange, so as to cultivate top talent for China and Portugal and open a new chapter in higher education cooperation between the two countries. According to UM Rector Yonghua Song, after the signing of the strategic cooperation framework agreement in April this year, the two universities have implemented a series of collaborations in various academic fields.

SECRETARY AO IEONG REITERATES 'GOOD CUSTOMS' AS KEY TO CULTURAL GRANT SEEKERS

ANTHONY LAM

GOOD customs" must not be violated in projects submitted by local creators for grants from the Cultural Development Fund, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong has stated.

Each funded project of the Cultural Development Fund, she stressed, has a charter for the concerned project, specifying the purpose of funding, among other details. There are also common requirements for each project, such as not endangering national security, not affecting public order, and not violating good customs.

"If the project violates the relevant requirements and regulations, the government can cancel the grant of funding," she said. "Since the establishment of the Cultural Development Fund, up to now, no project has been canceled for funding approval due to the violation of regulations."

On the other hand, she added



that it is necessary for funded projects to have a positive impact on society. "If the project will [have a] negative impact, the government will definitely not approve it," she said.

According to the senior official, the Cultural Development

Fund has a tracking and monitoring mechanism for approved projects, including retaining the last phase of funding for the project. The remaining funds will not be released until the final review process confirms that the relevant project com-

plies with all regulations; if the details stated in the application are not met, the return of the received funding will be ordered.

Meanwhile, the Cultural Development Fund has issued a statement over the weekend to defend itself amid social media allegations of poor management and grants. It emphasized that part of the data that went viral on social media "had been altered, contained errors and were untrue." It calls on the public to rely on government sources and data for truthful information.

Echoing Ao Ieong's comments, the fund highlighted that it would keep an eye on the social impact of projects receiving its grants, while inviting members of the public to supervise its work.

The series of incidents commenced when a former manager at the local Manner Culture Enterprises Ltd. committed suicide following accusations of alleged acts of bullying from the company's management.

Public consultation on review of electoral laws closes with over 6,000 opinions received

RENATO MARQUES

THE public consultation process regarding the review of electoral laws for both the selection of the Chief Executive (CE) and the selection and election of the legislators that compose the Legislative Assembly (AL), has come to an end with a total of 6,112 opinions and suggestions received, the Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice noted in a press statement.

According to the same statement, the eight public sessions for specific sectors as well as for the

general public, together with the opinions and suggestions collected via online submission, phone, letters, and other methods, have totaled over 6,000, with the majority coming from individual direct submissions (3,673 items).

During the consultation period, which lasted 45 days (June 15 to July 29), the government held eight consultation sessions with over 1,367 participants and 118 speakers.

Some 571 opinions were also said to have been collected from public presentations and spontaneous participa-

tion in programs such as the radio.

The Office of André Cheong will now proceed with the analysis of the opinions expressed and with the final report on the public consultation that should include aspects to be improved upon or defined, according to such public opinion.

As previously advanced, the Office will prioritize the section of the consultation that is related to the CE, since Ho Iat Seng's term will come to an end in December next year.

Proceeding with the amendments at two different speeds, the final



bill regarding the selection of the new CE of Macau should be the first to be presented to the AL for approval in time for the conclusion of his term.

The bill that will amend the laws related to the AL members will come later as the current lawmakers' term is due to finish in mid-2025.

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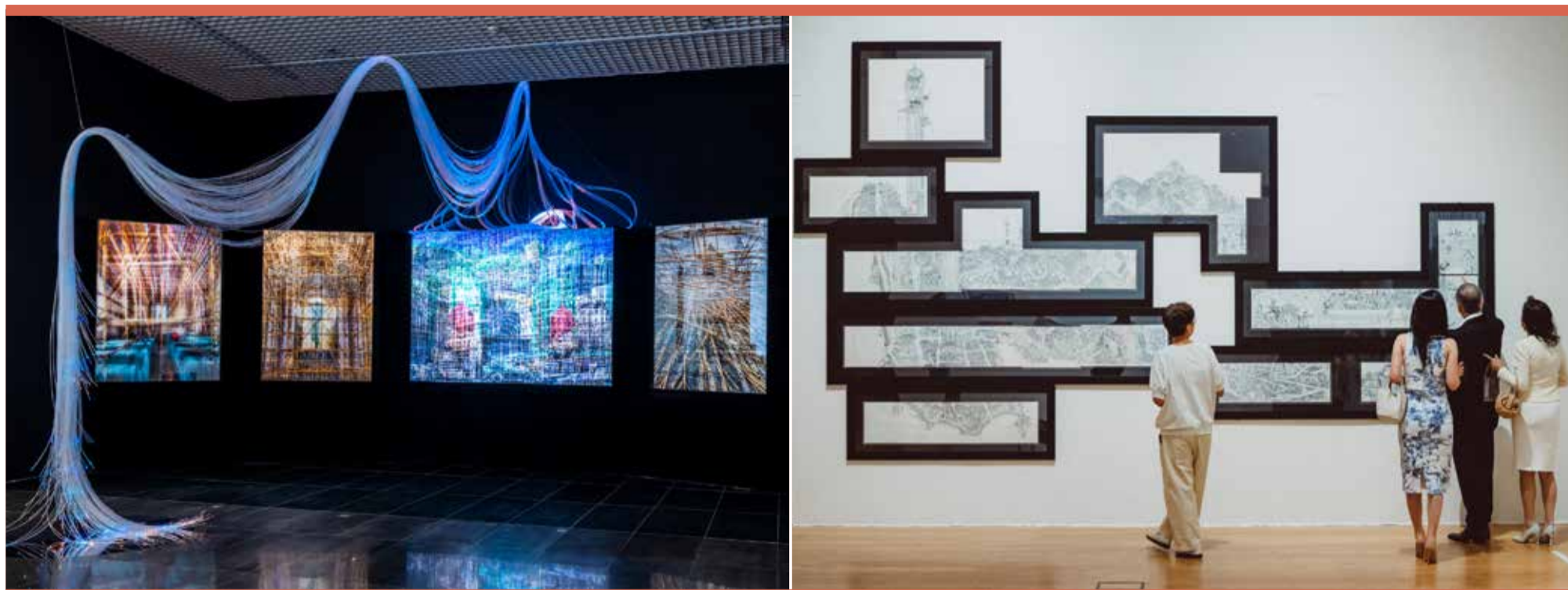
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MACAO IN'T'L ART BIENNALE 2023

