



THE IFTM AND BANGKOK'S UNESCO OFFICE SIGNED A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION

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PUBLIC LEISURE FACILITIES ONLY OPEN WITH PROVEN SAFETY: IAM

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SIX YOUNG ACTIVISTS DEVOTE YEARS TO CLIMATE FIGHT, TODAY COMES THEIR DAY IN COURT

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AP PHOTO



South Korea paraded thousands of troops and an array of weapons capable of striking North Korea through its capital as part of its biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in 10 years yesterday, as its president vowed to build a stronger military to thwart any provocation by the North. Concerns are growing that North Korea is seeking Russian help in expanding its nuclear arsenal in return for supplying Moscow with conventional arms exhausted by its war with Ukraine. More on p10

AP PHOTO



Thailand A prominent human rights lawyer was convicted yesterday of insulting the monarchy and sentenced to four years in prison, the first conviction under a controversial law guarding the royal institution since a civilian government took office after years of military-backed rule. Arnon Nampa was found guilty of defaming King Maha Vajiralongkorn during a student-led rally on Oct. 14, 2020, that commemorated a popular uprising in 1973 that led to the fall of a decade-long military dictatorship.

AP PHOTO



Japan's health ministry has approved Leqembi, a drug for Alzheimer's disease that was jointly developed by Japanese and U.S. pharmaceutical companies. It's the first drug for treatment of the disease in a country with a rapidly aging population. Developed by Japanese drugmaker Eisai Co. and U.S. biotechnology firm Biogen Inc., the drug's approval in Japan comes two months after it was endorsed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. More on p10

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IFTM, UNESCO SIGN WORLD HERITAGE AGREEMENT

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) and Bangkok's UNESCO Office have signed a partnership agreement to promote world heritage conservation and education, the IFTM has said in a statement to the press.

The Chief of the Culture Unit of the UNESCO Bangkok office, Feng Jing, and IFTM president Fanny Vong signed the agreement during a virtual ceremony.

The agreement reaffirms both parties' commitment to further promote and update the content of the "Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme" for UNESCO World Heritage Sites, developed by IFTM working with Bangkok's UNESCO Office, and launched in 2005.

The program aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of tour guides who operate in world heritage sites across the Asia-Pacific region and to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving and respecting the universal values of these sites.

The World Heritage Committee recognized the initiative during its

31st session in 2007 as "a best-practice example of integrating heritage conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of local communities."

Under UNESCO's coordination, IFTM's experts have been providing consultancy and training not only in Macau but also in Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and mainland China.

The "Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme" consists of a core module and a country-specific module, so that participants can acquire both general knowledge about the significance and protection of world heritage as well as the universal value of their own country or region heritage.

Over the past 18 years, IFTM has trained 142 Cultural Heritage Specialist Guides for Macau to offer quality and accurate interpretations of Macau's world heritage sites, providing visitors with a learning experience when appreciating local monuments and sites.

PUBLIC LEISURE FACILITIES ONLY OPEN WITH PROVEN SAFETY

ANTHONY LAM

BESIDES certifications, third-party quality inspections are also conducted before the opening of public leisure facilities, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has said in response to lawmaker Ma Io Fong.

In his written inquiry, Ma asked about the safety of local facilities.

The bureau said all facilities recently opened to the public had been certified for safety, as it said the builders were required to submit supporting documentation.

Before the facilities were opened, third-party inspectors were commissioned to examine and submit reports. In addition, the bureau will also conduct regular checks and maintenance on these facilities to eradicate preventable safety concerns.

More importantly, the bureau has purchased third-party liability insurance for these facilities.

Replying to the lawmaker's question about the safety of facilities in theme parks, fun fairs and MICE events, the bureau said there is a licensing system for facilities in the two former venues.

However, facilities for MICE events are not subject to this requirement.

Venues subject to the licensing



system must undergo annual safety and fire inspections. A communication mechanism following accidents or incidents has also been established between the operators and the bureau.

Citing the Monetary Authority of Macao, the bureau noted third-party liability insurance is available for leisure or fun fair purposes.

The IAM has also announced that the exercise facilities beside the pu-

blic washroom near the Jai Alai hotel on the Reservoir promenade are expected to be reopened near the end of October. The facilities are currently closed for reconditioning.

The bureau said the facilities are popular among users of the promenade. Due to repeated use, the facilities have become worn and require enhancements, particularly the safety mats that have seen significant wear and tear.

TERENCE CHAO

Local swimmer ties best result in Hangzhou Asian Games

BREASTSTROKE swimmer Terence Chao Man Hou has finished sixth at the Men's 100 meters event at the Hangzhou Asian Games, while preparing for a Men's 50 meters event on Sept. 29.

Dubbed Macau's king of breaststroke, the athlete's main strength is in the 50 meters event, while 100 meters is his weakest point.

However, he entered the final of the 100 meters event in this Asian Games, held in Hangzhou, China. Despite his diligence, he lost to five other swimmers at the final, among them two mainland, two Korean and one Japanese swimmer. The other two swimmers were Indian and Singaporean.



Chao finished with a time of 1:01.53, about four seconds behind the champion. In fact, he has improved because at the last Asian Games, he was unable to enter the men's 100 meters final event at all. He said his

current result is better than he expected.

After this match, he will focus on preparations for the 50 meters event, in which he believes he will perform even better. He said he will relax a little on the

first day after this big match, then start with technique refinement and gradually increase the rhythm for the 50 meters event.

Reviewing his performance in the 100 meters event, the swimmer thought he started well in the final.

"For the first 20 meters, I performed better than the semi-final," he told local media Happy Macao - Macau Sports Channel at a post-match interview.

"At a later stage, whether it was from feeling tired or the pressure from my competitors, I couldn't maintain my rhythm."

He added that his training in the US did help with his improvements. **AL**

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GOLDEN WEEK

MGTO adopts measures to welcome visitors during the holidays

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is implementing measures to simplify and enrich the experience of the high number of visitors to Macau expected during the over one-week-long Mid-Autumn Festival and Golden Week of the National Day, the Office has said.

Since this year's Mid-Autumn Festival falls on Sept. 29 (with a public holiday the following day), the so-called National Day "Golden Week" extends for eight consecutive days from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6, like the mainland holiday period.

Forecasting at least 100,000 visitors to Macau per day, the MGTO is preparing on multiple fronts to ensure tourists have a pleasant stay.

The MGTO has "officially sought the assistance of the relevant mainland tourism department [to provide] Macau-related travel information on the National Day holiday to mainland visitors and industry operators, including real-time



border-crossing information, group tours, hotel accommodation, shopping and things to take note of before and during trips to Macau in typhoon season."

Another important aspect under consideration are the trip itineraries and the areas that are likely to be more crowded than usual.

Through the MGTO's destination marketing website and the "Experience Macao" mobile application, visitors can tailor their trip itineraries and learn about the latest tourist attractions, activities, events and festivals, restaurants, hotels, entertainment, shopping and more.

The Office has invited the

public to use the smart application to check the forecast of visitor flows at over 115 tourist attractions.

FIREWORKS AND COLORFUL ACTIVITIES TO BOOST COMMUNITY TOURISM

As part of the 31st Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, Macau's sky will light

up with fireworks on Oct. 1 and Oct. 7.

On the National Day (Oct. 1), fireworks companies from China and Portugal will present fireworks performances in the contest as usual at 9 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.

Additionally, the Fireworks Carnival will be held beside the Macau Tower from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the fireworks evenings.

Beyond the fireworks, the old neighborhoods will also present several activities such as "The Story Vendor - the Sino-Portuguese Culture" puppet performance next to Flower City Garden in Taipa on Sept. 30 and Largo Maia de Magalhães (in Taipa Village) on Oct. 1. "Taste Island-Mid-Autumn Gourmet Marketplace" will take place at Largo Camões (in front of Pak Tai Temple also in Taipa Village) from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Near Rua dos Ervanários and Travessa do Armazém Velho from Sept. 30 until Oct. 29 will be the "Travessa do Armazém Velho Festival 2023," while the pedestrian area of the Rua da Felicidade will be trialed for the first time from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m. daily, starting from Sept. 29.

Special arrangements also extend to the Macao Grand Prix Museum, usually closed on Tuesdays, which will open on Oct. 3 as a special arrangement for the National Day holiday.

Some parks to see extended hours for Mid-Autumn

THE opening hours of some local parks will be extended to cater to the public's enjoyment of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced yesterday.

