

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

FRIDAY 29 **Sep** 2023



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

UM RANKS FOR FIRST TIME AMONG THE TOP 200 IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT, MUST AND USJ REMAIN ON THE LIST

FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGES
TO STILL IMPACT PROPERTY
MARKET: CENTALINE

■ P2

LAN FO'AN IS NEW PARTY CHIEF OF FINANCE MINISTRY





Hong Kong Trading in shares of heavily indebted Chinese property developer China Evergrande Group was suspended in Hong Kong yesterday, according to a notice on the Hong Kong stock exchange. The suspension comes after Bloomberg News reported that the chairman of Evergrande, Hui Ka Yan, had been taken away earlier this month and placed under police watch. Evergrande is the world's most heavily indebted real estate developer.



Thailand A court yesterday acquitted four national park employees, including a senior official, of the kidnapping and murder of an Indigenous rights activist who disappeared under suspicious circumstances more than nine years ago. The activist, Porlajee Rakchongcharoen, was last seen in the custody of Kaeng Krachan National Park officials in western Thailand's Phetchaburi province on April 17, 2014.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War," state media said yesterday. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country's rubberstamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons program.

More on backpage

OLD SHIPYARDS GET HIGH lce-skating rink, urban farm among Galaxy's plans for Lai Chi Vun revitalization application and control of the contr





Series of events to mark festivities as National Day holidays poised to boom





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11 BIDS RECEIVED FOR ZONE A PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT

The Land and Urban Construction Bureau has received 11 bids for the public housing design and construction project of Lot B11 in Zone A. The project cost ranged from MOP940 million to MOP980 million, with the total construction period ranging from 1,035 working days to 1,036 working days. It is aimed for construction to commence on the project in the first quarter of next year. This public housing project covers an area of 6,715 square meters and mainly includes approximately 768 residential units, public parking lots, commercial and social facilities.

112 RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS TO UPGRADE ELECTRICAL **INSTALLATIONS BY YEAR END**

The Safety Upgrade Subsidy Program for Communal Electrical Installations in Lowrise Aging Buildings is expected to fund 112 old buildings by the end of the year, with MOP30 million being investment by CEM. Currently, the flood prevention capacity of 218 user substations has been improved, covering 99% of substations with flooding records. The company will review the effectiveness of the plan and consider whether to launch the next phase of the funding plan. The program, launched in early March 2021, is intended to subsidize relevant property owners to upgrade the time-worn communal electrical installations in the old buildings they are residing in.

23RD MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL TO KICK OFF NOV. 17

The 23rd Macau Food Festival will be held from Nov. 17 to Dec. 3, featuring 100 local and 25 international food stalls. In a press conference held yesterday, the committee announced that there would be 25 catering merchants from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan that will participate in the festival. Last year, the theme of the festival was "Gastronomy in the Metaverse," accommodating over 100 food and beverage merchants and a wide range of dishes and delicacies.

COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INCREASE TO OVER 4,000 TRIPS IN AUGUST

Arriving and departing commercial flights totalled 4.060 trips in August, a sharp rise of 737.1% year-on-year, albeit from a low base. From January to August 202 the number of arriving and departing commercial flights soared by 268.0% yearon-year to 23,426 trips. Also, cross-border vehicular traffic in August rose by 110.4% year-on-year to 651,453 trips, of which light automobile trips (606,121) surged by 118.0%. Recent official data shows that in the first eight months of 2023, crossborder vehicular traffic (4,593,884 trips) leapt by 106.4% year-on-year.

CENTALINE

Financial disadvantages to still impact property market

ANTHONY LAM

'IGH business operational costs and interest expenditure, among other factors, will likely hinder the recovery of the real property market in Macau, a regional realtor told a press conference yesterday.

Looking at the residential property market, the past season saw the return of external students and workers who sought leased residences, with a HKD2,600 rise in monthly rental for a studio apartment in Cotai, as well as a duplex apartment having been rented out for over HKD100,000 per month as evidence of the increases, John Ng, principal regional sales director at Centaline Property Macau, told the press conference.

While forward-looking, the realtor expects residential prices to further drop, despite the gradual recovery of the tourism industry. His explanation is that the unsettled external environment and high interest rates are deterring people to buy new properties, fearing that property prices will continue

This lack of confidence will create a loop that will function to push prices down, with strong supply but weak demand. Ng highlighted that this will affect the overall economy for apartment owners, who will consider their assets value as having dropped, further tightening their consumption expen-

For the market of office space, Roy Ho, principal director of the realty agency in Macau and Hengqin, said that the demand in Macau has been satisfied for the time being. It relied mainly on spaces released by government offices.

He pointed out that although prices have dropped from about HKD10,000 per square foot to about HKD7,000 per square foot in the past few years, a further drop is being



seen, which he described as "irrational."

However, he is confident that demand will grow for office spaces in Macau, as the realtor expects many mainland companies that want to explore foreign markets shall take Macau as a gangplank. They will thus need office space here.

As for retail spaces, Ho does not expect the market will be heated. A main reason is that the return on investment (ROI) rate for retail space is about 2.5% on average, which is much lower than that for time-savings – at about 4.5% on average. People will find time-saving a more promising means of investment than buying retail space.

On the other hand, year-end is usually a low season for shop openings because decorations and other matters take time. Existing operators will be concentrated on the year-end festive season as well.

Nonetheless, the realtor finds retail spaces in Pearl of the Orient, Taipa and ZAPE Districts having strong potential. The former district enjoys closeness to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and New Urban Zone A, as well as is expectant on new properties in the future. Meanwhile, Taipa and ZAPE are traditional tourist districts, which make them sound promising.

The realtor added that industrial spaces may see pressure from demand in the future as he expects some new operators will need such spaces in Macau amid the government's "1+4" diversification strategy.

In the past quarter, the demands on Hengqin mainly focused on smaller units and primarily attracted buyers from Macau. The realty agency also noted that the reheating measures implemented by Beijing have started to yield effects.

REALTOR: UPDATED NORTHBOUND VEHICLE SCHEME MAY HELP WITH SHOP PRICES

THE updated Northbound Travel for Ma-L cau Vehicle scheme may provide support to the retail space market, a local realtor said vesterday.

People who are more comfortable with making consumptions in mainland China will still do so, regardless of how many times in a month that they can drive across the border, Stanley Poon, managing director of Centaline Property in Macau and Hengqin, said yesterday on the sidelines of a press conference.

Despite this, he believed the new arrangements for the Northbound Travel for Macau Vehicle scheme will help retain more people in Macau, which will eventually benefit local businesses.

If the new arrangements are strong enough to retain sufficient people in Macau, rental and sale prices for retail spaces will stabilize and, in better scenarios, may even rise with growing demand.

Poon also forecast that residential property prices will further down for at least 3%. He explained that buyers and sellers are having a tug of war, with buyers not wanting to lower their prices while sellers calculating their affordability under the impact of a high interest rate environment. Unless they have urgent or imminent needs, buyers will tend to wait a little longer for supportive news or policies, he added. AL

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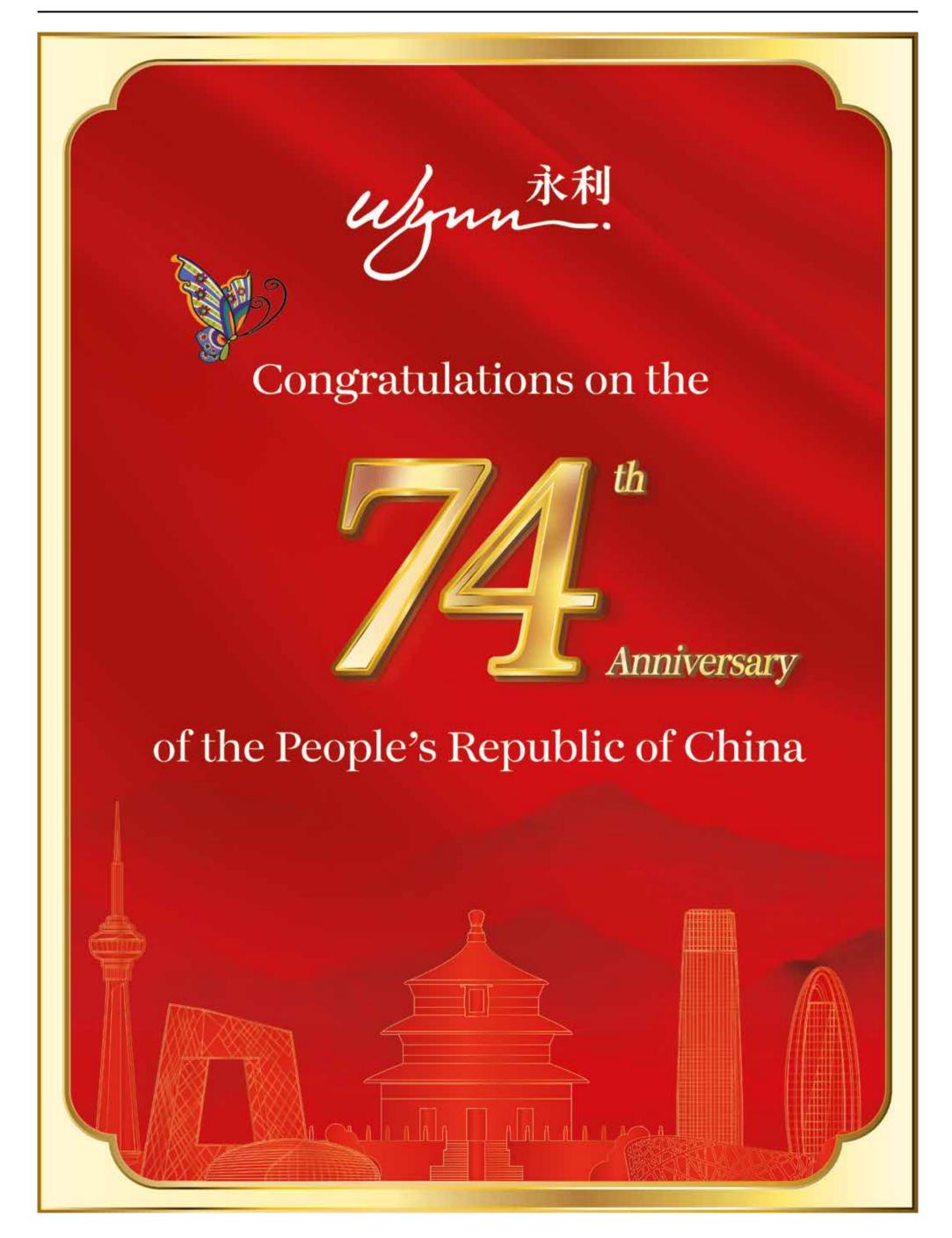
A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues: caudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao an SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO





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Series of events to mark Mid-Autumn, GOLDEN WEEK AS HOLIDAYS POISED TO BOOM

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU will see a series of activities to mark the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holidays as tourists are expected to swarm the city amid this holiday, which is poised to be record--breaking.