Art Macao invites public to embark on 'aesthetic journey' as exhibitions bring color to city

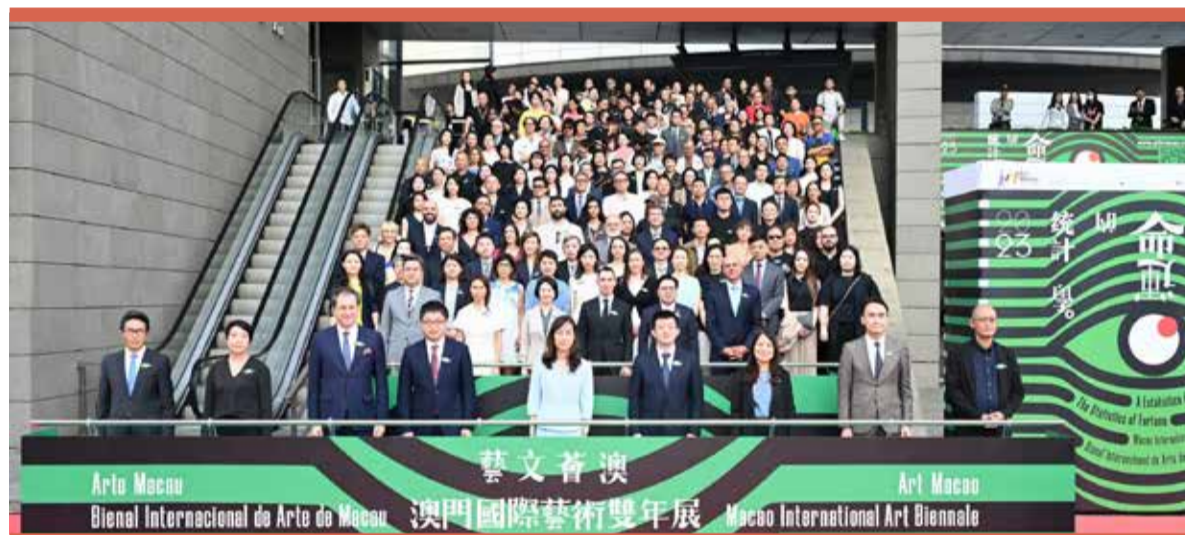
STAFF REPORTER

ART MACAO, the mega art event in the city opened its doors over the weekend, presenting a total of 30 art exhibitions that will open successively until October.

The "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2023" this year further extended its cooperation with the integrated resorts.

In the opening ceremony, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leong Wai Man said that in the future, Macau will seek to foster cultural prosperity by organizing national, regional and international cultural exchange activities.

According to Leong, the government will also strive to build a platform for cultural exchange and cooperation between China and foreign countries and continuous-



ly promote the exchange of Chinese foreign cultures in the SAR.

The biennale features the Main Exhibition at Macau Art Museum, which explores the relationship between science and religion entitled "The Statistics of Fortune."

The exposition features 118 pieces of works by 42 artists from 18 countries and regions, including painting, engraving, photography, mixed media, sculpture, installation, video and artificial intelligence art.

Some of the works attempt

to re-explore the power of mind and spirit in a world dominated by technology; some disclose the clues of science and technology in traditional mythology, religion, witchcraft and healing arts and other spiritual practices; while others move through

a broad spectrum in between, alternately blending different beliefs and approaches.

The Main Exhibition is held until October 28.

Curated by artist Qiu Zhijie, the vice president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Art Macao 2023, the event presents six public art installations, showing creations of artists from China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Israel, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Specially launched as part of Art Macao this year is the Invitational Exhibition by Local Artists, which was inaugurated Saturday at the "ART Space" on the first floor of Macao Cultural Centre. Six local artists, namely Konstantin Bessmertny, Ung Vai Meng, Lampo Leong, Chan Hin Io, Bunny Lai Sut Weng and Eric Fok Hoi Seng, were invited to create new works on the theme of the event.

In addition, four City Pavilions, including the Vila Nova de Cerveira Pavilion, the Kyoto Pavilion, the Shenzhen Pavilion and the London Pavilion, will open successively from August 1, showcasing the multiculturalism of the cities. The six integrated resorts also conceived a variety of projects, presenting various exhibitions, which will also successively open.

BUSINESS

MICE 'peak season' expected to bring some 170,000 visitors

RENATO MARQUES

THE 1,000 MICE events set for the second half (2H) of 2023 are expected to bring some 170,000 business visitors to Macau, the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance said in a press statement.

The forecasted figures

add to the previous comments on the same topic from the president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Vincent U, who said earlier this month that the local MICE sector was going to have its "peak season" during the second half of the year,

with many events to be taking place before the year-end.

According to the figure cited in the same statement, "In the first half of 2023, the IPIM organized or accompanied over 200 convention or exhibition activities," which, according to U, have attracted

nearly 200,000 participants.

From these, IPIM notes now that over 21,000 professionals who came to Macau to join the conventions and exhibitions events have also taken part in visits and activities beyond the MICE event that are related

to the community neighborhoods, other local events, and festivals.

For the second half of 2023, the IPIM will continue to organize or support various types of conventions or exhibitions scheduled in Macau, which include topics related to tourism, big health, cut-

ting-edge technology, modern finance, culture, and sports industries, among others, with an estimated 170,000 professional visitors from these sectors to be coming to Macau from the mainland, Portuguese-speaking countries and Southeast Asian countries, among others.

INTERPELLATION

LAWMAKER CHE WANTS INSPECTIONS OF THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC WORKS



ANTHONY LAM

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Che Sai Wang, affiliated with the Macao Civil Servants' Association, is unhappy with the quality of Public Works that are directly related to tourism.

In a written inquiry to the government, to which the Times had access, Che criticized the quality of recently-built public infrastructures such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) Port and the new transport hub of Barra.