In response to traditions and people's habits of viewing the moon on Mid-Autumn evening, the IAM explained that some parks will be opened until 1 a.m. from Sept. 29 to 30. The parks' opening times remain unchanged.

The affected parks are Flora Garden, Camões Garden, Lou Lim Ieok Garden, Montanha Russa Garden, Infantil do Chunambeiro Park, Comendador Ho Yin Garden, ZAPE Arts Garden (the section from Sands Macao to Rua de Cantão), the podium garden of Mong Tak Building, Taipa Central Park, the podium garden of Lakeside Building, Flower City Garden, Hac-Sa Park, Seac Pai Van Park and Palm Park



(One Oasis).

The IAM has also reminded the public to protect the environment and comply with safety and hygiene practices. As candlelit lanterns are a traditional festival element, the IAM has reminded people not to burn wax in tin cans as it may raise safety concerns. Installations should be viewed from a safe distance to avoid accidents.

The public has also been re-

minded to clean up after themselves.

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has announced this year's campaign of collecting used mooncake packaging will run from this Friday to Oct. 16.

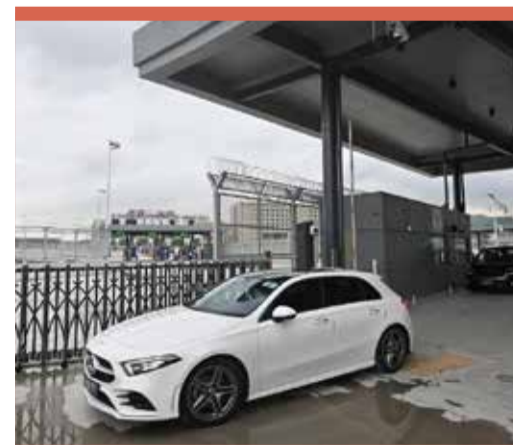
It added that over 1,000 collection points will be established for the public's convenience. Moreover, the bureau pledged the collected packaging will be recycled. **AL**

TRANSPORT

TRIAL OPERATIONS FOR ONE-STOP CAR LANE AT HENGQIN COMMENCE

TRIAL operations for the 15 lanes of one-stop cross-border vehicle lanes at the Hengqin border checkpoint have begun, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has announced.

To facilitate the arrangement, the motor lanes on the overpass connecting the University of Macau and the Hengqin border checkpoint, the access from the Lotus Flower Bridge that leads to the new transport platform on the north side of the checkpoint, and the access to the new transport platform on the north side that leads to the Lotus Flower Bridge are



now open.

The PSP has asked drivers to exercise additional caution while driving through the border checkpoint given the new arrangements and changed traffic conditions.

It has also reminded drivers and travelers to prepare the required documents

for border clearance in advance to ensure a smooth border crossing.

Drivers are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the machine that collects travelers' data, which is installed at the border checkpoint, before their trip. **AL**

CRIME

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY KEEPING LOST PROPERTY

ANTHONY LAM

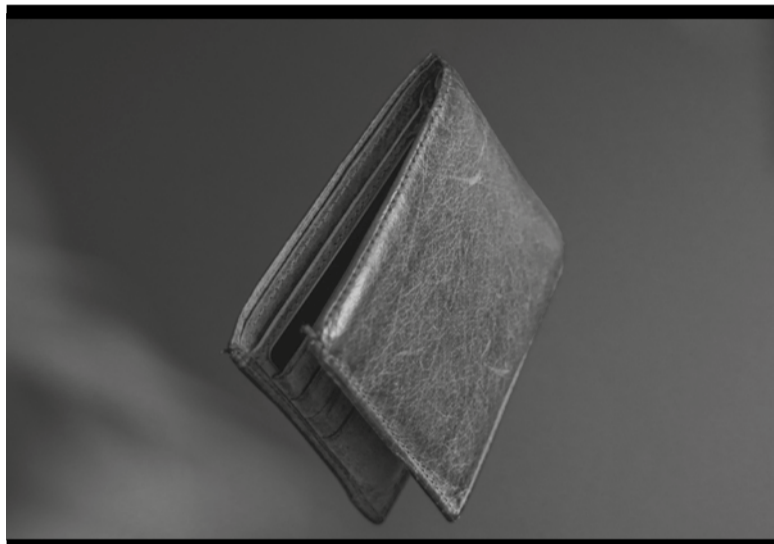
A woman arrested for allegedly retaining lost property has denied the accusation, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has announced.

The woman, 57, is from mainland China and is reportedly unemployed.

According to the police, on Sept. 18, the female victim reported the loss of a wallet in a shop near the Border Gate checkpoint. She forgot the wallet after shopping. She returned in five minutes to look for the item but could not find it.

Fearing it was taken, she reported the matter to the police.

Through the public surveillance camera system, the police pinpointed the suspect and intercepted her on Sep. 21, while she was entering Macau through the Border



Gate checkpoint.

Denying the accusation, she said she was in a rush that day. She had passed the wallet to her husband so it could be delivered to the police in due course.

Later, the husband took the lost wallet to the police station,

but the victim said a Macau Pass card and cash amounting to a few dozen patacas were missing. Hence, she reported a loss of MOP300 to the police.

The suspect has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigations.

CTM hosts cybersecurity seminar

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL telecommunication company CTM recently hosted a cybersecurity seminar on the Protection of Digital Assets.

The event invited representatives from the Judiciary Police and CTM, experts in the network security area, to exchange views on the latest developments and trends in network security management in Macau, as well as challenges and protective measures. The aim was to assist various sectors to establish robust and reliable network security measures.


Held at the Galaxy International Convention Center, Ebel Cham, vice president of Commercial CTM, said that "since the launch of CTM 5G last year, with the leading smart city infrastructure of the '3 Networks-4 Centres-1 Platform', CTM collaborated with multiple sectors to further promote the smart transformation of

Macau. Many organizations and enterprises utilize solutions based on 5G+Cloud Network Integration and IoT to drive smart transformation, and network security plays an important role."

According to the company, the seminar's organization is directly related to the increased utilization of 5G networks from different sectors in Macau, resulting in a demand for enhanced network safety and cybersecurity measures.

The seminar covered six discussion topics, including "Current Status, Challenges, and Outlook of Macau's Network Security Governance", "Analysis of Real Offensive and Defensive Tactics", "How Security Operation Tasks Leverage Automation Tools", "Ransomware is More Dangerous Than You Think", "Add the Latest Line of Defense and Transfer the Risk for Network Assets," and "Device Security Strategies in Digital Transformation."

AD

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4. Location for Submission of Proposals:	CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Av. De Wai Long CAM Office Building, 4 th Floor Reception Taipa, Macau Attention: Mr. Chu Tan Neng – Executive Director
5. Tender closing time and date:	At 12:00 (noon) on 27 Oct 2023 (Macau Local Time)
CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.	

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Wynn joins Broadway Asia for new resident show

LYNZY VALLES

GAMING operator Wynn has announced a strategic partnership with Broadway Asia to create the conceptual design for a new resident show that will soon become an integral part of the future Wynn Theater at Wynn Palace in Macau.

In a statement, the group said that through this new partnership, Wynn and Broadway Asia will “collaborate on the concept and initial development of a world-class resident show.”

Most recently, Broadway International Group launched a multi-year international tour of The Sound of Music, which included live performances in

Macau in August for an almost sold out run of the show.

Other select global productions include Immersive Great Gatsby, Anastasia, Beetlejuice, Journey Experience NYC, forthcoming productions of the Marilyn Monroe Hollywood Experience, and the Broadway national tour of the Lincoln Center production of My Fair Lady.

Linda Chen, president and vice chair of the Board of Wynn Macau, Limited, said of the new collaboration, “With the establishment of a sensational new resident show at Wynn, our goal is to showcase Macau as a top-tier destination for culture and entertainment.”

Marc Routh, president and executive producer of Broadway Asia said, “Together, we are crafting a resident show that is set to be the first of its kind in the world, and will soon captivate audiences around the globe. [...] This new partnership in Macau gives us the opportunity to expand the boundaries of entertainment to a wider audience.”

For 25 years, theatrical productions by the Broadway International Group partners have performed in more than 60 countries and garnered over 50 Tony, Olivier, Grammy Awards and many more global accolades.

