

Warmly celebrate the second anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin



The inauguration ceremony of the Administrative Organizations of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, held on September 17, 2021



Directors of the Management Committee of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Ho Iat Sen, Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Wang Weizhong, Governor of Guangdong Province, shake hands with each other



The completion of the 'Macao New Neighborhood' project



The Government Affairs Service Center of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin



The landscape of Hengqin and Macao



The customs supervision sites and supporting facilities at the 'second-line' places are under construction

A new chapter of Hengqin-Macao cooperation A bright future brought by the integrated development

Development and achievements in two years

1 The policy support of the Central Government, Guangdong Province and Zhuhai City

- China issued a general plan for building a Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin
- The People's Bank of China, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, China Securities Regulatory Commission, State Administration of Foreign Exchange jointly issued 30 specific measures to facilitate cross-border capital flow and credit financing for Macao citizens. Guangdong Financial Supervisory Authority and other departments further issued the detailed implementation plan
- The GACC announced a package of 20 measures to support the high-quality development of the zone
- A total of 159 provincial administrative powers were handed over by Guangdong government to the zone, as the Standing Committee of Guangdong Provincial People's Congress issued the regulations for promoting the development of the zone
- The Standing Committee of Zhuhai Municipal People's Congress launched regulations for promoting Macao medical and pharmaceutical personnel to practice in the zone
- The National Development and Reform Commission issued the Encouraged Industry Catalogue in the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin with a total of 185 items. The leading group for developing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area approved the measures for the administration of the list of high-end and urgently-needed talent for preferential personal tax policies
- The National Immigration Administration announced several measures to support the development of the zone
- Corporate income tax rates are lowered to 15% for eligible companies in the zone, and high-level professionals and urgently-needed professionals who work in the zone are exempted from paying the portion of personal income tax that exceeds 15% of their taxable income by the measures released by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China and the State Taxation Administration

2 Further integration of people's livelihood

- The 'Macao New Neighborhood' project has been completed. The number of Macao residents working and living in the zone has increased 28.9%, and that of Macao students increased 35%
- 1,270 Macao professionals in medicine, construction, tourism, etc., can practice in the zone after filing Pilot One Examination Multiple Certificates for the evaluation collaboration of professionally qualified personnel under Guangdong and Macao
- In 2023, the number of inbound and outbound travelers through Hengqin Port has surpassed 10 million, increasing by 126% year-on-year, the daily amount of Macao residents who pass through the port has exceeded 10,000, 14 commuter lines linking Hengqin and Macao can serve 250,000 passengers a year
- As a result of the removal of the total quota limit on the entry and exit of non-operating Macao vehicles with a single number plate, the number of Macao single-plate vehicles entering and leaving the zone has increased by 93.1% year on year to 860,000 this year
- The shield tunnel in Hengqin extension line project of Macao Light Rapid Transit and the bridge connecting the University of Macau (UM) and Hengqin port have been completed
- The launch of the government affairs service center helps to provide 998 one-stop services; the self-service kiosks of Macao Identification Services Bureau and Macao Financial Services Bureau can facilitate Macao residents

3 Collaborative Development of Industries in Hengqin and Macao

- Focusing on Macao's '1+4' adequate diversification development strategy, Hengqin and Macao jointly carried out global investment promotions and organized about 350 business matchings and negotiations
- The zone now has 5,763 Macao-funded enterprises, up 23.54% compared to that of September 2021. In the first half of 2023, the operating income of Macao-funded enterprises above designated size saw an increase of 28.6%
- A series of industrial development policies have been introduced for the four major industries, giving 1.2 times of support to Macao-funded enterprises. The first to launch cross-border business registration, with a 60% reduction of registration time
- Research institutes of the University of Macau and the Macau University of Science and Technology have more cooperation with enterprises, and have established more than 10 joint laboratories in the fields of integrated circuits and traditional Chinese medicine
- With the 'Hengqin Production + Macao Registration' mode, the first cross-border commissioned drug from Macao has completed production in Hengqin and was sold in Macao
- There are 23 enterprises and 16 funding products registered with the QFLP in the zone, with the Macao-funded enterprises accounting for over 50%
- 'MICE+ Macao x Hengqin' was launched jointly, in the first half of 2023, the zone has received more than 5.16 million tourists, up 23% compared to the same period in 2019

Data as of the end of August, 2023

The future development

On our previous achievements, we will build greater progress towards higher aims.

The accelerating development of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin shows the support of the country and President Xi Jinping for Macao. It will inject strong impetus into Macao's industrial diversification and long-term development, and is of great significance to promote Macao's long-term prosperity and stability, and integrate into the overall development of the country. The Macao SAR Government will insist on its mission, seize valuable opportunities, and make effort to support the development of Hengqin.

With the acceleration of the construction of the integrated development pattern of Hengqin and Macao, Hengqin will play a more supporting role in promoting Macao's appropriate economic diversification, provide more spaces for the development of enterprises, make easier for Macao residents to travel between the two places, improve the environment for living and working. The blueprint of the country has made for Macao will become the reality.

Source: Macao SAR Government



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LAWMAKER RON LAM BLAMES ID FOR LACK OF COMMUNICATION ON LIN FONG

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WANG YI HEADS TO RUSSIA AFTER MEETING WITH US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

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AP PHOTO



Indian lawmakers sat in the last session before moving to a new Parliament building, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call yesterday that saw him lauding India's parliamentary history and the recently concluded Group of 20 summit. Major opposition parties in May boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament, calling it extravagant, in a rare show of unity against Modi's Hindu nationalist ruling party, which has governed for nine years and is seeking a third term in next year's elections.

AP PHOTO



UAE Five prisoners sought by the U.S. in a swap with Iran flew out of Tehran yesterday, an official said. Flight-tracking data analyzed by the AP showed a Qatar Airways flight take off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, which has been used for exchanges in the past. Iranian state media soon after said the flight had left Tehran. Earlier, officials said that the exchange would take place after nearly \$6 billion in once-frozen Iranian assets reached Qatar, a key element of the planned swap.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine Six deputy defense ministers were fired yesterday following the dismissal two weeks ago of Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov in a corruption scandal, officials said, as heavy fighting continued in the east. Russia claimed to have struck key Ukrainian facilities in air attacks overnight, hitting stores of Storm Shadow missiles and depleted uranium ammunition along with electronic intelligence centers and training facilities for Ukrainian military scouts.

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WAITING FOR LIGHT RAIL

Commercial spaces at Barra Transport Hub without prospective tenants, gov't says it's the economy and waits for LRT Barra Station to turn-around the situation



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P5

LAWMAKER RON LAM BLAMES ID FOR LACK OF COMMUNICATION ON LIN FONG

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Ron Lam has criticized the decision to discontinue public swimming lessons at Lin Fong Swimming Pool without prior consultation or communication with the public.

