



THE MONTHLY RENTAL FOR FIRST BATCH OF APARTMENTS FOR SENIORS OFFERED RANGES BETWEEN 5,410 AND 6,680 PATACAS

P4

TAXI SERVICE UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE LEGISLATIVE PLENARY MEETING

P2

BRI: PUTIN'S VISIT TO BEIJING UNDERSCORES CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR RUSSIA

P7



AP PHOTO



Indonesia's top court yesterday ruled against lowering the minimum age of presidential and vice presidential candidates as the country gears up for election in 2024. The court's decision is final and can't be appealed. In August, seven politicians — including from the Indonesian Solidarity Party chaired by the youngest son of current President Joko Widodo — filed a petition against the current age limit for candidates, asking it to be lowered to 35 instead of 40.

AP PHOTO



Myanmar's military government hosted representatives from ethnic rebel groups Sunday to mark the eighth anniversary of the signing of a multilateral cease-fire agreement. But the event was boycotted by three of the signatories that oppose the current army-installed regime. The event in the capital Naypyitaw was the first such formal gathering of the military government and ethnic minority leaders since the army seized power from Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1, 2021.

AP PHOTO



Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said yesterday it has started destroying surveillance cameras on several Israeli army posts along the border as tension rose following the Israel-Hamas war that began Oct. 7. Hezbollah's military media arm released a video showing snipers shooting at and destroying surveillance cameras placed on five points along the Lebanon-Israel border.

More on backpage

IT'S THE SPORTS

Recent medals won in Asian Games set the tone for calls for sports promotion at the Legislative Assembly P3



BALANCE POINT

WST reaches 'agreeable solution' as Macau snooker event postponed

P2



ASIAN ENTERTAINMENT EXPO ORGANIZER HOPES TO EXPORT LOCAL SHOWBIZ

P4

TRANSPORTATION

TAXI SERVICE UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AT AL

RENATO MARQUES

THE topic of the taxi service in Macau continues to attract the attention of several sectors of society with multiple personalities issuing opinions on the matter.

Yesterday, at the first plenary meeting at the Legislative Assembly (AL) after the legislative holidays, several lawmakers took the opportunity during the period before the agenda to issue opinions and suggestions on this issue.

All of those making inquiries agreed that the taxi service in Macau currently is insufficient and needs significant improvements to be able to satisfy both residents and tourists.

Ma Io Fong extensively addressed the topic claiming that under the new taxi law, which imposes harsher punishments for the drivers, the number of cases of overcharging, refusal to transport



passengers, and choice of longer routes during the trip have reduced significantly.

However, the same lawmaker added that this method of applying fines without offering any incentives "can only prevent taxi drivers from making mistakes, but cannot enhance the quality of the service."

Ma believes that to improve

the service the government must create an incentive scheme that could, for instance, establish "Good Taxi Driver Awards" that would evaluate the service of all drivers, thus distinguishing those who provide good service from those who do not.

Additionally, Ma wants the government to create and officially establish a supplementary fee to

be charged by taxi drivers for travel during bad weather. This would legalize the overcharging that some taxi drivers practice against the laws that currently regulate the sector, particularly during the strong typhoons when other public transportation methods suspend their operations.

"An acceptable proposal to both the sector and community

regarding an additional fee in the event of bad weather must be discussed, guaranteeing the rights and interests of both drivers and passengers," Ma said at the AL.

Other lawmakers like Ho Ion Sang also addressed the topic, who noted that with the recent increase in the number of tourists, the difficulties in managing to catch a bus has "resurfaced," especially during holidays and days in which there are public events and other activities in Macau.

Ho added that in addition to increasing "the number of taxis and launching, as soon as possible, a public tender for 500 new taxi licenses with a term of eight years, the most important thing is to solve the problem of the difficulty of hailing a taxi, both for residents and tourists. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the [taxi calling] application as soon as possible, as well as optimize the service of advanced booking and exact positioning."

WST reaches 'agreeable solution' with players as snooker event postponed

LYNZY VALLES

THE snooker exhibition event in Macau has been moved to December, following a clash with the Northern Ireland Open that put five top players in the center of an imbroglio and threatened with severe sanctions.

The event was slated to feature world champion Luca Brecel, Mark Selby, John Higgins, Thailand's Thepchaiya Un-Nooh and Ali Carter, who had been warned that participation in the local non-sanctioned event during a professional tournament, instead of the Northern Ireland Open in Belfast from Oct. 22-29, would constitute a breach of their contracts with World Snooker Tour (WST).

However, over the weekend, WST said in a statement, "WST can confirm that



the Macau event previously scheduled for October 27-29 will now take place December 22-24 with players having received WST permission to enter."

"As has been the case throughout, and contrary to reports, WST has dealt with all parties in a respectful and productive manner to reach an outcome which is satisfactory to all parties.

As previously stated, due

to contractual obligations, the original dates promoted would have been unacceptable and potentially lead to disciplinary action for those players choosing to compete in this event rather than the Northern Ireland Open," it added.

According to the WST, a "mutually agreeable solution has been reached to avoid further action."

Players do not have to

enter all WST events, but are contractually obliged to avoid doing 'anything that is detrimental to the WST,' such as taking part in any non-sanctioned event run at the same time.

WST honorary president Barry Hearn had accused the players involved of "selling their souls and themselves down the river for an extra few quid," as cited in a BBC report.

GAMING

GALAXY CLARIFIES NO PLANS TO RE-ENTER PHILIPPINE MARKET

GALAXY Entertainment Group clarified it is not planning to re-enter the Philippine market, following reports that it is contemplating developing a resort in Boracay.

In a statement, the gaming operator said, "Contrary to some recent media reports, GEG is not

considering re-entering Boracay in the Philippines to develop a resort."

"Our recent focus is on the full reopening of Macau, ramping up our recently launched Phase 3 and the construction of Phase 4 [of our resort]," it added.

Philippine media reports that listed ga-

ming company Digi-Plus Interactive Corp. is trying to woo back its partner in the planned USD500-million integrated beach resort and casino project on Boracay Island, as cited in a Philippine Daily Inquirer report.

Back in 2017, the two parties announced their intention to undertake the multi-million dollar project. However, the plan was put on hold following a casino ban imposed by former President Rodrigo Duterte.

During that time, as Duterte dropped the hammer on any new developments, Galaxy then said the company was ready to move forward on Boracay. **LV**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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

AL PLENARY

Recent medals set the tone for calls for sports promotion

RENATO MARQUES

THE recent medals won by local athletes in this year's Asian Games have prompted several lawmakers to take the opportunity to call on the government for more and better sports promotion.

At the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) in the period before the agenda, Wong Kit Cheng, Ma Chi Seng (with Kou Kam Fai), and Leong Sun Lok presented spoken inquiries on the topic, calling on the government to seize the opportunity just as local athletes have seen their efforts recognized and the population is proud and alerted to more intensive promotion of participation in sports in Macau from beginners to the professional level.

The lawmakers called upon the government to focus on timely and efficient use of land resources to build sports facilities for all sectors of the community to improve health, physical fitness, and wellbeing in general.

Wong also noted that good long term planning is necessary so that sports facilities are spread equitably across the city.

The same lawmaker also wants the government to "Strengthen support for the development of professional athletes" by improving the program of financial support to athletes as well as investment in training resources.

The goal, according to Wong, is that local youngsters with a talent for sports can choose to dedica-



themselves to this without the fear that this choice will jeopardize their future in terms of career, income, and livelihood.