According to Che, the building of the HZMB Port has many faults such as cracks, paint deterioration, and water infiltration from the roof, despite only having been constructed four years ago and being subject to relatively low usage, a situation that he finds unacceptable for vast infrastructure

costing millions of patacas to build.

Another example is the Barra Transport Hub, where the asphalt did not survive the first days of use and the first instance of rain, which he claims clogged the sewage system. These examples show that there are significant problems with the quality control and supervision over government-owned construction projects that he criticized as being of "tofu quality," with defective execution and non-standard materials used, Che claims.

For Che, not only does the bad construction jeopardize public security, it also tarnishes the image of Macau as a tourism and leisure center. He called on the government to enforce a system to control the quality and a sanctioning regime to penalize contractors for badly done work. He suggested the adoption of a point system to ensure that the contractors with a previous history of bad construction are penalized when submitting bids for other public works, to ensure their proposals are less likely to win tenders.

TOURISM

Macau sees 'growing' proportion of foreign visitors, says MGTO

ANTHONY LAM

THE proportion of foreign visitors to Macau is "gradually growing" with a trend towards individual travelers, a local tourism official disclosed yesterday.

On the sidelines of an art event yesterday, Deputy Director Cheng Wai Tong of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) gave this report, adding that this summer, the city will still mainly rely on tourists from the Chinese mainland.

However, the recovery of foreign group tours is not being maintained, due to various factors, such as negotiations with the foreign tourism industry, international flight recovery and air ticket pricing, Cheng explained.

In response to the situation, the MGTO will further promote Macau in foreign source markets and consider the possibility of including neighboring islands, such as Guishan Island, in itineraries for foreigner site visits. The use of the



ANTHONY LAM

144-hour special visa to Guangdong Province to promote island tours will also be considered.

Although the average length of stay of tourists in the first half of the year decreased by 0.1 nights year-on-year, Cheng saw a longer stay period than the average in 2019. In addition, Covid-19 quarantine periods of tourists were counted as hotel stays, which explains the

longer stay last year.

In a statement, the Office of Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong noted that, in the first half of the year, the city saw over 11.6 million arriving visitors, with "obviously increased" per-head consumption and hotel occupancy rate.

It further highlighted that from January to July 15, the MGTO invited

over 800 people from the tourism industries, the media and the social media circle in the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea and Portugal to visit in order to promote Macau. Meanwhile, a recent tourism industry expo was also used as a bridge to promote local communities to exhibitors and participants.

CARITAS PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO 75 FOREIGNERS

CARITAS Macau has helped a total of 75 foreigners in Macau so far this year for economic and other reasons, Paul Pun, secretary-general of the charity organization, said yesterday.

Pun also disclosed that 25,000 foreigners in Macau have sought help from a branch of the charity organization. He said that the main reasons behind these help seekers' need for support were economic difficulties, financial education and medical needs, mostly because they did not know where to see a doctor in Macau.

In addition, he said that many foreigners in Macau were among the first to experience the impact on the economy from the Covid-19 pandemic. After normalization following disease prevention restrictions, most of them have regained their jobs

and could settle their everyday bills.

The food bank of Caritas Macau, which provides short-term food support, has received 2,729 applications in the first 6.5 months of the year. There was more than a 10% increase year-over-year. Pun did not attribute the rise to a deteriorated economy but to more people knowing about the service.

Yesterday also saw the charity organization hosting an artistic event celebrating foreign cultures in Macau. It featured Southeast Asian singing and dancing as well as a showcase of ethnic attire. Caritas hopes to provide a stage for foreigners to showcase their culture in Macau, as well as for local residents to learn about foreign cultures so as to foster cultural understanding and harmony. **AL**



31ST FISU

Team Macau secures two medals in University Games

ANTHONY LAM

THE Macau, China team has claimed two medals on the first day of the FISU World University Games.

Over the weekend, the 31st edition of the games opened in Chengdu, Sichuan, with Team Macau competing in the Nandao sub-event of the Martial Arts (Wushu) event. Wong Sam In secured a bronze medal with 9,506 points. The same athlete also won a gold medal at the Nanquan sub-event yesterday.

Meanwhile, in the men's Nanquan, Cheung Loi Chit from Macau and Lee Wai Leong from Malaysia came second and third, respectively.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong expressed her congratulations to the athletes, as well as wishing the team all the best in the games. She also praised the commitment of the



Macau's Wong Weng Ian

team of coaches and colleagues in the sport arm.

She also emphasized that re-

sources and support for training have been invested to provide assistance to athletes on all levels.

To promote the professional development of competition sports, the government has for-

mulated an athlete training subsidization scheme in the hopes of cultivating elite athletes. Scientific elements have also been introduced to training plans to improve scientific training. Special support was also provided to athletes preparing for major sport events.

The SAR government will continue to support the development of various sports, create more favorable conditions for athlete training, promote the echelon construction of training teams and support the growth of athletes, among other strategies, Ao Ieong added.

Chinese athletes dominated Taolu of Wushu at the 31st FISU World University Games, pocketing three golds and one bronze in the Chengbei Gymnasium in Chengdu, southwestern China, on Sunday.

On Saturday, the first competition day of Wushu, China took four out of six gold medals on offer.

"When athletes begin to show Taolu, they set an imaginary opponent in their minds, and show the connotation of offense and defense with different movements and punches," said Yu Bo, Taolu coach of the Chinese Wushu team, adding that he hoped all athletes around the globe could learn martial arts spirit from each other.

AD

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A Estatística da Fortuna
The Statistics of Fortune
Macao International Art Biennale
Bienal Internacional de Arte de Macau

2023

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Kim Jong Un, center, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, and China's Vice Chairman of the standing committee of the country's National People's Congress Li Hongzhong, right

Russian and Chinese delegates join Kim Jong Un at a parade showing his newest missiles

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un was joined by senior Russian and Chinese delegates as he displayed his most powerful nuclear-capable missiles in a military parade marking a major war anniversary with a show of defiance against the United States and deepening ties with Moscow as tensions on the peninsula are at their highest point in years.