A group of pool users and swimming coaches complained about the sudden and unexplained termination of public swimming lessons at the swimming pool. In response, the lawmaker organized a press conference for stakeholders to voice their concerns.

According to Lam, Sports Bureau (ID) did not provide any indication about opening up the swimming pool. He also criticized the ID for moving in the wrong direction by reducing quotas instead of expanding them. He was also dissatisfied that the ID used opening up Lin Fong Swimming Pool as a justification for the quota reduction.

Initially, the ID had inten-

ded to cease all public swimming lessons. In response to public concerns, the bureau announced that 85% of quotas would be retained. However, Lam was skeptical, pointing out that the original duration of lessons was two months per term. To achieve nominal increases in the quotas, the ID shortened each term to two weeks, effectively reducing the quotas.

A swimming coach surnamed Lou, who spoke at the press conference, questioned if the government considered 90 quotas to be sufficient to cater to at least 4,000 newborns each year. He added that swimming coaching is a profession, and cutting classes would detrimentally impact the future development of the sport.

Furthermore, Lin Fong Swimming Pool hosts local senior water aerobics lessons due to its shallower water and accessible facilities. Noting that many senior residents participate in these lessons

based on the recommendations of their medical doctors, Lam questioned why the government did not encourage greater activity and fitness, especially when these require only a small investment but result in significant healthcare savings.

A senior pool user surnamed Lei told the press conference that she had been regularly taking water aerobics at Lin Fong Swimming Pool, which helped her to maintain her health. She pointed out that other swimming pools are less suitable due to the lack of accessible facilities.

A parent of a swimming student surnamed Lei, suggested at the press conference that the government should strike a balance between swimming lessons and other uses at Lin Fong Swimming Pool.

He pointed out that directing all swimming students to the Olympic Aquatic Centre for lessons will create barriers, especially for those living on the Macau side.



Lawmaker Ron Lam

GOV'T LOWERS MAXIMUM INCOME CEILING, ASSETS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICANTS

THE government has decided to reduce the maximum income ceiling for public housing applicants by about 7%. The decision was communicated through a Chief Executive order published in the government's office gazette yesterday.

Under the new guidelines, the monthly income ceiling for a single applicant is now set at MOP35,650, while for a family of two or more people, it is set at MOP71,310.

This time, adjustments were only made to the maximum ceiling, with the lower thresholds remaining at MOP12,750 for a single candidate, MOP19,270 for a household of two people, MOP26,020 for a household of three people, and up to MOP37,300 for a household



of seven or more people.

Changes were also made to the maximum limits for assets value, which are now set at MOP1,122,200 for a single candidate and MOP2,244,400 for a household of two or more peo-

ple. Both limits have been reduced by about 10.5%.

The government has announced that a new phase of public housing application tenders will be opened within the year, encompassing five public housing projects. **RM**

WORKER DIES AFTER FALLING FROM A LADDER

A non-resident worker was killed after falling from a ladder while working in a building at the Seac Pai Van public housing estate, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported.

According to the report, the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center notified the PJ that a 53-year-old mainland Chinese man had been admitted to the hospital after falling at work. He passed away as a consequence of the injuries sustained.

Subsequent investigation by the PJ revealed that the man had been engaged in repair work on the top of a 4-meter ladder, when he suffered an electric shock and fell.

He was accompanied



by a co-worker who was assisting with lighting-related repairs in the building when the accident occurred.

The co-worker alerted the authorities to the accident.

Upon examining the

body, the PJ did not find any evidence suggesting foul play, indicating that the man's death was attributable to the work accident. The exact cause of the death will be ascertained via a forensic examination at a later date. **RM**

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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, Emille 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

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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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Covid-19 Centre discontinued after over three years

ANTHONY LAM

THE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre was closed yesterday, according to a Chief Executive Dispatch published on the same day.

Pursuant to dispatch 156/2023, the Chief Executive has ordered the termination of the center, which was inaugurated on Jan. 21, 2020. The Chief Executive is the president of the now-defunct center, while the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture is the vice president.

The center was initially established to oversee and coordinate the prevention and control of Covid-19, which was then referred to as Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia or Novel Coronavirus Infection.

The same dispatch issued yesterday also revokes Chief Executive Dispatch No 166/2022, which

ANTHONY LAM



had imposed special entry requirements on entrants to Macau, regardless of their place of origin or nationality.

Both Chief Executive Dispatches No 166/2022 and No 23/2020, which governed the inauguration of the Covid center, were nullified yesterday.

In response to these termina-

tions, the Health Bureau (SSM) issued a statement yesterday to clarify several matters.

The SSM emphasized that "Covid-19 still poses a certain level of threat to human health," and that "suitable prevention and control measures will be implemented according to changes in the epidemic situation."

The "Epidemic Fighting" website has been renamed 'Special webpage against epidemics.' New infection data will be announced once per week, while vaccination data will be provided on a monthly basis. The vaccination website will be converted by the SSM into a special-topic website.

Data announcement via hotline inquiry has also been discontinued, and the inquiry hotline 28 700 800 has returned to operating as a regular infectious disease inquiry hotline during government office hours. The email for inquiries has reverted to being a general inquiry email for the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the SSM.

Inquiries via text message and on the website have also been discontinued.

Despite these developments, the centralized mask supply for Macau residents will continue unaffected.

MACAU RESIDENTS TAKE PART IN CHINA'S LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXAM

Around 860,000 applicants registered for the initial phase of China's national unified legal professional qualification examination, held over the weekend, the Ministry of Justice said yesterday. About 75% of the applicants took the exam at testing sites across the country, including in Hong Kong and Macau. The number of applicants represented an increase of 5.26% year-on-year, according to the ministry. The results of objective examination questions will be released on September 22. Those who pass that stage will sit their subjective questions examination on October 15.

F&B SECTOR RECORDS REVENUE SURGE

Receipts of interviewed restaurants and similar establishments and retailers surged by 354.2% year-on-year, with receipts of Chinese Restaurants, Japanese & Korean Restaurants and Western Restaurants soaring by 738.1%, 455.0% and 355.0% respectively. Albeit from a low base, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that sales of the interviewed retailers jumped by 455.7% year-on-year in July. As regards the business expectations for August, 64% of the interviewed restaurants and similar establishments expected their receipts to remain stable month-on-month.

IFTM CELEBRATES 28TH ANNIVERSARY

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) celebrated its 28th anniversary on September 15, pledging to be "committed to creating a top-notch teaching and research environment." Speaking at the event, Fanny Vong, president of IFTM, recalled that in recent years, IFTM has been "actively engaged in external collaboration, not only in fostering talents with outstanding institutions in the mainland and overseas, but also in expanding cooperation in tourism education and training in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area."