On the same topic, Ma and Kou in a joint inquiry called on the government to provide added support to school sports activities, as, in their opinion, this is the "main constituent of youngsters' sports activities."

The two lawmakers also want the government to promote high-performance sports in schools.

"Performance sport must be promoted in schools, in classes, and in physical education, to prepare well-rounded professionals, with moral, intellectual and physical qualities. It is necessary to take advantage of schools' educational resources to resolve the

conflict between studying and training athletes, and develop schools as cradles for excellent athletes, in favor of the development of sport in Macau," they

said. For the past few decades, however, the general opinion among professionals in the field has been that schools should create opportunities for the deve-

lopment and learning of all, and that clubs and associations be responsible for the attraction and further training of those more skilled and dedicated to sports.

The duo of lawmakers also mentioned the importance of the development of "tourism + sports" as referred to in the policy address from the government.

Over the years, Macau has hosted a large number of sports events and some international level competitions, but rarely participates in the organization of sports events in which local athletes and teams take part in the competition. The local athletes have been, in most cases, used as workers or, at the most, advisors.

Leong also alerted the government to the importance of community drivers in the promotion and training of sporting talent, calling on both the government and the major companies in Macau, particularly those linked with the gaming industry, to support the clubs and associations directly, a method used worldwide and commonly known as patronage. This allows smaller clubs and sports associations to benefit directly from sponsorship instead of competing with others for a "slice of the big cake," or government funding.

ELECTION LAW FOR CE PASSED IN FIRST READING

YESTERDAY afternoon the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed the amendments to the election law for the Chief Executive (CE) in the first reading.

The law that had been mostly considered together with that for the election of the AL lawmakers has been separated out to accelerate the legislative process due to the impending election next year. The law did not raise many concerns or questions by the lawmakers, who

mostly expressed their agreement with the provisions.

Some questioned precisely the timing of the law and the fast pace with which the government seems to be delivering it for lawmakers' consideration and vote, with some saying that it would be beneficial to address it in a calmer and more careful way.

In the comments, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, justified the "rush" due to

the timing of the elections which will take place next year, noting the process of public consultation and respective reports, which were also time-consuming.

Still, he insisted that the government hopes that this law will be finally approved by the AL "within this year" [before the end of 2023] "to allow enough time for the candidates for the election of the CE to get acquainted with the new rules and procedures."

TRANSPORTATION

No statistics on mobile-related traffic incidents

RENATO MARQUES

NO local statistics exist on how mobile phone use contributes to traffic accidents, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has said in a written reply to a Times inquiry.

"There are no statistics on traffic incidents directly or indirectly caused by the use of mobile phones," the PSP said.

"The cause of traffic incidents is mainly attributable to improper operation of vehicles by motorists (e.g. failure to control vehicle speed, careless steering, etc.)."



RENATO MARQUES

The PSP noted that police officers will prosecute those involved in traffic

accidents after the cause of the accident has been identified and verified.

The local police said the number of prosecutions against motorists for using mobile phones while driving was 1,585 cases in 2022 (132.1 cases per month) and that from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 this year, the total is 1,328 cases or 147.6 cases per month.

According to several studies published worldwide, the probability of being involved in a traffic accident is four times higher if the driver is using a mobile phone.

The same studies concluded that reaction times are two times slower if a person is texting and dri-

ving while using a hands-free phone than if they are drinking and driving, with this factor increasing to three times where drivers are using handheld phones.

It is very common to see Macau people using mobile phones while driving - and even while riding a motorcycle - with many listening to and recording audio messages.

This is also often the case with food delivery riders as well as taxi drivers.

MORE BUS DRIVER PROSECUTIONS

The number of bus driver prosecutions has in-

creased this year, the PSP has said in response to an inquiry from the Times.

The PSP said that compared to 2022, prosecutions of bus drivers have grown from 263 to 347 (+31.9%) in the first nine months of the year.

The same figures also show that from January to September 2023, the number of cases recorded by the PSP (347) has almost reached the 2022 total of 365 prosecutions.

The same force said there is no detailed data about why bus drivers have been prosecuted. There is also no detailed data on the buses being stopped for police inspection nor on cases of overcrowding on buses, which the Times has reported on previously.

EDUCATION

EPM HAS NEW DIRECTOR: REPORT

Acácio de Brito has been invited to take on the role of director at the Portuguese School of Macau (EPM), according to a report by TDM-Radio Macau. Holding degrees in Philosophy and Philosophy Education from the Catholic University, Acácio de Brito currently serves as an education and science inspector for the Portuguese Ministry of Education. He previously led the Portuguese School in Dili from September 2015 to February 2023. Additionally, de Brito has completed an advanced course in Public Management (INA) and holds postgraduate degrees in Philosophy, Human Resource Management, and Educational Sciences. He has experience as a teacher at both secondary and university levels and boasts extensive management experience in public schools, the local broadcaster added.

2023 CHINESE TENNIS ASSOCIATION TOUR FINALS TO BE HELD IN MACAU

The 2023 Chinese Tennis Association (CTA) Tour Professional Finals and the National Tennis Championships will be held in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) from Dec. 4 to 10, organizers said yesterday. Elite tennis players from the Chinese mainland will gather in Macau to compete in the top tennis event in December, vying for honors in the four categories of men's and women's singles and doubles. Pun Weng Kun, president of the Sports Bureau said that the event can further strengthen sports exchanges between Macau and the mainland, as well as enhance the host city's image as a sport and tourism destination.



ASIA PERFORMANCE ENTERTAINMENT

EXPO ORGANIZER HOPES TO EXPORT LOCAL SHOWBIZ

ANTHONY LAM

Organizers of the inaugural Asia Performance Entertainment Expo hope to export local singers and shows, while gathering entertainment stakeholders for business matching opportunities.

The expo will be held from Nov. 17 to 19 at Cotai Expo at the Venetian Macao. Alongside the expo, a series of concerts will also be held at the Venetian, where owner Sands China Ltd. is the venue sponsor of the event.

Conceding that show business of Macau is 40 years behind its counterparts in Hong Kong, Taiwan or mainland China, Jones Chong, executive committee member of the Asia-Pacific Live Performance Industry Association, the organizing body

of the expo, hopes to export local singers and shows from Macau through the expo.

Founded on a business-to-business (B2B) approach, the expo will feature industry practitioners from all over the world, according to Chong, and he is hopeful that Macau performers and practitioners will see opportunities for certain business matching.

Adding to Chong's comment, Simon Tse, executive committee member and honorary secretary of the association, was confident that there will be single or album premieres at the expo, hinting that local performers will be able to utilize the expo as a platform to promote themselves and perform for external show organizers.

This is also the reason why the

expo will be suitable for the general public. Tse believes that the prospective premieres, or launching sessions, will help gather local audiences at the expo.

Chong added that the expo may appeal to some members of the public who have an interest in looking behind the stage to understand how the industry operates and what it takes to get a show organized.

Tse also revealed his confidence that the expo will create space for new players to debut or showcase their abilities. Industry practitioners and show organizers will have the chance to make deals with these prospective stars, which will be much more affordable than hiring big names.

To underline his comment, he cited Eric Tsang, Hong Kong TVB's general manager for con-

tent operations, as saying that the TV station has a lot of artists and performers who could be featured, and who were ready for the stage and fresh opportunities.

Although some neighboring regions have a more developed and sophisticated show business, Macau was picked as the location of the inaugural event. When asked by the Times about the reason behind the choice of location, Chong explained that the association is a non-profit entity, underlining the shortage of both human and financial resources to host the event.