Following restrictions for the past three years due to the strict border restrictions as part of the city's adherence to Beijing's zero--Covid strategy, Macau is slated to welcome both mainland and foreign visitors during this eight-day holiday, which starts today.

In China, an estimated 800 million travel trips will be made during the eight-day Golden Week holidays.

According to the China Tourism Academy, more than 100 million travel trips will be made per day during the Golden Week holidays, far surpassing the levels of last year and 2019.

Last night, the Cultural Affairs Bureau and Melco jointly kicked off a light show at the Mount Fortress Garden, where they will also organize musical performances



and Food and Beverage (F&B) stalls.

The event is also a part of the gaming operator's revitalization project for the site.

Today, the pedestrian zone of Rua da Felicidade is set to open its doors to the public.

Through a variety of cultural and commercial activities, artistic performances, art installations, and leisure dining options, this initiative aims to enrich the pedestrian experience for visitors.

In addition, Albergue SCM will commence "Celebration of the Moon - Mid-Autumn Festival 2023" with festive specialties and drinks, various performances and limited traditional rabbit lanterns for children.

Meanwhile, the "Little Rabbit Lanterns - An Exhibition by Carlos Marreiros and Friends - Part 18.

On the Occasion of the Celebration of the 74th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China" will be inaugurated on the same day, showcasing over 20 rabbit lanterns created by local and international artists.

Over 300 festive lanterns with programmable LEDs hang above Broadway Food Street to create a marvel of light and color, while Galaxy Macau brings in the Galaxy Lantern Art Festival featuring creative artworks of more than 100 designers from Mainland China, Macau and overseas.

The "Performance to Celebrate the 74th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China" - Large-scale original acrobatic drama "The Bridge", will be held tomorrow and Oct. 1, at 8 p.m., at the Venetian Theatre. The large-scale original acrobatic-themed drama "The Bridge" narrates the story of tens of thousands of builders in the 1950s who converged at the deserted grasslands along the Yangtze River from across the country to build the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge.

The annual Macao International Fireworks Display Contest will continue on Saturday, performed by Chinese and Portuguese fireworks companies.

On the National Day (Oct. 1), the SAR government will hold a flag-raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square. After the flag-raising ceremony, a fun run will be held to celebrate the National Day and World Walking Day.



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 74th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA





























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BIG SEVEN

ICE-SKATING RINK, URBAN FARM AMONG GALAXY'S PLANS FOR Lai Chi Vun revitalization

LYNZY VALLES

ALAXY Macau is set to revi-Utalize one of Macau's oldest districts, Lai Chi Vun, with new entertainment elements including a simulated ice-skating rink, innovated urban farming, a new--generation bookstore and café, as part of its pledge to the government to boost non-gaming offerings.

In a press conference yesterday, organizers revealed that the plan would be conducted in two phases, with the first phase aimed to be concluded by the third quarter of 2024.

At present, lots X11-X15 from the first phase of the Lai Chi Vun Shipyards revitalization have been opened, with an area of about 3,000 square metres, where a thematic exhibition area, featured market, performance space and workshops have been estab-

According to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the site has been welcoming some 8,000 to



9,000 visitors per month.

On the project, Galaxy Entertainment Group's deputy chairman, Francis Lui, said, "the goal of Galaxy [in] participat[ing] in this project is to consolidate the area of Macau working as a center of tourism and help restore and utilize the area."

No budget nor timeline for the second phase has been announced, as plans are still underway.

"The first phase of the project will be carried out within this year, and it is believed the works will be substantially completed in the third quarter. For the second

phase, we will continue to discuss the project with the government. The investment amount can only be confirmed when the project is fully realized."

For the first phase, the gaming operator said that "high-tech multimedia elements to increase the attractiveness and fun" will be featured, along with a gallery to showcase the history of the Lai Chi Vun shipyard.

The gaming operator will also work with local designers to display art installations, and host a cultural creative bazaar, along with building parent-child spaces, garden and leisure facilities.

For the second phase, Galaxy has planned for an ice-skating rink with synthetic ice to be set up, as well as the aforementioned innovated urban farm, new-generation cultural bookstore and

IC: LOT X2, X4, X6 TO MAINTAIN **ORIGINAL SHIPYARD**

The government has already issued guidelines according to which shipyard will be preserved and restored.

According to IC president Leong Wai Man, "lot X4 is not included in the revitalization plan. There will be three shipyards that will be maintained, including lots X2, X4 and X6."

Meanwhile, Leong said that since the repair scope for the second phase, to be situated at X3, is larger than the first phase, it may take some time, and they strive to complete it in the third quarter of 2026.

GAMING OPS GIVEN FREE WILL TO CHOOSE DISTRICTS

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U has clarified that the revitalization plans were mutually decided upon by the gaming operators and the government.

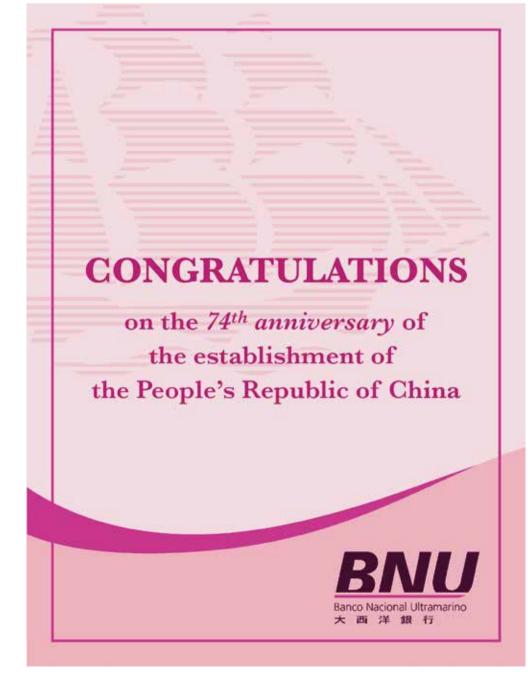
The official said that at the end of last year, the government had already coordinated with the integrated resorts on how to promote tourism through community revitalization.

During the pandemic, the government deliberately carried out works in the old districts to beautify them, introducing SMEs in these districts.

"We designated some districts, and the government discussed with the gaming operators who would be interested in those districts, but we did not decide for them," said Ao.

"During that time, Galaxy had expressed that they wanted to revitalize the shipyard, and I know they already have ideas."









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TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

UM ranks among top 200 in 2024 global rankings

LYNZY VALLES

THE University of Macau (UM) **⊥** has for the first time ranked among the top 200 in the UK's Times Higher Education supplement, while the Macau Univer-

sity of Science and Technology (MUST) and the University of St. Joseph remain on the list.

In its 2024 World University Rankings announcement, UM ranked 193, placing between 101 to 125th in Education and Psychology. It scored a total of 59 points out of 100, where it scored 38.4 points in Teaching and 38.1 in Research Environment.

MUST, meanwhile, was in between the rankings of 251 to 300, scoring 33.1 in Teaching and 34.2 out of 100 in Research Environ-

The University of St. Joseph was not ranked.

A total of 1,904 universities from 108 countries and regions are included in this ranking. The University of Oxford in the UK has topped the list for eight consecutive years, while Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

The number of mainland universities in the top 400 has increased from 18 last year to 30 this year.

Meanwhile, four universities in Hong Kong fell in the global rankings of top 100 institution.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) dropped four places from 31st to 35th. HKU ranked 35th in 2020, 39th in 2021, and 30th in 2022, before dropping one place in 2023 and another four in 2024.

China has two universities in the top 20, seven in the top 100 and 13 in the top 200. In the 2018 edition, six years ago, it had two top 100 universities.

The number of Chinese institutions in the top 400 of the World University Rankings has doubled from 15 in 2021 to 30 this year. Tsinghua University is the best--performing Chinese institution coming 12th and the country has 86 universities ranked - the fifth highest, according to the Times Higher Education.

Meanwhile, 165 universities are ranked for the first time: 89 from Asia, 38 from Europe, 19 from Africa, 14 from South America and five from North America.

Phil Baty, Times Higher Education's Chief global affairs officer said: "This is our biggest and most rigorous World University Rankings ever and the rankings' 20th anniversary. [...] Simply being included in the ranking is something to celebrate, as we focus on a few thousand research-active, globally focussing universities among tens of thousands of higher education institutions worldwide."

ANTHONY LAM

 $M_{
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m EMBERS}$ of the ded of the risks of dengue fever as conditions across the region gradually intensify, Health Bureau (SSM) noted in a statement yesterday.