Commercial spaces at Barra Transport Hub without prospective tenants



RENATO MARQUES

THE commercial area of the Barra Transport Hub has not attracted any interest among business owners for potential rental agreements, the government stated in response to a written inquiry by the lawmaker Si Ka Lon.

Director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Kelvin Lam, disclosed in his response that the government has made two attempts to tender the spaces, but no in-

terested parties have come forward.

Lam attributed this to the economic environment, but anticipates that with the forthcoming launch of the Barra Station of the Light Rapid Transit, at the end of 2023, the LRT should see an increase in passengers and users. This should "encourage business owners to invest in the commercial areas [of the transport hub]," according to the official.

Previously, DSAT men-

tioned in a separate response that they are currently in the process of planning new bus routes for tourists, with the Barra Hub serving as one of the connecting points to facilitate transportation for visitors, particularly those seeking a connection to the Border checkpoints.

Lam added that this project should include express or special routes linking several areas of the city to the Barra Hub. The objective is to improve the convenience of using the LRT for commuting between Macau and Taipa once the line extension becomes operational. In turn, this is expected to contribute to an increase in the number of passengers using the LRT.

GAMING

CASINO PLAYERS NOT DETERRED AMID STIFF ECONOMIC HEADWINDS: CITI

ACCORDING to Citi-Group (Citi), casino players "are not going to be deterred by anything less than a direct-hit typhoon or a 'black' warning-level rainstorm."

This assessment follows Citi analysts' conclusion from a survey that the average wager per player has surged by 58% compared

to 2019 figures, reaching HKD20,314, despite the Chinese economy facing stiff headwinds.

"We believe the strength observed in September 2023 can be largely attributed to the abundance of whales," said Citi analysts George Choi and Ryan Cheung

'Whales' refer to players

who wager between HKD100,000 to 500,000 per hand.

Citi also defined a 'player of the month' as a better at Chairman Club in Wynn Palace who wagers HKD500,000.

Recently, two whales and 15 other players wagered a staggering HKD980,000 in just one baccarat table at

the Horizon Premium Club at Galaxy Macau.

In their survey, the analysts found that the average minimum bets across Macau are on the rise, indicating an improvement in player quality within the mass sector.

This month, the average minimum bet increased to HKD2,123, slightly higher than last month's HKD2,064.

However, the premium mass segment is experiencing a slight decline, due to "seasonality-defying trend."

Data from the analysts shows that the sector has had a slight decline of 8% in total wagers, amounting to HKD8.8 million, while the number of players decreased from 468 in August to 431.

Late last month, Citi noted that high rollers were increasingly betting on games of chance in Macau.

A weekly channel check from Citi revealed that it had observed 24 whales last month, marking the highest single count this year amid a weakening economy. LV

FINANCE

HKD EASY TRANSFER TO LAUNCH SEPT. 25

ANTHONY LAM

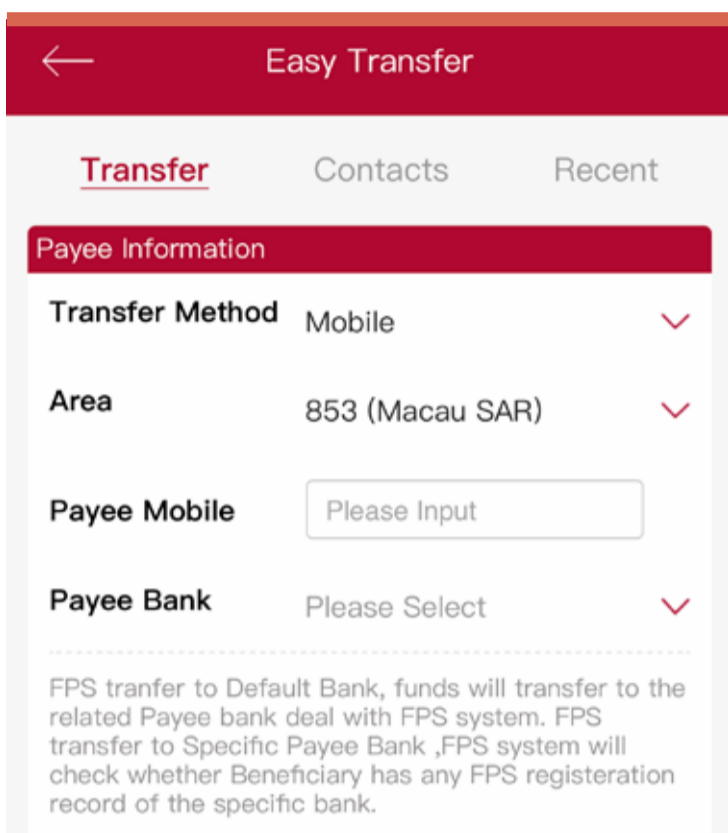
THE Local Fast Payment System (FPS) Easy Transfer will be upgraded on Sep. 25, with instant HKD transfers between banks in Macau being a key addition, the financial watchdog announced yesterday.

In a statement released on the update, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) noted that the new phase of the Easy Transfer function will be rolled out at 9:30 a.m. on the coming Monday.

This upgrade will facilitate HKD transfers between banks in Macau, interbank bill settlements and e-wallet top-ups. The per-transaction and daily transfer limits will also be increased, going from MOP5,000 to unlimited and MOP10,000 to MOP20,000 respectively. The daily limit for batch transfers will also be raised from MOP50,000 to MOP200,000.

The operational procedures and limits for HKD transfers will be consistent with those for MOP transfers.

In addition, upon completing an electronic direct debit authorization (eDDA) with their



banks, clients will be permitted to conduct cross-bank direct debits, "which will provide wider options for bill settlement," the AMCM said.

This upgrade will also allow users to top up their e-wallets held by third-party payment

platforms, addressing needs of individuals and business users, according to the AMCM.

First-time users of the service will need to register their phone numbers with the platform before they can initiate transfers by phone number.

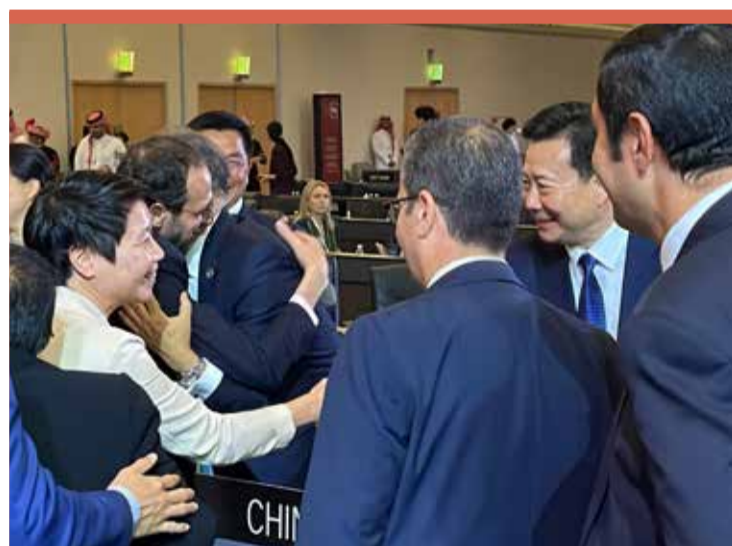
delegation that included the Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Choi Kin Long, and other IC staff members.

