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INT'L STUDENTS RETURN TO US COLLEGES, FUELED BY A SURGE FROM INDIA

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AP PHOTO



Philippines A court yesterday ordered the release on bail of former senator Leila de Lima (pictured) jailed more than six years ago on drug charges she said were fabricated to muzzle her investigation of then-President Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs.

AP PHOTO



India Rescuers were digging through dirt and parts of a collapsed road tunnel yesterday to reach 40 workers trapped by a landslide at the construction project in northern India.

AP PHOTO



Australia Eighty people, including convicted criminals considered dangerous, have been released from Australian migrant detention centers since the High Court ruled last week that their indefinite detention was unconstitutional.

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A DROP OF LAW

XINHUA

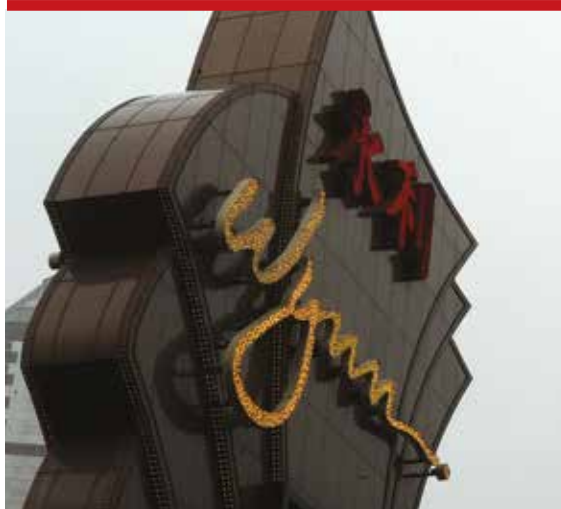


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**NON-RESIDENT  
WORKER ARRESTED  
AFTER HITTING MAN  
WHILE DRUNK**

A non-resident employee in his 30s was arrested after injuring his compatriot following an argument while drunk. According to police authorities, they received a report from a Filipino worker in his 50s that he was hit on the jaw by a stranger in Taipa, causing him to fall. The suspect ran away. Following investigation, the Public Security Police identified the man involved and summoned him to the police station last week. The man involved admitted that he had a drunken argument with others that day and became emotional.

**UM RESEARCH TEAM  
DEVELOPS MAGNETIC  
SOFT ROBOTS**

A research team at the University of Macau (UM) has developed a novel on-demand hardening magnetic soft robot. With the advantages of on-demand hardening and flexible deployment, the robot can not only perform a given task alone with high output forces, but can also be used in conjunction with existing surgical robots. The research project, led by Xu Qingsong, professor at the UM's Department of Electromechanical Engineering of the Faculty of Science and Technology, was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Science and Technology Development Fund.

**IFTM CONCLUDES  
COMPETITION ON  
INNOVATION**

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) concluded the third edition of its "Idea-cation 2023" which aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Macau. This year's competition attracted 79 participants who were divided into six High School Category teams and 16 University (Open) Category teams. The competition focused on two themes: innovating Macau's "1+4" diversification strategy, as well as revitalizing rural tourism in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Participants were required to propose innovative ideas to support the tourism industry, with the aim to boost the regional economy.

**CRIME**

# MAN SENTENCED FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING STEP-DAUGHTERS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

ANTHONY LAM

A man was sentenced to four years and six months in prison for sexually assaulting two women who have mild psychiatric illnesses and who require long-term use of antipsychotics and sleeping pills.

The case revealed that the man touched the breasts and genitals of the daughters of his spouse while they were asleep after taking their nightly medication.

The wife, who was working outside at the time, discovered the incident through the surveillance equipment in their daughter's room. The man was convicted of two counts of sexual assault in the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) and sentenced to a total of four years and six months in prison.

He was accused of sex offences against persons incapable of resistance.

The man appealed to the TUI, arguing that the images recorded by his wife's surveillance equipment in the victim's room were prohibited evidence.



**NON-PRIVACY ORIENTED  
CCTV FOOTAGE PERMITTED  
AS COURT EXHIBITS**

The TUI has ruled that footage of surveillance cameras installed for reasons other than for illegally violating privacy can be accepted by the court of law as exhibits.

Disputing the legality of the footage from the surveillance cameras installed in the bedroom

by the mother, the suspect filed for final appeal.

The TUI cited an earlier ruling to support that the acceptance or rejection of exhibits should depend on the case. Meanwhile, the court ruled that the intention of installing surveillance cameras in the bedroom was justified and the installation was not done for the sake of breaching the suspect's privacy.

The court also took into account the time of the violation and the health conditions of the victims, before ruling in favor of acceptance of the footage.

His sentence remains unchanged.

Recently, the city has been in dispute about whether surveillance cameras should be allowed in napping and care-taking areas of nurseries.

# Gov't announces details of acquiring cultural, sporting and other talents

ANTHONY LAM

THE government announced in yesterday's Official Gazette the requirements for talented workers to be recruited in the cultural, sporting and other industries.

The government wishes to attract "people with professional experience and capabilities who excel" in a number of industries in order for "local industries to thrive."

The industries include cultural and sporting entertainment and development; digital media development; neighborhood



revitalization; commerce, business and distribution of cultural and sporting products; translation and interpretation; culinary

management; teaching and research; and marketing development.

Applicants must also meet certain additional

requirements. They must hold at least a Bachelor's Degree in any of a wide range of disciplines, such as program management,

event planning and management, visual production, design, music, digital media, architecture, landscape architecture, sports management, translation and interpreting, certain languages, linguistics, law and public relations.

They must also possess working experience ranging from two to four years in the relevant areas.

Some achievements will help applicants gain additional scores, such as having worked in a Forbes or Forbes China World Top 2,000 enterprise, or a Fortune China or Hurun Report China's Top 500 enterprise, or a major subsidiary of one of these enterprises.

Michelin three-star or Black Pearl three-diamond awards will also help applicants gain additional scores.

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GP70

# Gov't investigates racer Lindblad after online outcry on underage drinking

ANTHONY LAM

**A**N investigation has been initiated into the alleged underage drinking of the Formula 4 (F4) winner in the Macau Grand Prix on Sunday, a local health official revealed during a radio show.

Director of Health and pulmonologist Alvis Lo disclosed the decision on a TDM-Radio Macau (Chinese) morning phone-in show yesterday.

On Sunday evening, social media users on various platforms started questioning the legitimacy of F4 racer Arvid Lindblad, champion of the F4 race, drinking champagne on the podium after the ceremonial splashing of the alcoholic drink.

Lindblad is 16 years old.

A new law concerning legal drinking age and related topics was enacted on Nov. 5, stipulating that people younger than 18 years old are not permitted to consume beverages with an alcohol content of higher than 1.2% by volume.

Pursuant to the same law, those who supply such drinks to minors will be liable to a penalty as well.

"Traditionally, at award ceremonies of car races, awardees will conduct 'champagne showers' to splash champagne around," Lo said on the radio show. "Nobody – not even this organizing committee – [would] ex-

pect them to drink the champagne."

He said this is probably the reason why the organizing committee had "accidentally and allegedly violated the law."

Besides initiating an investigation, the organizing committee has also been questioned, the health official disclosed. Should the breach be proven, a fine between MOP1,500 and MOP20,000 will be issued, Lo said.

The racer will also be educated, he added.

Lo indicated that his bureau has suggested the organizing committee replace champagne with a non-alcoholic sparkling drink for the races on the coming weekend.