People are reminded to keep the environment clean and clear of puddles. The use of mosquito repellent is recommended. It is also recommended to wear light-colored long-sleeved tops and pants when travelling in South and Southeast Asia.

Should fever and rash occur, which are both common symptoms of dengue fever, patients should see a doctor immediately. Doctors who have received a potential dengue fever patient may refer said patient to the Public Health Laboratory for tests and diagnosis.

The bureau added that the city has so far recorded three cases of the disease this year, all of them being imported

Health Bureau warns about dengue fever amid regional intensity



cases. It will continue monitoring the situation and reminds medical staff to beware of potential cases and be careful while making a diagnosis.

The SSM underlined that both rainy and sunny weather is conducive to the spread of

dengue fever as these conditions are suitable for the breeding of the Asian tiger mosquito, the key insect helping the spread of the disea-

In addition, as international tourism is reviving and the intensifying condition of the

disease in neighboring locations, the risks of a spread of the disease in Macau is heightening, the SSM noted.

It listed that serial cases have recently been logged in Guangdong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

IPOR CALLS FOR NEW OPERATOR OF LIVRARIA **PORTUGUESA**

THE Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR) is calling for a partner to run the Livraria Portuguesa (Portuguese Bookstore) as the current concession contract is slated to end Mar. 31, 2024.

In a statement, IPOR expressed its wishes to maintain Livraria Portuguesa under a similar regime, with the concession for the operation to last for five years.

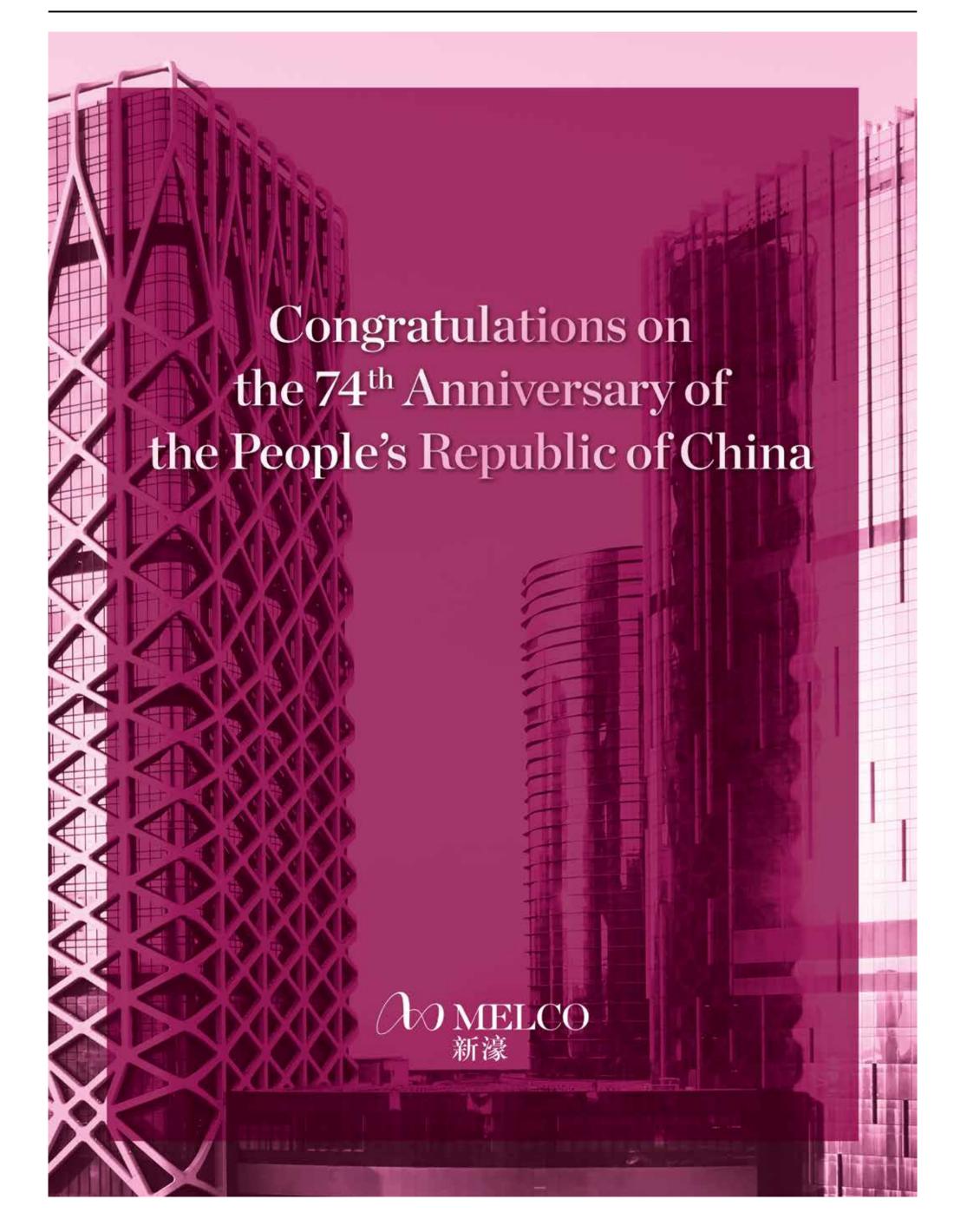
The concessionaire must pay MOP100,000 annually for each year of validity of the assignment contract as a donation for the Fund for the

Promotion of Language and Culture of IPOR.

Interested parties must add to their applications a draft activity plan that includes promotion of books and reading in Macau and Portuguese. It must also promote book fair at least twice a year.

IPOR is also calling on concessionaiprospective res to "develop annually a set of activities to stimulate the bookstore space that promotes books, reading, writers and other artistic and cultural areas of Portuguese-speaking countries."







SOCIAL MEDIA

TikTok regrets Indonesia's decision to ban e-commerce sales on social media

HINESE-owned app TikTok yesterday said it regretted the Indonesian government's decision to ban e-commerce transactions on social media platforms and particularly the impact it would have on the millions of sellers who use TikTok Shop.

But TikTok Indonesia said in a statement it will respect the regulations and laws that apply in Indonesia and "will take a constructive path forward."

"We deeply regret the government's announcement, especially how it will impact the livelihoods of the six million sellers and nearly seven million affiliate creators who use TikTok Shop," said the statement sent to The Associated Press.

Indonesia banned goods transactions on social media platforms such as TikTok in a bid to protect small businesses from e-commerce competition, accusing them of predatory pricing.



Indonesia's Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan on Monday announced the decision after a meeting with President Joko Widodo. The ban "is to prevent the domination of the algorithm and prevent the use of personal data in business interests," Hasan told a news conference.

Hasan said the ban, which takes effect immediately, aims to "create a fair, healthy and beneficial electronic commerce ecosystem by prohibiting marketplaces and social media sellers from acting as producers and facilitating payment transactions on its electronic systems," according to a statement released by the Trade Ministry on Wednesday. Marketplaces and sellers can only offer or promote goods and services, he added.

During an inspection to Southeast Asia's largest wholesale market Tanah Abang in Jakarta last week, Minister of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Teten Masduki said he found that sellers were experiencing a more than 50% loss of profits because they could not compete with imported products sold online at much lower prices.

Masduki said the China-based platform has been involved in "predatory pricing," which caused damages to local small- and medium-sized businesses. He said the new regulation "will justly regulate fair trade online and offline."

Minister of Communication and Informatics Budi Arie emphasized that the regulation is intended for all social commerce platforms, not just TikTok Shop. It may also affect established, homegrown e-commerce companies like Tokopedia, Lazada and BliBli.

The move came after TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew pledged at a forum it organized in Jakarta in June that it would invest billions of dollars in Indonesia and Southeast Asia over the next few years. He did not provide a detailed breakdown of the spending plan, but said it would invest in training, advertising and supporting small vendors looking to join its e-commerce platform TikTok Shop.

The plan comes as TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, faces scrutiny from some governments and regulators because of concerns that Beijing could use the app to harvest user data or advance its

interests.

Countries including the United States, Britain and New Zealand have banned the app on government phones, despite TikTok repeatedly denying that it has ever shared data with the Chinese government and would not do so if asked.

Southeast Asia, a region home to more than 675 million people, is one of TikTok's biggest markets in terms of user numbers, generating more than 325 million visitors to the app every month.

TikTok had 8,000 employees to facilitate \$4.4 billion of transactions across the region last year, up from \$600 million in 2021. But it still trailed far behind Shopee's \$48 billion in regional merchandise sales in 2022, according to Singapore-based Momentum Works, a business development service.

In Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, TikTok has 2 million small vendors selling their wares on its platform. MDT/AP







CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA









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MILITARY

TAIWAN LAUNCHES FIRST HOME-MADE SUBMARINE FOR TESTING, CHINA CONDEMNS

TAIWAN'S leader launched the island's first domestically made submarine for testing yesterday at a port in Kaohsiung.

The submarine, if successful in its tests, will be a major breakthrough for Taiwan in shipbuilding and design.

"In the past, a domestic-made submarine was considered impossible, but today a submarine designed and built by our countrymen is in front of you," Tsai Ing-wen said at the launch ceremony.

"Building a submarine is the concrete realization of our resolution to protect our country. Submarines are an important piece of equipment for the Taiwan navy to develop asymmetric combat power in terms of strategy and tactics," she said.

The U.S. has been pushing Taiwan to develop asymmetric warfare strategies by investing in smaller and lighter weapons such as the reduced-

-size submarine.

The process was "torturous," said Cheng Wen-lon, head of Taiwan's CSBC Corp., which led the construction of the submarine.