This year, the People's Republic of China has submitted only one location for inscription, being the Pu'er Jingmai Mountain Ancient Tea Forest Cultural Landscape. This is an evolving cultural landscape dating back to the 10th century AD, consisting of ancient tea groves, tea gardens, forests and traditional villages. It reflects important values such as traditional Chinese tea cultivation and the land-use practices of the Bulang and Dai people over generations.

The inscription was officially made on September 17, China Standard Time.

IC delegates were present to witness the process and extended their congratulations to their national counterparts following the announcement of the inscription.

Leong also met with national officials and Committee Director Himalchuli Gurung to discuss Macau's efforts in heritage conservation. She delivered a keynote speech at a forum organized by Chinese national entities. **AL**



Culture director witnesses China's 57th World Heritage inscription

DIRECTOR of Culture, Leong Wai Man, personally witnessed the inscription of China's 57th World Heritage site at a World Heritage Committee meeting.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau

(IC) announced yesterday in a statement that Leong personally attended the extraordinary meeting of the Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from September 10 to 25.

Accompanying her was a

CRIME

ELDERLY MAN LOSES MOP180,000 TO SCAMMER

A man, aged in his seventies, has lost MOP180,000 to a man impersonating his son and claiming to need the money to pay compensation to others, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported.

The impersonator, aged 24, is from Hong Kong and allegedly unemployed. He has been charged with the crimes of relatively major swindling and criminal syndication.

At about 10:30 a.m. on Sep. 14, the suspect called the elderly man's landline at home. He claimed to the man that he has engaged in physical assault and needed some money to settle compensation.

He asked the elderly man for MOP180,000.

The elderly man admitted that the suspect's voice sounded very much like his son's.

Believing the suspect, at about 1:30 p.m. on the same day, the elderly man gave the sum in cash to the

suspect in person at a bus stop near Grand Lisboa Hotel.

Two hours later, the suspect called again to claim that he needed an additional MOP200,000 for medical compensation. Now sceptical, the elderly man called his real son and discovered he had fallen victim to a scam.

The elderly man immediately contacted the police, who instructed him to meet the impersonator under the guise of handing over the additional money. When the suspect received the second batch of cash, inspectors appeared and placed him under arrest.

The suspect revealed to the police that he was ordered to conduct the crime and was promised 8% of the swindled cash as remuneration. The first batch of money was given to two other men, according to the suspect.

Investigations are still underway. **AL**

CRIME

PJ ARREST THREE FOR SUSPECTED ILLEGAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE

DURING 'Operation Thunder,' the Judiciary Police (PJ) detained three people from the mainland suspected of engaging in illegal currency exchange activities. The three people were detained on Sunday in a casino in Cotai.

According to the PJ, the trio has been handed over to the Immigration Department of the Public Security Police Force for further proceedings.

Throughout the operation, a total of 128 people were detained and questioned by the police.

Illegal currency exchange has been identified as a priority for the security forces, according to the Security Chief. This is not only due to

the implications of the crime itself but also because it is often linked to other forms of violent criminal activity, including murder and aggravated bodily harm offenses.

Illegal currency exchange activities are a type of crime that is closely associated with the gaming industry. It arises from the enforcement of regulations prohibiting mainland residents from withdrawing cash from Macau ATMs unless they are an account holder. This is verified through the so-called 'KYC' (Know Your Client) system, installed in all ATMs. The KYC system requires presentation of a Chinese Identity Card as well as facial recognition of the ATM user. **RM**



DIPLOMACY

Wang Yi heads to Russia after meeting with US national security adviser

CHINA'S top diplomat is heading to Russia for security talks after two days of meetings with U.S. President Joe Biden's national security adviser over the weekend in Malta.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who simultaneously holds the ruling Communist Party's top foreign policy post, will be in Russia from yesterday to Thursday for China-Russia strategic security consultations, the Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement.

The U.S. and China are at odds over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. China has refrained from taking sides in the war, saying that while a country's territory must be respected, the West needs to consider Russia's security concerns about NATO expansion. It has accused the U.S. of prolonging the fighting by providing arms to Ukraine, weaponry that the U.S. says is needed to defend against Russian aggression.

Wang's trip to Moscow comes a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left Russia following a six-day visit that included talks with President Vladimir Putin at a far eastern spaceport, visits to aircraft



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) shakes hands with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Malta, last Saturday

plants and inspections of nuclear-capable strategic bombers and an advanced warship.

Kim's trip fueled Western concerns about an arms alliance that could boost Putin's war in Ukraine.

China and Russia have grown closer as relations with the West have deteriorated for both. China

is looking for support as it seeks to reshape the U.S.-led international order into one that is more accommodating to its approach.

Last month, it helped engineer an expansion of the BRICS partnership, which invited six more countries to join what has been a five-nation bloc that includes Chi-

na and Russia.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning called Wang's visit to Russia a routine one to hold in-depth talks on major strategic security interests.

Wang discussed Ukraine in his weekend meetings with U.S. national security adviser Jake Sulli-

van. Both sides described the talks as candid, substantive and constructive as they try to stabilize their rocky relationship and manage differences over security, trade, technology and human rights. Specifics of their talks were not released.

Wang stepped down as foreign minister at the end of last year, taking on the more senior position of Communist Party foreign affairs chief, but was called back as foreign minister in July after his successor, Qin Gang, disappeared from public view. It's unclear what happened to Qin, but he may have fallen out of favor with the leadership.

More recently, China's defense minister, Li Shangfu, also has not been seen in about three weeks, sparking speculation about his fate. It's unusual for two sitting Cabinet members to disappear from sight, although it doesn't appear to signal any obvious change in defense or foreign policy.

The Chinese government has said nothing about Li's disappearance. Asked about it yesterday, Mao, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said she was not aware of the situation. **MDT/AP**

DIRE STRAIT

PLA flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan in a new high in activity the island calls 'harassment'

CHINA'S military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry called a recent new high.

The planes were detected between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. yesterday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan. Chinese warplanes fly toward the self-governing island on a near-daily basis but typically in smaller numbers. The Taiwan ministry didn't explain what time period it meant by a "recent" high.