Under the gaming operator’s 10-year concession license, the group has committed to invest MOP17.8 billion, of which around 93% would be for the diversification of non-gaming projects, as well as for the expansion of attractions for the international market.

45 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL WORKERS FOUND IN AUGUST

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) have found 45 people suspected of being illegal workers in Macau during August. The finding comes after the two departments conducted joint operations against illegal workers, inspecting 403 different locations including construction sites, private buildings, and commercial and industrial establishments. In the previous month, the DSAL and PSP conducted 336 inspections, leading to the discovery of 44 people suspected of being illegal workers.

MGTO CELEBRATES TOURISM DAY WITH THE TRADITIONAL TRAY RACE

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is today celebrating World Tourism Day with the traditional “Tray Race” as well as welcoming the “Lucky Tourist.” With the participation of many local hotels and resorts as well as other catering companies, the Tray Race will take place at the Ruins of St. Paul’s this afternoon, finishing at the Senado Square. The “Lucky Tourist” will be chosen from among those arriving this morning at the Macau International Airport on flight AK1301 from Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia). World Tourism Day has been celebrated on Sept. 27 since 1980.

AD

澳門國際機場專營股份有限公司
CAM - Soc. do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L.
Macau International Airport Co. Ltd.

Open Tender Notice

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2. Scope of Services:	Provision of Management and Maintenance Services of the Installation, Systems and Equipment owned by Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Building Facilities Maintenance - Civil Associated Systems (RFP/E&M/05/23)
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4. Location for Submission of Proposals:	CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Av. De Wai Long CAM Office Building, 4 th Floor Reception Taipa, Macau Attention: Mr. Chu Tan Neng – Executive Director
5. Tender closing time and date:	<u>At 12:00 (noon) on 6 Nov 2023</u> (Macau Local Time)
CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.	

澳門國際機場專營股份有限公司
CAM - Soc. do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L.
Macau International Airport Co. Ltd.

Open Tender Notice

Provision of Landscaping Maintenance for grass areas in Macau International Airport

1. Company:	CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd.
2. Scope of Services:	Provision of landscaping maintenance for grass areas in Macau International Airport.
3. Request for Tender Document:	The Tender documents and other pertinent information are available on the following website: www.camacau.com within the period from 27 th Sep 2023 to 12:00 noon, 30 th Oct 2023 (Macau Local Time) Please always check the website www.camacau.com for additional information, clarifications or modifications, which may be published from time to time, regarding the Tender related document(s) or any matters in relation to the tender.
4. Location for Submission of Proposals:	Mr. Chu Tan Neng – Executive Director CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. CAM Office Building, 4 th Floor Reception, Av. Wai Long Taipa, Macau SAR. For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Airport Operations Department (AOD) at (853) 8898 2839
5. Tender closing time and date:	<u>12:00 hours of 30th October 2023</u> (Macau Local Time)
CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.	

E-COMMERCE

Alibaba will spin off its logistics arm Cainiao in an IPO in Hong Kong

CHINESE e-commerce company Alibaba said yesterday that it would spin off its logistics arm, Cainiao Smart Logistics Network, in an initial public offering in Hong Kong, making it the first business unit to go public following a major restructuring.

Alibaba said in a filing that it had submitted a spin-off proposal to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and that it has received confirmation to proceed.

Alibaba will continue to be a majority shareholder in Cainiao, holding over 50% of the company and retaining it as a subsidiary. The company currently owns nearly a 70% stake in Cainiao, Alibaba's main delivery arm that handles logistics and parcels for merchants both in China and abroad.

The move comes about six months after Alibaba first announced that it would split its business into six different units.

Apart from its main e-commerce



business, the other five business units, which include logistics and cloud computing, will be allowed to raise external capital or spun off to go public in order to provide flexibility and maximize shareholder value.

The Cainiao IPO would be the first of Alibaba's business units to undergo an initial public offering.

The firm recently saw a change in leadership, with new CEO Eddie Wu taking over the reins earlier this month from Daniel Zhang.

Zhang, who originally stepped down as CEO to focus on heading Alibaba's cloud division, has also left his position at Alibaba Cloud to start a new investment fund backed by Alibaba. MDT/AP



AVIATION

LONDON AIRPORT LIMITS FLIGHTS THIS WEEK DUE TO STAFF ILLNESS, INCLUDING COVID-19

GATWICK Airport, London's second-busiest, is limiting flights this week, partly because of an outbreak of COVID-19 within air traffic control.

In a statement yesterday [Macau time], the airport said a daily 800-flight limit, affecting both departures and arrivals, has been imposed until Sunday.

Gatwick said around 30% of staff in the division within air traffic control are off sick for a variety of reasons, including COVID-19.

It said the daily cap will prevent last-minute cancellations and delays for passengers while National Air Traffic Services,

or NATS, gets back to normal. Stewart Wingate, the airport's chief executive, said the decision "means we can prevent as much disruptions as possible."

The largest number of cancellations will be on Friday, Sept. 29, with 33 departures affected.

NATS apologized to passengers but said that a variety of medical reasons meant it can't manage the normal flows in and out of the airport.

Though all the COVID-19 restrictions in Britain were lifted last year, people are advised to stay away from work if they have tested positive for the coronavirus. MDT/AP

Concurso de habitação económica

Prazo de apresentação das candidaturas:
27 de Setembro a 27 de Dezembro de 2023

No momento da candidatura, deve apresentar:

- Boletim de candidatura devidamente preenchido e assinado
- Cópia do documento de identificação
- Documento comprovativo do rendimento mensal
- Isenção da apresentação de documentos comprovativos emitidos pelos serviços governamentais de Macau

Para mais informações, visite a página electrónica temática relativa ao concurso de habitação económica
<https://www.ihm.gov.mo/pt/he2023>

O candidato pode apresentar a candidatura via [online](https://www.ihm.gov.mo/pt/he2023) ou optar por efectuar a marcação prévia [online](https://booking.ihm.gov.mo) e depois, apresentar pessoalmente a candidatura na Delegação do Instituto de Habitação Rua Sul do Canal dos Patos, Edifício do Bairro da Ilha Verde, r/c K, Macau

Limites do total do rendimento e do património do agregado familiar candidato a habitação económica

Candidato e os elementos do seu agregado familiar (n.º de pessoas)	Limite mínimo do rendimento mensal (patacas)	Limite máximo do rendimento mensal (patacas)	Limite máximo de património líquido (patacas)
1 pessoa	12,750	35,650	1,122,200
2 pessoas	19,270		
3 pessoas	26,020		
4 pessoas	28,490	71,310	2,244,400
5 pessoas	30,290		
6 pessoas	35,500		
7 ou mais pessoas	37,300		

De acordo com o Despacho do Chefe do Executivo n.º 151/2023

O rendimento mensal é calculado de acordo com a média dos rendimentos obtidos no período de Setembro de 2022 a Agosto de 2023 e o património líquido é calculado segundo o valor da liquidação no dia 31 de Agosto de 2023.

Oktoberfest Returns with the Ultimate Outdoor Festival Experience at MGM

First introduced in 2009, the 13th Oktoberfest Macau is set to make a comeback MGM COTAI after a three-year hiatus, offering a 12-day authentic outdoor festival experience. The roots of this world's largest beer festival can be traced back to 1810 in Munich, Germany. Over time, a carnival aspect was added to the event, which made it even more appealing to families and friends. Apart from delectable German gourmet and beer, the festival is packed with traditional Bavarian music, entertainment and decorations.