Kim attended Thursday night's parade with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese ruling party official Li Hongzhong from a balcony looking over a brightly illuminated Kim Il Sung Square, named after Kim's grandfather, the founder of North Korea.

Edited footage from North Korean state TV on Friday showed streets and stands packed with tens of thousands of mobilized spectators, who roared in approval as waves of goose-stepping soldiers, tanks and huge, inter-continental ballistic missiles wheeled out on launcher trucks filled up the main road. People were brought from around the country to the capital, Pyongyang, to fill the crowd, according to state media.

The parade began with warm-

-up events that featured ceremonial flights of newly developed surveillance and attack drones, which were first unveiled by state media this week as they reported on an arms exhibition attended by Kim and Shoigu.

The main event began with Kim arriving at the square in a limousine escorted by a formation of motorcycles. Kim saluted honor guards and military officials and walked down a red carpet to enter a building where Shoigu and Li greeted him at the balcony, as troops below chanted "protect Kim Jong Un with our lives!"

Organizers broadcast messages in Russian, Chinese and Korean while introducing Kim's guests to the crowd, drawing cheers and applause.

As the parade proceeded, Kim was constantly talking and exchanging smiles with Shoigu and Li, who respectively stood to his right and left at the balcony's center. Kim and Shoigu repeatedly raised their hands to salute the parading troops. The broadcast did not show Kim making a speech.

Kim's biggest weapons were saved for the end, when his troops rolled out new ICBMs that were flight-tested in recent months and demonstrated ranges that

could reach deep into the U.S. mainland, the Hwasong-17 and Hwasong-18. Some analysts say the missiles are based on Russian designs or know-how.

North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam spoke, describing the parade as a historic celebration of the country's "great victory" against "U.S. imperialist aggression forces and groups of its satellite states."

He condemned the United States for its expanding military exercises with South Korea, which the North portrays as invasion rehearsals, and also holding new rounds of nuclear contingency planning meetings with Seoul. The allies describe their drills as defensive, and say the upgrades in training and planning are necessary to cope with the North's evolving nuclear threat.

"We solemnly declare that if they attempt military confrontation as now, the exercise of our state's armed forces will go beyond the scope of the right to defense for the United States of America and (South Korea)," Kang said, repeating previous North Korean threats of nuclear conflict.

"The U.S. imperialists have no room of choice of survival in case they use nuclear weapons against the DPRK," he said, using the ini-

tials of his country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Clouds over Pyongyang in recent days made it difficult for satellites to monitor preparations for the parade, which took place at night.

Satellite images showed what appeared to be a massing of people at the square at 1316 GMT (10:16 p.m. local) Thursday, said Dave Schmerler, a senior research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, which is part of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

North Korea's invitation of Russian and Chinese delegates was a rare diplomatic opening since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts say Kim is trying to break out of diplomatic isolation and boost the visibility of his partnership with authoritarian allies to counter pressure from the United States.

The parade followed meetings between Kim and Shoigu this week that demonstrated North Korea's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and added to suspicions the North was willing to supply arms to Russia, whose war efforts have been compromised by defense procurement and

inventory problems.

North Korean state media also highlighted a message sent by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who thanked Kim for "firmly supporting" his war efforts in Ukraine. Putin said that interests between Moscow and Pyongyang were aligning as they counter the "collective West in its policy to stand in the way of establishing a genuinely multipolar and just world order," according to the Kremlin's version of the letter.

Kim also held a luncheon and dinner banquet for Shoigu and his delegation following a second day of talks about expanding the countries' "strategic and tactical collaboration and cooperation" in defense and security, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

"Given Russia's need for ammunition for its illegal war in Ukraine and Kim Jong Un's willingness to personally give the Russian defense minister a tour of North Korea's arms exhibition, U.N. member states should increase vigilance for observing and penalizing sanctions violations," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

He added: "China's representation at North Korea's parading of nuclear-capable missiles raises serious questions about Beijing enabling Pyongyang's threats to global security."

The parade capped off the North Korean festivities for the 70th anniversary of the armistice that stopped fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea, which triggered the war with a surprise attack on the South in June 1950, was supported by Chinese troops and the then-Soviet air force. South Korea, the United States and troops from other nations under the aegis of the U.N. fought to push back the invasion.

The July 1953 truce was never replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula in a technical state of war, but the North still sees it as a victory in the "Grand Fatherland Liberation War."

The anniversary events were more somber in South Korea, where President Yoon Suk Yeol visited a war cemetery in Busan to honor foreign troops who died while fighting for the South.

In the face of growing North Korean threats, Yoon has pushed to expand South Korea's military exercises with Washington and is seeking stronger U.S. reassurances that it would use its nuclear capabilities to defend the South in the event of a nuclear attack.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also marked the anniversary with a statement expressing concern over what he described as a growing "nuclear risk" on the Korean Peninsula.

"I urge the parties to resume regular diplomatic contacts and nurture an environment conducive to dialogue," he said. **MDT/AP**

With one eye on China, Japan backs Sri Lanka as a partner in the Indo-Pacific

KRISHAN FRANCIS,
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

JAPAN'S Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said Saturday that Sri Lanka is a key partner in a Tokyo-led initiative aimed at building security and economic cooperation around the Indo-Pacific but also at countering an increasingly assertive China.

Sri Lanka, strategically located in the Indian Ocean, is integral to realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific, Hayashi said. He was speaking after a meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Ali Sabry, in the capital, Colombo.

The initiative, announced by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in March includes Japan's assistance to emerging economies, support for maritime security, a provision of coast guard patrol boats and equipment and other infrastructure cooperation.

Last year Sri Lanka, which owed \$51 billion in foreign debt, became the first Asia-Pacific country since the late 1990s to default, sparking an economic crisis.

While Japan is Sri Lanka's largest creditor, about 10% of its debt is held by China, which lent Colombo billions to build sea ports, airports and power plants as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. In March, China agreed to offer Sri Lanka a two-year moratorium on loan repayments.