"Although we have worked quietly

during the past several years, it doesn't mean the process was very smooth," he said at the ceremony held in CSBC's shipyard.

After seven years of design and construction, the prototype will begin tests in the harbor before heading to the ocean.

The submarine is named Hai Kun after a fish in Chinese mythology called kun with legendary proportions.

China's Defense Ministry said that the submarine's construction was Taiwan 'heading down the path of its own destruction'

It will only be handed over to the military after passing both its harbor and ocean-faring tests. Taiwan plans to build another submarine if successful, with both to be deployed by 2027, according to the semi-official Central News Agency. Taiwan began the expensive and time-consuming task of building its own submarines after Beijing prevented it from purchasing such craft from abroad through the use of economic and diplomatic threats.

In recent years, China has stepped up its military exercises aimed at the island, sending fighter jets and navy vessels to patrol and hold drills in the waters and skies near Taiwan.

China's Defense Ministry said yesterday that the submarine's construction was Taiwan "heading down the path of its

own destruction."

"No matter how many weapons the Democratic Progressive Party buys, it will not obstruct the greater trend of reunification with the motherland," said Col. Wu Qian, a spokesperson in

China's Ministry of National Defense.

In attendance at the ceremony were the heads of the U.S. de facto embassy, Sandra Oudkirk, and the Japanese and South Korean trade delegations based in Taiwan. MDT/AP

DIPLOMACY

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ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

HINA'S ambassador to Australia yesterday criticized Australian politicians who visit Taiwan, saying they are being utilized by separatists on the self-governing island.

Ambassador Xiao Qian was commenting in Sydney after an Australian parliamentary delegation visited Taiwan this week, and as a former prime minister plans to deliver a speech in Taipei next month. Taiwan is part of China's territory.

Xiao said Australian parliamentarians and former prime ministers who visit Taiwan "carry political significance."

"It might be easily utilized by the political forces in Taiwan for their independent forces movement, for their secession movement, and I don't want to see that happen," Xiao told reporters.

"I hope they will stick to the 'one-China policy' in words and indeed, refrain from

AD 🖺



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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. Electrical & Mechanical Systems (RFP/E&M/04/23) |
| 3. Request for Tender Document: | The interested Bidders shall call the Senior Secretary of the Engineering and Maintenance Branch (E&M) of the Airport Operations Department of CAM at (853) 88982386 and collect the tender document at the following location until 6 Oct 2023 before 13:00 (Macau Local Time). Location for collecting the tender document CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Macau International Airport Engineering and Maintenance Branch E&M Building 1st Floor, Office 41019 Taipa, Macau For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Engineering and Maintenance Branch at (853) 88982386. |
| 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 |

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| 5. Tender closing time and date: | At 12:00 (noon) on 27 Oct 2023 (Macau Local Time) |
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CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part

without stating any reason.



mbassador says lawmakers who visit lized by separatists

engaging with Taiwan in whichever form or capacity so that they will not be politically utilized by people in the island with political motives," Xiao said.

The "one-China policy" holds that the Communist Party is the government of China and Taiwan is a part of the country.

The Chinese government on Wednesday accused Taiwan's governing party of seeking independence, a day after Tsai Ing-wen lobbied for Australia's support in joining a regional trade pact during a meeting with six visiting Australian lawmakers.

Former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison plans to speak at the Yushan Forum in Taipei from Oct. 11 to 12, which focuses on Taiwan's cooperation with neighboring countries.

Australia's relationship with China plummeted under Morrison's four-year rule. MDT/AP



LAN FO'AN IS NEW PARTY CHIEF OF FINANCE MINISTRY: REPORTS

CHINA has designated Lan Fo'an as the Communist Party chief of the Ministry of Finance, signaling his imminent promotion to the role of finance minister during a challenging economic phase, Bloomberg has reported.

The announcement came yesterday following incumbent Liu Kun's decision to resign after reaching retirement age.

Lan's ascent comes at a crucial juncture, as the country grapples with a dwindling fiscal position, aggravated by prolonged pandemic measures, tax reductions, and an escalating property market crisis.

The nation's persistent local debt is further straining its capacity to spur growth. Bloomberg Economics highlighted that decreased government expenditure reduced growth by 1.2% in the initial seven months of the year.

Born in Guangdong, the



61-year-old Lan began his tenure at the finance ministry in the mid-'80s, later serving in significant roles in Guangdong and Hainan.

By April 2021, he rose to prominence as the deputy secretary of the CPC Shanxi Provincial Committee, eventually becoming Shanxi's governor, according to his official biography.

Just before this new appointment, Xinhua News Agency reported Lan's resignation as CPC chief in Shan-xi. **PC**

AD



Open Tender Notice

| 1. Company: | CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. |
|--|--|
| 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) |
| 3. Request for Tender Document: | The interested Bidders shall call the Senior Secretary of the Engineering and Maintenance Branch (E&M) of the Airport Operations Department of CAM at (853) 88982386 and collect the tender document at the following location until 6 Oct 2023 before 13:00 (Macau Local Time). Location for collecting the tender document CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Macau International Airport Engineering and Maintenance Branch E&M Building 1st Floor, Office 41019 Taipa, Macau For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Engineering and Maintenance Branch at (853) 88982386. |
| 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 6 Nov 2023 (Macau Local Time) |
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Open Tender Notice Provision of Landscaping Maintenance for grass areas in Macau International Airport CAM - Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. 1. Company: Provision of landscaping maintenance for grass areas in 2. Scope of Services: Macau International Airport. The Tender documents and other pertinent information are available on the following website: www.camacau.com within the period from 27th Sep 2023 to 12:00 noon, 30th Oct 2023 (Macau Local Time) 3. Request for Tender **Document:** 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. Mr. Chu Tan Neng – Executive Director CAM - Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. CAM Office Building, 4th Floor Reception, 4. Location for Av. Wai Long Submission of Taipa, Macau SAR. **Proposals:** For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Airport Operations Department (AOD) at (853) 8898 2839 5. Tender closing time 12:00 hours of 30th October 2023 (Macau Local Time) and date: CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part

without stating any reason.



DEFENSE MINISTER HAS BEEN MIA FOR A MONTH, MINISTRY DECLINES TO COMMENT

Chinese Defense Minis-Atry spokesperson said yesterday that he was "not aware of the situation" in the ministry's first public comments on the disappearance of the defense minister from public view about one month ago.

Senior Col. Wu Qian, the director of the ministry's information office, gave only a one-sentence response when asked at a monthly news conference whether Li Shangfu is under investigation for corruption and if he is still the defense minister.

"I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," Wu said in response to a question from a foreign news outlet.

Li, who became defense minister when a new Cabinet was named in March, hasn't been seen since giving a speech on Aug. 29. He is the second senior official to disappear this year,



Li Shangfu

following former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was removed from office in July.

The Chinese government has given no reason for his removal, or why both he and Li suddenly stopped making public appearances.

There is no indication, at least so far, that their disappearances signal a change in China's foreign or defense policies.

The disappearance of officials and other people without explanation "is not uncommon in China and often followed months later by the announcement of criminal charges against the person," observers say. "The disappearance of two sitting ministers in rapid succession, though, is unusual."

Wu, the defense ministry spokesperson, played down

concerns expressed by U.S. officials that the two countries don't have clear military-to-military communications channels.

He said that the problem is not a lack of communication but a need for the U.S. to change its ways to get relations between the two militaries back on track.

"The US always wants to tie somebody's hands and feet, so they can do whatever they want," he said.

Wu, who opened the news conference with an announcement about a global security conference to be held in Beijing next month, ducked a question about Li from another foreign media reporter, who asked whether the defense minister would attend the conference.

"We will release information about the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in due course," he said. MDT/AP

GIANT PANDA FAN XING LEAVES A DUTCH ZOO FOR HER HOME **COUNTRY**

TIANT panda Fan Xing began a long journey home — to a country she has never visited.

The 3-year-old was given a ceremonial send off yesterday [Macau time] from Ouwehands Zoo in the Netherlands, where she was born, for the first leg of her journey to China, where she will join a breeding program that is helping preserve the vulnerable species.

Wouter Jurgens, director Asia and Oceania at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said he hoped the panda would be an ambassador for relations between the Netherlands and China.