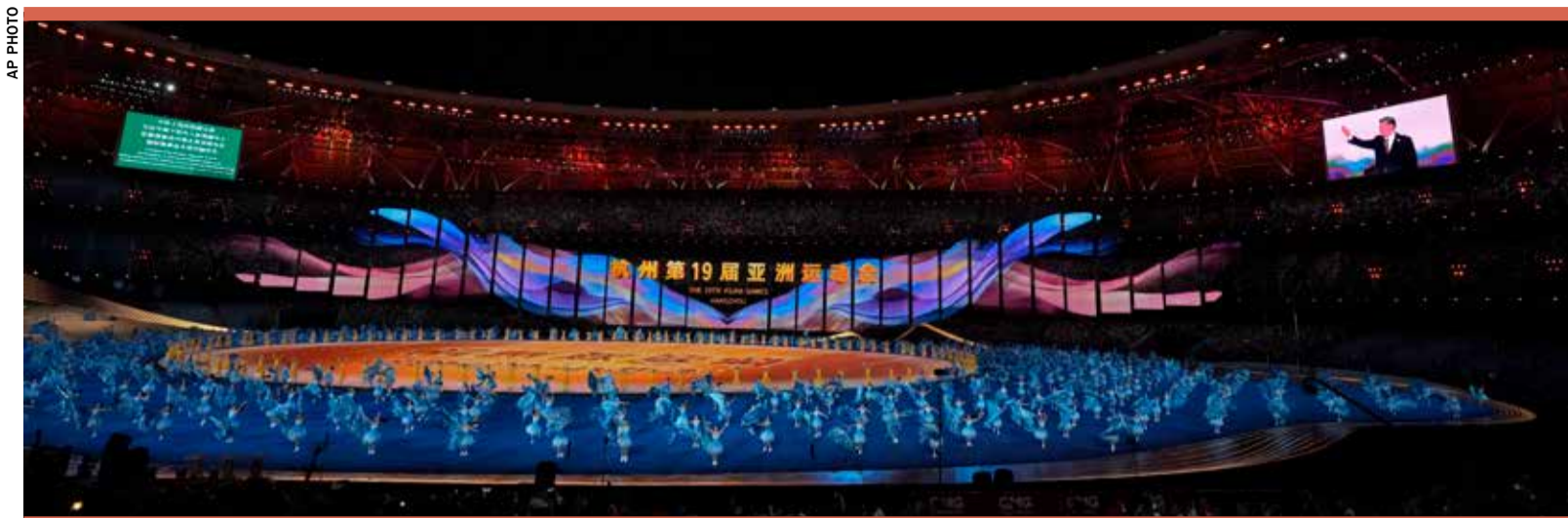
The Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2023 will take place at the 1/F Roof Terrace of MGM COTAI, an expansive and versatile outdoor venue that has hosted a number of large-scale trending events, including the outdoor concert of Asia's top rock band Mayday, MGM Chef Nic Gastronomic Fest that fuses food, culture and music and more. From October 12 to 23, 6pm to 12am daily, guests can im-

merse themselves in the most authentic German Oktoberfest festivities at this vibrant outdoor extravaganza setting. The event will feature the quintessential blue-and-white marquee, long wooden tables, world's oldest and most iconic German brew Löwenbräu beer and specialties, dynamic performance of the crowd's favorite Högl Fun Band from Munich, beer girls in Bavarian costumes and exciting carnival booth games.

In addition, there will be a special Family Day session on October 15 from 11am to 3pm, allowing parents and kids to have fun at the authentic German festive event together. Non-alcoholic beverage options will be available, and families can indulge in fun-filled game booths and an outdoor play area for kids, enduring a delightful day out for everyone.

Tickets for Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2023 are limited. Secure yours now at mgm.mo or call (853) 8802 2666.





ANALYSIS

CHINA GOES ON CHARM OFFENSIVE AT ASIAN GAMES, BUT DOESN'T BACK DOWN FROM REGIONAL CONFRONTATIONS

DAVID RISING, HANGZHOU

A month before the Asian Games, China released a new national map, doubling down on its claims to almost the entire South China Sea and disputed border territories with India.

A few days before the event, it flew more than 100 warplanes toward Taiwan, stepping up its regular military harassment of the self-governing democratic island that Beijing claims for its own.

At the games themselves, however, outward aggression has taken a backseat to unctuous charm as China sought to win the hearts of more than 40 Asian nations and regions by dazzling them with technology and slathering them with praise.

In a personal appearance in the eastern city of Hangzhou, into which the government pou-

red billions of dollars for the two-week games, Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomed leaders and officials at an opening banquet on Saturday.

"The Asian Games embodies the Asian people's shared desire for peace, unity and inclusiveness," Xi told them, according to his prepared remarks.

No mention was made of the status of Taiwan, the tense standoffs in the South China Sea over competing claims with Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines - all competitors at the Hangzhou games - or the border disputes with India that resulted in a clash three years ago in which 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed.

Nor was anything said about a diplomatic spat China ignited with India the day before Saturday's opening ceremony as it re-

fused to back down on its stance on visas for Indian athletes coming from a region that leaders maintain belongs to China, resulting in three women wushu athletes being unable to compete.

Taiwan's athletes even received one of the loudest rounds of applause at the opening ceremony, though have to compete under the name "Chinese Taipei" and without their flag due to China's claim on the island off of its east coast, which it has not ruled out taking by force.

Signs around Hangzhou billed the city as a "paradise on earth" while China adopted the motto "heart to heart" for the Asian Games, which feature some 12,000 competitors - more than the summer Olympics - from across Asia and the Middle East.

"This will undoubtedly open

new prospects for cultural exchanges, cultural integration and people-to-people bonds in Asia," the Chinese Communist Party's official People's Daily wrote Monday in an effusive editorial about the Hangzhou games. "It will inject profound and lasting cultural strength into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind."

The headlines the state-run China Daily's supplement edition for the games carried after the opening ceremony included "Xi extends hand of friendship," and "Wave of Glory" alongside a photo of the Chinese leader waving to the crowds.

Xi told the officials at Saturday's banquet that the region's recent economic growth had been an "Asian miracle" and that "we should make Asia an anchor of world peace."

But while offering a verbal carrot in Hangzhou, Beijing continued brandishing a physical stick elsewhere. Taiwan's military said Sunday it had detected the Chinese military initiating an exercise featuring warplanes, ships and ground troops in coastal Fujian Province, which faces Taiwan.

The Philippine coast guard reported over the weekend that it had detected a floating barrier placed by China's coast guard to prevent Filipino fishing boats from entering a lagoon in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

The Philippines removed the barrier on Monday. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters yesterday that China's "resolve to safeguard its sovereignty and maritime rights" was unwavering, and he warned "the Philippines not to make provocations or seek trouble."

Xi's banquet speech did not refer to any territorial claims or confrontations, nor to the mounting tensions with the U.S. and its allies as Beijing and Washington jockey for influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Still, geopolitics were clearly not far from his Xi's mind as he outlined China's goals, thinly veiling his remarks with the language of sport.

"As a community with a shared future connected by mountains and rivers as well as cultural affinity, we should use sports to promote peace, pursue good neighborliness and mutual benefit, and reject Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation," he said, using language China commonly does when referring to the U.S.'s Asia-Pacific strategy.

"As humanity faces unprecedented global challenges, we should use sports to promote unity, seize the historic opportunity, and jointly stand up to the challenges," Xi said. **MDT/AP**

DEFENSE

India, US army chiefs call for free and stable Indo-Pacific as Chinese influence grows



Indian Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande (left) and U.S. Chief of staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Randy George

INDIA'S army chief yesterday said the country was committed to maintaining a free and stable Indo-Pacific, where the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations is respected, as global concern grows over Chinese influence in the region.

General Manoj Pande made the comments at the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference, hosted by India and the U.S., which is focused on boosting military diplomacy and collaboration as well as promoting peace and stability

in the Indo-Pacific region. Army chiefs and delegations from 30 countries are attending the two-day event, which concludes today.

Pande said that while countries in the region are working toward a free Indo-Pacific, "we are witnessing manifestations of interstate contestations and competition."

Neither Pande nor the U.S. Army chief, Randy George, explicitly mentioned China in their remarks.

When asked about Chi-

nese expansion at a press briefing, George said the region was a critical priority for the U.S. "It's why we are out here and why we exercise more than anywhere else in the Pacific, to build all of this. What this conference proves... is (our) unity and commitment," the U.S. chief said.

At the opening ceremony held after, Pande said India's outlook was focused on the peaceful resolution of disputes, avoiding force and adhering to international law. He added that in addition

to challenges in maritime security, the region also faced security and humanitarian concerns on land, including territorial disputes and over "artificially expanded islands to acquire real estate and establish military bases" — another veiled reference to China.

China's territorial claims in the East China and South China seas over islands have rattled Beijing's smaller neighbors in Southeast Asia as well as Japan. Meanwhile the relationship between New Delhi and Beijing has deteriorated since 2020, when Indian and Chinese troops clashed along their undefined border in the Himalayan Ladakh region, leaving 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippine coast guard says it removed Chinese barrier in disputed shoal

THE Philippine coast guard said it has complied with a presidential order to remove a floating barrier placed by China's coast guard to prevent Filipino fishing boats from entering a lagoon in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

Philippine officials condemned the installation of the 300-meter-long barrier at the entrance to the lagoon at Scarborough Shoal as a violation of international law and the Southeast Asian nation's sovereignty. The coast guard's report Monday that it had removed the barrier underscores intensifying Philippine efforts to fight China's increasingly aggressive actions, against many odds, in one of the world's most hotly contested waters.