He then took the opportunity to thank Sands China Ltd. for sponsoring the venue costs, which has eased any financial pressure on the association. This is also why Macau was chosen as the location of the expo.

Alongside the expo, the inaugural KoolTai Macao Music Festival 2023 music festival, will feature big names in the industry such as Suede, Lisa Ono and Jessie J. performing in the two-day event held at the Cotai Expo from Nov. 11 to 12.

On Nov. 17-18, the "The Storm Show" movie will be screened at the Venetian Theater. It is a videographed musical of the movie of the same name based on Hong Kong comic writer Ma Wing-shing's Fung Wan story. The musical stars renowned actors from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Pakho Chau "Seize the Moment" World Tour 2023 will be held at Cotai Arena Nov. 17. On Nov. 18, Cotai Arena will see the signature program: "Enjoy the Present, Create the Future" concert, featuring singers from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

Outdoor community performances in major cultural districts in Macau and Taipa will be held from Nov. 13 to 16.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Rental for first batch of apartments for seniors starts from MOP5,410

ANTHONY LAM

The monthly rental for the first batch of apartments for seniors offered will range between MOP5,410 and MOP6,680, the government announced in a dispatch yesterday.

The official term for the rental charge is usage fee.

Rental price is determined not only by the size and aspect of an apartment, but also the floor level on which it is located. Apartments located between the fourth and 21st floors will see monthly rentals between MOP5,410



and MOP6,370. Those located from 22nd to 37th

floor will be between MOP5,670 and MOP6,680.

Users of the first batch of 759 apartments will en-

joy 20% discount on rental during the validity of the first contract. The deposit is set to equate to two months' rental.

Based upon a points' system, anybody meeting the critical criteria for application will be given 50 points. Additional points can be scored for a variety of criteria.

Applicants who have lived in apartments in a building without elevators for less than seven years and over seven years will earn 50 and 100 additional points respectively. Should this be the only real estate held by the applicants, they will be given 100 additional points. Those living on their own will earn 100 additional points.

Counting from the first issuance date stated on the applicants' Macau ID,

those holding Macau IDs for over 30 years will earn 50 additional points. Those between 20 and 30 years and those between 11 and 20 years will get 25 and 10 points respectively.

Those having lived in Macau for the past 12 months and those applying to live with another applicant will get 25 and 100 additional points respectively. Applicants having left Macau for not more than 45 days – continuously or intermittently – in the past 12 months will be considered.

The government also explained that the applicant with the higher number of points shall be prioritized should two applicants apply for the same apartment. No restriction on the gender of co-habiting applicants was mentioned.

SPORTS

Messi's Inter Miami team strikes two-game deal to play in China in November

TIM REYNOLDS, FORT LAUDERDALE (FLA.)

LIONEL Messi is evidently going back to China, after Inter Miami took advantage of not making the Major League Soccer playoffs by signing a deal to play two exhibitions there next month.

The team said it would play a pair of friendlies against Chinese Super League teams, first in Qingdao, China against Qingdao Hainiu on Nov. 5 and then against Chengdu Rongcheng in Chengdu, China on Nov. 8. Those two stadiums can both hold between 50,000 and 60,000 fans.

Those dates coincide with the first round of the MLS playoffs. Inter Miami was eliminated from playoff contention earlier this month.

Inter Miami's announcement of the deal did not specifically mention Messi or any other player, though it would be surprising if Chinese officials agreed to the games without some sort of guarantee that the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner and the team's other best-known standouts — Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba among them — would be making the trip if physically able.

"This will be a great opportunity to continue building on our 2023 campaign, in which we achieved our first-ever trophy," Inter Miami sporting director and chief soccer officer Chris Henderson said in a release distributed by the team. "We will take this as an opportunity to begin our preparations for 2024, as we look to build on last season



AP PHOTO

and find more success moving forward."

If Messi — who led Argentina to the World Cup title last year — plays, it would be at least the eighth time he has traveled to China for exhibitions for club or country since 2005. Ticket for all previous Messi appearances have sold at a wild pace in China, a nation that has a massive soccer following even without much in the way of global success by the men's national team. China's women made the World Cup final in 1999, falling to the U.S. in a penalty-kick shootout

to decide the title at the Rose Bowl in California.

Messi has played in China as recently as this past June, shortly after he stunned much of the soccer world by announcing that he was signing a 2 1/2-year contract worth around \$150 million to come to MLS and play for Inter Miami. He scored barely one minute into a match for Argentina against Australia in Beijing on June 15, and later was surprised by fan — one wearing a Messi jersey — somehow getting onto the field to ask for a hug.

Messi also won Olympic gold in China, helping Argentina win the title at the Beijing Games in 2008. He and Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham have enormous followings in Asia, along with several endorsement deals in the region.

This is the first international tour for Inter Miami, which is about to end its fourth MLS season. The team won the Leagues Cup this season, doing so shortly after Messi began playing for Inter Miami in July.

The team didn't reveal television

or ticket information. The lowest-priced seats for Messi's appearance at Beijing in June were listed at \$80 and the highest-priced were around \$670 at face value; if the price points for that match are similar to what's set on this tour, the two matches could generate well over \$20 million in ticket revenue alone.

That suggests this trip could be another major financial win for Inter Miami. MLS officials said Messi's jersey has been the league's top seller in 2023 — even though it wasn't on sale until July — and the team has told its season ticket holders that it plans to increase prices dramatically for the 2024 season.

"We're very excited to continue to expand our club's global reach, bringing our team to play in front of incredible fans across the globe," Inter Miami chief business officer Xavier Asensi said in remarks distributed by the club. "This is a special opportunity to share the passion as we reach new audiences and put ourselves on display in new places, and we're looking forward to beginning this adventure."

Inter Miami finishes its MLS season this week with matches against Charlotte on Wednesday and Saturday. Messi is currently with Argentina's national team for World Cup qualifying and — given that nothing is at stake — it would seem unlikely that he'll appear in either of the final two MLS matches of the season for his club.

The team hasn't publicly revealed plans for any other international tours for 2024, but others are expected given Messi's enormous global popularity. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China donates MOP1 million for university scholarships



Sands China Ltd. presented MOP1.08 million in ceremonial checks to representatives of seven higher education institutions at a ceremony at The Venetian, as part of the

company's ongoing support of higher education in Macau.

"Sands China is very pleased to support higher education in Macau, as it is essential for nurturing

the thriving of local youth," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Including this year's donation, Sands China has donated MOP14.6 million for tertiary scholarships and fellowships in Macau since 2006, benefitting more than 1,700 students.

The educational institutions select beneficiary students based on their academic performance and financial status during the previous academic year. This year's MOP1.08 million donation will be distributed among 108 students to support their studies for the current academic year.

MGM's RG promotional campaign launches new school tour program



MGM has launched a new RG promotional campaign — "MGM Responsible Gaming Community Engagement Scheme," which aims to strategically promote the prevention of gambling disorders and RG educa-

tion to the community.

In view of combatting the trend of gambling among the younger generation and promoting positive values, this October MGM is introducing an educational musical na-

med "The Ideal Life of Aladdin," a school tour program that extends RG and proper money management concepts to over 3,000 primary and secondary school students from more than 20 schools.

May Leong, vice president of Table Games of MGM said, "As we enter into a new decade of development this year, the company has launched the new 'MGM Responsible Gaming Community Engagement Scheme,' one that collaborates with local associations to promote RG to various groups in the community."