In response to the same incident, the Sports Bureau issued a statement to express its apologies for "procedural negligence," adding that reminders on the law will be issued to racers.

From another perspective, lawmaker Ron Lam expressed his views on his social media page. The lawmaker pointed out that during the establishment of the law, Health Bureau (SSM) had made it clear that the law is only applicable to "venues that are open to the public." His opinion is that the podium is technically a restricted area that is open to authorized personnel only. Despite this, he indicated that he does not



agree with this possible loophole, but he still criticized the SSM's starting an investigation for "covering previous mistakes."

Lam even provided a video of the podium of a Formula 3 race in the Netherlands in 2014 to rationali-

ze his opinions. It showed that the then 16-year-old Max Verstappen, who won the race, did not drink any of the champagne even when first runner-up Indy Dontje proposed a toast to him. The Dutch legal drinking age is 18 years.

# Discussions on increase minimum wage on turbo at parliament

ANTHONY LAM

**A**FTER passing its first reading last week, the minimum wage adjustment bill saw its first committee discussion yesterday.

After the meeting, committee president Vong Hin Fai told a press conference that the committee will strive for closing discussions as soon as possible, allowing the plenary to pass the bill at the second reading, which means it can be enacted on New Year's Day.

Vong promised not only that discussions will proceed quickly, but that questions will be collected and compiled as promptly, in



order to leave more time for the government to contemplate answers that will be given to the committee personally at a subsequent

meeting. It is proposed that the wage be raised from MOP32 per hour to MOP34 per hour. Vong disclo-

sed that the committee is seeking more statistics and data from the government in support of the proposed level of adjustment.

Meanwhile, similar to the discussions at the first reading of the bill, committee members also expressed their concerns over the efficiency of review of the minimum wage level. The current wage was first implemented on Nov. 1, 2020. Pursuant to the law, review can only be conducted two years after the enactment, which was Nov. 1, 2022. Vong said that the committee would like the government to explain the mechanism or guidelines by which the review would be conducted. Several lawmakers, Vong added, called for a topical taskforce under the Social Coordination Permanent Commission to be established to improve efficiency of the review.

The suggestion to establish a dedicated taskforce was also raised at the first reading of the bill.

## TEMPERATURE TO DROP TO 14 DEGREES FOR THE WEEKEND

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) forecasts that Macau will continue to be affected by the northeast monsoon tomorrow, with temperatures ranging from 17 to 24 degrees Celsius. The bureau adds that a dry northeast monsoon supplement will arrive along the South China coast in the middle and late part of this week. At that time, the northerly wind in Macau will strengthen and the temperature will further drop to around 14 degrees Celsius on Saturday.

## INFLUENZA INFECTION IN SCHOOLS: SSM

The Health Bureau (SSM) received five reports of collective influenza infection, involving four schools and one institution, including a total of 36 people. Most of the patients have been treated and there are no severe cases or other serious complications, according to a statement. Among them, St. Paul's School in Areia Preta has the largest number of infections, with 16 students suffering from influenza.

## MAN SUSPECTED OF TWO HOUSE BREAK-INS DETAINED

A man is suspected of climbing into two units of a building in Taipa in the early morning of last Sunday (Nov. 5) through the outer wall of the building. He was discovered by a member of the household and ran away. He was eventually found in the casino and intercepted by the police. The Public Prosecutions Office said that in order to prevent the suspect from fleeing Macau and continuing to commit crimes, upon the recommendation of the prosecutor in charge, the judge ordered the suspect to be detained. Investigations showed that the man is from the mainland and has a history of burglary, with 15 recorded cases of burglary to his name between last year and October 2023.



MDT ARCHIVE



**GAMING**

# WYNN SEES HEALTHY RETAIL SALES, NARROWED Q3 LOSSES

LYNZY VALLES

NET losses of Wynn Resorts Limited narrowed to USD 116.7 million for the third quarter of 2023, compared to the USD

142.9 million net loss attributable to Wynn Resorts Limited for the third quarter of 2022.

In its financial statement for the third quarter of this year, Wynn's operating revenues were

USD1.67 billion for the third quarter of 2023, an increase of USD782.2 million from USD 889.7 million when compared with the same quarter the year prior.

"Our third quarter results re-

flect continued strength across our property portfolio," said Craig Billings, CEO of Wynn Resorts Limited.

"In Macau, the recovery continued to progress during the quarter, with particular strength in our mass gaming, luxury retail and hotel businesses," he added.

The gaming operator generated USD255 million of EBITDA in the quarter, around 85% of pre-Covid levels.

Meanwhile, mass hold returned to the expected range at both

Wynn properties in October.

"During the quarter, we saw broad-based strength across our properties with several key areas of the business trending well above 2019 levels. In the casino, mass table drop increased 19% versus Q3 2019, and direct VIP turnover was 13% above Q3 2019," Billings explained.

"On the non-gaming side, our retail business continues to be incredibly strong, with tenant retail sales up 24% on Q3 2019 and hotel revenue up 20% relative to the third quarter of 2019," he said.

Strength in business continued in Q4 with a mass drop in October 24% above October 2019, 98% hotel occupancy, and healthy tenant retail sales.

On the development front in Macau, Billings said the group expects its first concession-related capital project, a collaboration with the team behind Las Vegas-based Illuminarium on a multimedia exhibit space, to open before the end of the year.

"We're also deep into design and planning for our other concession-related capex commitments including our destination food hall, the new event and entertainment center, and a unique spectacle show," he added.

Lastly, construction continues on Wynn Al Marjan Island, Wynn's planned integrated resort in the UAE, with much of the hotel tower foundation complete with nearly all of the piles supporting the 1,500-room tower in the ground.

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## Line-cutting driver should be fined, social advisor says

SOCIAL advisor Au Weng Hei has recommended that Macau follow Taiwan in imposing fines on drivers who engage in line-cutting.

Au, social advisor for Central District, made this suggestion and highlighted the issue of drivers using less congested lanes to merge into heavily congested lanes, even when the two lanes lead to different directions or destinations, as cited in local media reports.

This is frequently observed at specific locations such as the entrance of the overpass from Avenida Horte e Costa to Guia Tunnel and the overpass from Oriental Arch to ZAPE District, among other similar locations.

The problem with this practice is that vehicles abruptly stop and obstruct traffic flow.

In light of a potential

ANTHONY LAM



review of the Road Traffic Law, the social advisor suggested the government consider the Taiwanese approach to this problem.

Another advisor, Lam Wai Hou, proposed that the government focus more on

educating the public about the dangers and legal consequences of jaywalking.

The police have recently fined nearly 200 jaywalkers across seven days. Pursuant to local laws, jaywalkers may be fined MOP300. **AL**



# Review of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government's Major Work in 2023

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

In 2023, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, in unity with various sectors of society, firmly implemented the overall national security concept and the principle of "patriots governing Macao"; spare no effort to promote economic recovery and actively implemented the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy; continued to enhance people's livelihoods and accelerated urban infrastructure construction; facilitated new achievements in the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and promoted external exchanges – thereby maintaining Macao's social stability and promoting sustainable development in various areas.