Chinese coast guard vessels laid the rope and net barrier, held up by buoys, last week as a Philippine government fisheries vessel approached and more than 50 Philippine fishing boats swarmed



outside the shoal, the Philippine coast guard said.

It said in a statement Monday night that it successfully removed the floating barrier in a "special operation" in compliance with the order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It did not provide other details, such as whether the en-

tire barrier was removed, when the operation occurred and how Chinese coast guard ships, which have closely guarded the shoal for years, reacted.

"The decisive action of the Philippine coast guard to remove the barrier aligns with international law and the Philippines' sove-

reignty over the shoal," the coast guard said. It said it "remains committed to upholding international law, safeguarding the welfare of Filipino fisherfolk and protecting the rights of the Philippines in its territorial waters."

Video issued by the Philippine coast guard in Manila shows a diver cutting part of what appears to be the barrier rope. In another video, a man on a motorboat tries to lift what appears to be part of the barrier.

Earlier Monday, Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said that "the placement by the People's Republic of China of a barrier violates the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen."

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the shoal and its adjacent waters are "China's inherent territory," where Beijing "has indisputable sovereignty."

A Philippine government fisheries vessel "trespassed into the waters" without China's permis-

sion last Friday, Wang said, and "attempted to intrude into the lagoon" of the shoal. "China's coast guard took the necessary measures to stop and warn off the ship in accordance with the law, which was professional and with restraint," he added.

It's the latest flare-up in long-simmering territorial disputes in the busy and resource-rich waterway, most of which is claimed by China.

Washington lays no claim to the sea passageway, a major global trade route, but U.S. Navy ships and fighter jets have carried out patrols for decades to challenge China's expansive claims and promote freedom of navigation and overflight. China has told the U.S. to stop meddling in what it says is a purely Asian dispute.

The Chinese barrier denied Filipinos access to the rich fishing lagoon surrounded by underwater coral outcrops, Philippine coast guard spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela said. MDT/AP

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SOUTH KOREA

Seoul parades troops, powerful weapons in its biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in years

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea paraded thousands of troops and an array of weapons capable of striking North Korea through its capital as part of its biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in 10 years yesterday, as its president vowed to build a stronger military to thwart any provocation by the North.

Concerns are growing that North Korea is seeking Russian help in expanding its nuclear arsenal in return for supplying Moscow with conventional arms exhausted by its war with Ukraine.

"After looking at your imposing march today, I believe our people would trust you and have faith in our national security," President Yoon Suk Yeol told cheering soldiers at the end of the ceremony in a central Seoul plaza. "I'll always support you together with our people."

Earlier, South Korea rolled tanks, artillery systems, drones and powerful ballistic missiles capable of hitting all of North Korea through the streets of Seoul, amid steady autumn rains. About 4,000 South Korean troops carrying rifles or flags followed them, accompanied by about 300 U.S. soldiers, in the first such military parade since 2013.

As the soldiers and their wea-



pons went past, Yoon waved, clapped and flashed a thumbs-up.

Since taking office last year, he has been pushing hard to beef up South Korea's defense capability while expanding military drills with the United States in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal.

But a complication in Seoul and Washington's efforts to curb the North's nuclear ambitions is the latest North Korean push

to deepen military cooperation with Russia. Earlier this month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia's far eastern region to meet with President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites.

North Korea reportedly wants to receive Russian technologies to help its development of spy satellites, nuclear-propelled submarines and powerful long-range missiles. Such weapons would pose a major security threat to

South Korea and the U.S.

In a formal Armed Forces Day ceremony at a military airport near Seoul earlier yesterday, Yoon said he'll strive to build "a strong military that instills fear in the enemy."

"Based on battle-ready combat capabilities and a solid readiness posture, our military will immediately retaliate against any North Korean provocation," he said. "If North Korea uses nuclear weapons, its regime

will be brought to an end by an overwhelming response" from the South Korean-U.S. alliance.

That ceremony drew about 6,700 soldiers and 200 weapons assets, the largest of its kind since 2013, according to South Korean officials.

Yoon didn't mention North Korean-Russian ties in either of his two speeches. But in an address to the U.N. General Assembly last week, he said South Korea "will not sit idly by" if North Korea and Russia agree to such weapons deals in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trading with North Korea.

U.S. officials have also said that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they go ahead with such deals.

Also yesterday, senior diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China met in Seoul and agreed to hold the first summit of their leaders in four years "at the earliest convenient time," according to a statement from South Korea's Foreign Ministry. No date has been fixed, however, and the South Korean statement said the three countries agreed to hold a related foreign ministers' meeting in a couple of months.

Yoon said last week that Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had expressed their support for a trilateral summit in South Korea.

Yoon's moves to strengthen South Korea's military alliance with the U.S. and boost Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation have caused concerns that Seoul's relations with China, its biggest trading partner, will be undermined. But Yoon says Seoul-Washington-Tokyo cooperation won't marginalize any particular nation. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Authorities approved its first Alzheimer's drug Leqembi

JAPAN'S health ministry has approved Leqembi, a drug for Alzheimer's disease that was jointly developed by Japanese and U.S. pharmaceutical companies. It's the first drug for treatment of the disease in a country with a rapidly aging population.

Developed by Japanese drugmaker Eisai Co. and U.S. biotechnology firm Biogen Inc., the drug's approval in Japan comes two months after it was endorsed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Leqembi is for patients with mild dementia and other symptoms in the ear-

ly stages of Alzheimer's disease, and the first medicine that can modestly slow their cognitive decline.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who announced Japan's approval of Leqembi, called it "a breakthrough" and said that the "treatment of dementia has now entered a new era."

Kishida has pledged to step up support for the growing number of dementia patients and their families and is due to launch a panel this week to discuss measures for a dementia-friendly society.

According to the health

ministry, Japan's number of dementia patients who are 65 years of age or older will rise to 7 million in 2025, from the current 6 million.

The drug, however, does not work for everyone and — as with other Alzheimer's drugs that target plaques in the brain — can cause dangerous side effects such as brain swelling and bleeding in rare cases.

Eisai said it will conduct a post-marketing special use survey in all patients administered the drug until enough data is collected from unspecified number of patients under Japanese

health ministry procedures.

The drug will be partially covered by health insurance and is expected to be ready for clinical use by the end of the year. The price is yet to be decided but is expected to be expensive, Kyodo News agency reported.

Eisai is committed to delivering Leqembi to people who need it and their families "as a new treatment," said Haruo Naito, the company's CEO.

"We aim to create impact on issues surrounding dementia in Japanese society," he said. **MDT/AP**



USA

Texas Walmart shooter agrees to pay \$5M to families over 2019 racist attack

PAUL J. WEBER, AUSTIN (TEXAS)

AP FILE PHOTO

A white Texas gunman who killed 23 people at a Walmart in 2019 after ranting about Hispanics taking over the government and economy has agreed to pay more than \$5 million to victims of the racist attack, according to an order signed by a judge yesterday [Macau time].

Patrick Crusius was sentenced to 90 consecutive life sentences in July after pleading guilty to federal hate crime charges following one of the nation's worst mass killings. Court records show his attorneys and the Justice Department reached an agreement over the restitution amount, which was then approved by U.S. District Judge David Guaderrama.

There is no indication Crusius, 25, has significant assets. He was 21 years old and had dropped out of community college when police say he drove more than 700 miles from his home



El Paso Walmart shooter Patrick Crusius

near Dallas to target Hispanics with an AK-style rifle inside and outside the store. Moments before the attack began, Crusius posted a racist screed online that warned of a Hispanic "invasion" of Texas.

He once worked at a movie theater, a job that his attorneys have said Crusius was forced to

leave because he was having violent thoughts.

Crusius pleaded guilty in February after federal prosecutors took the death penalty off the table. But Texas prosecutors have said they will try to put Crusius on death row when he stands trial in state court. That trial date has not yet been set.

Under the agreement between the gunman and the government, Crusius will pay \$5,557,005.55, according to court filings.