The musical exhibits the importance of financial planning in a fun and creative manner, which goes on a month-long tour for over 3,000 local students from Primary 4 to Form 2.

BRI FORUM

Kenya seeks more Chinese loans despite rising public debt

EMMANUEL IGUNZA,
NAIROBI

KENYA'S President William Ruto sought \$1 billion more in loans from China yesterday, despite rising public debt that has now reached \$70 billion in the Eastern African country, according to National Treasury figures for 2022/2023.

President Ruto was one of a number of global leaders in Beijing to attend the tenth anniversary meeting of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the ambitious plan that aims to connect Africa, Asia and Europe through massive infrastructure and energy projects.

A statement from Kenya's State House Spokesman Hussein Mohammed said "the president will deliver a keynote address headlined 'Digital Economy as a New Source of Growth' at the High-Level Forum."

"Additionally, the president will participate in a Kenya-China investors roundtable to emphasize Kenya's standing as an investment hub for Chinese companies," said the statement.

One of the signature BRI projects in Kenya is the Standard Gauge Railway line, which runs from the port city of Mombasa to the Rift Valley via the capital, Nairobi. It cost \$4.7 billion dollars to build but has faced numerous challenges, including delays and a low uptake of its freight service.

The SGR which started operations in 2017, was initially intended to go all the way to neighboring Uganda to the west, as well as serving other landlocked countries in eastern and Central Africa. However, those plans were cancelled after Kampala pulled out and opted instead for partnership with a Turkish firm for the construction of its main line.

Kenya's SGR was mainly constructed using Chinese banks loans and last week, Deputy President

Rigathi Gachagua told a local radio station that the president will be asking Chinese officials "to repay the loans slowly, while also borrowing a little money to finish stalled road projects."

"The Kenya SGR desperately needs cross-border expansion to make it a financially sustainable project. This is another key element in Kenya's negotiation," said economist Aly Khan Satchu.

"The SGR as is a dud. To make it sustainable it needs to connect Uganda's oil to the sea and (Congo) minerals. Therefore, to take the SGR from a negative return on investment into a positive ROI, he needs to increase leverage," added Satchu.

Kenya has been struggling with ballooning public debt, with \$6 billion owed to Chinese creditors, according to national data. Some of the loans will mature in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, putting further pressure on the government. However, it's not clear if President Ruto and his delegation will be granted a restructuring or extension of the interest payments.

"The Ruto administration pivoted quite violently away from China and back towards the West but has been so far been diligent in paying its Chinese loans and therefore will be leveraging its track record as it seeks concessions," Satchu said.

Meanwhile, a weakening of the Kenyan shilling, high global fuel prices and the repayment of foreign debt have continued to dominate politics.

Domestically, Ruto has announced restrictions on foreign trips and asked all ministries to cut their budgets by more than 10% as he aims to reduce government spending. But his critics, mainly in the opposition, say the president himself has reneged on his promise by continuing to borrow heavily despite the economy struggling. **MDT/AP**

BRI FORUM

Expected Putin's visit to Beijing
China's support for Russia

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin is expected to meet this week with Chinese leaders in Beijing on a visit that underscores China's support for Moscow during its war in Ukraine.

The two countries have forged an informal alliance against the United States and other democratic nations that is now complicated by the Israel-Hamas war. China has sought to balance its ties with Israel with its economic relations with Iran and Syria, which are strongly backed by Russia.

Putin's visit is also a show of support for Chinese leader Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road initiative to build infrastructure and expand China's overseas influence.

Putin gave an interview to Chinese state media praising the massive but loosely linked BRI projects.

"Yes, we see that some people consider it an attempt by the People's Republic of China to put someone under its thumb, but we see otherwise, we just see desire for cooperation," he said in the interview with state broadcaster CCTV, according to a transcript released by the Kremlin yesterday.

The Russian leader will be among the highest profile guests at a gathering marking the 10th anniversary of Xi's announcement of the BRI policy, which has laden countries such as Zambia and Sri Lanka with heavy debt after they signed contracts with Chinese companies to build roads, airports and other public works they could not otherwise afford.

Putin's visit has not been officially confirmed, but Chinese officials yesterday have suggested "he will arrive late Monday."

Asked by reporters Friday about a visit to China, Putin said it would encompass talks on Belt and Road-related projects, which he said Moscow wants to link with efforts by an economic alliance of ex-Soviet Union nations mostly located in Central Asia to "achieve common development goals." He also downplayed the impact of China's economic influence in a region that Russia has long considered

AP FILE PHOTO



its backyard and where it has worked to maintain political and military clout.

"We don't have any contradictions here, on the contrary, there is a certain synergy," Putin said.

Putin said he and Xi will also discuss growing economic and financial ties between Moscow and Beijing.

Beijing and Moscow have financial ties in energy, high-tech and financial industries. China has also grown in importance as an export destination for Moscow.

Alexander Gabuev, director of Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, said that from China's view, "Russia is a safe neighbor that is friendly, that is a source of cheap raw materials, that's a support for Chinese initiatives on the global stage and that's also a source of military technologies, some of those that China doesn't have."

"For Russia, China is its lifeline, economic lifeline in its brutal repression against Ukraine," Gabuev told The Associated Press.

"It's the major market for Russian commodities, it's a country that provides its currency and payment system to settle Russia's trade with the outside world — with China itself, but also with many other countries, and is also the major source of sophisticated technological imports, including dual-use goods that go into the Russian military machine."

Gabuev said that while Moscow and Beijing will be unlikely to forge a full-fledged

military alliance, their defense cooperation will grow.

"I don't expect that Russia and China will create a military alliance," Gabuev said.

"Both countries are self-sufficient in terms of security and they benefit from partnering, but neither really requires a security guarantee from the other. And they preach strategic autonomy."

"There will be no military alliance, but there will be closer military cooperation, more interoperability, more cooperation on projecting force together, including in places like the Arctic and more joint effort to develop a missile defense that makes the U.S. nuclear planning and planning of the U.S. and its allies in Asia and in Europe more complicated," he added.

China and the former Soviet Union were Cold War rivals for influence among left-leaning states, but have since partnered in the economic, military and diplomatic spheres. Just weeks before Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, Putin met with Xi in Beijing and the sides signed an agreement pledging a "no-limits" relationship. Beijing's attempts to present itself as a neutral peace broker in Russia's war on Ukraine have been widely dismissed by the international community.

Xi visited Moscow in March as part of a flurry of exchanges between the countries.

China has condemned international sanctions imposed on Russia, but hasn't directly ad-

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ng underscores

BRI FORUM

LEADERS FROM EMERGING ECONOMIES VISITING BEIJING FOR THE MEETING

LEADERS of emerging market countries are arriving in Beijing for a meeting organized by the Chinese government that will mark the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative.

More than a dozen leaders from Africa, Asia and the Mideast were flying into Beijing on yesterday, following the arrivals of Chilean President Gabriel Boric and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Sunday. Others are coming today.

Under the Belt and Road initiative, a signature policy of Xi, Chi-

nese companies have built ports, roads, railways, power plants and other infrastructure around the world in a bid to boost trade and economic growth.