Hayashi said that he conveyed expectations for further progress in Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process. He welcomed Sri Lanka's efforts under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which includes anti-corruption measures and transparency in the policy-making process.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Sabry said that he, along with Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, invited Japan to resume investment projects already in the pipeline and to consider fresh investments in sectors such as power generation, ports and highways, and dedicated investment zones, as well as in the green and digital economy.

Over many decades, Japan became one of Sri Lanka's key donors, carrying out key pro-



Japanese foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, left, shakes hands with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry after their meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Saturday

jects under concessionary terms. However, relations between the two countries came under strain after Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapak-

sa unilaterally scrapped a Japan-funded light railway project following his election in 2019.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet has already approved a proposal to restart

the railway project.

Rajapaksa was forced to resign in July 2022 amid angry public protests over the country's worst economic crisis. **MDT/AP**

INDIA

G20 ministers reach agreement on most, but not all, climate issues

SIBI ARASU, BENGALURU

THE final meeting of climate and environment ministers from the world's largest economies ended without an agreement or joint statement Friday despite pleas from leading figures for nations to show a united front on climate change as weather records shatter across the globe.

In a gathering in Chennai in India, ministers from the Group of 20 countries — who emit around 80% of the world's planet-warming gases — failed to agree on four of 68 points of discussion.

A document published by the group shows countries did not agree on aiming to peak emissions by 2025, moving to clean energy and a tax on carbon as a way to reduce emissions.



"We couldn't get a consensus but we agreed on a lot," said Canada's climate minister Steven Guilbeault at a virtual press conference after the meeting.

The ministers' decisions will now be passed on to country leaders ahead of a summit in New Delhi in September this year. It will be the group's last chance to issue a joint statement on climate this year.

The world has currently warmed around 1.2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times and effects are already being felt all over the world, with hosts India especially vulnerable. Earlier this year, more than 100 people died during a heat wave in the center of the country and last week at least 27 people died in western India due to landslides triggered by heavy rains. **MDT/AP**

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GAMING

Casino mogul Steve Wynn fined \$10M to end fight over claims of workplace sexual misconduct in Nevada

KEN RITTER, LAS VEGAS

CASINO mogul Steve Wynn has ended a yearslong legal fight with Nevada gambling regulators that started with claims of workplace sexual misconduct, agreeing to pay a \$10 million fine and cut ties to the industry he helped shape in Las Vegas.

The Nevada Gaming Commission accepted a settlement last week to end the state's look at allegations that led to Wynn's resignation from his corporate empire in February 2018. Wynn admitted no wrongdoing. The decision was 4-0. Commission Chairwoman Jennifer Togliatti abstained from voting, citing a conflict arising from her previous work as a state court mediator.

Wynn is now 81 and lives in Florida. He did not attend the hearing held in Carson City and livestreamed on the internet. His attorney, Colby Williams, called the case the final regulatory matter that Wynn faced stemming from the allegations five years ago.

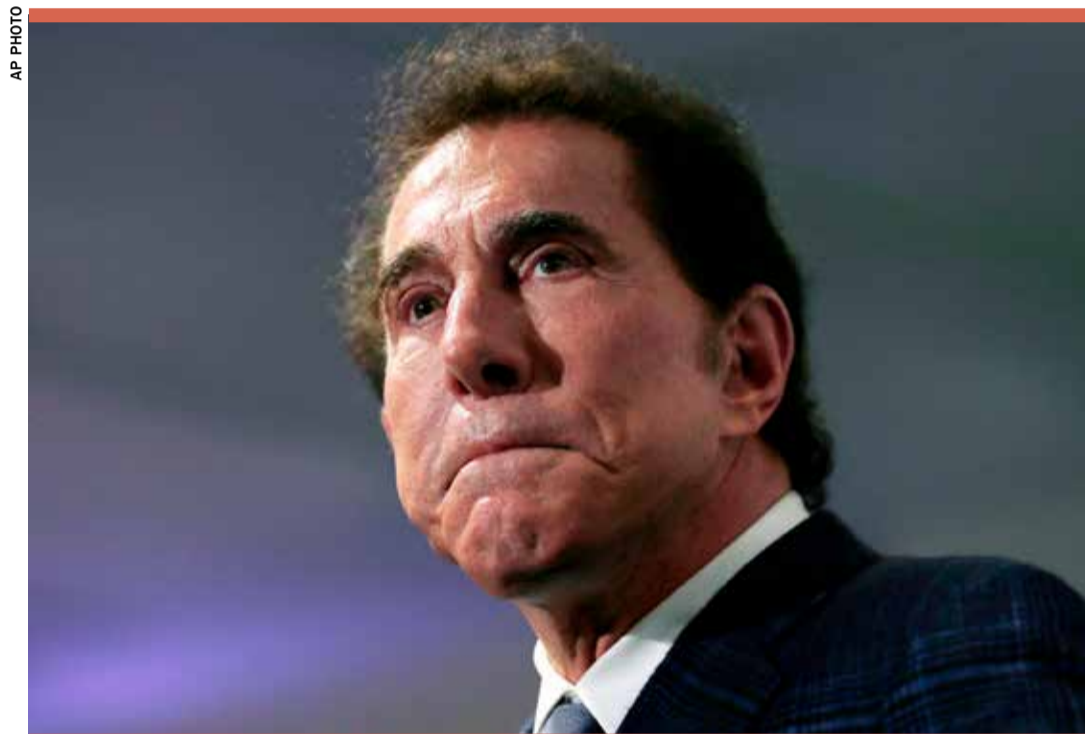
Wynn "looks forward to moving on to other phases of his life," Williams told The Associated Press.

The fine is the largest ever imposed by the commission, second only to \$20 million paid in February 2019 by Wynn's former company, Wynn Resorts Ltd., for failing to investigate the sexual misconduct claims made against Wynn.

Craig Newby, first assistant Nevada attorney general, reminded the commission that a seven-month investigation by the Nevada Gaming Control Board "found evidence of sexual conduct by Mr. Wynn involving some subordinate female employees."

"This stipulation," Newby said, "would bring this sordid affair to conclusion."