Dean Reckard, whose mother Margie Reckard was killed in the shooting, said he chose not to be included in the restitution and expressed doubt that someone sentenced to prison for life could actually pay millions of dollars.

"Nobody can ever bring back the people who were lost, including my mother," Reckard said. "You can't put a price on somebody's life. We're going to be without the people in our lives forever and he is just sitting behind bars right now, and he still gets to live so there is no winning anything here."

Joe Spencer, an attorney for Crusius, and a spokesperson for the Justice Department did not return messages.

In January, the Justice Department proposed changes to how it runs federal prisoners' deposit accounts in an effort to ensure

victims are paid restitution, including from some high-profile inmates with large balances. The move came as the Justice Department faced increased scrutiny after revelations that several high-profile inmates kept large sums of money in their prison accounts but only made minimal payments to their victims.

The 2019 attack was the deadliest of a dozen mass shootings in the U.S. linked to hate crimes since 2006, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University.

Before the shooting, Crusius had appeared consumed by the nation's immigration debate, tweeting #BuildtheWall and other social media posts that praised then-President Donald Trump's hardline border policies. Crusius went further in his rant posted before the attack, sounding warnings that Hispanics were going to take over the government and economy. **MDT/AP**

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PORTUGAL

SIX YOUNG ACTIVISTS DEVOTE YEARS TO CLIMATE FIGHT, NOW COMES THEIR DAY IN COURT

BARRY HATTON
& HELENA ALVES, COSTA
DA CAPARICA, PORTUGAL

SOFIA Oliveira was 12 years old when catastrophic wildfires in central Portugal killed more than 100 people in 2017. She “felt it was now or never to raise our voices” as her country appeared to be in the grip of deadly human-caused climate change.

Now a university student, Sofia and five other Portuguese young adults and children between 11 and 24 years of age are due today at the European Court of Human Rights, where they are accusing 32 European governments of violating their human rights for what they say is a failure to adequately address climate change. It's the first climate change case filed with the court and could compel action to significantly slash emissions and build cleaner infrastructure. Victory for them in Strasbourg would be a powerful instance of young people taking a legal route to force their governments to adopt a radical recalibration of their climate measures.

The court's rulings are legally binding on member countries, and failure to comply makes authorities liable for hefty fines decided by the court.

The courts are increasingly seen by activists as a way of sidestepping politics and holding governments to account. Last month, in a case brought by young environmental activists, a judge in the U.S. state of Montana ruled that state agencies were violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment by allowing fossil fuel development.

When the Portuguese group decided in 2017 they would pursue legal action, Sofia wore braces on her teeth, stood taller than her younger brother André and was starting seventh grade at school. The braces are long gone and André, who is now 15, is taller than her by a few centimeters (an inch or so).

The past six years, André noted in an interview with The Associated Press, represent almost half of his life.

What has kept them going



Siblings Sofia Oliveira, 18, and Andre Oliveira, 15, at the beach in Costa da Caparica

through the piles of legal documents gathered by the nonprofit group supporting them and through lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic is what they call the pressing evidence all around them that the climate crisis is getting worse.

The Praia do Norte beach at Costa da Caparica near where Sofia and André live, just south of the Portuguese capital Lisbon, was about 1 kilometer (3,000 feet) long when his father was his age, André says. Now, amid coastal erosion, it measures less than 300 meters (1,000 feet). Evidence like that led him to attend climate demonstrations even before he became a teen.

The other four members of the Portuguese group — Catarina, Cláudia, Martim and Mariana — are siblings and cousins who live in the region of Leiria in central Portugal where summer wildfires are common.

Scientists say the climate of the Sahara is jumping across the Mediterranean Sea to southern European countries like Portugal, where average temperatures are climbing and rainfall is declining. Portugal's hottest year on record was 1997, followed by 2017. The four driest years on record in the country of 10.3 million people have all occurred since 2003.

It's a similar story across Europe, and the legal arguments of the six Portuguese are backed by science. The Earth sweltered through its hottest Northern Hemisphere summer ever measured, with a record warm August

capping a season of brutal and deadly temperatures, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The world is far off its pledge to curb global warming, scientists say, by cutting emissions in line with the requirements of the 2015 Paris climate accord. Estimates say global average temperatures could rise by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius (2.6 to 7.2 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times by 2100 at current trajectories of warming and emissions reductions plans.

Among the specific impacts listed by the young Portuguese are being unable to sleep, concentrate, play outside or exercise during heat waves. One of their schools was closed temporarily when the air became unbearably due to wildfire smoke. Some of the children have health conditions such as asthma that makes them more vulnerable to heat and air pollution.

They are being assisted by the Global Legal Action Network, an international nonprofit organization that challenges human rights violations. A crowdfunding campaign has drawn support from around the world, with messages of support coming from as far away as Japan, India and Brazil.

Gerry Liston, a GLAN legal officer, says the 32 governments have “trivialized” the case. “The governments have resisted every aspect of our case ... all our arguments,” he said.

André describes the governments as “condescending.” Sofia adds: “They don't see climate as a priority.”

Portugal's government, for example, agrees the state of the environment and human rights are connected but insists the government's “actions seek to meet its international obligations in this area” and cannot be faulted.

At the same time, some governments in Europe are backsliding on commitments already made.

Poland last month filed legal challenges aimed at annulling three of the European Union's main climate change policies. Last week, the British government announced it is delaying by five years a ban on new gas and diesel cars that had been due to take effect in 2030. The Swedish government's state budget proposal last week, meanwhile, cut taxes on gas and diesel and reduced funding for climate and environmental measures.

Amid those developments, the courts are seen by activists as a recourse.

The London School of Economics says that globally, the cumulative number of climate change-related cases has more than doubled since 2015 to more than 2,000. Around one-fourth were launched between 2020 and 2022, it says.

The Portuguese activists, who are not seeking any financial compensation, will likely have to wait some more. The verdict in their case could take up to 18 months, though they see the court's decision in 2020 to fast-track the proceedings as an encouraging sign. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1996 AFGHAN FORCES ROUTED AS KABUL FALLS



The capital of Afghanistan has fallen to opposition militia after three days of fierce fighting.

Taliban forces consolidated their grip on Kabul after storming the presidential palace - the country's seat of government - 24 hours ago.

Ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, his prime minister and his military chief are being hunted by the radical Islamic group who branded them “national criminals”.

The former president, Mohammed Najibullah, and his brother have already been murdered by the militants.

One-eyed opposition leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and his student fighters had been repulsed from the city twice before, but this time it appeared government forces lost the will to fight.

Hundreds were killed and many have fled for the protection of the Jabal-us-Seraj base north of Kabul.

They leave a ruined, war-torn city deserted by almost all the aid agencies that were working there until a few days ago.

“There was so much panic in the city, so much tension, that everyone who could, fled,” said Azad Singh Toor, an Indian diplomat.

But many of the citizens in Kabul are waiting to see if the Taliban can unite the country under one faction after decades of internal conflict.

And the murder of the last communist ruler of Afghanistan, former president Najibullah, was a grim warning to anyone who wished to oppose their version of Islamic rule.

The “Soviet puppet” and Taliban hate figure was dragged out of the UN compound where he had sought refuge in 1992 and was beaten, shot and hanged in front of the presidential palace.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Taliban wanted to make Afghanistan the world's purest Islamic state. Executions and amputations were introduced as punishments and women were totally excluded from public life. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia recognised the extremist group as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan in 1997, but most other countries continued to regard President Rabbani as head of state. Mullah Omar's grip on the country ended after the 11 September attacks on the United States which were blamed on one of his guests - Osama Bin Laden. The opposition Northern Alliance - who seized the opportunity of US backing - marched into the capital in November 2001.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

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Avoid any hassles. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you.

CANCER
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Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. You might be a tad overindulgent today. Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Pamper yourself today. Your reputation will be affected. Secret affairs may be tempting, but keep in mind that they will damage your reputation if you decide to indulge.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You can accomplish a lot if you put some effort into household duties or redecorating plans. Think about starting your own small business. You need to get out if you want to meet potential partners.