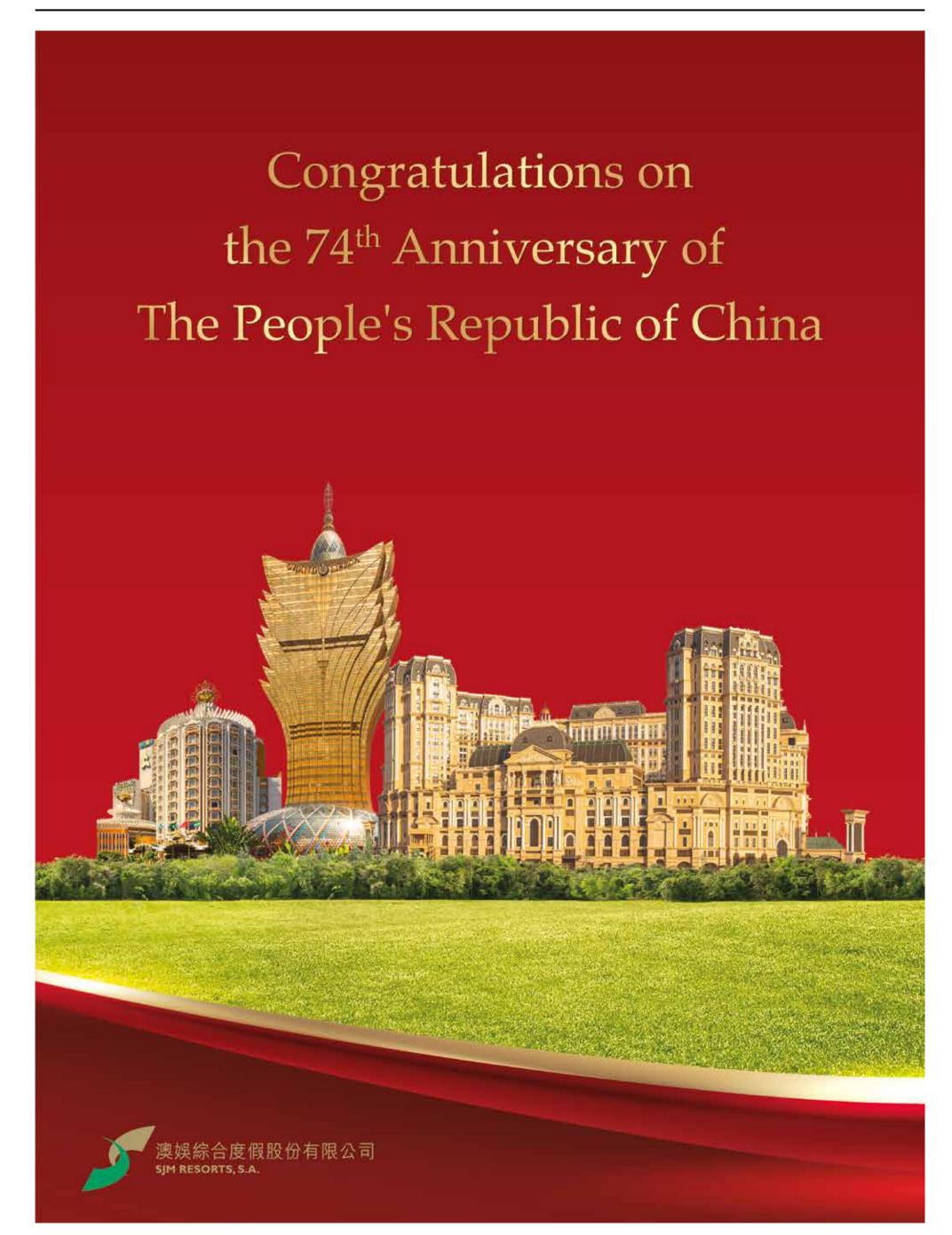
Jurgens said Fan Xing represented "a sign of the special relationship between the Netherlands and China in the field of nature conservation, but of course also much broader."

"So today I would also like to express the hope that this Dutch--born panda, Fan Xing, will contribute ... not only to the protection of nature, the protection of a species and of biodiversity, but also continue to contribute to the relationship between the Netherlands and China."

Fan Xing was born on May 1, 2020, the first cub born in the Netherlands as a part what was once known as China's "panda diplomacy" program. At the time, a quick check determined that the cub was male, but a test late last year that was part of meticulous preparations for her trip to China established that Fan Xing is female. MDT/AP



I MacauDaily 澳門毎日時報 ◎







Thai police officers stand behind packages containing seized crystal meth, methamphetamine, heroin during a news conference Bangkok yesterday

THAILAND

Police say drug bust nets worth \$8.2 million

JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI, **BANGKOK**

OLICE in Thailand said yesterday they made one of the country's biggest ever seizures of illicit drugs, a haul including methamphe-

tamine, crystal meth and heroin, with a total estimated street value of about 300 million baht (\$8.2 million).

The police said the drugs were seized during a Wednesday night raid on a house in Nakhon Pathom, west of Bangkok, in whi-

ch four men were arrested for possession of illegal drugs. They allegedly confessed to renting the house to stash the drugs before distributing them to dealers in the greater Bangkok area.

The seized drugs included 15 million methamphetamine tablets, 443 wrapped packages of heroin, 420 kilograms (926 pounds) of crystal meth and a quantity of drugs often used for partying, including "happy water" — a powder comprising several psychoactive substances to be made into a drink — and "five-five," a strong sedative with the pharmaceutical name Nimetazepam, police said. The drugs were displayed to the media at a news conference.

The bust was the result of a two-year investigation initiated after another member of the trafficking gang was arrested, according to police. They did not say where the drugs originated, but U.N. and other experts have said

that neighboring Myanmar is the source of most of the region's methamphetamine and heroin.

"The Nakhon Pathom operation and seizure is no doubt significant, a huge result. But it is also a direct result of the security breakdown and expansion of the methamphetamine supply next door in Myanmar," Jeremy Douglas, regional representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, told The Associated Press. "We don't see the situation improving, and more of these spillover events are likely."

Myanmar has historically been the region's main drug production area in part because of lax security measures in border areas where minority ethnic groups have long been fighting for greater autonomy. Some of the powerful ethnic armed groups there have been heavily involved in narcotics production for decades.

A 2021 military takeover in Myanmar that unseated the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi triggered armed resistance nationwide, further destabilizing the country.

The U.N. drug agency's June 2023 report on synthetic drugs in East and Southeast Asia warned that the huge trade in methamphetamine and other illegal drugs shows no signs of slowing down.

Another U.N. report in January noted that opium production has flourished in Myanmar since the military seized power, after many years of decline. MDT/AP

NORTH KOREA-US

Video appears to show American soldier arriving back in the US

MATTHEW LEE, **KIM TONG-HYUNG** & LOLITA C. BALDOR

THE American soldier **1** who sprinted into North Korea across the heavily fortified border between the Koreas two months ago arrived back in the U.S. yesterday, video appeared to show.

Pvt. Travis King's release was secured with the help of ally Sweden and rival China, the White House said Wednesday. North Korea abruptly announced earlier that day that it would expel the soldier.

While officials have said King, 23, is in good health and the immediate focus will be on caring for him and reintegrating him into U.S. society, his troubles are likely far from over.

King, who had served in



South Korea, ran into the North while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18, becoming the first American confirmed to be detained in the isoin nearly five years. At the time, he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from

prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

He has been declared AWOL from the Army. In many cases, someone who is AWOL for more than a month can automatically be considered a deserter.

Punishment for going AWOL or desertion can vary, and it depends in part on whether the service member voluntarily returned or was apprehended. King's handover by the North Koreans makes that more complicated.

Video aired Thursday by a Texas news station appeared to show King walking off a plane in San Antonio. Dressed in a dark top and pants, he could be seen speaking briefly with people waiting on the tarmac. He shook hands with one before being led into a building.

On Wednesday, Swedish officials took King to the Chinese border, where he was met by U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one U.S. Defense Depart-

ment official. He was then flown to a U.S. military base in South Korea before being returned to the U.S.

It was not clear why the North — which has tense relations with Washington over Pyongyang's nuclear program, support for Russia's war in Ukraine and other issues — agreed to turn him over or why the soldier fled in the first pla-

Several recent American detainees had been held for over a year — 17 months in the case of Otto Warmbier, a college student who was arrested during a group tour. Warmbier was in a coma when he was deported, and later died.

North Korea has often been accused of using American detainees as bargaining chips, and there had also been speculation that the North would try to maximize the propaganda value of an active duty U.S. soldier.

But analysts say King's legal troubles could have limited his propaganda value, and Biden administration officials insisted they provided no concessions to North Korea to secure his release. MDT/AP











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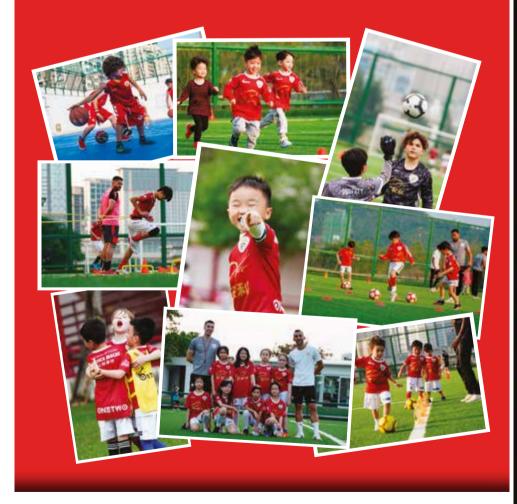
C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER "DEIGNAN AWARD"

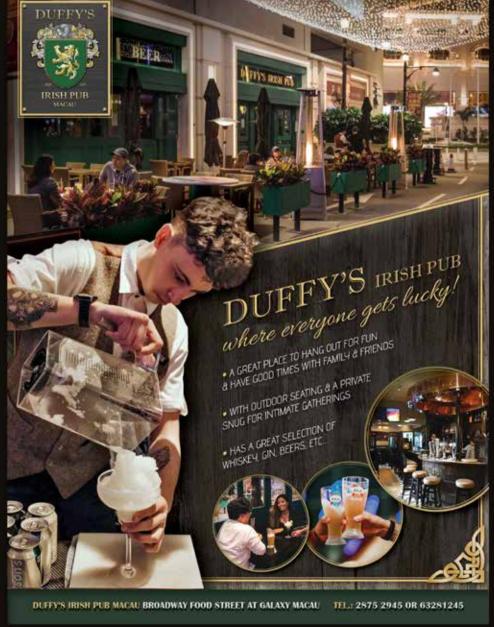
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MACAU (2023)

















BASKETBALL **FOOTBALL**

DAILY TRAININGS

ICA

Trump skipped the GOP debate again. This time, his rivals took him on directly

WILL WEISSERT & STEVE PEOPLES, SIMI VALLEY (CALIF.)

EVERAL of Donald Trump's rivals stepped up their attacks against him in the second Republican presidential debate yesterday [Macau time], urgently trying to dent the former president's commanding primary lead during an event that often seemed like an undercard without him.

Trump went to Michigan, aiming to capitalize on the autoworkers' strike in a key state that could help decide the general election. His competitors, meanwhile, were asked by Fox Business moderators at the Ronald Reagan library in California to participate in a reality show-style game where they would write who else onstage they would vote "off the island." They refused.