China has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The U.S. is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and



opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

The Chinese government would prefer that Taiwan come under its control voluntarily and last week unveiled a plan

for an integrated development demonstration zone in Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwanese even as it threatens the island militarily in what experts say is China's long-running carrot and stick approach.

The recent actions may be an attempt to sway Taiwan's leader election in January. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which leans toward formal independence for the island, is anathema to the

Chinese leadership. Beijing favors opposition candidates who advocate working with the mainland, namely the Kuomintang.

The candidates had no immediate comment yesterday on the latest Chinese military activity.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic median line between mainland China and the island. They included more than 30 fighter jets as well as mid-air refueling tanker planes. Taiwan also reported nine Chinese naval vessels in area waters in the previous 24 hours.

The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" that it warned could escalate in the current tense atmosphere. "We urge the Beijing authorities to bear responsibility

and immediately stop such kind of destructive military activities," it said in a statement.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, asked about the reported military activity, said there is no such thing as a "median line" because Taiwan is part of Chinese territory.

China last week sent a flotilla of ships including the aircraft carrier Shandong into waters near Taiwan. The drills came shortly after the U.S. and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait, the waters that separate the island from the mainland.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 when the Communists took control of China during a civil war. The losing Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up their own government on the island.

Only a few foreign nations give the island official diplomatic recognition. The U.S. among others has formal ties with China while maintaining a representative office in Taiwan. **MDT/AP**

UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT

Tens of thousands march to kick off climate summit, demanding end to warming-causing fossil fuels

SETH BORENSTEIN,
NEW YORK

YELLING that the future and their lives depend on ending fossil fuels, tens of thousands of protesters yesterday [Macau time] kicked off a week where leaders will try once again to curb climate change primarily caused by coal, oil and natural gas.

But protesters say it's not going to be enough. And they aimed their wrath directly at U.S. President Joe Biden, urging him to stop approving new oil and gas projects, phase out current ones and declare a climate emergency with larger executive powers.

"We hold the power of the people, the power you need to win this election," said 17-year-old Emma Buretta of Brooklyn of the youth protest group Fridays for Future. "If you want to win in 2024, if you do not want the blood of my generation to be on your hands, end fossil fuels."

The March to End Fossil Fuels featured such politicians as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and actors Susan Sarandon, Ethan Hawke, Edward Norton, Kyra Sedgewick and Kevin Bacon. But the real action on Broadway was where protesters crowded the street, pleading for a better but not-so-hot future. It was the opening salvo to New York's Climate Week, where world leaders in business, politics and the arts gather to try to save the planet, highlighted by a new special United Nations summit Wednesday.

Many of the leaders of countries that cause the most heat-trapping carbon pollution will not be in attendance. And they won't speak at the summit organized by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a way that only countries that promise new concrete action are invited to speak.

Organizers estimated 75,000 people marched yesterday [Macau time].

"We have people all



across the world in the streets, showing up, demanding a cessation of what is killing us," Ocasio-Cortez told a cheering crowd. "We have to send a message that some of us are going to be living on, on this planet 30, 40, 50 years from now. And we will not take no for an answer."

This protest was far more focused on fossil fuels and the industry than previous marches. The rally attracted a large chunk, 15%, of first-time protesters and was overwhelmingly female, said American University sociologist Dana Fisher, who studies environmental movements and was surveying march participants.

Of the people Fisher talked to, 86% had experienced extreme heat recently, 21% floods and 18% severe drought, she said. They mostly reported feeling sad and angry. Earth has just gone through the hottest summer on record.

Among the marchers was 8-year-old Athena Wilson from Boca Raton, Florida. She and her mother Maleah, flew from Florida for Sunday's protest.

"Because we care about

our planet," Athena said. "I really want the Earth to feel better."

People in the South, especially where the oil industry is, and the global south, "have not felt heard," said 23-year-old Alexandria Gordon, originally from Houston. "It is frustrating."

Protest organizers emphasized how let down they felt that Biden, who many of them supported in 2020, has overseen increased drilling for oil and fossil fuels.

"President Biden, our lives depend on your actions today," said Louisiana environmental activist Sharon Lavigne. "If you don't stop fossil fuels our blood is on your hands."

Nearly one-third of the world's planned drilling for oil and gas between now and 2050 is by U.S. interests, environmental activists calculate. Over the past 100 years, the United States has put more heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than any other country, though China now emits more carbon pollution on an annual basis.

"You need to phase out fossil fuels to survive our pla-

net," said Jean Su, a march organizer and energy justice director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Marchers and speakers spoke of increasing urgency and fear of the future. The actress known as V, formerly Eve Ensler, premiered the anthem "Panic" from her new climate change oriented musical scheduled for next year. The chorus goes: "We want you to panic. We want you to act. You stole our future and we want it back."

Signs included "Even Santa Knows Coal is Bad" and "Fossil fuels are killing us" and "I want a fossil free future" and "keep it in the ground."

That's because leaders don't want to acknowledge "the elephant in the room," said Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate. "The elephant is that fossil fuels are responsible for the crisis. We can't eat coal. We can't drink oil, and we can't have any new fossil fuel investments."

But oil and gas industry officials said their products are vital to the economy.

"We share the urgency of confronting climate change together without delay; yet doing so by eliminating America's energy options is the wrong approach and would leave American families and businesses beholden to unstable foreign regions for higher cost and far less reliable energy," said American Petroleum Institute Senior Vice President Megan Bloomgren.

Activists weren't having any of that.

"The fossil fuel industry is choosing to rule and conquer and take and take and take without limit," Rabbi Stephanie Kolin of Congregation Beth Elohim of Brooklyn said. "And so waters are rising and the skies are turning orange (from wildfire smoke) and the heat is taking lives. But you Mr. President can choose the other path, to be a protector of this Earth." **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1952 US IMMIGRATION SLAMS DOOR ON CHAPLIN



The United States is to prevent the film legend, Charlie Chaplin, from returning to his Hollywood home until he has been investigated by the Immigration Services.

The Attorney-General, Thomas McGranery, has ordered the Immigration Service to hold Mr Chaplin "for hearings" if he returns to the United States, despite issuing him with a re-entry permit only a few months ago.

He gave no reason for his instructions.

Mr Chaplin is currently sailing to England on board the Queen Elizabeth with his wife and four children.

His friend, the writer Harry Crocker, who is travelling with the family, said Mr Chaplin would probably talk to his lawyers before making any comment.

He added that Mr Chaplin intends to return to the US in about six months.

Mr Chaplin is still a British citizen, despite living in America for almost 40 years, and has no automatic right to re-enter the country.

Under US law, grounds for denying a foreigner admission include "moral turpitude" and "political affiliations".

Charlie Chaplin has been under severe pressure in the US over accusations from Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee that he is associated with left-wing causes.