Review of the Government's Work in 2023



Public projects with a budget exceeding 100 million patacas

Please scan for more details

## Effective Implementation of Safeguarding National Security

- The newly revised **Law on Safeguarding National Security** has officially come into effect, and the bill on **Guarding State Secrets** has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- The Government has fully implemented the principle of "patriots governing Macao". The bill to amend the **Chief Executive Election Law** passed its first reading at the Legislative Assembly, while the bill to amend the **Legislative Assembly Election Law** was submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- The Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region has fully supported the **National Security Adviser** and **National Security Technical Adviser** in fulfilling their duties in accordance with the law;
- A series of activities were held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao SAR and the **National Security Education Day**, to continue patriotic education; and
- The Government has completed the fifth phase of the "Sky Eye" CCTV system and the revision of the **Civil Protection Master Plan**, and deepened regional collaboration in policing to effectively curb various illegal activities.



## Continuous Improvement in People's Livelihoods

- To secure residents' employment rights, the Government completed the biennial review and adjustment recommendations for the minimum wage. During the first nine months of this year, the Government assisted **10,581** local residents in successfully finding employment, offered over **600** vocational training courses, and organised **318** sessions of the **subsidised training scheme**;
- The Government steadily implemented the housing ladder policy. The regular application mechanism for public housing operated smoothly. A total of **5,415 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units** were introduced, effectively resolving the longstanding problem of insufficient supply in this scheme. The **Legal System for Housing for the Sandwich Class** was passed by the Legislative Assembly. Eligibility criteria and usage fees for **senior citizen housing units**, which totalled **1,815**, were announced, and applications were accepted from 6 November onwards;
- To enhance social services and social security, the Government has regularly reviewed relevant indicators and parameters for adjusting social security benefits, and expanded the **Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme**;
- Measures related to people's livelihoods and social welfare remain unchanged;
- The **Public Health Specialist Building** of the Health Bureau has been put into operation, while services of the **Macao Union Hospital** have been phased in;
- The Government has implemented new policies for talent importation, and opened applications for programmes for importing talented people;
- The Government has promoted diversification in higher education enrolment and established **industry-academia-research demonstration bases**, to further promote the high-quality development of higher education;
- The Government has strengthened the non-tertiary education system and continuously developed vocational education courses. The results of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) have affirmed Macao's education and student capabilities;
- The Government has supported young people with integrating into national development, and has established a **"One country, two systems" Study Base**;
- The Government has expedited construction of **"One Base"** and promoted cultural conservation and heritage. The **Shipyards at Lai Chi Yuen** and the **Black Box Theatre in Macao Cultural Centre** have been put into operation, and
- Preparations for the 15th National Games Macao Venue have commenced. The Macao delegation achieved **remarkable results** in the 19th Asian Games and the 2023 East Asian Youth Games.



## Continuous Economic Recovery

- The economy has been rapidly recovering, with major economic indicators showing stable and positive growth. In the first half of 2023, the local gross domestic product (GDP) grew by **71.5** percent in real terms compared to the previous year, and the overall economic output reached **71** percent of the level in the same period of 2019. In the first half of this year, Macao was the top destination for mainland Chinese residents' outbound travel. In the first eight months of this year, the number of inbound tourists increased by **3.6** times year-on-year. While the number of overnight visitors increased by **5.2** times. The overall inflation rate for the 12 months until August 2023 was **0.86** percent;
- The job market has continued to improve. From June to August 2023, the unemployment rate among local residents dropped to **3.1** percent, and the underemployment rate decreased to **2.3** percent;
- Investment in public projects has expanded. The number of completed or ongoing projects whose budget each exceeded **100 million patacas** totalled **51** as of October this year; and
- The Government launched the Strolling through Almeida Ribeiro Avenue - Pedestrian Area Pilot Project, prepared to **revitalise six historical and cultural areas**, implemented a pilot revitalisation plan for the Rua da Felicidade pedestrian zone, and organised festivals and events, to enrich community tourism elements.



## Advancement of Appropriate Economic Diversification

- The **Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028)** was compiled and published, defining specific goals, key tasks, and priority projects for industrial development in the next five years;
- The Government has promoted diversified development in the integrated tourism and leisure industry, fostered **tourism crossover synergy**, and promoted the orderly, lawful and healthy development of the gaming industry;
- The registration system for Chinese patent medicines has been effectively implemented, to establish an **evaluation and approval system for Chinese patent medicines with Macao characteristics**, and to promote research and development and transformation of research achievements in traditional Chinese medicine;
- The Government has accelerated work on fostering the bond market. As of September 2023, the value of outstanding bonds issued or listed in Macao reached **447.2 billion patacas**;
- New financial institutions that provide financing services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises have been established in Macao, and several licensed financial institutions have commenced operations;
- To attract technology enterprises to establish their bases in Macao, the **Technology Enterprises Certification Programme** has been launched;
- As the convention and exhibition industry has gained increasing international recognition and competitiveness, Macao was selected as the **Best Convention City (Asia)**;
- Macao has developed branded art and cultural festivals and events, organised high-standard large-scale sports events, and showcased a variety of sports and art performances at integrated resorts;
- To intensify solicitation of investments, **272** investment projects were processed through **one-stop investment services** from January to September this year, and
- The Government has supported the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and enhanced the brand image and visibility of **"Made in Macao"** products.



## Steady Progress in Administrative Reform

- As of September 2023, over **541,000** individuals have registered for **"Macao One Account"**, which provides over **300** services and functions. Residents can make electronic appointments for more than **600** counter services across **28** departments;
- As of September 2023, over **267,000** individuals have registered their **electronic identity**. Starting from December 2023, the new generation Macao Special Administrative Region Resident Identity Card will be issued;
- To promote electronic services in the business sector, the basic development of a **digital commercial service platform** was completed;
- The restructuring of **26** public departments and entities – **five** public departments, **four** funds, **14** committees and **three** welfare associations – has been completed, to enhance administrative efficiency;
- Drafting of all bills for the 2023 legislative plan has been completed. As of September 2023, a total of **17** laws had been formulated, and **36** by-laws had been promulgated;
- The **Legal System for Corporations with Public Capital** has come into effect, further improving the system for supervising public assets; and
- The **Commission Against Corruption (CAC)** and the **Commission of Audit (CA)** have diligently fulfilled their responsibilities, contributing to the construction of an **efficient and clean** government.



## Orderly Advancement of Urban Construction

- Detailed planning has commenced for districts including Eastern District-2, Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2, Northern District-1 and Taipa Central District-2;
- Draft bills on marine zoning based on function, planning of maritime areas and the Law on Use of Maritime Areas were submitted for consultation with the Central Government in accordance with the law;
- Steel deck construction and installation work for the **fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge** has been expedited. The first phase of the Islands District Medical Complex has been completed. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Macao Cross-Border Cargo Transfer Terminal and the **overpass connecting the University of Macau and the Hengqin Checkpoint** have been put into operation;
- The **extension of the LRT Taipa Line to Barra Station** was scheduled to open by the end of 2023. The main structural work for the **Seac Pai Van Line** and **Hengqin Line** was set to be completed by 2023;
- The **"Electronic Vehicle Promotion Scheme"** and the second phase of **"Subsidy Scheme for Replacing Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles"** have been launched, and
- Compilation of building plans for constructing a sports park at the original site of Macao (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club has begun.