"It's a huge blemish on the (casino) industry," Commissioner Rosa Solis-Rainey



said. "While Mr. Wynn made some incredible contributions, the nature of the allegations that were made and the history behind that ... warrant at least the amount of fine that was negotiated."

"I think it's in everybody's best interest to move forward," she said.

Forbes puts Wynn's net worth at \$3.2 billion, among the top 400 of its ranking of richest Americans.

Wynn signed a seven-page document on July 17 acknowledging he had been accused of "failure to exercise discretion and sound judgment" to prevent actions that "reflected negatively on the reputation" of Nevada and its gambling industry.

Violating the agreement could lead to a finding of "unsuitability" for association with Nevada casinos and an additional fine.

"Unsuitability" would be extraordinary for a man widely credited with starting a boom that grew Las Vegas Strip properties from gambling halls with all-you-can-eat buffets and showrooms into huge destination resorts featuring celebrity-chef restaurants, massive gambling floors, nightclubs and huge stage productions.

Wynn developed luxury properties including the Gol-

den Nugget, Mirage, Treasure Island, Bellagio, Wynn and Encore in Las Vegas; Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi; Wynn Macau in the Chinese gambling enclave; and Encore Boston Harbor in Massachusetts.

He resigned after the Wall Street Journal published allegations by several women that he sexually harassed or assaulted them at his hotels. He divested company shares, quit the corporate board and resigned as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Wynn has consistently denied sexual misconduct allegations in multiple courts.

In the Gaming Commission case, the Nevada Supreme Court ruled against him in March 2022, finding that a state judge in Las Vegas acted prematurely in late 2020 when she sided with Wynn's lawyers and decided the state lacked authority to punish him.

Wynn's attorneys, also including Donald Campbell, argued that the Gaming Control Board and Gaming Commission no longer had legal jurisdiction over Wynn.

State regulators launched their investigation after the allegations against Wynn emerged. The board said

Wynn's license had been placed on administrative hold and the commission moved in October 2019 to discipline or fine Wynn.

At a December 2019 hearing, which Wynn did not attend, commissioners began considering a fine of up to \$500,000 and a declaration that Wynn was unsuitable to renew ties to gambling in Nevada.

Months earlier, the commission fined his former company the record \$20 million.

Massachusetts gambling regulators fined Wynn Resorts Ltd. another \$35 million and new company chief executive Matthew Maddox \$500,000 for failing to disclose while applying for a license for the Boston-area resort that there had been sexual misconduct allegations against Wynn.

Wynn Resorts agreed in November 2019 to accept \$20 million in damages from Wynn and \$21 million more from insurance carriers on behalf of current and former employees of Wynn Resorts to settle shareholder lawsuits accusing company directors of failing to disclose misconduct allegations.

The agreements included no admission of wrongdoing. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1991 PAVAROTTI SINGS IN THE BRITISH RAIN



Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti has given a huge free concert in London's Hyde Park to celebrate 30 years in opera.

A crowd of 100,000 - out of an expected 250,000 - stood in the rain to watch Pavarotti perform 20 arias by Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and Wagner.

It was the biggest outdoor music event in Hyde Park since the Rolling Stones performed there in 1969.

VIPs - who paid up to £400 per ticket - included the Princess of Wales, Prime Minister John Major and Michael Caine. They got soaked in the downpour along with everyone else.

Crowd chants to lower umbrellas gave way to the great man's voice when he appeared on the specially made pink-canopied neo-classical stage at 1900 BST.

But by the end of the evening St John's Ambulance had treated 193 people for the effects of the cold.

Some fans - like Terry Hall, 22, from Woolwich - had camped overnight to get a prime spot in the 50 acre site.

"I discovered opera during the World Cup when one of Pavarotti's songs (Nessun Dorma) was used as the tune," he said.

A woman working on a merchandising stall insisted it was "really a very middle-class crowd".

But even though she sold 1,000 Pavarotti t-shirts - costing £10 each - organiser Oliver Goldsmith doubts he will recover much of the £900,000 he paid to stage the concert.

The Royal Parks Plant a Tree Appeal will receive £100,000 from the event.

Pavarotti contributed to the cause by planting a tree near the concert venue before a press conference today.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Shortly after the concert there was intense press speculation about Pavarotti's weight and fitness for professional singing.

Rumoured to weigh about 20 stone the singer - known as "Fat Lucy" - has always been keen to preserve his private life.

He subsequently had knee and hip replacement operations and lost 50 pounds.

Pavarotti appeared in court in Italy on charges of evading £13.3m of tax in September 2001. He pleaded not guilty and was acquitted; the previous year he had agreed to repay about £8m in back taxes.

He announced his intention to retire from singing and began a farewell tour in 2005. But ill-health has wreaked havoc with his schedule - he's now being treated for pancreatic cancer and has postponed any future concerts until 2007.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been well. Don't get involved in expensive entertainment that involves gambling. It's time to reevaluate your motives.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's time you let your true feelings out. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. You will be in the doghouse if you are being.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Patience will be of utmost importance. You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Try to be as mellow as possible.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. You can stabilize your situation if you compromise. You will have to control the way you feel.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Insurance pay outs, tax rebates, or just plain luck. You mustn't give too much to your children. You have the ability to motivate others.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You may be tired of working for someone else. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch. Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. Upgrading at this point is not a bad plan.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You need to put some trust in others. This is a good day to check out your investments. Go out shopping today. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items.