The debate's tone was far removed from a campaign that's been driven by Trump's attacks on his rivals and democratic institutions as well as his grievances about a litany of criminal indictments and civil cases targeting him and his businesses. The moderators did not ask about the indictments or why the people onstage were better qualified than Trump, instead posing questions about issues including education, economic policy and the U.S.-Mexico border.

The candidates often went after Trump on their own, hoping to distinguish themselves at a critical moment with less than four months before the Iowa caucuses launch the presidential nomination process. Trump has continued to dominate the field even as he faces a range of vulnerabilities, including four criminal cases that raise the prospect of decades in prison.

"He should be on this stage tonight," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is attempting to establish himself as the leading Trump alternative despite recent struggles to break out from the rest of the pack. "He owes it to you to defend his record where they added \$7.8 trillion to the debt. That set the stage for the inflation we have now."

Several others blistered Trump for not showing up, a departure from the first debate, when the field mostly lined up behind former president. DeSantis said just a few minutes in that President Joe Biden was "completely missing in action from leadership. And you know who else is missing in action? Donald Trump is missing in action."



Businessman Vivek Ramaswamy (left) argues a point with Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., during a Republican presidential primary debate

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has built his campaign around criticizing Trump, said the former president "hides behind the walls of his golf clubs and won't show up here to answer questions like all the rest of us are up here to answer."

Even Vivek Ramaswamy, the entrepreneur who has declared Trump to be the "best president of the 21st century," distanced himself and argued he was a natural successor.

"Yes, I will respect Donald Trump and his legacy because it's the right thing to do," he said. "But we will unite this country to take the America First agenda to the next level. And that will take a different generation to do it."

Trump gave a lengthy primetime speech in suburban Detroit that continued into the start of the debate. The crowd booed when he referenced the debate. He joked, "We're competing with the job candidates," and poked fun at his rivals for not drawing crowds as large as his.

Even hours before the debate began in Simi Valley, about 40 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the first group of supporters for any campaign to arrive waved Trump flags and put up a banner reading "Trump, our last hope for America and the world."

His rivals seemed to sense his command over the field and did their best to change the direction of the race.

"Donald, I know you're wat-

ching. You can't help yourself," Christie said. "You're ducking these things. And let me tell you what's going to happen. You keep doing that, no one here's going to call you Donald Trump anymore. We're going to call you Donald Duck."

Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, drew larger crowds and new interest after the first debate. Her team raised expectations prior to yesterday's debate ahead of an expected campaign swing in Iowa.

Haley didn't single out Trump but instead picked multiple fights with Ramaswamy, as she did in August. She assailed him for creating a campaign account on TikTok, the social media app that many Republicans criticize as a possible spy tool for China.

"Honestly, every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say," Haley said.

Haley also fought with Sen. Tim Scott, her fellow South Carolinian and once her pick to fill the state's open Senate seat. As Scott accused Haley of backing a gas tax as South Carolina governor and upgrading the curtains in her office as United Nations ambassador, Haley responded, "Bring it, Tim."

After a first debate in which he assailed rivals and derided the rest of the field as "bought and paid for," Ramaswamy tried to show a softer side when Haley and others went after him. After Haley's attack on his use of Tik-Tok, Ramaswamy said, "I think we would be better served as a Republican Party if we're not sitting here hurling personal insults."

DeSantis sniped at Ramaswamy and so did Pence, suggesting that he'd failed to vote in many past elections. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum steered clear of Ramaswamy, but repeatedly jumped in to answer questions he wasn't asked to get himself more screen time in the debate's early going. He repeatedly shouted for attention from the left end of the stage, leading a moderator to threaten to cut his microphone.

In one awkward exchange, two candidates made references to sex in talking about teachers unions. "When you have the president of the United States sleeping with a member of the teachers union, there is no chance that you can take the stranglehold away from the teachers union," Christie said at one point, referencing first lady Jill Biden's teaching career and longtime membership in the National Education Association.

A short time later, Pence turned to Christie: "I've been sleeping with a teacher for 38 years. Full disclosure." His wife, Karen, is a teacher.

The night concluded with the moderators noting that it was unlikely a divided field could stop Trump, but then asking candidates to say who they would vote off the island, an apparent reference

to the "Survivor" reality show. The proposed game didn't get far as DeSantis suggested it was insulting.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson was the only candidate not on the second debate's stage after qualifying for the first one. He too headed to suburban Detroit, saying, "Donald Trump is here in Detroit tonight because he wants to avoid a debate."

Site, meanwhile, was symbolic given that Reagan has long been a Republican icon whose words and key moments still shape GOP politics today.

But in addition to fighting with the library's leaders, Trump has reshaped the party and pushed it away from Reagan. The second debate's participants were largely respectful of all that Reagan stood for — but also didn't distance themselves much from Trump's major policy beliefs.

Democrats, meanwhile, argued the debate didn't matter. Biden was in California at the same time, raising money in the San Francisco Bay Area for his reelection campaign, which at the moment is likely to be a rematch with Trump.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom was in Simi Valley representing the Biden campaign and offering zingers to reporters about the debate, saying it was like a junior varsity or minor league game.

"This is a sideshow by any objective measure," Newsom said in an interview. MDT/AP



ARMENIA

HALF OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH'S POPULATION FLEES AS SEPARATIST GOVERNMENT DISSOLVE

AVET DEMOURIAN, YEREVAN

THE separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh said yesterday it will dissolve itself and the unrecognized republic will cease to exist by year's end after a nearly three-decade bid for independence, while Armenian officials said over half of the region's population has already fled.

The moves came after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive last week to reclaim full control over the region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh disarm and the separatist government dissolve itself.

A decree signed by the region's separatist President Samvel Shakhramanyan cited an agreement reached Sept. 20 to end the fighting under which Azerbaijan will allow the "free, voluntary and unhindered movement" of Nagorno-Karabakh residents to Armenia.

That touched off the mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from the mountainous region inside Azerbaijan on Sunday. By morning, over 66,000 people — more than half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population of 120,000 had fled to Armenia, and the influx continued with unabating intensity, according to Armenian officials.

After separatist fighting ended in 1994 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by the Armenia. Then, during a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan took back parts of the region in the south Caucasus Mountains along with surrounding territory that Armenian forces had claimed earlier.

Nagorno-Karabakh was internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.

In December, Azerbaijan imposed a blockade of the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, alleging the Armenian government was using the road for mineral extraction and illicit weapons shipments to the region's separatist forces.

Armenia alleged the clo-



An ethnic Armenian child from Nagorno-Karabakh sleeps on the ground after arriving in Armenia's Goris in Syunik region

sure denied basic food and fuel supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan rejected the accusation, arguing the region could receive supplies through the Azerbaijani city of Aghdam — a solution long resisted by Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, who called it a strategy for Azerbaijan to gain control of the region.

Weakened by the blockade, with Armenia's leadership distancing itself from the conflict, ethnic Armenian forces in the region agreed to lay down arms less than 24 hours after Azerbaijan began its offensive last week. Talks have begun between Baku and Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist authorities on "reintegrating" the region back into Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani authorities have pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region and restore supolies

Many residents, however, have decided to leave for Armenia, fearing reprisals. The only road linking Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia quickly filled with cars, creating a massive traffic jam on the winding mountain road.

There have been no reports so far of residents burning down their houses

before leaving — something that happened in 2020 when people fled territories taken over by Azerbaijan.

On Monday night, a fuel reservoir exploded at a gas station where people lined up for gas that was in short supply from the blockade. At least 68 people were killed and nearly 300 injured, with over 100 others still considered missing.

It isn't immediately clear if the ethnic Armenians still living in the region will remain there. Shakhramanyan's decree urged Nagorno-Karabakh's population — including those who left — "to familiarize themselves with the conditions of reintegration offered by the Republic of Azerbaijan, in order to then make an individual decision about the possibility of staying in (or returning to) Nagorno-Karabakh."

Yesterday, Azerbaijani authorities charged Ruben Vardanyan, the former head of Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist government, with financing terrorism, creating illegal armed formations and illegally crossing a state border. Vardanyan, a billionaire banker who was arrested on Wednesday, faces up to 14 years in prison if convicted, according to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

Azerbaijani officials said Vardanyan, who made his fortune in Russia, was detained as he was trying to enter Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh along with thousands of others and taken to Baku. The arrest appeared to indicate Azerbaijan's intent to quickly enforce its grip on the region.

Vardanyan moved to Nagorno-Karabakh in 2022 and headed the regional government for several months before stepping down earlier this year.

Another top separatist figure, Nagorno-Karabakh's former foreign minister and now presidential adviser David Babayan, said he will surrender to Azerbaijani authorities after they "demanded my arrival in Baku for a proper investigation." Babayan said in a Facebook post that he will head from Stepanakert, the region's capital, to the nearby city of Shusha, which has been under Azerbaijani control since 2020.

"My failure to appear, or worse, my escape, will cause serious harm to our long-suffering people, to many people, and I, as an honest person, hard worker, patriot and a Christian, cannot allow this," Babayan said. MDT/AP

this day in history ©

1960 KHRUSHCHEV ANGER ERUPTS AT UN



The Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has disrupted a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly with several angry outbursts.

Twice he pounded his desk and twice he shouted interruptions to show his disapproval at the way UN forces have intervened in the recent trouble in former Belgian Congo.

Mr Khrushchev is calling for the UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold to be replaced by a three-man executive representing the western, Soviet and neutral camps.

His interruptions came during a speech by British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, who expressed total confidence in Mr Hammarskjold's "energy, resourcefulness and above all integrity".

While most of the Assembly applauded his sentiments, Mr Khrushchev pounded the table with both fists.