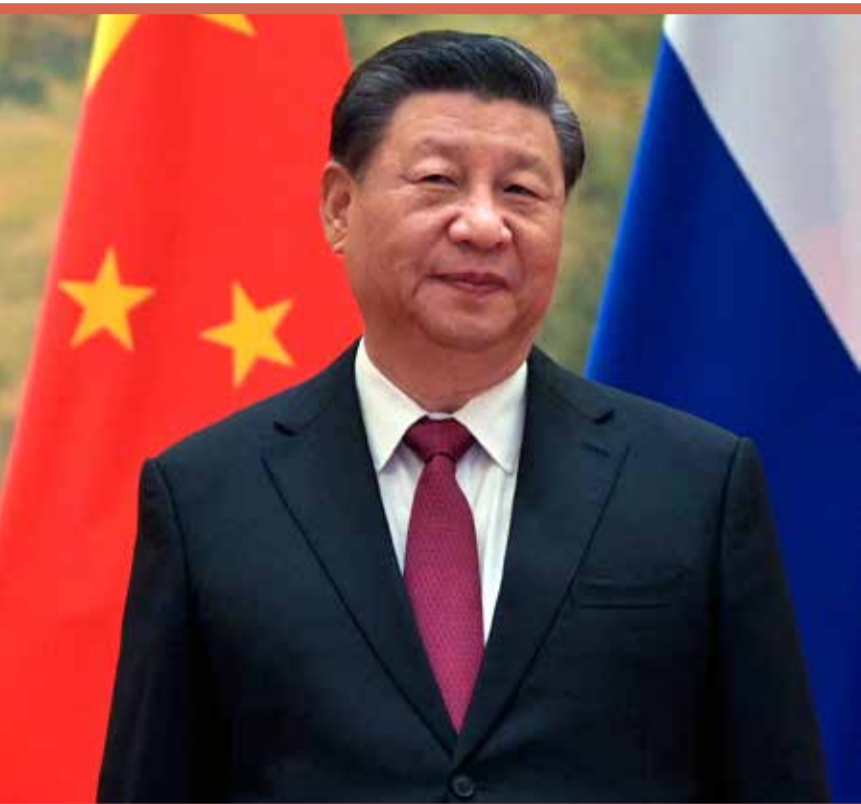
But the massive Chinese development loans that funded the projects have also burdened some poorer countries with heavy debts.

A flurry of diplomacy is expected on the sidelines of the third Belt and Road Forum, whose main events are tomorrow. Orbán met Sunday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, Hungary's state news agency MTI

said. The forums also were held in 2017 and 2019.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the forum, as are representatives of the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

The leaders who arrived yesterday included Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.



AP PHOTO



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, centre, arrives at Beijing's airport ahead of the Belt and Road Forum

sed an arrest warrant issued for Putin by the International Criminal Court on charges of alle-

ged involvement in the abductions of thousands of children from Ukraine. MDT/AP

AD

ENCOUNTER IN MACAO

5th ENCOUNTER IN MACAO Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries

相約 中華文化藝術節 澳門 Festival de Artes e Cultura entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa

2023 OCT-DEC

www.icm.gov.mo/FCP

2023 GEG Lusofonia Festival 10 / 27-29	Chinese and Portuguese Picture Book Fair 10 / 27-11 / 05	Relations - Annual Arts Exhibition between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries 2023 / 10 / 28-2024 / 01 / 01	GEG Traditional Music and Dance Performance in the Community 11 / 04-05	Wine Tasting Workshop 11 / 12, 19	China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival 11 / 10-24	Camané and Macao Chinese Orchestra Concert 11 / 18
-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

澳門特別行政區政府社會文化司
Secretaria para os Assuntos Sociais e Cultura do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
Directorate for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Organizer
澳門特別行政區政府文化局
INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

Sponsors
澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局
SECRETARIA PARA O TURISMO do GOVERNO DA REGIÃO ADMINISTRATIVA ESPECIAL DE MACAU
澳門旅遊局
TDM 澳廣視
澳門航空

MIDDLE EAST | ANALYSIS

Israel-Hamas war may 'serve' Beijing in the end

DIDI TANG, WASHINGTON

IN June, Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the Palestinian president in Beijing and invited the Israeli prime minister for an official state visit. Benjamin Netanyahu accepted, and China was on track for a bigger role in the region.

Then came the Hamas attack against Israel, which has made Netanyahu's late October trip uncertain and put Beijing's Middle East approach to the test. China's stated neutrality on the war has upset Israel, but Beijing may gain in the long run by forging closer ties with Arab countries, experts said.

"For a while at least, Beijing's Middle East policy is paralyzed by the war," said Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Beijing-based Renmin University of China. "The U.S., which strongly supports Israel, is directly or indirectly involved. Who is there to listen to China?"

That hasn't stopped China from trying to be heard.

Its Middle East envoy, Zhai Jun, talked to Palestinian and Egyptian officials by phone this past week, calling for an immediate cease-fire and humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.

Zhai also called Israeli officials to say China "has no selfish interests on the Palestinian issue but has always stood on the side of peace, on the side of fairness and justice." He said that "China is willing to work with the international community to promote peace and encourage talks."

Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister, came out more strongly for the Palestinians, saying "the crux of the matter is that justice has not been done to the Palestinian people."

"This conflict once again proved in an extremely tragic manner that the way to solve the Palestinian issue lies in resuming genuine peace talks as soon as possible and realizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation," Wang said during a call with an adviser to the Brazilian president.

China has long advocated



President Xi Jinping and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas shake hands after a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, last June

for a two-state solution that allows for an independent Palestinian state.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, while traveling in the Mideast over the weekend, called Wang to ask China to use whatever influence it has in the region to keep other countries and groups from entering the conflict and broadening it, according to the State Department, which declined to characterize Wang's response. China is known to have close trade and political ties with Iran, which in turn supports Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

The conversation was the first high-level U.S. contact with China over the Mideast situation since the Hamas attack.

Beijing, by trying to maintain a delicate balance, wants to position itself as a mediator and exert its influence in the region, said Maria Pappageorgiou, a lecturer in politics and international relations at University of Exeter, and Mohammad Eslami, a researcher at University Minho, in joint email.

The U.S. support for Israel will give China an opportunity to expand its arms sales to dissatisfied Arab countries, but China also wants to resolve the crisis to protect its economic interests in the region, they said.

"China's engagement in the Middle East is set to increase during this conflict. Beijing will play an enhanced role in efforts to end the

war and secure its economic interests and wants to capitalize on the Arab states' frustration with U.S. to establish itself as a great power in the region," the researchers wrote.

Beijing's approach, though, risks alienating Israel.

Tuvia Gering, a researcher at the Israel-China Policy Center at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, described Beijing's position as "pro-Palestine neutrality," much like its position on Russia's invasion of Ukraine has signaled support for the Kremlin.

"You cannot be neutral in something like this. Silence is acquiescence," Gering said. "The problem, I think, the biggest one we have, is that China, instead of being the responsible major power that it claims to be, it is exploiting this conflict for geopolitical benefits."

He said China was looking to win the support of Arab countries on contentious issues such as Beijing's treatment of the Muslim ethnic Uyghurs in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Under Xi, Beijing has pursued a proactive, sometimes assertive, foreign policy.

It has sought closer ties in the Middle East, the source of much of the oil China needs and a nexus in the Belt and Road network, Xi's massive infrastructure-building project to connect markets around the world through railways, roads, seaports and airports and to extend Bei-

jing's influence.

This year, Beijing helped restore diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, building its credentials as an alternative to the United States in brokering peace deals.

Wang Yiwei, another international relations professor at Renmin University, said China is better positioned than the U.S. to help resolve conflicts, whether between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Russia and Ukraine or Israel and the Palestinians.

"If you're just on one side, and make another side hate you, you cannot be a broker," he said. "So that's the reason China did not join the West to sanction or contain Russia in the Ukraine war. Because we need to be the bridge."