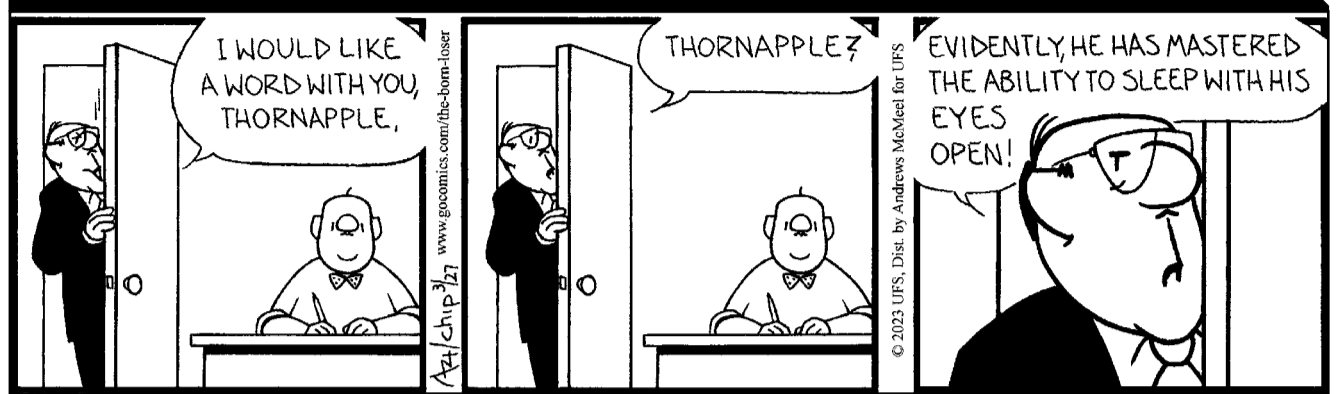


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. Be careful not to get roped into uncertain joint financial deals. You will get drawn into groups that are not favorable to you.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	26	rain
Changchun	23	31	cloudy
Chengdu	24	32	showers
Chongqing	27	35	rain
Fuzhou	25	31	rain
Guangzhou	26	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	22	29	showers
Haikou	27	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	33	rain
Harbin	21	31	cloudy
Hefei	25	31	rain
Nanjing	26	32	rain
Shanghai	27	33	cloudy
Taipei	25	29	cloudy
Wuhan	26	32	rain
Hong Kong	26	32	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	14	26	overcast
Frankfurt	17	25	cloudy
Paris	18	25	rain
London	14	23	rain
New York	19	26	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Take ___ at (try); 6- In vogue; 10- 1952 Winter Olympics setting; 14- Call; 15- Having wealth; 16- Thick slice; 17- Gives for a time; 18- Declare; 19- Crown of the head; 20- "Evil Woman" band; 21- Dominance; 24- Business matters; 26- Views; 27- Panhandle; 28- Viscid; 30- Commoner; 33- Stumper; 35- Faucet; 38- Long stories; 40- Bobby on the ice; 41- Born yesterday, so to speak; 43- Gerund suffix; 44- Bloc; 47- High-pitched tone; 48- The Pentateuch; 49- Business abbr.; 51- Classify; 54- Gives slack; 58- State of the NE United States; 61- AFL partner; 62- Kansas city; 63- Swedish auto; 64- Less healthy; 66- Attack a fly; 67- Designer Gucci; 68- Do something together; 69- Fictional Jane; 70- ___-do-well; 71- Adlai's running mate;

DOWN 1- Cop ___; 2- Ledge; 3- Like a ___ bricks; 4- Not to mention; 5- Blues great Smith; 6- Dice game; 7- Shelter for honeybees; 8- Bakery worker; 9- White baptism robe; 10- Feathered fisher; 11- Killed; 12- Starbucks order; 13- Follows orders; 22- Inner drive; 23- Body of salt water; 25- "Dancing Queen" group; 28- Circumference; 29- Barbarous person; 30- Trident-shaped letter; 31- PC linkup; 32- Early bird?; 34- Director Ephron; 35- Bind; 36- Hail, to Caesar; 37- Vigor; 39- Cross the goal line; 42- Basics; 45- Craftsman; 46- Hero; 48- So far; 50- Forget it!; 51- Spring up; 52- Ostentatious; 53- Kind of battery; 54- Toil; 55- Dazzling display; 56- Family tree member; 57- Out of ___; 59- Ad word; 60- Put aboard; 65- Acapulco article;

Friday's solution



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- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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1,650ft² | HKD17,500/mth



SUPREME FLOWER CITY
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WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Norway moves into the knockout round with 6-0 rout over the Philippines

ZACH ALLEN, AUCKLAND

SOPHIE Roman Haug's hat trick kick-started Norway's dormant offense and sparked a 6-0 blowout win over the Philippines yesterday that moved the Norwegians into the knockout stage of the Women's World Cup.

The Philippines' debut run in the tournament came to an end as Norway scored early and often, netting three goals in the first 31 minutes.

Norway's spot in the round of 16 was secured when Switzerland and New Zealand simultaneously played to a 0-0 draw and the Norwegians. Norway and New Zealand were tied in Group A but Norway advanced on goal differential. New Zealand became the first host country to be eliminated in the group stage in tournament history.

Before the game, Norway had not scored in three consecutive Women's World Cup matches dating to the quarterfinals of the



2019 tournament.

But Roman Haug one-timed a ball into the net in the sixth minute, and scored again 11 minutes later. Caroline Graham Hansen

added a long-distance shot in the 31st minute.

Roman Haug completed the hat trick in injury time.

In the second half, an Alicia

Barker own goal in the 48th minute and Guro Reiten's penalty kick in the 53rd minute extended Norway's lead to 5-0. Filipina defender Sofia Harrison received a red card in the 67th minute for using excessive force, and the Philippines played the rest of the match a player down.

Eden Park was turned into a makeshift home match for the Philippines, as the Filipina fans screamed in unison any time the Philippines touched the ball, even as the deficit grew.

The Philippines were fresh off of a historic 1-0 win over co-host New Zealand that marked the first Women's World Cup win for the debutantes.

KEY MOMENTS

Roman Haug got the Norwegians off to a hot start. The first of her two goals was a left-footed volley from inside the six-yard box in the sixth minute. Eleven minutes later, Roman Haug scored a header delivered by a Vilde Boe Risa cross. Roman Haug's header

flew over the reach of Philippines goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel.

Graham Hansen scored on a long-distance strike that curled into the bottom left corner in the 31st minute to give Norway its third goal of the half.

From that point on, Norway was in control.

WHY IT MATTERS

The win advances Norway to the knockout stage after the Norwegians found themselves in last place in Group A heading into the Philippines match.

The Norwegians had yet to score in 2023 before their six-goal eruption.

WHAT'S NEXT

Norway will play either Japan or Spain in the round of 16 next Saturday, depending on the results of a game between those Group C teams on Monday.