When Mr Macmillan referred to the recent four--power summit in Paris, which was called off after a US spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union, Mr Khrushchev began shouting in Russian and waving his forefinger.

His words were translated as: "Don't send U2s. You were supporting aggression."

Another more violent interruption came when Mr Macmillan moved on to the subject of inspection and control of disarmament.

The prime minister said he understood Soviet concerns that inspection and control of arms could be a cover for espionage.

At this point, Mr Khrushchev stood up and waved his hand and shouted: "You accept my disarmament proposals and I'll accept any controls."

During last Friday's session of the General Assembly, Mr Khrushchev accused the UN of siding with the so-called colonial powers.

He is angry at the UN's refusal to use military force in newly independent Congo, which appears to be on the brink of civil war. Instead, a UN peacekeeping force has been deployed with orders not to intervene to influence the outcome of the conflict.

Courtesy BBC News

In context

On 3 October, Nikita Khrushchev demanded the resignation of Dag Hammarskjold, accusing him of acting on behalf of the colonial powers and therefore not fit to represent all nations of the

A week later Mr Khrushchev caused uproar when he famously used his shoe to bang on the desk after the Philippine delegate accused the USSR of imperialism in Eastern Europe.

The UN Secretary General was later killed during a visit to Congo in September 1961.

He was on his way by plane to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Congo and Katanga when the aircraft exploded.

There are various theories as to why the plane crashed and sabotage has still not been ruled out. He was posthumously awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1961.

page 21



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES



This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive. You'll find you're detail oriented today.

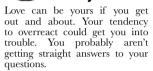


TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. Resist any idle chatter.







CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Acceptance will be necessary. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. You need a break from your daily routine.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Travel will entice you; however, a tendency to overspend is quite possible.



LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Channel energy passionate interludes with your lover. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. You must be sure not to be frivolous, because as the saying goes, easy come, easy go.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Recognition will be vours you meet your deadline. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Financial limitations are likely if you take risks.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It won't take much to upset your lover. Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. Camping, swimming, and biking expeditions should all be considered.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Listen and formulate your course of action. You will be indecisive. Your temper could get the better you confront personal situations. Think twice before you volunteer information.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Avoid getting trapped in internal disputes. You might find it difficult to control your emotions. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades.



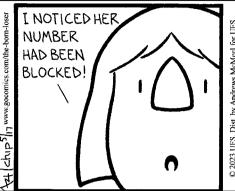
PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You can't live your life for others. Your compassion will be appreciated more than you can imagine. Opportunities for travel must be carefully considered.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom







SUDOKU

EASY

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

MEDIUM

7

2

8

7

EASY+

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|-----------|-----|-----|---------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 15 | 26 | fine |
| Changchun | 11 | 22 | showers |
| Chengdu | 19 | 26 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 21 | 27 | rain |
| Fuzhou | 26 | 33 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 25 | 33 | thunderstorms |
| Guiyang | 20 | 29 | cloudy |
| Haikou | 25 | 31 | cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 23 | 30 | rain |
| Harbin | 9 | 18 | showers |
| Hefei | 20 | 29 | rain |
| Nanjing | 22 | 28 | thunderstorms |
| Shanghai | 24 | 29 | rain |
| Taipei | 25 | 30 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 21 | 27 | overcast |
| Hong Hong | 28 | 32 | rain |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 11 | 24 | overcast |
| Frankfurt | 13 | 27 | overcast |
| Paris | 11 | 23 | overcast |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Specialty; 5- A, as in Athens; 10- Vaporize; 14- Maryland athlete, for short; 15- Member of the nobility; 16- ___ Domini; 17- For one; 18- Crackerjack; 19bene; 20- Threshold; 22- PC storage medium; 23- Portent; 24- Highland hillside; 26-Stiff bristles; 29- Offhand; 33- Position; 34- Stub; 35- Seek the affection of; 36- "From according to his abilities..."; 37- ____-ski; 38- Slender missile; 39- Packed away; 40-Gillette razors; 41- Connected series of rooms; 42- Answered sharply; 44- Sum; 45-Motion picture; 46- Like some dorms; 48- Unit of magnetic induction; 51- Interfered with; 55- Repeat; 56- Maker of Pong; 58- Defense grp. since 1949; 59- Actor Stoltz; 60- Sublease; 61- River to the Caspian Sea; 62- Dip into coffee; 63- Sanctify; 64-

DOWN 1- Not much; 2- Bank takeback; 3- Switch back?; 4- To come nearer to; 5- Lessen; 6- Burdened; 7- Type of school or cook; 8- Bounce on one foot; 9- Tiny

toiler; 10- Like a lemur's tail; 11-(roughly); 12- A big fan of; 13- Rich soil; 21-"Peter Pan" pirate; 22- Andy of the comics; 24- Depressed spirits; 25- Super Bowl XXXIV champs; 26- Chucked weapon; 27- Overjoy; 28- Be silent, musically; 29- Fine fiddle; 30- Expect; 31- A bit, colloquially; 32- The Hilton, e.g.; 34- Carousal; 37- Env. notation; 38- Upper part of the intestines; 40- Met highlight; 41- Part of a process; 43- Word of the hour?: 46- Ministers to: 47- Drops: 48- Ticked (off); 49- Light brown; 50- Type of guard; 51- Story, often rooted in folklore; 52- Steak order; 53- Bibliography abbr.; 54-Dunce; 56- Short trader?; 57- ___ Aviv;



| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----------|
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | Т | \vdash | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | Г | П |
| | | | 23 | Г | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | 29 | | | | | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| 33 | | | | | | 34 | | | | Г | | 35 | Г | П |
| 36 | \vdash | \vdash | | | 37 | | | | | | 38 | | Г | П |
| 39 | | | | 40 | | | | | | 41 | | | Г | П |
| 42 | | | 43 | | | | | | | 44 | | | Г | П |
| | | | 45 | | | | | 46 | 47 | | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | | | | | 51 | | | Г | | 62 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | \vdash | \vdash | | | 56 | 57 | | | | | 58 | | \Box | П |
| 59 | \vdash | | | | 60 | | | | | | 61 | | Т | П |
| 62 | \vdash | \vdash | | | 63 | | | | | | 64 | | \vdash | \vdash |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

9

16

19

18

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

London

New York

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

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overcast

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Electricity - Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081







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DRIVE IN

'DUMB MONEY' RECALLS GAMESTOP SQUEEZE, WHEN REGULAR FOLK PUT THE SCREWS ON WALL STREET

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP **ENTERTAINMENT WRITER**

THE little guy — or at least L the little guy with a few hundred bucks to sink into the stock market — gets a movie to cheer with "Dumb Money," the real story of a very recent financial rebellion that shook Wall Street to its loafers.

Paul Dano plays our hero here, Keith Gill, a new dad from the Boston suburbs who goes online to advise anyone listening about his stock picks wearing a red headband and colorful, cat-themed T-shirts. "I wouldn't take investment advice from a guy in a cat shirt," one character warns. But they do.

Gill was bullish on one particular company — GameStop, the struggling retail chain that sells video games and accessories. Large institutional Wall Street firms were betting the company would continue to flounder and parked money on losses.



Paul Dano as Keith Gill in a scene from "Dumb Money"

But Gill convinced a band of smaller-pocketed and novice investors to pile in and buy GameStop stock, pushing the stock higher and higher, a so-called "short squeeze" that caused

billions of loses for hedge funds. That is until Wall Street fought back (and not entirely fairly).

"Dumb Money," whose title comes from the derisory term institutional investors call regular folk, wears its love of the little guy on its sleeve. The film uses very likable blue-collar workers and students in Texas, Pittsburgh and Boston while the Wall Street guys are cartoonishly playing tennis or are being served fancy meals by servants.

Lauren Schuker Blum and Rebecca Angelo, two former Wall Street Journal reporters-turned--screenwriters, wrote the script and Craig Gillespie, director of the Tonya Harding black comedy "I, Tonya," helms in a more linear, less impressionistic way than his last film.

"Dumb Money" is a sort of corrective to "The Wolf of Wall Street," and "The Big Short," which concentrated on boardrooms. This movie is set in dorms and basement offices and hospitals. If complex financial products were previously explained by Margot Robbie in a bathtub, this time they're discussed by a fully-clothed nurse between rounds.

That nurse is played by America Ferrera and she's just superb, reflecting the rest of the cast of Pete Davidson, Vincent D'Onofrio, Nick Offerman, Anthony Ramos, Sebastian Stan, Shailene Woodley and Seth Rogen. Davidson, who can be uneven, here offers a stand-out comedic and dramatic turn. Dano is the calm, everyman center, instantly amiable. And Cardi B's "WAP" is the delightful soundtrack connecting them.

Gillespie enlivens the movie with snatches of real TV news coverage - CNN, Fox Business and CNBC, among them — as well as internet memes that small investors used — often populated by gorillas - that urged each other to hold onto GameStop stock not to make money but to stick it to the hedge funds, who squeeze profits by big layoffs.

The movie's end is unsatisfying but not because of any fault of the filmmakers. The stock frenzy of 2021 caused the failure of a hedge fund and exposed some troubling practices from the mobile trading platform Robinhood. But Wall Street — like the slogan on Gill's kitty poster — keeps hanging in there.

"Dumb Money," a Sony Pictures release, is rated R for "pervasive language, sexual material, and drug use." Running time: 110 minutes.