## New Progress in the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin

- The **four nascent industries** have made initial achievements, with continuous integration of Macao elements. From January to June, the total operating income of the four nascent industries (excluding the modern financial services industry) increased by **29.9** percent compared to the previous year, and the value added by the modern financial services industry increased by **2.9** percent year-on-year. As of September 2023, the number of registered Macao-owned enterprises in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin had increased by **13.8** percent compared to the previous year;
- Significant policies and regulations, such as the **Regulations for Promoting Development, the Thirty Financial Measures** and the **Catalogue of Encouraged Industries**, have been introduced in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin;
- Progress has been made in aligning and interconnecting regulations and mechanisms between the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone and Macao;
- To establish a diverse dispute resolution mechanism, the Hengqin-Macao International Legal Services Cluster has been officially inaugurated, providing **one-stop legal services**;
- Some of the permanent passenger and cargo lanes of the phase-2 construction of Hengqin Checkpoint have been opened for trial operation, along with implementing an innovative clearance mechanism of **"joint inspections for one-stop crossing"**, further enhancing the facilitation of customs clearance; and
- The **Macao New Neighbourhood** integrated residential project in Hengqin was completed in August 2023, with demonstration units opened for viewing. It includes schools, health stations, senior citizen service centres, and community service centres, creating a livable environment that aligns with Macao's standards.



## Integration into Overall National Development

- Implement permit issuance policy for talented people travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao on a pilot basis, implement and **continued to optimise the "Northbound Travel for Macao Vehicles"** policy, implement **mutual recognition of mainland China and Macao driving licences**, and commence operation of the **"One-stop Service Window for Guangdong-Macao Social Security (Hengqin Counter)"**, for the convenience of Macao residents to work and live in the Greater Bay Area;
- To deepen cooperation with the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region and strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong and Macao, the cooperation mechanism with mainland China provinces (regions and cities) has been implemented, including **support for rural revitalisation in Jiangxi province**;
- A series of events were held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao); and
- The Government has continuously expanded external exchanges and cooperation. Delegations have visited Portugal, Luxembourg, and Belgium. Efforts have been made to establish friendship cities and contribute to the development of the **"Belt and Road" Initiative**.





WHAT THEY WANT

# Xi and Biden are looking for clarity in an incre

AAMER MADHANI & DIDI TANG,  
WASHINGTON

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping have no shortage of difficult issues to discuss when they sit down for their first talks in a year, even if expectations are low that their meeting will lead to major breakthroughs.

Each leader has clear objectives for the highly anticipated talks this week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, a meeting that comes after what's been a fractious year for the world's two biggest economies.

Both Biden and Xi are looking to bring a greater measure of stability to a relationship that is being defined by differences over export controls, tensions over Taiwan, the wars in the Middle East and Europe, and more.

WHAT BIDEN WANTS

The White House has made clear that the U.S.-China relationship is beyond the days where a meeting ends with a long list of announcements and agreements.

Instead, Biden comes to San

Francisco focused on managing the countries' increasingly fierce economic competition and keeping open lines of communication to prevent misunderstandings that could lead to direct conflict between the two powers.

Expect Biden to defend U.S. expansion of export controls on semiconductor chips. At the same time, he will assure Xi that he is not trying to wage economic war with Beijing amid continuing signs that China's economy is struggling to recover from the economic disruptions of the pandemic.

"The United States has no desire to decouple from China. A full separation of our economies would be economically disastrous for both our countries, and for the world," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng when they met this past week. "We seek a healthy economic relationship with China that benefits both countries over time."

The Biden administration has signaled it wants to reopen military-to-military communications that have largely ceased after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022, the first

visit by a U.S. House speaker to the island since Rep. Newt Gingrich in 1997. Taiwan, a self-ruled island of 23 million people, is part of the Chinese territory and Beijing vows to unify with it, by force if necessary.

Biden "is determined to see the reestablishment of military-to-military ties because he believes it's in the U.S. national security interest," his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." The top U.S. military officer told reporters last week in Tokyo that he has conveyed to China his hopes to resume what stalled communication. "I'm hopeful," said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. CQ Brown Jr.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration has signaled it will hammer home that it seeks no change to the status quo in Taiwan. Washington recognizes Beijing as the government of China and does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. But China has perceived American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent. Concern about the



issue is heightened as Taiwan prepares to hold its major elections in January.

Biden is also expected to let Xi know that he wants China to use its burgeoning sway over Iran to

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FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN MACAU (2023)





# Increasingly difficult relationship



make clear that Tehran or its proxies should not take action that could lead to expansion of the Is-

rael-Hamas war. Biden's administration believes the Chinese, a big buyer of Iranian oil, have consid-

erable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

With the U.S. presidential election less than a year away, administration officials said Biden will make clear that Chinese interference in the vote will not be tolerated.

Disinformation experts warn that Beijing could aim to target the U.S., sowing discord that might influence election results at the local level, especially in districts with large numbers of Chinese American voters.

#### WHAT XI WANTS

Xi is looking for assurances from Biden. Xi wants to hear from Biden that the American president will not support Taiwan independence, will not start a new cold war and will not suppress China's economic growth.

"A good host needs to avoid creating any new trouble or obstacles," Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador, said at a forum in Hong Kong last week.

Beijing's demands were made clear last November when Xi and Biden met in Bali, Indonesia, during the Group of 20 summit. Relations, however, had hardly sta-

bilized when the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon in February, plunging diplomatic relations to another low.

Now, the two countries "need to return to what was agreed between the two presidents in Bali and truly act on it," said Wang Wenbin, a spokesman of the Chinese foreign ministry.

Last year, Xi told Biden the Taiwan question was "at the core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations."

This time Xi will be looking for strong language from Washington opposing Taiwan's independence.

Xi said in Bali that U.S.-China interactions should be defined by dialogue and win-win cooperation, not confrontation and zero-sum competition. That was a rejoinder to the Biden administration mantra that the two nations should compete vigorously while not looking for conflict. Beijing has bristled at export controls and other measures imposed by the Biden administration, perceiving them as designed to stifle China's economic growth.

Zhu Feng, dean of the School of International Studies of Nanjing University, said punitive measures from both the Trump and Biden administrations, such as tariffs on Chinese goods, sanctions against Chinese companies and export restrictions on high-tech products such as advanced chips, have become "the most important issue" for China.

Beijing does not want a cold war or geopolitical opposition because it hurts China's development, Zhu said, and China "will reject and cannot accept those crazy suppression acts of the U.S."

Beijing has demanded rollbacks in tariffs and sanctions. But Xi, this time, is likely to seek assurance from Biden that the U.S. will not pile new ones onto China.

Xi, who is expected to address American business leaders while in San Francisco, will also look to bolster confidence that China is a safe place to invest as Beijing needs foreign investment to help revive its economy.

In an alarming sign, the country recorded a foreign direct investment deficit during the July-September period, the first time since 1998. Foreign investments have driven much of China's growth for the past three decades, and a net outflow "could indicate Beijing's inability to attract and retain foreign investments," according to observers. **MDT/AP**