The inaugural tournament run ends for the Philippines, who needed at least a draw to have a chance of moving on. **MDT/AP**


AD

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

CHENGDU SHOWCASES CHINESE CHARM WHILE EMBRACING THE WORLD WITH UNIVERSIADE

The 31st FISU World University Games, or Summer Universiade, which kicked off in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Friday and will continue till Aug 8, promises to be a spectacular affair. It may not be as grand as the Summer and Winter Olympics which Beijing hosted in 2008 and 2022 respectively, but it will showcase the skills, stamina, speed and staying power of athletes, many of whom could be the stars of tomorrow.

With 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions participating, the Summer Universiade is expected to exhilarate spectators with some nail-biting finishes and tough contests. At stake are 269 gold medals.

Youth is the color of the Universiade and the vigor of youth is its character. All the athletes participating in the Universiade are either undergraduate or postgraduate students or have graduated in the past two years.

The 411-member Chinese team's average age is 22.9 years, an age that combines the esprit and impulse of youth. And the fact that 34 of the Chinese athletes have already participated in the Olympics shows how much importance China attaches to the event.

As the first major sports event to be held after China adjusted its pandemic prevention and control policy at the end of 2022 and the World Health Organization lifted the Public Health Emergency of International Concern for COVID-19 in May, the Universiade has warmly welcomed not only the 6,500 athletes, but also over 1,600 officials and about 3,000 journalists. As such, the event signifies the resumption of people-to-people exchanges on a larger scale.

To ensure the Universiade's success, Chengdu has built 13 new gymnasiums and upgraded 36 venues, and the Universiade Village it has constructed on the Chengdu University campus can accommodate 11,000 athletes, officials and other participants. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, the village offers world-class services in catering, leisure and cultural exchanges. Providing these services will be 1,800 staff members and 2,600 volunteers.

Besides sports, this session of the Universiade also features a record number of academic essays related to it, accompanied by sport forum for the Generation Z and other cultural activities. This sports event is more than about sports, as it has also become a messenger of peace, friendship and pursuit of common dreams.

The Chinese people are ready to share the joy of playing and watching sports with the whole world and welcome people from all parts of the world to visit the country as guests. Chengdu is only one of the places and the Universiade only one of the events showcasing the charm of Chinese culture.

Inspired by the Universiade's slogan of "Chengdu Makes Dreams Come True", all the young athletes will realize sweat is sweet and no challenge big enough to weaken their spirit. While challenging the limits of their endurance, they will be witnesses to Chengdu embracing the world with the Universiade.

CHINA SAYS US MILITARY AID TO TAIWAN WILL NOT DETER ITS WILL TO UNIFY THE ISLAND

THE BUZZ

China accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an "ammunition depot" after the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said yesterday it tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"No matter how much of the ordinary people's taxpayer money the ... Taiwanese separatist forces spend, no matter how many

U.S. weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realize the reunification of our motherland," said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office.

"Their actions are turning Taiwan into a powder keg and ammunition depot, aggravating the threat of war in the Taiwan Strait," the statement said.

Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles to Taiwan.

AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

COURT REJECTS A GOV'T-REQUESTED BAN ON PROTEST SONG AFTER GOOGLE'S DEFIANCE

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

A Hong Kong judge on Friday denied a government request to ban a protest song in a landmark decision after Google had resisted official pressure to alter internet search results for the city's anthem.

Critics have warned that granting the request to prohibit broadcast or distribution of the song would add to a decline in civil liberties since Beijing launched a crackdown following the 2019 protests. They said that might disrupt internet companies and hurt the city's appeal as a business center.

But some analysts cautioned the court's decision on Friday does not mean that foreign tech giants can from now on let down their guard in Hong Kong, and said that political challenges surrounding their operations in the financial hub still linger.

Judge Anthony Chan said he considered whether a ban of the song would act as a wider de-

terrence than the city's criminal law already in place including the National Security Law.

"I cannot be satisfied that it is just and convenient to grant the injunction," he wrote in a ruling.

The government went to the court after Google resisted pressure to display China's national anthem as the top result in searches for the city's anthem instead of "Glory to Hong Kong."

Google had asked that a ruling prove the song violated the law before it could be removed, Hong Kong's Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong told a local broadcaster earlier. Google did not reply to a request for comment on its earlier exchanges with officials.

The city's leader, Chief Executive John Lee, told reporters he had asked government lawyers to study the judgment and decide how to respond.

The city's secretary for justice sought the injunction last month after the song was mistakenly played as the city's anthem at international

events. And a mix-up in an ice hockey competition in February resulted in the city's top sports body reprimanding the Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association, which appealed for forgiveness for what it called an "independent and unfortunate" event.

In seeking the court order, the government wanted to target anyone who uses the song to advocate for the separation of Hong Kong from China. It also sought to ban actions that use the song to incite others to commit secession and to insult the national anthem, including online.

However, Friday's ruling will not mean the end of the controversy for tech giants, said George Chen, former head of public policy for Greater China at Meta.

He said it was a new beginning for the platforms and the government to work together on content-related issues, given there was "zero chance" that the government would just leave all versions of the protest song online. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Poland Over 100 mercenaries belonging to the Russian-linked Wagner group in Belarus have moved close to the border with Poland, the Polish prime minister said Saturday. Mateusz Morawiecki said at a news conference that the mercenaries had moved close to the Suwalki Gap, a strategic stretch of Polish territory situated between Belarus and Kaliningrad, a Russian territory separated from the mainland.

AP PHOTO



Netherlands High winds blowing across the North Sea are delaying efforts to tow a burning cargo ship loaded with thousands of new cars to safety off the Dutch coast, the government said yesterday. The Fremantle Highway was unlikely to be moved because of the southwesterly wind, according to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

AP PHOTO



African leaders are leaving two days of meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin with little to show for their requests to resume a deal that kept grain flowing from Ukraine and to find a path to end the war there. Putin in a press conference late Saturday following the Russia-Africa summit said Russia's termination of the grain deal earlier this month caused a rise in grain prices that benefits Russian companies. He added that Moscow would share some of those revenues with the "poorest nations."