TASTE OF EDESIA

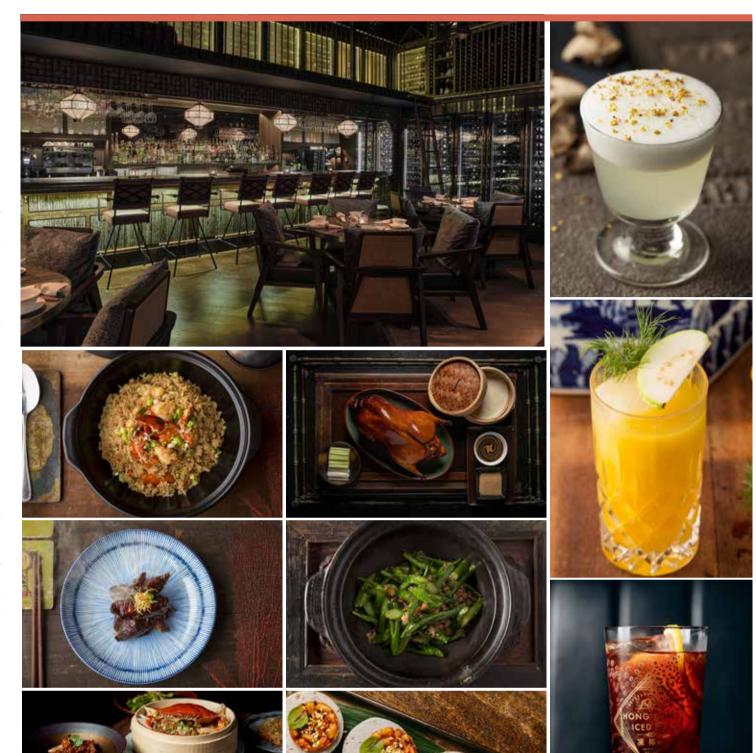
Talk of the town

IRENE SAM, MDT

OTT 32 Hong Kong, the luxury Chinese restaurant, is ushering in the Autumn/Winter season with a new Seasonal Menu that plays homage to China's Fukien province. The new menu celebrates the important role that Fukien cuisine has played in China's culinary history, by presenting authentic dishes crafted using seasonal ingredients and traditional preparation techniques, with a particular focus on fresh, locally sourced seafood.

Chef Lee Man-Sing, Group Executive Chef at Mott 32 and Maximal Concepts shares, "Fukien cuisine, often known as 'Min Cai, is entwined in China's culinary heritage and is loved by people all over the world. During my recent travels, I connected with Chinese people in Canada and The Philippines and resonated with their deep yearning to be embraced by the comforting flavours of Fukien recipes. Through this seasonal menu, diners will be taken on a culinary journey through the coastal province, experiencing wholesome dishes that honour timeless traditions whilst being elevated for the modern guest".

Fukien cuisine places great importance on preserving the natural flavour of ingredients. Characterised by subtle and delicate tastes, each bite strikes a balance between sweet, savoury, and umami notes, leaving diners craving more. Highlights of the Autumn/Winter Seasonal Menu include Drunken Mantis Shrimp, Glutinous Rice Wine. The dish allows guest to be immersed in a delightful culinary experience with succulent, fresh mantis shrimp infused with aromatic glutinous rice wine. A harmonious blend of garlic, cilantro, and a touch of fiery red chili creates the perfect balance of flavours.



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OPINION

Business Views

Shuli Ren, Bloomberg



FINALLY, THERE'S MORE MONEY THAN FOOLS IN CHINA

For years, China's netizens joked that the country was home to millions of fools with a lot of money. They were called "chives," a healthy crop that can flourish soon after harvesting, and keep coming up again and again.

This characterization was not entirely unjustified. After all, China's fervent day traders did propel the stock market to dare-devil levels in 2015. The equally spectacular crash did not seem to leave long-lasting trauma. A few years later, the optimistic rekindled their spirits, raining down billions of dollars onto whatever was trendy, from star managers' new funds to apple futures.

That audacity has evaporated, however. Three decades after the opening of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the Chinese have become hard-nosed investors. They no longer want to be the fools catching the falling knives.

For evidence of that changing sentiment, look no further than consumers' savings data and the central bank's quarterly urban survey. As of August, household deposits totaled a record 132 trillion yuan (\$18 trillion), blowing past China's entire gross domestic product last year. People keep on putting money into banks even as the People's Bank of China cuts deposit rates.

It's well-known the Chinese have been hoarding cash since the pandemic. But this behavior started as early as 2018. By then, households had already gone through a roller-coaster ride of excitements and disappointments. In fact, their preference for buying investment products, such as stocks, bonds and trusts, has been on a steady decline since the 2015 crash, according to the central bank survey.

This risk-off mentality creates a big headache for the government, in that it inevitably dampens new policies aimed at boosting market sentiment. Last month, a stamp duty cut, the first since 2008, sparked a blink-of-an-eye 5.5% stock rally — it lasted for only one minute at the open before fizzling out. Similarly, a spurt in home sales in China's biggest cities lost momentum less than two weeks after authorities loosened mortgage restrictions.

Once bitten, twice shy. The Shanghai Composite Index hovers at around 3,100, more than 40% below its record high in 2007. In the property market, existing home prices have fallen by at least 15% from their peak in more than half of China's tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

State media likes to scoff at American exceptionalism, criticizing gun violence or racial tensions whenever they are on the news. But with wealth creation, the US is unquestionably exceptional. Households have about 39% of their money tied in the market and only 13% in cash and bank deposits, according to data from the Federal Reserve. They are willing to tolerate uncertainty, because the stock market, over time, rewards those who buy and hold.

Not in China. People have realized that taking risks doesn't benefit them, at least not in the current political economy. They have money, but prefer sitting on the sidelines.

Courtesy Bloomberg

XI SAYS CONFIDENCE 'MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD' IN MARCH TOWARD REJUVENATION

President Xi Jinping attended a grand reception held in Beijing to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and delivered an important speech last night, Xinhua reported.

The state agency reported that Li Qiang presided over the reception. Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attended the event together with around 800 Chinese and foreign guests.

Xi called on the nation to firm up confidence and strive in unity in the relentless endeavor toward building a strong China and realizing national rejuvenation.

"Our strength comes from unity and confidence is more valuable than gold," said Xi, as cited by Xinhua.

Xi said "the future is bright and the nation should continue to surmount difficulties and march forward."

In another occasion yesterday, President Xi called for dedication and greater efforts to make new and greater contributions to advancing the high-quality development of the cause of women and children.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in his recent instruction on the country's work for women and children.



India's Roshibina Devi Naorem (left) and China's Xiaowei Wu fight during the Wushu women's 60kg final

SPORTS

HOST CHINA CONTINUES ASIAN GAMES DOMINANCE BY SURPASSING 150 MEDALS ON DAY 5 OF THE EVENT

DAVID RISING, HANGZHOU

CHINA blew past the 150-medal mark yesterday on Day 5 of the Asian Games, more than double the number of second-place South Korea as the home nation continued its decades-long domination of the event.

The hosts were bolstered by multiple golds in a home sport yesterday, as Chinese athletes won the men's 70-, 60- and 56-kilogram finals in Wushu martial arts, as well as the women's 60- and 52-kilogram finals.

He Feng, who took gold in the 70-kilogram final by beating former Asian Games gold medalist Mohsen Mohammadseifi of Iran, was trailing in the first round and credited his coaches for helping him adjust.

"It is mainly the result of the tactics and training by the coach, then the most important thing is mentality, which determines success or failure," he said. "I always tell myself not to give up, persistence is victory."

Host nations traditionally get a homefield "me-

dal bump," and He said the crowd also helped keep him going.

"Seeing so many people cheering for me, I think I can't give up, no matter how tired I am," He said.

China won almost 300 medals — 132 gold — five years ago at the Asian Games in Indonesia, with South Korea and Japan the main challengers.

Similarly, the two countries were in second and third place for overall medals on Day 5 this year with another 10 days to go.

The Asian Games feature 12,500 participants from 45 nations and territories — more than the 10,500 from about 200 delegations expected at next year's Paris Olympics.

ESPORTS: Despite its early dominance, China will have to settle for a battle for bronze in the popular League of Legends online video game after falling Thursday to the strong South Korean team led by Lee Sang-hyeok.

Lee, better known in the online gaming world as "Faker," is commonly called the League of Legends GOAT — Greatest Of All Time — and the South Korean team has yet to lose a

game

China was thought to be a challenge in the closely-watched match, but South Korea was able to win the best-of-three series 2-0.

"I hope we can learn from today's lessons and play better tomorrow," said Chinese player Tian Ye, also known as "Meiko." "I hope the players can adjust themselves well after today."

SHOOTING: Kazakhstan won two golds and a silver in shooting events yesterday, while North Korea earned a gold, silver and bronze.

Kazakhstan won gold in both the women's 10-meter running target and the skeet mixed team competition. It took silver in the women's team 10-meter running target as well.

North Korea won gold in the women's team 10-meter running target, and silver and bronze in the individual version of the same event.

In other shooting competitions, India won gold in the men's team 10-meter air pistol event, and Vietnam won gold in the individual version of the same event. MDT/AP



Israel's Supreme Court yesterday was hearing a challenge to a law that makes it harder to remove a sitting prime minister, which critics say is designed to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has been working to reshape the justice system while he is on trial for alleged corruption. The hearing is part of several pivotal court challenges against a proposed package of legislation and government steps meant to alter the country's justice system.

Armenia The separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh announced yesterday that it will dissolve itself and the unrecognized republic will cease to exist by the end of the year, and Armenian officials said more than half of the population has already fled. That is after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive to reclaim full control over its breakaway region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh lay down their weapons and the separatist government dissolve itself. More on p20



Denmark The Right Livelihood Award known as the "Alternative Nobel" — was awarded yesterday to environment activists from Kenya and Cambodia, a human right defender from Ghana and a humanitarian group that rescues migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. The 2023 laureates "stand up to save lives, preserve nature and safeguard the dignity and livelihoods of communities around the world," the award foundation said."

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Thursday October 5. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.