## EDUCATION

# Int'l students have returned to US colleges, fueled by a surge from India, second to China

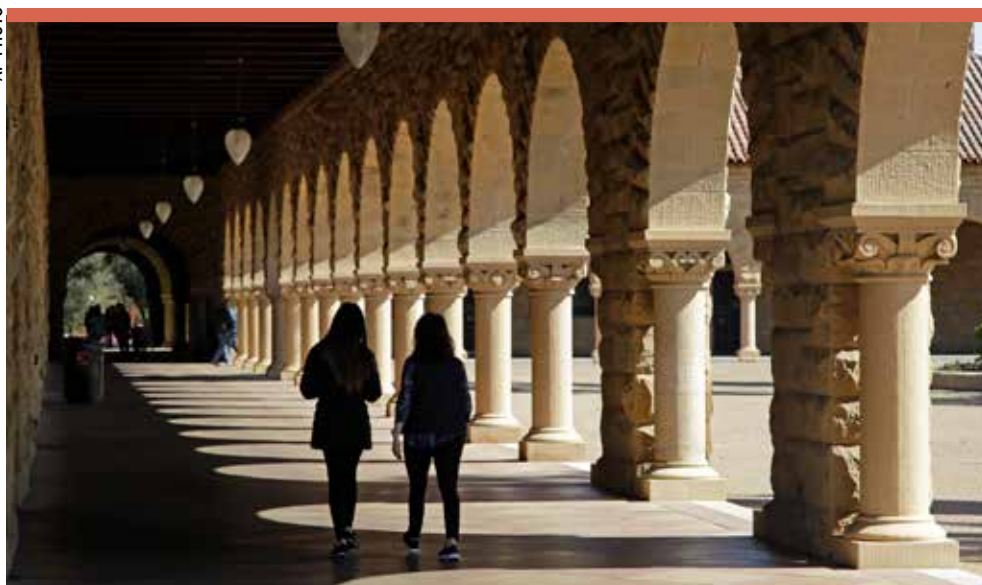
COLLIN BINKLEY,  
WASHINGTON

**I**NTERNATIONAL students attended U.S. universities in surging numbers last year, rebounding from a pandemic slump with the help of a 35% jump in students coming from India, according to a study released yesterday.

Overall, the number of international students in the U.S. grew by 12% in the 2022-23 academic year, the largest single-year increase in more than 40 years, according to findings from the State Department and the nonprofit Institute of International Education. More than 1 million students came from abroad, the most since the 2019-20 school year.

"This reinforces that the U.S. remains the destination of choice for international students wishing to study abroad, as it has been for more than a century," said Allan E. Goodman, CEO of

AP PHOTO



the Institute of International Education.

American colleges enrolled nearly 269,000 students from India, more than ever and second only to China. Most came for graduate programs, often in science, technology and business.

"The U.S. maintains a strong relationship with India on education, which I think is getting even stronger and even more connec-

ted," said Marianne Craven, the State Department's acting deputy assistant secretary for academic exchange.

China still accounted for the most foreign students in the U.S. with 290,000, but its numbers decreased for a third consecutive year.

It reflects a gradual shift. After years of booming demand from China, interest has ebbed amid chilly international relations and

increased competition from universities in the United Kingdom and Canada. Officials behind the new study also blame prolonged travel restrictions in Asia during the pandemic.

At the same time, U.S. universities have focused on recruiting in India, hoping to tap a growing population that the United Nations predicted would overtake China as the world's largest

this year. Students from India now outnumber those from China in 24 U.S. states, including Illinois, Texas and Michigan, which rank among the top destinations for international students.

For the second consecutive year, America's graduate programs were the main attraction for international students, the study finds. Graduate enrollment grew by 21%, while undergraduate numbers ticked up 1%. It reverses a trend from the previous decade, which saw undergraduates come in larger numbers.

Much of last year's growth is credited to math and computer science programs, which attracted more students than any other subject and saw a 20% boost in enrollment over the previous year. Engineering and business followed behind. Taken together, those three fields account for more than half of all international students in the United States.

The surge nearly brings international numbers back to their pre-pandemic highs, with a peak of almost 1.1 million students in 2018. Enrollment fell precipitously over the following two years as COVID-19 stifled academic exchange.

The rebound appears to be continuing, with an 8% increase in international enrollment this fall, according to a smaller survey meant to give a snapshot of recent trends.

Overall, international students made up just 5.6% of all college students in the 2022-23 year, but they play an outsized role in U.S. higher education. University leaders say they're important for global exchange, and they're also important for revenue — international students are usually charged higher tuition rates, effectively subsidizing college for U.S. students.

Behind China and India, nations sending the most students to the U.S. were South Korea, Canada, Vietnam, Taiwan and Nigeria. Last school year saw a record number of students come from Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, India, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan and Spain. **MDT/AP**



MIDDLE EAST

# Dubai air chiefs summit, sponsored by Israeli firm, avoids discussing strikes as Hamas war rages

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

AS Israel unleashes one of the most-intense aerial bombing campaigns the Middle East has ever seen, leaders from the world's top air forces met yesterday [Macau time] in the United Arab Emirates to talk about almost anything that wasn't an airstrike.

The discussions at the Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference, held ahead of the biennial Dubai Air Show this week, shows the delicate balancing act the federation of seven sheikhdoms faces. The UAE maintains diplomatic ties with Israel despite widespread and growing anger in the Arab world over the civilian casualties from Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip against Hamas.

The Air Chiefs' Conference demonstrates how those ties continue, particularly as Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., an Israeli defense manufacturer, was a sponsor of the summit. And while the Dubai Air Show focuses primarily on commercial aircraft in a region crucial to East-West travel, there's a military component of the event as well.

Listed among the show's exhibitors are both Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries, which makes radars for its anti-missile systems and combat drones for the Israeli military.

"IAI stands shoulder to shoulder with the (Israeli military) to fully support all efforts, with fully operational systems," the company said in an online message. "We have a national duty and a profound responsibility to support the ... Israeli defense community, while continuing to deliver top-quality service and supplies to our partners worldwide."

The Israel-Hamas war began Oct. 7, when militants stormed into Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking over 200 others back to the Gaza Strip as hostages. In the time since, the intense Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, followed up by a ground campaign with street-to-street combat still going on, have



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David A. Mineau attends the Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference in Dubai

killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Hamas-overseen Health Ministry there.

For the arms industry, the Gulf Arab states long have been major clients. The nations, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have spent billions of dollars on both sophisticated fighter jets and missile defense systems as tensions with Iran have risen and ebbed over the decades.

In the past 10 years alone, Saudi Arabia has spent more than \$28 billion on weapons imports, the second-highest in the world behind only India, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Qatar has spent more than \$11 billion while the UAE has spent over \$10 billion as the sixth- and seventh-largest importers in the world respectively, SIPRI data shows.

Those systems have seen action with the Saudi-led war on Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, a war that continues to grind on despite efforts to reach a peace deal. That coalition faced interna-

tional criticism for airstrikes targeting schools and markets, killing civilians. Meanwhile, Houthi missile-and-drone attacks have reached deep into both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, at one point seeing U.S. forces based in the country fire their air-defense systems to defend Abu Dhabi in 2022.

The collapse of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers also saw an escalation in attacks attributed to Tehran as it now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. And Israel's war on Hamas, which has seen punishing airstrikes level city blocks in the Gaza Strip, also has raised concerns of a regional war breaking out.

The summit drew attendees from across the world, though it did not appear there were any Israeli military officials on hand. Most attendees came from Western nations, though there was a large contingent from China as well.

While staying away from discussing the Israel-Hamas war, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David A. Mineau did mention the challenges facing the region, including sharing inte-

lligence across nations allied with America. A yearslong boycott of Qatar by nations including Saudi Arabia and the UAE only ended in 2021 after apparently nearly escalating into an armed conflict itself. Qatar, a major non-NATO ally of the U.S., hosts the forward headquarters of the American military's Central Command.

"The more things change, the more they stay the same because we're still working through some of the same problem sets," Mineau told the summit. "Some specific things we're still trying to solve ... (are) a shared, common operating picture and shared threat warning."

After his remarks on stage, Mineau told journalists that "they don't want us going on record with anything here." He declined to elaborate.

Earlier, Italian Air Force Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Luca Goretti had referenced the Russian war on Ukraine as a sign that air forces must share information to be able to fight.