Mr Chaplin has been on the FBI's Security Index since 1948, and he was one of over 300 people blacklisted by Hollywood film studios and unable to work after he refused to cooperate when he appeared before the Committee.

When questioned about his membership of the Communist Party, Mr Chaplin answered, "I do not want to create any revolution, all I want to do is create a few more films.

"I might amuse people. I hope so."

He has also been attacked over his colourful private life: he has married four times, twice to girls of 16, and in 1943 was the subject of a paternity suit which he fought and lost.

Mr Chaplin's lawyer in Hollywood, Lloyd Wright, said the re-entry permit was valid for a year.

"The immigration was so nice about issuing Chaplin his permit and even told him to hurry back," he said.

"Now the minute he gets on the high seas this comes up."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

When Charlie Chaplin arrived in the UK, he quickly realised it would be impossible for him to return to the United States. He turned against his erstwhile home, saying, "I would not go back there even if Jesus Christ was the president." After the highly successful premiere of his film, "Limelight", in London, he settled in Vevey, in Switzerland, where he lived until his death in 1977.

He continued to make films, although public opinion in the US had turned so strongly against him that his first European film, "A King in New York", was not released in America for 16 years.

He did return to the United States one more time, in 1972, when his talent was finally recognised and he was awarded a Special Academy Award.

Three years later, he received a knighthood from the Queen.

After his death, Charlie Chaplin's body was stolen from his grave and was missing for 11 weeks, until it was recovered in May 1978.

Two men were convicted of the theft and for trying to extort money from the Chaplin family.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You can expect changes at your work place. Use your better judgment before you sign up for a costly venture. Creative pursuits should payoff.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication. You should be on the road.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You will find your personal partner taxing today. Comfort is a necessity. Check your motives. Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Social events will lead to a strong and stable relationship. You will be misinterpreted if you get involved in other people's problems.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring you popularity. Talk to someone you trust in order to see the whole picture.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. You might find it difficult to control your emotions.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. Romance will unfold through business trips. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Residential moves will be favorable. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 When the work is done, they may serve you for a change. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. You will find it easy finalizing personal papers if you make an effort.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. You will gain knowledge through your adventure. Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

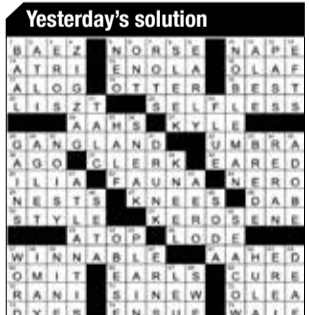
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	26	fine
Changchun	13	18	rain
Chengdu	22	27	showers
Chongqing	27	34	rain
Fuzhou	25	34	fine
Guangzhou	24	34	fine
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	25	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	24	34	cloudy
Harbin	14	20	showers
Hefei	25	32	rain
Nanjing	25	32	overcast
Shanghai	25	32	overcast
Taipei	25	31	fine
Wuhan	26	33	rain
Hong Kong	24	28	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	13	21	overcast
Frankfurt	13	22	overcast
Paris	15	22	overcast
London	17	19	rain
New York	14	24	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Broadcaster; 6- Cries of discovery; 10- Rampant; 14- Garden figure; 15- Ultimate; 16- I smell ___!; 17- Savory jelly; 18- Sommer of film; 19- ___ Blanc; 20- Sound investment?; 22- Attention; 24- One ___ million; 26- Abounding in trees; 27- Opportunely; 31- Multitude; 32- Swell up; 33- Sidewalk eateries; 36- Delt neighbor; 39- Tolerate; 40- Bent; 41- Dynamic beginning; 42- Swiss river; 43- Name; 44- Prize money; 45- Unit of energy; 46- Moved with the current; 48- Low bow; 51- Gal of song; 52- Needy; 54- Most cunning; 59- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 60- School orgs.; 62- Country album?; 63- "Rule Britannia" composer; 64- Pre-Easter season; 65- Kofi Annan's home; 66- Wagers; 67- Outer limit; 68- Conger catcher;

DOWN 1- Turkish titles; 2- Technical sch.; 3- Weapon in Clue; 4- Islamic chieftain; 5- Proof of purchase; 6- Schooner fill; 7- Sentry's shout; 8- Off-kilter; 9- Abnormally narrowed; 10- Open shelter; 11- Golf clubs; 12- Imagination; 13- Kitchen addition; 21- John Lennon's middle name; 23- Evil is as evil ___; 25- Horse race venue in England; 27- Swedish pop band whose hits include "Waterloo"; 28- This can be guilty or not guilty; 29- Din; 30- Implement used when rowing a boat; 34- Punching tool; 35- Eats; 36- Like a minx; 37- Scottish Gaelic; 38- Like some dorms; 40- Nickname for New York City; 41- ___ Wiedersehen; 43- Pitfall; 44- Plunder; 45- Makes rhapsodic; 47- ___ Tafari (Haile Selassie); 48- One cubic meter; 49- Ain't right?; 50- Doled (out); 52- Hunk; 53- "Consnarnt!"; 55- Spillane's ___ Jury; 56- Airline to Tel Aviv; 57- All there; 58- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 61- Canonized Mlle.



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	

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RUGBY WORLD CUP

Flying Fiji lifts everyone's hopes: Eyes now on big Ireland-South Africa showdown

GERALD IMRAY

EVERY World Cup needs an underdog story. Not for the first time, it's the Pacific island of Fiji warming hearts at rugby's showpiece.

The Flying Fijians, as they are monikered, beat two-time champion Australia yesterday [Macau time] for the first time in 69 years and the first time at the Rugby World Cup, sending a ripple of joy through a tournament that has seen most outsiders get a predictable pounding from the big dogs in the first week-and-a-bit of action in France.

Defending champion South Africa hammered Romania 76-0 on Sunday, while New Zealand did away with Namibia 71-3 on Friday night.

But Fiji's uplifting result on the second weekend — which actually was half-expected given the islanders' recent rise — at least keeps the top teams on their

AP PHOTO



Fiji's Waisea Nayacalevu runs with the ball during the Rugby World Cup Pool C match between Australia and Fiji at the Stade Geoffroy Guichard in Saint-Etienne

toes and everyone else believing that there's always a chance.

FIJI TAKES OFF

The Fijians have always been everyone's favorite longshots at the Rugby World Cup due to the way they play, an inventive, ad-libbing attack-from-anywhere kind

of ethos.

This year, Fiji is also seemingly better-prepared than ever. That showed in the way its defense was a brick wall in holding off Australia 22-15, although there was still time for a little dazzle when center Josua Tuisova launched into a flying dive for Fiji's one try. That and Fiji's vic-

tory was met with rapturous approval from fans in Saint-Etienne and around the rugby world.