But China's proposals to end the war have been seen as benefiting Russia.

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, "China's stance might be more about projecting an image of a neutral and responsible global player rather than acting like one," said Dale Aluf, research director at Sino-Israel Global Network and Academic Leadership, an Israel-based think tank.

China's continued insistence on a two-state solution is "disconnected from reality," Aluf said. China also has displeased Israel by refusing to join the U.S. and other countries in designating Hamas a terrorist organization, seeing it instead as a "Palestinian resistance movement." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1968 BLACK ATHLETES MAKE SILENT PROTEST



Two black American athletes have made history at the Mexico Olympics by staging a silent protest against racial discrimination.

Tommie Smith and John Carlos, gold and bronze medallists in the 200m, stood with their heads bowed and a black-gloved hand raised as the American National Anthem played during the victory ceremony.

The pair both wore black socks and no shoes and Smith wore a black scarf around his neck. They were demonstrating against continuing racial discrimination of black people in the United States.

As they left the podium at the end of the ceremony they were booed by many in the crowd.

At a press conference after the event Tommie Smith, who holds seven world records, said: "If I win I am an American, not a black American. But if I did something bad then they would say 'a Negro'. We are black and we are proud of being black."

"Black America will understand what we did to-night."

Smith said he had raised his right fist to represent black power in America, while Carlos raised his left fist to represent black unity. Together they formed an arch of unity and power.

He said the black scarf represented black pride and the black socks with no shoes stood for black poverty in racist America.

Within a couple of hours the actions of the two Americans were being condemned by the International Olympic Committee. [...]

The boycott had been the idea of professor of sociology at San Jose State university, and friend of Tommie Smith, Harry Edwards.

Professor Edwards set up the Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR) and appealed to all black American athletes to boycott the games to demonstrate to the world that the civil rights movement in the US had not gone far enough.

He told black Americans they should refuse "to be utilised as 'performing animals' in the games."

Although the boycott never materialised the OPHR gained much support from black athletes around the world.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

That evening, the silver medallist in the 200m event, Peter Norman of Australia, who was white, wore an OPHR badge in support of Smith and Carlos' protest.

But two days later the two athletes were suspended from their national team, expelled from the Olympic village and sent home to America.

Many felt they had violated the Olympic spirit by drawing politics into the games.

On their return both men were welcomed as heroes by the African-American community but others regarded them as trouble-makers. Both received death threats.

Thirty years after their protest, the two men, who went on to become high school athletics coaches, were honoured for their part in furthering the civil rights movement in America.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. You may be ill-treated if you have to deal with institutional environments.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You could be attracting individuals who are anything but good for you. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes. Your reputation will be affected. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Depression may be likely if you're away from home. Group endeavors will provide you with entertainment.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Losses are likely if you get involved with uncertain individuals. Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines.

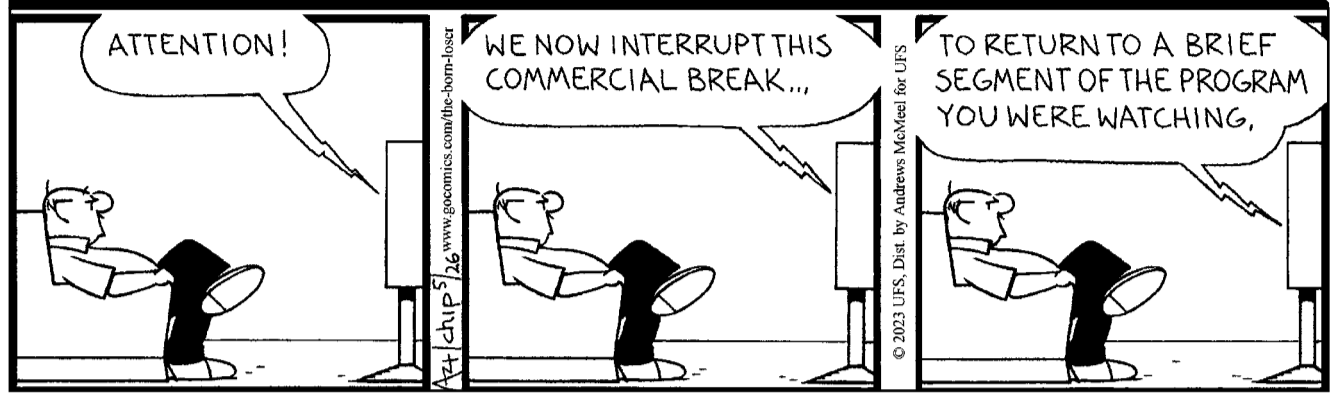
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Use your intellectual approach to get the best results. Snap out of it. Use your ingenuity to manipulate things to get what you want. Someone you live with will be impossible.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. Your honesty will not only win you points but also respect.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
The experience will be good. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. If you work in conjunction with someone else you may find they're trying to steal your thunder.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. You may be frustrated by the way situations are being handled in your personal life.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	8	21	cloudy
Changchun	1	18	cloudy
Chengdu	17	23	rain
Chongqing	20	28	cloudy
Fuzhou	19	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	29	cloudy
Guiyang	13	24	cloudy
Haikou	24	25	rain
Hangzhou	15	25	fine
Harbin	-2	15	fine
Hefei	12	27	fine
Nanjing	14	27	fine
Shanghai	16	24	fine
Taipei	21	25	overcast
Wuhan	13	28	fine
Hong Kong	25	26	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	2	6	rain
Frankfurt	2	14	overcast
Paris	14	18	overcast
London	12	15	overcast
New York	11	18	overcast

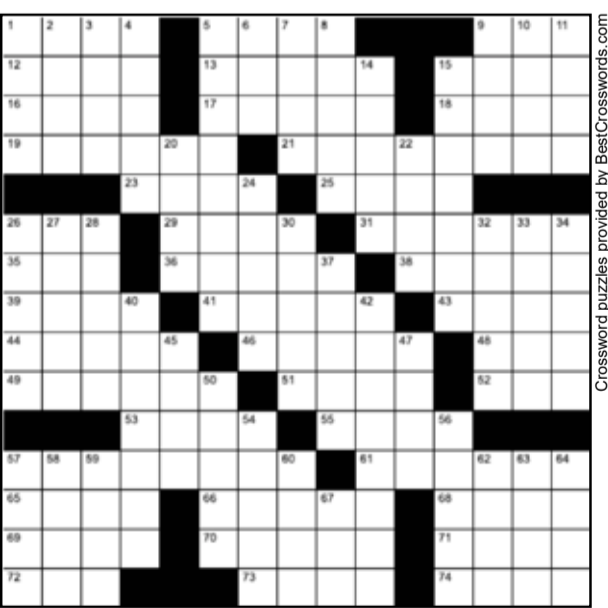
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Ticks off; 5- Addict; 9- Mil. officers; 12- Shrivelled, without moisture; 13- Party; 15- Woman's dress; 16- Not pro; 17- Brawny; 18- Horne solo; 19- Potemkin setting; 21- Young bird; 23- Aromatic herb; 25- Churn; 26- Former nuclear agcy.; 29- Yarn spinner; 31- Rough shelter; 35- Cold call?; 36- None of the above; 38- Scoff; 39- It's got you covered; 41- Red fluorescent dye; 43- Cab; 44- With respect to; 46- Duck with soft down; 48- Chinese "way"; 49- Like grams and liters; 51- Verne captain; 52- Nine-digit ID; 53- Repeat; 55- Enervates; 57- Blue gem; 61- Shaped like the Big Top; 65- Neighborhood; 66- Keep an ___ the ground; 68- "Judith" composer; 69- Chilly powder?; 70- Deluge; 71- Lock openers; 72- Part of the Holy Trinity; 73- Mother Hubbard's quest; 74- Morales of "NYPD Blue";