"We need to share, in order to protect our freedom, in order to protect our life," Goretti said. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1991 US ACCUSES LIBYANS OF LOCKERBIE BOMBING



Two Libyan intelligence officers have been accused of masterminding the Lockerbie bombing.

The United States has called on Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi to hand over the two men, Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah.

The men have been indicted in the US on 193 charges, including three which carry the death penalty.

Arrest warrants have also been issued for the two Libyans in Scotland on charges of murder and conspiracy in relation to bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988.

The plane was en route from London to New York when it exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland, killing all 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground.

President George Bush is to consult British Prime Minister John Major and other world leaders over the next few days to decide the international response.

Both President Bush and Mr Major have refused to rule out military action if Libya fails to hand over the suspects for trial.

However, Libya's ambassador to France, Saeeb Mujber, has said his country would not comply with the indictments.

Mr Mujber told the BBC that surrendering the two men would be to surrender Libya's sovereignty.

Libya had been implicated as an excuse for a military assault, he added.

"This is a political thing. This is a lynching to bring Libya to its knees," Mr Mujber said.

But the US acting Attorney General, William Barr, said a fragment from the Toshiba radio-cassette recorder which contained the bomb linked the accused to the crime.

"Scientists determined that it was part of the bomb's timing device and traced it to its manufacturer - a Swiss company that had sold it to a high-level Libyan intelligence official," Mr Barr said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Abdelbaset ali Mohmed al-Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah were not brought to trial for another decade.

After years of wrangling, Colonel Gaddafi finally allowed them to be tried in a neutral country under Scottish law.

In January 2001 Abdelbaset ali Mohmed al-Megrahi was jailed for life following an 84-day trial at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands.

His alleged accomplice, Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, was found not guilty.

Al-Megrahi is serving his sentence at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, Scotland in a specially-built isolation unit, dubbed "Gaddafi's Café".

In 2002 his appeal against conviction was rejected.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Do something constructive outside.

**TAURUS** Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other. You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted.

**GEMINI** May. 21-Jun. 21  
 You will be full of good ideas, and your choice of activities may bring you enrichment far beyond your expectations. Avoid lending or borrowing.

**CANCER** Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Don't let your mate stop you from attending an event that could be most important. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation.

**LEO** Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved. Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. Take care of any dealings with government agencies.

**VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Plan a nice evening for two. Take time to deal with authority figures or government agencies. Try to calm down and listen to your partner's complaints.

**LIBRA** Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Plan a nice evening for two. You can make extra cash by moonlighting. Be careful; you may say something you'll regret later. Compromise may be necessary.

**SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. There could be disappointment regarding investments. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues.

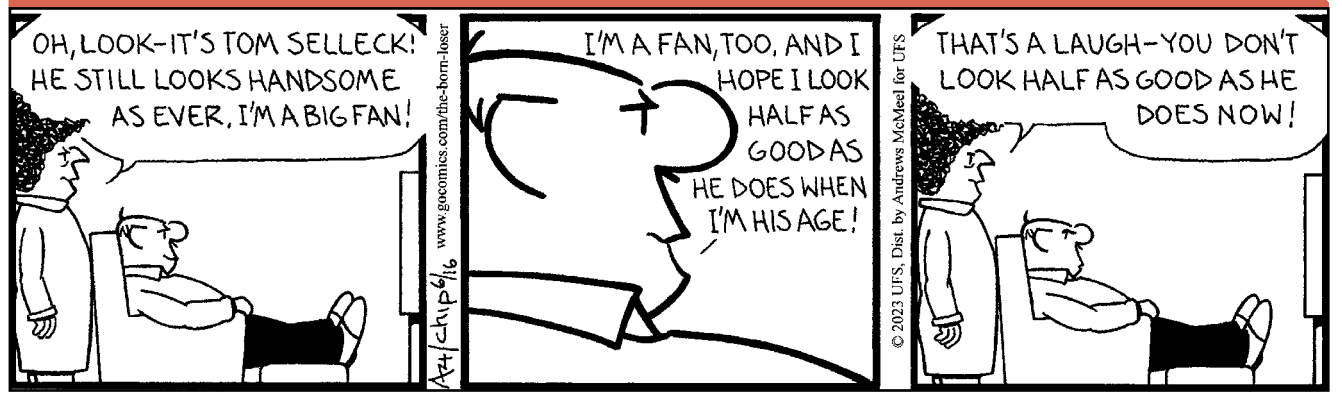
**SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Get involved in sports groups or hobbies that attract you. Be sure to look into travel opportunities that will provide you with mental stimulation.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Try not to allow others to burden you with additional responsibilities. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Avoid disputes with family; their complaints can't change anything anyway. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Put all your energy into moneymaking ventures.

**PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Sudden romantic encounters are quite likely, but discretion will be a must. Legal matters that have been pending may be alleviated through compromise.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

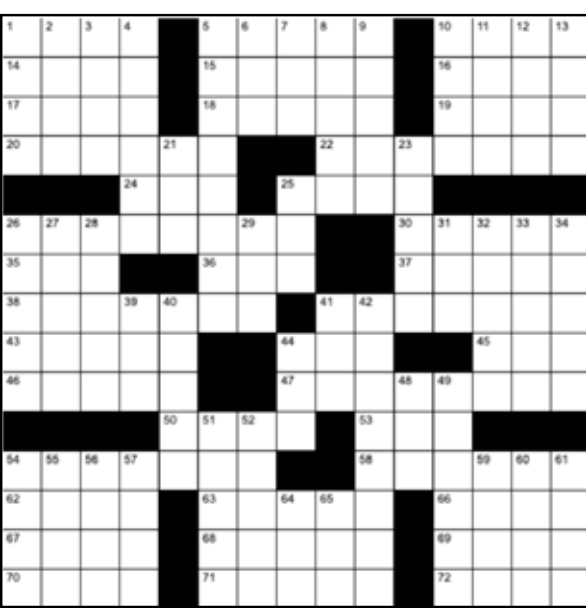
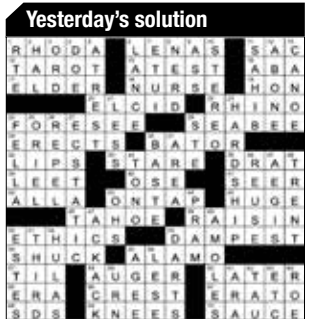
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-3	11	fine
Changchun	-8	1	fine
Chengdu	7	13	overcast
Chongqing	10	14	cloudy
Fuzhou	13	20	overcast
Guangzhou	14	19	cloudy
Guiyang	2	12	overcast
Haikou	23	25	overcast
Hangzhou	4	13	fine
Harbin	-10	-5	fine
Hefei	0	13	fine
Nanjing	2	13	fine
Shanghai	8	15	fine
Taipei	17	21	rain
Wuhan	1	14	fine
Hong Kong	18	22	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	1	4	rain
Frankfurt	9	13	rain
Paris	10	14	rain
London	8	13	rain
New York	3	13	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Nailed obliquely; 5- Florida citrus center; 10- Rampant; 14- Paris pronoun; 15- Tribe ruler; 16- The Emerald Isle; 17- Prison room; 18- Freight; 19- Defense grp. since 1949; 20- Commotion; 22- Female deity; 24- "\_\_\_ and hers"; 25- Unit of computer memory; 26- Medieval church; 30- Ulan \_\_\_; 35- Terre Haute sch.; 36- Meal crumb; 37- \_\_\_ having fun yet?; 38- Costumed procession; 41- Pertinent; 43- Related on the mother's side; 44- Enjoyable; 45- Paris possessive; 46- Ventured; 47- Predate; 50- Prepare for publication; 53- Big time; 54- Become raspy, like a voice; 58- Scan again; 62- Austen novel; 63- Island in the Bay of Naples; 66- Too; 67- Classic autos; 68- Crazy as \_\_\_; 69- Swift; 70- "Puppy Love" singer; 71- Throw with force; 72- Tolkien tree creatures;