The spirit of the Fiji team has always been one of the game's best stories given it doesn't have anywhere near the resources of rugby powers like nearby Australia, New Zealand and others. That was

enriched this year by a back-to-basics preparation camp, when the squad traveled to a tiny village on the nation's outer island of Taveuni to sleep on thin mattresses, eat their meals with local villagers and train on a sandy field by the beach.

It was a huge hit with the Fiji players, who are now a huge hit in France while reviving their quarter-final hopes.

"It is the biggest moment in Fiji sport and Fiji as a whole," forward Temo Mayanavanua said. He might not be exaggerating considering a recent survey rated Fiji higher than New Zealand and South Africa — both three-time champions — on a list of "rugby-obsessed" countries.

LOPSIDED

Namibia and Romania didn't come anywhere near upsets and were taken apart by New Zealand and South Africa, respectively. Those lopsided games are a more common picture in the early stages of the Rugby World Cup.

New Zealand ran in 11 tries for

AD

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C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER
"DEIGNAN AWARD"
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN MACAU (2023)



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

its 71-3 win against the Namibians, putting rugby's most celebrated team back on track after it lost to host France in the opening game and went into a week of soul-searching. South Africa went one better with 12 tries in its 76-0 drubbing of Romania, which has conceded a mammoth 158 points in two ultra-tough games against top-ranked Ireland and No. 2 South Africa.

It's important to note that rugby's smaller teams often see the short-term pain as important for long-term gain, saying games against the best at the Rugby World Cup are the only way to improve, even if it hurts right now.

GREAT GESTURE

While New Zealand's All Blacks were ruthless in hammering Namibia on the field, rugby's renowned tradition of camaraderie among opposing players also shone through after Namibian center Le Roux Malan suffered a horrible broken and dislocated right ankle.

New Zealand's players sent him an All Blacks jersey signed by all the players as a get-well and New Zealand center Anton Lienert-Brown visited Malan in the hospital. The jersey gesture was highly praised by Namibia coach Allister Coetzee.

FAMOUS UNDERWEAR

Wales wing Louis Rees Zammit provided the strangest tale of the

weekend after revealing he idolizes soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo and even dresses like him, down to wearing Ronaldo's branded underwear. It would explain why Rees Zammit celebrated his try against Portugal's rugby team with his own version of Ronaldo's famous 'siuu!' leap and land celebration. "I thought why not do his celebration as well," Rees Zammit said.

Wales won 28-8, but the Portuguese provided another stirring underdog display in defeat in their first World Cup game in 16 years.

BIG SHOWDOWN

All eyes this week are on Ireland vs. South Africa on Saturday, rugby's form team vs. the defending World Cup champion. It's a mouthwatering meeting of the top two in the world in an early pool match. Ireland is arguably the most impressive team at this Rugby World Cup, an unfamiliar status for the Irish, who have often disappointed and have never made it past the quarterfinals.

This one feels different given that Ireland is on a run of 15 wins and has been No. 1 for over a year.

At the other end of the spectrum, Georgia and Portugal meet the same day, a clash of the minnows to Ireland's and South Africa's clash of the titans. But Portugal could win its first game at a Rugby World Cup.

Might Ronaldo be watching?
MDT/AP

RUGBY WORLD CUP

ENGLAND GRIND JAPAN DOWN AND CUT LOOSE LATE IN SECOND CUP WIN

ENGLAND 34, JAPAN 12

ENGLAND wore down Japan then used a bizarre try to play unrestrained and roll to 34-12 for a second straight victory at the Rugby World Cup yesterday [Macau time].

With Japan trailing only 13-12 nearing the hour mark, the odd try gave England breathing space.

Flyhalf George Ford's pass glanced off prop Will Stuart's arm backwards and ricocheted forwards off prop Joe Marler's mohawk into the grateful hands of captain Courtney Lawes who strolled in between the posts. Ford's conversion made it 20-12.

"I thanked him (Marler). A bit of luck, sometimes it falls in your favor. I'll take it," said Lawes, who acknowledged England was not fluent. "Conditions were pretty tough to move the ball in, but you saw in parts what we can do. Hopefully by the time it comes to the quarterfinals we'll be able to stick it. We'll need to."

Moments after his try, Japan cut through England's defense but knocked on with the line in sight and momentum was lost.



England's third try followed, when Ford sent a clever crosskick from right to left and fullback Freddie Steward caught it and twisted over in the 66th.

But not until the cusp of full-time did England deliver the bonus-point fourth try. Good work from right winger Jonny May finished with center Joe Marchant diving across.

"They're a great team, Japan, they challenge you in different ways," Ford said. "We knew it wouldn't be until the third or fourth quarter until we could poten-

tially pull away a bit. I'm just over the moon to get another win."

Japan coach Jamie Joseph focused on the positives.

"We created a lot of opportunities, we just made too many mistakes," he said. "England put us under a lot of pressure but there were times I thought it was a real arm wrestle, we just needed to capitalize on those opportunities and we couldn't."

Coach Steve Borthwick's England is not playing well and kicking too much, but is in pole position to win Pool D. MDT/AP

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

ASIA-PACIFIC HAS NO MORE SPACE FOR MILITARIZATION

According to the online edition of Stars and Stripes, the US military is planning to establish a subordinate command in Japan for its Space Force as part of its efforts to enhance cooperation with allied countries in the domain of space.

The US Space Force and Japan's Air Self-Defense Force held their first-ever space domain discussions at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo in July, and activities in Japan have reportedly already begun with a small team.

The US Space Force established its first subordinate command in the Far East in the Republic of Korea in December at Osan Air Base, one month after it activated its "Indo-Pacific" Space Forces field command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

The purpose of founding the Osan command was to coordinate "space operations and services such as missile warning, position navigation and timing, and satellite communications within the region", US Forces Korea said at the opening ceremony.

There has been no such beating around the bush in relation to the command post in Japan, which is aimed at strengthening cooperation between Japan and the US in response to China's "military use" of space and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

The news comes hard on the heels of the US-Japan-ROK summit at Camp David on Aug 18, in which the leaders of the three countries agreed to "enhance trilateral dialogue on space security cooperation".

The provocative and aggressive nature of these moves is self-evident. The command post of the US Space Force in Japan will not only provide the necessary infrastructure for the US to upgrade its combat capacity to a new level in the region, but also give Japan easy access to align its Self-Defense Forces with the cutting-edge front of space warfare in a short time.

This represents a further expansion of the US' military alliance network into the space domain and another move by the US to accelerate its militarization of the Asia-Pacific.

Over the past one year, it has agreed to build nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, opened several new military bases in the Philippines and provided large amounts of weapons to its regional allies.

While China is making utmost efforts to stabilize the situation in the region and maintain peace and stability through talks and consultations, the US has never stopped pouring oil on fire on various regional issues by sowing the seeds of discord, cultivating proxies and muddying the waters to hijack the security and development of the region.