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Lovers may no be truthful. You need to get involved in groups that offer physical activities. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You can raise your standard of living if you pick up some freelance work on the side. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Make decisions about your professional objectives. Communicate with relatives who may need advice in order to find solutions to their existing problems. You may find that you are a little lucky today.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your childlike quality may get you into big trouble today if you neglect your responsibilities. Do your best, but don't make too many promises or you may exhaust yourself.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. You'll find it easy to meet new people.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Avoid overloading your plate. Try not to hurt your partner's feelings. Don't let situations get out of hand. Minor health problems will flare up if you don't take care of yourself.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

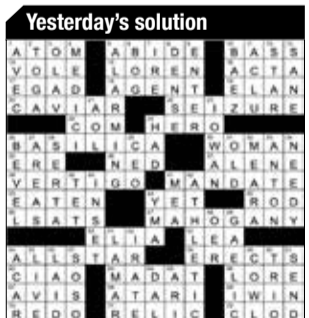
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	27	cloudy
Changchun	13	23	fine
Chengdu	18	26	cloudy
Chongqing	20	26	rain
Fuzhou	26	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	34	thunderstorms
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	23	31	cloudy
Harbin	14	21	cloudy
Hefei	20	26	cloudy
Nanjing	21	28	cloudy
Shanghai	24	29	fine
Taipei	25	30	cloudy
Wuhan	20	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	29	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	7	18	overcast
Frankfurt	12	25	overcast
Paris	16	27	overcast
London	13	22	cloudy
New York	14	20	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Floating platform; 5- Driving hazard; 10- Equal; 14- Theatrical award; 15- ___-burly; 16- Wash, in France; 17- Sharer's pronoun; 18- Not developed; 20- The devil; 22- Plan; 23- Volcano, at times; 25- Ella specialty; 26- Justly; 27- Call ___ day; 28- Outside; Prefix; 32- Actress Raines; 33- Ford flop; 35- Slay; 36- Up to, informally; 37- LAX posting; 38- Colo. clock setting; 39- Seth's son; 41- Tablets; 43- Lhasa ___; 44- Daybreak; 45- Big heart?; 46- Relax; 48- Archipelago part; 50- Teat; 51- Geronimo, e.g.; 54- Class of Indian society; 55- Place for a pep talk; 57- Network of nerves; 61- Ready to eat; 62- Heat home; 63- Dagger of yore; 64- Impersonator; 65- Pertaining to the eye; 66- Consumes;

DOWN 1- Aussie hopper; 2- "Aladdin" monkey; 3- Cone maker; 4- Mosaic piece; 5- Sleep; 6- Pertaining to the moon; 7- The Emerald Isle; 8- Common street name; 9- Average; 10- Schemed; 11- Gutter site; 12- Opposite of odd, especially when applied to numbers; 13- Comic Fox; 19- Retrovirus component; 21- Hole-boring tool; 23- Saltworks; 24- Head rest; 25- Pilfer; 26- Threw a party for; 27- Pineapple fiber; 29- Force; 30- Fine cloth; 31- Victorious; 34- Thaw before takeoff; 40- Giggle; 41- Capital of Sicily; 42- Caused by an earthquake; 43- Slander; 47- Well-put; 49- That ship; 50- Model Campbell; 51- Pierce portrayer; 52- Lowdown; 53- Skin disorder; 54- Cover; 56- Tear; 58- Bambi's aunt; 59- Hanoi holiday; 60- Some MIT grads;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- 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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AP PHOTOS



RUGBY WORLD CUP

TOURNAMENT REACHES THE HALFWAY STAGE AND IRELAND CONFIRMS ITS STATUS AS FAVORITE

THE Rugby World Cup is at its halfway stage, with 24 games done and dusted.

The top story of the third set of matches was Ireland's epic 13-8 win over defending champion South Africa to confirm its status as favorite to win the title for the first time. Ireland was heroic in holding off a second-half surge from the Springboks at Stade de France, where the final will be on Oct. 28, and where top-ranked Ireland hopes to return with its army of boisterous green-shirted fans behind it.

It won't be an easy road back to Paris as Ireland's pool-stage victory over the Springboks only seems to have set it up for a meeting with another three-time champion in New Zealand as early as the quarterfinals.

Host France still believes it will

have a say in where the trophy goes and improved to three wins from three in Pool A by routing Namibia 96-0 in the southern city of Marseille. There were 14 tries from the French, including a hat trick from flying right wing Damian Penaud.

The French victory was soured, though, by captain Antoine Dupont sustaining a facial fracture in an illegal tackle by Namibia's Johan Deysel, who was red-carded for the head-on-head hit. Dupont needed surgery and there's no news yet on how long he might be out and if France will see its best player again at his home World Cup.

Namibia wasn't the only team to be routed as England racked up the fourth highest points tally of this tournament to beat debutant Chile 71-0. England captain

Owen Farrell returned to action after a suspension for a red card in a World Cup warmup game.

The European teams completed a trio of victories over southern hemisphere World Cup powers when Wales' record 40-6 thumping of two-time champion Australia closed out the set of games. It followed Ireland's win over South Africa a day earlier and France's opening-game triumph over New Zealand three weeks ago.

Scotland's backline impressed in a 45-17 win over Tonga that saw the tournament's fifth red card. Tonga No. 8 Vaea Fifita was the recipient after charging into Scotland flyhalf Finn Russell's head late in the game in Nice.

The last Rugby World Cup in Japan set a record with eight red cards. This one is well on course to beat that. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY WORLD CUP UPCOMING MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Wed	Sep 27	23:45	Uruguay	Namibia	H 1.1, D 51, A 11
Fri	Sep 29	03:00	Japan	Samoa	H 2.87, D 29, A 1.62
Sat	Sep 30	03:00	New Zealand	Italy	H 1.03, D 101, A 29
		21:00	Argentina	Chile	H 1.01, D 201, A 101
		23:45	Fiji	Georgia	H 1.11, D 51, A 10
Sun	Oct 01	03:00	Scotland	Romania	H 1.01, D 101, A 101
		23:45	Australia	Portugal	H 1.04, D 81, A 21
Mon	Oct 02	3:00	South Africa	Tonga	H 1.01, D 151, A 67

ODDSCHECKER.COM

RUGBY WORLD CUP | PREVIEW

Uruguay players aim to shrug off Italy defeat with win against Namibia

URUGUAY'S players must put the disappointment of defeat to Italy behind them if they are to leave the Rugby World Cup with at least one win.

Uruguay had made no secret of the fact it was targeting Italy and Namibia to record two wins in the tournament for the first time in its history.

Leading the Azzurri 17-7 after a memorable first half last week, Uruguay appeared on course but Los Teros faded mentally and physically to lose 38-17.

"We finished the match dead, it was a long day and we are turning the page quickly," forwards coach Oscar Durán said. "Obviously we are hurting. It is a moment that we have to pass and hope it passes as quickly as possible.

"We worked hard for this match and made mistakes that we cannot make at this level. We are sad, anguished, going through this hurt to immediately think



about Namibia."

Coach Esteban Meneses has made four changes to his star-

ting lineup for Wednesday's match against Namibia, which was crushed 96-0 by France last week for a record-extending 25th straight loss at the World Cup.

Prop Diego Arbelo and No. 8 Carlos Deus replace Ignacio Peculo and Manuel Diana, while Bautista Basso comes in for Gaston Mieres on the right wing and Felipe Arcos Perez will make his World Cup debut in place of Tomas Inciarte at center.

Uruguay beat Namibia 26-18 when they met in August and there are nine players in Los Teros' starting lineup that featured in that match.

Namibia also starts with nine players from the match after coach Allister Coetzee made eight changes following the drubbing by France.

Alcino Izaacs, Tiaan Swanepoel, Damian Stevens, Richard Hardwick, Tiaan De Klerk, Torsten Van Jaarsveld, Jason Benade and Tjiuee Uanivi all come in, with the latter named as cap-

tain following Johan Deysel's red card against France.

Cliven Loubser moves from flyhalf to the right wing, while Prince Gaoseb switches from No. 8 to flanker.

Prop Johan Coetzee and wing Gerswin Mouton, who scored the team's only try of the tournament, are the only players to have started all four matches for Namibia at the World Cup.

Uruguay impressed in its World Cup opener, a 27-12 defeat to France. With New Zealand also to play in Pool A, the match against Namibia is Los Teros' best opportunity to turn the plaudits it has received into a positive result.