**DOWN** 1- Word in many college names; 2- Ersatz butter; 3- London greeting; 4- Oracle site; 5- Particular time; 6- Ballroom dance, when doubled; 7- Life support?; 8- Having long gams; 9- Under way; 10- Tear; 11- Dies \_\_\_; 12- Seizures; 13- Nephew of Abel; 21- Dogpatch adjective; 23- Prohibit; 25- Cave dweller; 26- Two-footer; 27- Yoga posture; 28- Sucrose; 29- TV part; 31- Human limb; 32- Fluff, as bangs; 33- Had; 34- Actress Witherspoon; 39- Hot time in Paris; 40- Yellow-fever mosquito; 41- Firearm; 42- Ingoing; 44- Budgetary excess; 48- Predating; 49- Wide-mouthed bottle; 51- Coffee choice; 52- Total; 54- Mother of Ares; 55- Portent; 56- One way to run; 57- Tabula \_\_\_; 59- Gusto; 60- Little helper?; 61- Periods; 64- Luau dish; 65- Jockey Turcotte;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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**Nam Long (Old Taipa)**  
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**Coloane Village**  
 HKD 9,950/mth 1 bed 1 bath

AD



AP PHOTO



## POP CULTURE MEETS ACADEMIA

# CLASSES ON CELEBRITIES LIKE TAYLOR SWIFT AND RICK ROSS ARE ENGAGING A NEW GENERATION OF LAW STUDENTS

HANNAH FINGERHUT,  
DES MOINES (IOWA)

A South Dakota law professor typically teaches about dense topics like torts and natural resources. But next semester, he and his fearless students are shaking things up by turning their attention to Taylor Swift.

Sean Kammer wanted his legal writing course to draw on music and art to help his students reconsider legal language and craft persuasive arguments. The self-described “Swiftie” thought a focus on the cultural icon was also a way to connect with his students.

Never in his wildest dreams did Kammer expect the attention that the announcement generated — the class filled up quickly and jealous alumni even reached out.

“The reaction from students

has been exciting,” he said. “If we can have fun while we’re exploring some of these complex theoretical problems or issues, I believe students will be inspired to think deeper and to push themselves further.”

Swifties at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law aren’t the only ones having fun. Law professors across the country are increasingly drawing on popular culture and celebritydom — sometimes with the help of celebrities themselves — to engage a new generation of students and contextualize complicated concepts in the real world.

Courses on Swift, Rick Ross and Succession supplement traditional law school courses with fun and accessible experiences that professors say they often didn’t have themselves.

Students at the Georgia State University College of Law were hustlin’ everyday to get to class — especially on Tuesday when they got to hear directly from Ross for the final day of a course that chronicled the legal intricacies of the rapper, record executive and Win-gstop franchise owner’s life.

Moraima “Mo” Ivory, director of the school’s entertainment, sports and media law program, wants her students to see for themselves what goes into the albums, television shows and movies they enjoy. She chooses a star each year and invites guest speakers from their world, along with the title character themselves, to bring legal deals, defenses and drama to life.

“We’re talking about critical legal principles, but we’re watching them as they happen and as they happened,” she said. “It really just

turns that lightbulb on for law students.”

Ivory said she could’ve heard a pin drop in one class about mixtapes that featured guest DJ Drama.

“It was never my experience that I walked out of a law school classroom excited about what I had learned,” Ivory said.

For third-year law student Luke Padia, the experience makes concepts feel more tangible than reading a textbook or case law, he said.

“No knock on the other courses,” the 26-year-old from Lawrence, Kansas, said. “I just find that my attention is more easily grabbed when I’m sitting in class listening to Steve Sadow talk about how he was able to get Rick Ross out of jail as opposed to sitting in constitutional law or torts or whatever it may be.”

Frances Acevedo, a 25-year-old from Pembroke Pines, Florida, in her third year of law school, said she’s walked away from the class with an understanding of how important a team is to an artist’s success — a message Ross emphasized.

“I can sit at the table and talk money with multibillionaires,” Ross said to students, faculty and guests gathered for the course finale. “But when it’s time for me to move forward, I sit down with my team.”

Courses on A-list celebrities have captivated undergraduate and graduate students across the country for years, increasingly in courses analyzing race and gender. The attention on female artists and artists of color is a sign of growing respect for them and for different modes of artistic expression, said Kinitra Brooks, an English professor at Michigan State University.

Brooks’ course on Beyoncé’s Lemonade album and Black feminism was so popular that she published a reader that other professors can use. The pop culture material offers “immediate relatability,” which Brooks thinks makes students more likely to participate, allow their ideas to be challenged and be willing to challenge the artist, too.

Bella Andrade, a junior at Arizona State University, looks forward to her class on the psychology of Taylor Swift every week. The self-proclaimed “huge Swiftie” has been listening to her music for “forever and a day,” but the class includes a range of fans. There are “10 out of 10” Swifties, along with people who barely know her music, which “leads to some really great conversations,” she said.

“I think I’ve developed a much deeper understanding of different topics in social psychology,” said Andrade, who is from Minneapolis. “Taking topics that I’ve known about or heard about before but really applying them in a sense to something that I’m really invested in ... really solidifies meaning.”

Courses that incorporate pop culture offer a different context for the fundamentals that students learn in their traditional courses, said Cathy Hwang, who co-taught a University of Virginia corporate law course last year inspired by Succession.

The class investigated the show’s prickly — and often duplicitous — legal matters, like hostile takeovers and securities law. Hwang said she was trying to engage and nurture a love of learning in students who “grew up with different interactions with technology and pop culture than what I did.”

“To me, it’s not so much what’s my teaching style, but what’s the students’ learning style?” Hwang said. “It’s important, I think, as a teacher to keep evolving and trying to meet students where they are.” **MDT/AP**



**BOXING**

# Usyk will be sure of Tyson Fury fight when he hears 'the sound of a bell'

**T**HE heavyweight title fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Tyson Fury now appears likely to be held in February.

Although Usyk isn't convinced.

"I'm not 100% sure. I will be sure when I'm the ring," Usyk said. "I will stand in one corner, Tyson Fury will stand in the opposite corner, between us a referee in a white shirt, and only when I hear the sound of a bell — that's when I'll understand that yes, the game is on."

The Ukrainian has his doubts because the fight had been planned for Dec. 23 in Saudi Arabia.

That was before Fury got knocked down and nearly defeated by Francis Ngannou, an MMA fighter making his boxing debut.

Fury's British promoter, Frank Warren, then called the December date "unlikely" for the first bout this century to unify all of the major heavyweight boxing titles.

Usyk holds the IBF, WBA and WBO belts and Fury has the WBC

AP PHOTO



Ukrainian heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk

version of the heavyweight title.

The last fight to crown an undisputed heavyweight champion was in 1999, when Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield.

"I want this to work out, I want this fight to happen," the 36-year-old Usyk said from his

training camp in Valencia. "The fact that it is postponed is no problem to me. I'm satisfied."