DOWN 1- Golfer Aoki; 2- Tear apart; 3- Art Deco artist; 4- Quake; 5- Resident of a city; 6- Catch on; 7- Uniform; 8- Allude; 9- Actress Singer; 10- One of a matching pair; 11- Hitch; 14- Disinfectant brand; 15- Chivalrous; 20- Silage storage tower; 22- Connections; 24- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 26- President Garfield's middle name; 27- Uneven; 28- Lara of "Tomb Raider"; 30- Gum; 32- ___-foot oil; 33- State not to "mess with"; 34- The Hunter; 37- Travels on; 40- Cat's front foot; 42- Roundworm; 45- Loaded; 47- Weapon in Clue; 50- Tribe ruler; 54- Toothbrush brand; 56- Plumber's tool; 57- Lip; 58- The Ponte Vecchio crosses it; 59- Lowly worker; 60- Switch back?; 62- Very, in Versailles; 63- "Only Time" singer; 64- Lucie's father; 67- Bunch;

Yesterday's solution

A	T	A	T	N	A	D	A	M	C	A	S	T	
L	O	A	D	E	I	N	A	N	E	T	L	K	S
C	O	A	D	E	X	F	R	O	X	V	E	R	P
U	N	H	I	P	E	D	I	F	I	C	E		
F	L	A	M	I	N	G	E	C	O	L	I	N	
P	L	A	M	I	N	G	E	C	O	L	I	N	
T	O	T	A	L	E	A	T	A	I	R	S		
A	G	I	N	P	I	T	C	H	E	R	O	N	
T	O	T	A	L	E	A	T	A	I	R	S		
S	A	M	O	A	P	A	R	A	K	E	T		
E	U	R	O	P	A	R	I						
H	O	S	T	I	L	E	C	L	A	S	H		
P	E	N	A	S	I	R	E	N	L	U	A		
S	E	E	K	E	V	I	T	A	E	T	A		
I	D	L	E	S	E	E	D						
O	R	A											



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	

It's prime time to **BUY & RENT!**

有關樓宇廣告法例查詢詳情請向職員查詢
For more information on advertising laws, please speak to one of our representatives.

CONTACT US
& SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

Va Fat
HKD 3,980,000 2 bed 1 bath

Nam Long (Old Taipa)
HKD 10,200/mth 1 2 beds 1 bath

Coloane Village
HKD 9,950/mth 1 bed 1 bath

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Resilient Springboks ruin host France's dream

THE Springboks were at their most stubborn to wreck France's dream at the Rugby World Cup yesterday [Macau time].

The defending champions dug deeper than normal for one of their most resilient performances to knock the highly-rated French out of their home World Cup by a riveting 29-28 in the quarterfinals in front of nearly 80,000 fans at Stade de France.

"For all the support we've had, it's heartbreaking," France flanker Charles Ollivon said.

France played all the attacking rugby for the first hour, and the crowd loved it, leaving South Africa to feed off crumbs and cling on before suddenly swinging the momentum in the final 13 minutes when lock Eben Etzebeth made up for an earlier yellow card by barging over near the posts.

That put South Africa ahead for the first time since a breathless, six-try opening 30 minutes.

While France came within a point of the Springboks at the end, their great hopes of a first title, and clinching it at home, slipped away when replacement prop Reda Wardi lost possession in a last, desperate attack after the clock ticked past 80 minutes.

The French were stunned, none more than brilliant scrumhalf and captain Antoine Dupont, who made it back from a broken cheekbone in the pool stage to lead his country. His return was meant to be triumphant, but at the end the world's best player slipped down on one knee and tossed his protective scrumcap on the grass in despair.

"That will make us learn. But today, it's hard to take," Dupont said. "A lot of frustration."

AP PHOTO



South Africa's Cheslin Kolbe races to score his side's third try

QUARTERFINALS

Wales	17	29	Argentina
Ireland	24	28	New Zealand
England	30	24	Fiji
France	28	29	South Africa

No. 2-ranked France had a two-year, 18-test winning streak at home and was the highest-ranked team left in the tournament, but the French are still without a title

and this failure will perhaps hurt more than any of the others, even the lost finals on foreign soil in 1987, 1999 and 2011.

"We're going to try to find so-

mething positive by saying that we have a lot of young players, a fine generation," France flyhalf Matthieu Jalibert said. "But the reality is that today we failed to get out of

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha ° 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues ° 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata ° 趙魯 Zhao Lu °* 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Icília Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陳芷喬 Joana Chan

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

陳健雄 Eurico Chan
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家及外地註冊律師

JURISTS AND LAWYERS
QUALIFIED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:
林思潔 Jessie Lin
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
伍福賢 Domingos Ng
許栢桓 Rui Fernandes Brás

WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623

° 私人公證員 Notary Public * 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



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



in quarterfinals

the quarterfinals of a home World Cup. That's going to be hard to accept."

France President Emmanuel Macron went into the French dressing room after the game to console the players, many of whom looked inconsolable.

Both teams scored three tries in that scintillating start. France's were all the result of its magnificent attack. The Springboks' three all came against the run of play. France appeared world-class in those opening minutes and every inch the new favorite for the title after top-ranked Ireland's exit to three-time champion New Zealand on Saturday, and South Africa looked a little shell-shocked.

"We scrambled a lot, especially when we were short of numbers," Springboks captain Siya Kolisi said. "We talk about chasing lost causes as a group, we don't give up until they put the ball down over the tryline.

"If we hadn't done that, we would be going home tomorrow. We never give up."

France's first try came as early as the fourth minute when prop

Cyril Baille scored the first of his two after a French maul went 20 meters and he was out near the right corner for the finish. Kurt-Lee Arendse profited off a French mistake when Gael Fickou dropped a high kick and broke away to reply for South Africa.

Damian de Allende's score for the Springboks, again from a turnover, put them 12-7 up in the 18th, a scarcely believable scoreline considering the French dominance.

France had 74% of the territory in the first 40 minutes and 63% overall. South Africa had to make nearly twice as many tackles.

Hooker Peato Mauvaka went over for France's second try to make it 12-12, with Cheslin Kolbe sprinting out to charge down Thomas Ramos' attempted conversion.

South Africa hit France on a sudden break again, with left wing Kolbe speeding onto a kick through and leaving France star Damian Penaud in his wake to score. Baille's second try and a penalty by Ramos on the stroke of halftime after Etzebeth had been sin-binned for a head-on-head

tackle appeared to be the moment France took control. Ramos added another penalty soon after halftime for 25-19 and some breathing space.

The lead was narrow, but Dupont was pulling the strings and the home fans were driving Les Tricolores on.

The Springboks kept grinding despite that big territorial disadvantage and Etzebeth's powerful run to crash over made it 26-25 with replacement flyhalf Handre Pollard's conversion.

A Pollard penalty from inside his own half in the 69th gave the Boks a critical four-point advantage, and a chance of defending their title for at least one more game. France kept coming and South Africa held out for good this time, allowing Ramos only one more penalty.

France attacked from deep in the last play of the game after the final hooter. After 10 phases, the ball was stripped from Wardi by RG Snyman and Faf de Klerk, and Arendse scooped it up and hooped it out to confirm a semifinal against England next weekend.