"Winning the next game would be the confirmation of the good World Cup we are having," Durán said. **MDT/AP**

LINEUPS

URUGUAY: Baltazar Amaya, Bautista Basso, Felipe Arcos Perez, Andres Vilaseca (captain), Nicolas Freitas, Felipe Etcheverry, Santiago Arata; Carlos Deus, Santiago Civetta, Manuel Ardao, Manuel Leindekar, Felipe Aliaga, Diego Arbelo, German Kessler, Mateo Sanguinetti. Reserves: Guillermo Pujadas, Facundo Gattas, Reinaldo Piusi, Juan Manuel Rodriguez, Eric Dosantos, Agustin Ormaechea, Felipe Berchesi, Juan Manuel Alonso.

NAMIBIA: Cliven Loubser, Gerswin Mouton, Alcino Izaacs, Danco Burger, JC Greyling, Tiaan Swanepoel, Damian Stevens; Richard Hardwick, Tjiuee Uanivi (captain), Prince Gaoseb, Tiaan De Klerk, Adriaan Ludick, Johan Coetzee, Torsten Van Jaarsveld, Jason Benade. Reserves: Louis van der Westhuizen, Desiderius Sethie, Haitembu Shifuka, PJ van Lill, Max Katjijeko, Adriaan Booysen, Jacques Theron, Andre van der Bergh.

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OPINION

China Daily
 Kang Bing, China Daily



LOOKING FORWARD TO A SAFER, FASTER 'KINGDOM OF BIKES'

Bicycles are making a comeback in China in a big way and a new avatar. China, in the recent past, used to be called the “kingdom of bicycles” because it had the largest number of bicycles in the world — 200 million. Bicycles were also the primary means of transport for the people.

Bicycles were introduced in China about 150 years ago. And they were considered a luxury until a bicycle-manufacturing factory was set up in Tianjin in 1936. To meet the increasing demand, new bicycle-making plants were established in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenyang in the 1950s and 1960s, which produced millions of bicycles every year.

Despite the increasing output and high prices — for decades a made-in-China bicycle cost between 130 yuan (\$17.81) and 200 yuan, that is, about five months’ income of an average worker. For many years, owning a bicycle was akin to winning the heart of your lover.

To strike a balance between the rising demand and limited supply, a coupon system was introduced. And only the lucky ones could lay their hands on a new bicycle.

I bought my first bicycle — a second-hand one — when I was in high school. I didn’t have a new bicycle until I came to work in Beijing. That bicycle took me to all corners of the capital for interviews and on work for five years until it was stolen.

If China was called the “kingdom of bicycles”, Beijing was certainly its capital. In the early 1990s, it had more than 4 million bikes, averaging one bicycle for every two Beijing residents. During rush hours, even the 100-meter-wide Chang’an Avenue would be chock-a-block with bicycles.

With improvements in public transport-Beijing, for instance, now has 27 subway lines and 28,000 buses — people started deserting bicycles. Also, the increasing number of privately-owned cars — about 6 million last year — made roads in Beijing increasingly unfriendly to cyclists. Side or service roads, which were traditionally used by cyclists, started turning into parking lots for cars. As a result, bicycles began vanishing from the streets in Beijing and in other cities.

While many believed bicycles’ future was doomed, the two-wheelers made a strong comeback thanks to the progress in science and technology.

For commuters who have to cover relatively long distances from home to workplace and vice-versa, e-bikes have become their top choice. When we calculate the total number of shared bike rides, it will be equal to the total number of bicycles in China two decades ago.

However, the renewed craze for bicycles has created some new problems. The huge numbers of bikes parked near subway stations, bus stops and close to the entrances to residential compounds block the way, making normal movement impossible. Also, when e-bike riders move forward at a speed of say 40 kilometers an hour, accidents are unavoidable. In fact, of the about 200,000 traffic accidents each year, more than 60 percent involved e-bike riders.

Beijing announced last month that it is working to make its roads cyclist-friendly before the end of 2027 by freeing bicycle lanes of cars and creating dedicated bicycle lanes. The authorities should also ensure shared bike operators hire more people to orderly park their bikes and launch publicity campaigns to remind riders to follow traffic rules and keep in mind the convenience of residents.

We are looking forward to a future where people in the “kingdom of bicycles” can enjoy not only faster and more convenient rides but also greater safety.

[Abridged]

UPS plans to hire more than 100,000 workers — at higher pay than a year ago — to help handle the holiday rush this season, in line with hiring the previous three years.

As part of a tentative five-year contract agreement with the Teamsters union approved last month that included a bump up in pay and other benefits for part-time and full time workers, seasonal package drivers will get starting hourly pay of \$23, while package handlers will get \$21 for the holiday period.

That compares with last year’s \$21 per hour for drivers and

\$15.50 for package handlers, according to Matt Lavery, UPS’s director of global sourcing, recruiting and onboarding.

But despite increased pay for the seasonal UPS workers, the job market is still tight, and it’s uncertain how challenging it will be to find workers, Lavery said.

“We do have a good package to offer everybody with an industry-leading pay, but we still haven’t seen those (job) numbers change,” he said. “So we’re hoping and we believe that we are going to get the number of employees. It’s a little uncertain whether it’s going to be easier or not for us at this point.”



AP PHOTO

RESEARCHERS HAVE VERIFIED 1,329 HUNGER DEATHS IN ETHIOPIA’S TIGRAY REGION SINCE CEASEFIRE

RESEARCHERS say they have verified 1,329 deaths from hunger in Ethiopia’s northern Tigray region since a cease-fire ended a two-year conflict there in November.

A study by local health authorities and Mekele University in the regional capital found that hunger is now the main cause of death in Tigray, accounting for more than 68% of deaths investigated by the researchers.

The study is based on a household census conducted by health workers from August 15-29 in nine subdistricts of Tigray and 53 camps for internally displaced people.

Tigray in total has 88 subdistricts and 643 displacement camps, so the number of hunger deaths across the region is almost certainly far higher.

One factor is the suspension of food aid by the United States and United Nations after the discovery in March of a huge scheme to steal humanitarian grain in Tigray. The pause was

extended to the rest of Ethiopia in June after the theft was found to be nationwide.

Ethiopia’s government wants the suspension ended. The U.S. government and the U.N. want the government to give up its control of the food aid delivery system.

The number of deaths from all causes recorded by the researchers in the Tigray areas studied rose sharply after the aid suspension, almost doubling from 159 in March to 305 in July.

Around 5.4 million of Tigray’s 6 million population relied on humanitarian aid. Over 20 million people in Ethiopia as a whole need food aid.

The study’s findings are described in a document seen by The Associated Press and prepared by the Tigray Emergency Coordination Center, a group of U.N. agencies, aid groups and regional government offices.

Hunger plagued Tigray throughout the conflict

between Ethiopian and allied forces and Tigray fighters. For much of it, the federal government cut the region’s services and restricted aid access, prompting U.N. experts to accuse it of using hunger as a weapon.

The government rejected claims of weaponizing aid, blaming the Tigray fighters for the lack of access.

November’s cease-fire kindled hopes that aid would reach the region, but they were dashed by the discovery of the massive theft, with some U.S.-marked bags of grain being sold in local markets.

Tigray authorities found that 7,000 metric tons of grain had been stolen. Earlier this month, the region’s leader announced that 480 officials had been arrested in connection with the corruption.

Other parts of Ethiopia are yet to disclose the results of their own probes. The U.S. and the U.N. World Food Program are also investigating. MDT/AP



Australia’s prime minister said yesterday he was confident that Indigenous Australians overwhelmingly support a proposal to create their own representative body to advise Parliament and have it enshrined in the constitution. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese’s remarks came as Tiwi Islanders cast their votes on making such a constitutional change. They were among the first in early polling that began this week in remote Outback communities, many with significant Indigenous populations.



Hungary The captain of a river cruise boat that collided with another vessel in Hungary’s capital in 2019, killing at least 27 people most of them South Korean tourists, was found guilty yesterday of negligence leading to a fatal mass catastrophe and sentenced to five years in prison. Judge Leona Nemeth with the Pest Central District Court found that the negligence of the Ukrainian captain, Yuriy Chaplinsky, had caused his river cruise boat, the Viking Sigyn, to collide with the tourist boat Hableany from behind, causing it to sink into the Danube River within seconds.



Armenia Separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh said yesterday that at least 20 people were killed and nearly 300 others injured by an explosion at a crowded gas station as thousands of people rushed to cross into Armenia. More than 13,500 people — about 12% of the region’s population — have fled across the border since Azerbaijan’s swift military operation to fully reclaim the region after three decades of separatist rule. Armenia’s government said Tuesday morning.