Usyk, whose country was invaded by Russia in February 2022, said he's "not motivated by money."

"I don't care about mate-

rial things. I care for the path I follow," he said.

Usyk (21-0) is coming off a defense against Daniel Dubois in Poland in August.

The Ukrainian won his heavyweight titles off Anthony Joshua in 2021 and defended

them in a rematch in Saudi Arabia the following year.

Earlier talks for a Fury-Usyk fight fell apart in March, with Warren blaming a disagreement over terms for a rematch. Usyk had accepted Fury's demand for a 70-30 split of earnings in the British fighter's favor but his promoter Alex Krassyuk accused Fury of putting further obstacles in the way of a deal.

Usyk isn't worried about potential insults coming from the 35-year-old Fury (34-0-1). Usyk noted the gap between his front teeth and that his last name means "little mustache" in Ukrainian.

"I heard so many insults about myself, that at some point I started flipping them over and making them my achievements," he said.

There will be no hard feelings regardless, he added.

"I love this incredible person," he said. "As a human being I feel no hostility towards him. I simply love people, including Tyson Fury." **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Zeke Miller, MDT/AP



**BIDEN'S EARLY CERTITUDE ON ISRAEL GIVES WAY TO BRUTAL WAR**

In the early days and hours after the horrific Hamas attack on Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, President Joe Biden spoke with stark declarations and unqualified support for the longtime U.S. ally.

Now, a month on, that unambiguous backing has given way to the complexities and haunting casualties of the war, and the Biden administration is imploring Israel to rein in some of its tactics to ease civilian suffering in Gaza.

As condemnation of the conflict has grown around the world, stoking anti-Israel sentiment, the Democratic president is also confronting the limits of the U.S. ability to direct the outcome — not only about the war, but what comes after it.

"There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on October the 6th," Biden said three weeks after the attack. But even if Israel is successful in crippling or eradicating Hamas, there will also need to be a shift in Washington, where successive U.S. administrations have sought to manage the Middle East conflict and where the political will has been lacking to devise ways to end it.

In recent weeks, U.S. officials have held internal discussions and talks with allies on post-Hamas governance in Gaza, and resurrected talk of working toward a two state solution, with, as Biden expressed Sunday to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, a "future Palestinian state where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side with equal measures of stability and dignity."

Yet there has been little progress on how to get there, and some in the Biden administration have grown increasingly worried that the mounting death toll in Gaza will make that aim even more difficult.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who last week appeared to criticize Israel for not doing enough to minimize harm to civilians among whom Israel says Hamas seeks shelter, has called for a return to unified Palestinian governance over the West Bank and Gaza under the beleaguered Palestinian Authority.

Within the Democratic Party, there are also clear signs of discord. Nearly half of Democrats disapprove of how President Joe Biden is handling the Israel-Hamas conflict, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research — showing a deep divide within his party over the war.

In Congress, so far there is no consensus about Biden's proposal to pass an aid package that includes assistance to Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan, and additional money to address issues at the southern border of the U.S.

More than 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, were killed when Hamas fighters launched a surprise attack on Israeli border communities, in the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Nearly 240 — including children and the elderly — remain captive in Gaza, Israeli officials say. Israel's war to "destroy" Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 11,000 people, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza says, though it doesn't differentiate between civilians and fighters. The U.S. believes thousands of women and children are among the dead.

Until Hamas' attack, Biden's administration had largely relegated the region on the back burner, as it focused first on a pivot to Asia then on responding to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Now, Biden faces a challenge that has splintered his political support at home and the unity of U.S. allies abroad.

"Clearly, Israel has the military ability to take out Hamas," said Senate Intelligence committee chairman Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., on "Fox News Sunday." "But this is also a battle about hearts and minds — hearts and minds in terms of maintaining support for Israel in this country, in the world and in the region."

[Abridged]

President Joe Biden will host Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House today [Macau time], one day before the U.S. leader leaves for San Francisco to attend a summit of Asian leaders.

The two presidents will share an afternoon tea and meet with top advisers, according to senior administration officials who insisted on anonymity to preview the schedule.

They will also talk about ways to expand the trade of critical minerals like nickel, which can be used to produce electric vehicle batteries. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said they "will

explore opportunities to enhance cooperation on the clean energy transition, advance economic prosperity, bolster regional peace and stability, and reinforce our people-to-people ties."

Biden's meeting with Widodo comes shortly before he sits down with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy — after India and the United States — and a key player in Southeast Asia. The U.S. has been working to strengthen relationships in the region in hopes of deterring China's influence, and Vice President Kamala Harris attended a summit there in September.

AP PHOTO



Fashionistas wait for the start of Niger's designer Alia Bare's show during Johannesburg Fashion Week 2023 in Johannesburg

**NIGER FASHION DESIGNER AIMS TO SHOW A POSITIVE IMAGE OF HER COUNTRY AT JOBURG FASHION WEEK**

MOGOMOTSI MAGOME, JOHANNESBURG

Niger fashion designer Alia Bare took center stage at the Joburg Fashion Week with a collection that she hopes will spread a positive image of her troubled country, suffering from instability and economic sanctions that followed a military coup earlier this year.

Bare is one of several African designers that descended on Johannesburg, South Africa, this week for the Joburg Fashion Week, a key feature of Africa's fashion and entertainment calendar.

Bare, who has lived in Senegal and India, last week showcased an elegant collection, which drew from her experiences living in different countries.

Speaking to The Associated Press at the event, Bare said Niger has long been associated with political strife by the rest of the world, an image that she says does not fully represent the beauty of her country.

"When people talk about Niger they always talk about conflict, they talk about poverty and death, they talk about negative things," she said.

"I know most people

associate fashion with superficiality. But I think that fashion, through culture, can help to send a good message outside, an image of the country that is positive."

Bare's collection, called DNA, is a blend of influences from around the world including symbols from Niger and graphic design by a South African graphic designer.

"It is a very important collection for me because it represents what I am in terms of my culture, my background. I'm from Niger and I'm from different ethnic groups, and I wanted to show that in this collec-

tion," Bare said.

Precious Moloi-Motsepe, executive chairperson of Africa Fashion International, which hosts the fashion event, said Thursday evening that Joburg Fashion Week aims to create a platform for African creatives to flourish.

"We believe we provide a blank canvas for our creatives and designers to express their creativity," said Moloi-Motsepe. "We believe that African stories are better told by people from Africa."

Joburg Fashion Week ended last weekend, with more African designers showcasing their work. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Alia Bare

AP PHOTO



Gaza Fighting between Israeli and Palestinian forces outside Gaza's largest hospital has prompted thousands of people to flee from the sprawling medical facility, but hundreds of patients and others displaced by the war remained inside, health officials said yesterday. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said a day earlier that the UN agency was in contact with Shifa hospital, which he said had been without electricity and water for three days.

AP PHOTO



USA Activists protesting corporate profits, environmental abuses, poor working conditions and the Israel-Hamas war marched in downtown San Francisco yesterday [Macau time], united in their opposition to a global trade summit that will draw Joe Biden and leaders from nearly two dozen countries. Protests are expected throughout this week's APEC leaders' conference, which could draw more than 20,000 attendees. The "No to APEC" coalition says trade deals struck at summits such as APEC exploit workers and their families.

AP PHOTO



UK Former British Prime Minister David Cameron (pictured) made a shock return to high office yesterday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw the firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman. Cameron, who led the U.K. government between 2010 and 2016, was appointed by PM Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a divisive figure who drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters. She was replaced by James Cleverly.