New Zealand will play Argentina in the other semi, meaning three southern hemisphere teams in the last four and favorite Ireland and home hope France out, a huge turn-up for a Rugby World Cup where a northern triumph appeared destined. MDT/AP

RUGBY WORLD CUP

ENGLAND ENDS FIJI'S CROWD-PLEASEING RUN WITH TENSE WIN TO REACH SEMIFINALS

THE lead was 14 points, the Rugby World Cup semifinals were in sight and there was a celebratory feel to England fans' booming rendition of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" that swirled around Stade Velodrome with a little over 20 minutes left.

Then Fiji finally turned up. The World Cup quarterfinals delivered another heart-stopper on Sunday as England held on in the face of a valiant fightback from the Flying Fijians to end the crowd-pleasing run of the tournament darlings by a tense 30-24.

English hopes of a second

world title were written off six weeks ago after a lackluster first ever loss to Fiji at Twickenham.

Now, a victory over the same opponent has carried them into the semifinals for the sixth time in 10 editions of rugby's biggest event.

"The players were written off," England coach Steve Borthwick said. "A lot of people said we wouldn't get out of the pool. We got out of the pool, now we got out of the quarterfinals."

It was a welcome result for the northern hemisphere a day after quarterfinal losses for Ireland and Wales. MDT/AP



England's Owen Farrell kicks a penalty

AD

THE ROADHOUSE
MACAU

FAST BIKES | ROCK & ROLL MUSIC | FOOD AND FUN

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU
IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK.
COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL.

MACAU
澳門

BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校

FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**NEW START FOR BRI
 CONTRIBUTING TO
 WORLD'S COMMON
 DEVELOPMENT AND
 PROSPERITY**

The message of the Belt and Road Initiative, since it was launched 10 years ago, has always been about improving infrastructure connectivity and achieving common development.

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, being held in Beijing on Tuesday and Wednesday, carries the same message of pursuing common development.

Held under the theme "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity", the forum, apart from the opening ceremony, consists of three high-level meetings for in-depth discussions on connectivity, green development and the digital economy, and six thematic forums — on trade connectivity, people-to-people relationship, exchanges among think tanks, green Silk Road, subnational cooperation and maritime cooperation. A CEO conference, too, will be held where entrepreneurs can have face-to-face discussions.

Aside from delivering the keynote speech at the opening ceremony, President Xi Jinping, along with the representatives of more than 140 countries and over 30 international organizations, will attend a series of bilateral events with some of the foreign delegates to chart a new blueprint for the initiative's further development.

With globalization facing headwinds, the international community expects China to find, through the Belt and Road Initiative, ways to promote global economic growth, not least because the theme of the forum is "common development and prosperity".

In today's uncertain and unstable world, there is an urgent need for countries to settle their differences through talks and promote development through cooperation. Over the past decade, thanks to the concerted efforts of all parties, the Belt and Road Initiative has transformed from a vision to reality, driving global growth in the process. The initiative has mobilized \$1 trillion in investments and undertaken, solely or jointly, more than 3,000 cooperation projects, created valuable development opportunities for all Belt and Road countries, and offered viable solutions to global governance problems.

The initiative follows a global governance philosophy of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefits. It prefers consultation over confrontation, breaking over building barriers, and integration over decoupling, while seeking to make the global governance system equitable and fairer. It is therefore fair to say that the Belt and Road Initiative is an open and inclusive platform for cooperation and a global public good.

With the forum expected to produce substantial outcomes, the total number of deliverables is likely to exceed those of the first and second forums.

More important, China will use the forum to take stock of the valuable experience of Belt and Road cooperation over the past decade, draw a new blueprint for promoting high-quality cooperation in the future, and make new contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

And that is what development is all about.

**BIDEN POSTPONES TRIP TO DISCUSS DOMESTIC
 AGENDA AS ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT INTENSIFIES**

**THE
 BUZZ**

President Joe Biden postponed a trip to Colorado yesterday to stay in Washington and focus on the growing conflict in the Middle East.

Biden had been heading to the Colorado district of Rep. Lauren Boebert, where he was to visit CS Wind, the world's largest facility for wind tower manufacturing. The White House said just a few hours before Biden was set to take off for the trip that it would be rescheduled.

Instead, Biden is expected to hold a series of high-level meetin-

gs with aides on Israel and the growing humanitarian concerns in Gaza. The Democratic president is weighing a decision to visit the region in a powerful symbol of support for Israel following the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,400 people including at least 30 U.S. citizens.

The decision reflects the competing pressures for the president, heading into an election year in which he is trying to showcase his domestic agenda as conflicts abroad in Ukraine and now Israel grow.

COURTESY KEVIN MAZUR



LIVE REVIEW

**MADONNA'S
 CELEBRATION TOUR
 KICKS OFF IN LONDON
 AFTER HEALTH SCARE**

**SIAN WATSON,
 LONDON**

MADONNA kicked off her career-spanning Celebration Tour at London's O2 Arena on Saturday night (yesterday, Macau time), marking her first performance since suffering what her manager called a "serious bacterial infection" that led to hospitalization in an intensive care unit for several days back in June.

"I'm on the road to recovery and incredibly grateful for all the blessings in my life," the pop superstar wrote on Instagram this summer, shortly after news of the ICU stay broke. "My focus now is on my health and getting stronger and I assure you, I'll be back with you as soon as I can."

On stage, Madonna, 65, said she'd had a "crazy year" that neither she nor her doctors thought she'd make it through. She said her children spurred her on and that she had to "survive for them." The opening night of the tour also marked the 27th birthday of daughter Lourdes Leon, who appeared on stage with her mother.

After a brief technical hitch, the opening night of the tour was indeed a celebration. Madonna played songs from across her vast career, including studio recordings and footage drawing on four decades of hits. On the set list were iconic songs from "Like a Prayer" to "Holiday" to "Vogue" to "La Isla Bonita." She also included more niche tracks such as "Die Ano-

ther Day" from the 2002 Bond movie of the same name.

During an acoustic moment in the show, Madonna spoke out about the ongoing war in the Middle East.

"Even though our hearts are broken, our spirits cannot be broken," she said, adding that she hopes for a "collective consciousness to change the world and bring peace."

Madonna rescheduled the North American leg of her tour, originally slated to kick off July 15 in Vancouver and run through Oct. 8 in Las Vegas. That leg now begins Dec. 13 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and runs through April 24, 2024, when it will conclude at Mexico City's Palacio de los Deportes. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



US A lawyer for Donald Trump told a London judge yesterday that the ex-president plans to prove that a discredited report by a former British spy that contained "shocking and scandalous claims" that he was compromised by Russians in his first bid for the presidency was wrong and harmed his reputation. Trump has sued the company founded by Christopher Steele, who created a dossier in 2016 that contained rumors and uncorroborated allegations.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine A dayslong attempt by Russian forces to storm a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine appears to be running out of steam, Kyiv officials claimed yesterday, as the Kremlin's war entered its 600th day. Ukrainian forces repelled 15 Russian attacks from four directions on Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours, the Ukrainian General Staff said.

AP PHOTO



Italy Bobsled, skeleton and luge events will not be held in Italy during the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics, organizing committee officials said yesterday, meaning those athletes will likely be competing in either Austria or Switzerland during the games. The primary reason: money. A long-controversial plan to rebuild the historic Eugenio Monti track in Cortina d'Ampezzo — built 100 years ago, used for the 1956 Olympics, and shut down 15 years ago — simply became too costly after it became clear the original budget of 50 million euros wouldn't be close to enough.