The latest move shows the US is continuing its efforts to ramp up the arms race in the region.

UNDERWATER TEAMS TRY TO RECOVER A FIREFIGHTING HELICOPTER THAT CRASHED IN TURKEY, KILLING THREE ABOARD

THE BUZZ

Underwater teams are trying to recover a helicopter that crashed in a lake over the weekend, killing three crew members, while fighting a forest fire in western Turkey, state media reported yesterday.

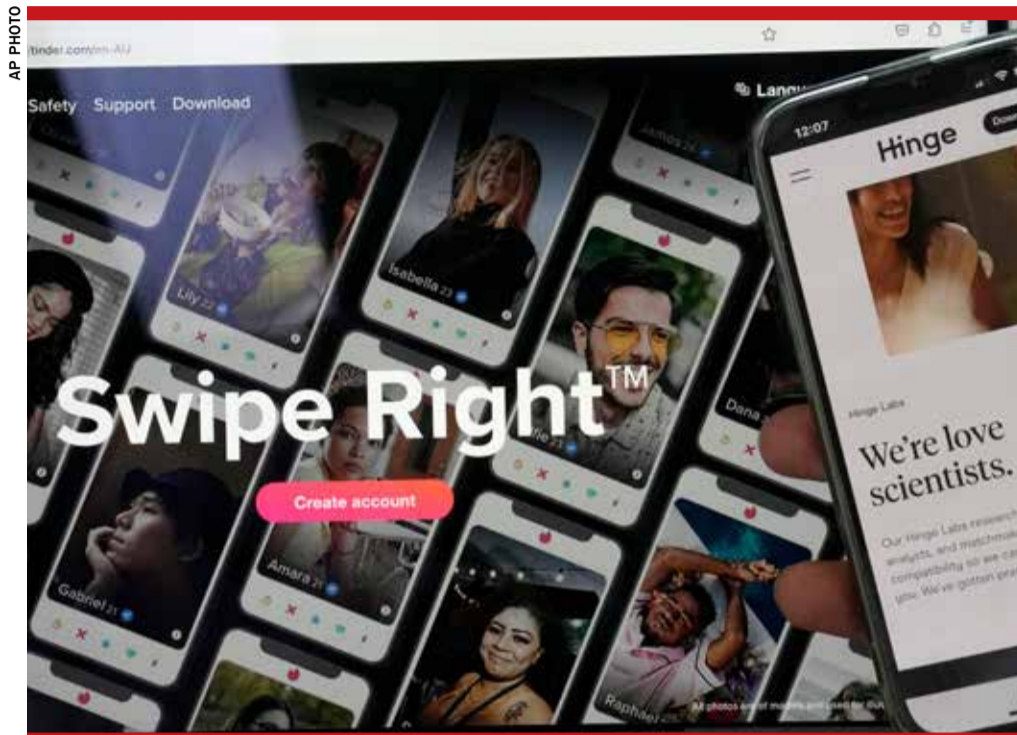
Four crew members were aboard the firefighting aircraft when it fell into the waters of the Tahtali dam while battling a blaze in Izmir's Menderes district.

One pilot, a national of Kyrgyzstan, swam to safety following the accident late Saturday. The bodies of three other crew members

— a Turk and two Kyrgyz personnel — had been found underwater, according to state-run Anadolu news agency.

The recovery resumed Monday following Sunday's unsuccessful efforts, Anadolu said. The night vision-equipped helicopter, which was collecting water to drop on the flames when it crashed, is reported to be stuck in mud 12 meters (36 feet) below the surface.

The fire was extinguished Sunday. Summer wildfires are common in Turkey, where dry vegetation and high temperatures and winds create ideal conditions for deadly blazes.



AUSTRALIA TELLS DATING APPS TO IMPROVE SAFETY STANDARDS TO PROTECT USERS FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S government said yesterday the online dating industry must improve safety standards or be forced to make changes through legislation, responding to research that says three-in-four Australian users suffer some form of sexual violence through the platforms.

Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said popular dating companies such as Tinder, Bumble and Hinge have until June 30 to develop a voluntary code of conduct that addresses user safety concerns.

The code could include improving engagement with law enforcement, supporting at-risk users, improving safety policies and practices, and providing greater transparency about harms, she said.

But, Rowland added, if the safety standards are not sufficiently improved, the government will use regulation and legislation to force change.

"What we want to do in

this sector is not stifle innovation, but balance the harms," she told reporters.

The government is responding to Australian Institute of Criminology research published last year that found three-in-four users of dating apps or websites had experienced some form of sexual violence through these platforms in the five years through 2021.

"Online dating is actually the most popular way for Australians to meet new people and to form new relationships," Rowland said.

"The government is concerned about rates of sexual harassment, abusive and threatening language, unsolicited sexual images and violence facilitated by these platforms," she added.

The Australian Information Industry Association, which represents the information and communications technology industry in Australia but not the online dating sector, welcomed the government's approach as "very measured."

"That's the way the government should regulate technology," the association's chief executive, Simon Bush, said. "Point out where there's an issue, get the industry together and get the industry to look to see if they can resolve these issues first before pulling the regulatory trigger."

Bumble declined to comment. Tinder and Hinge did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Kath Albury, an online dating researcher at Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology, said safety improvements could include a clearer sense of how quickly a user could expect feedback after reporting an unwanted or threatening contact.

"One of the things that dating app users are concerned about is the sense that complaints go into the void or there's a response that feels automated or not personal responsive in a time when they're feeling quite unsafe or distressed," Albury told Australian Broadcasting Corp. **MDT/AP**



Russia yesterday called a Ukrainian case alleging that Moscow abused the Genocide Convention to justify its invasion last year an "abuse of process," as lawyers for Moscow sought to have judges at the United Nation's highest court throw it out. As a series of lawyers laid out Moscow's objections to the case, the leader of Russia's legal team at the International Court of Justice, Gennady Kuzmin, told the 16-judge panel that Ukraine's case that seeks to halt the invasion "is, hopelessly flawed and at odds with the longstanding jurisprudence of this court."



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Elon Musk, the head of electric carmaker Tesla, to establish a factory in Turkey during a meeting in New York, Erdogan's office said yesterday. Erdogan, who is in the U.S. to attend the U.N. General Assembly, also discussed potential cooperation between Musk's space exploration firm SpaceX and Turkey's space program, the Turkish president's office said.



UK Senior politicians yesterday urged police to investigate sexual assault allegations against Russell Brand, as the U.K. entertainment industry faced questions about whether the comedian's bad behavior went unchallenged because of his fame. Brand denies allegations of sexual assault made by four women in a Channel 4 television documentary and The Times and Sunday Times newspapers. The accusers, who have not been named, include one who said she was sexually assaulted during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012.