



iPhone 15 Pro. Capture more than ever before.

iPhone 15 Pro

CTM5G: Fast · Entertaining · Unlimited
\$468 / 3-Destination Unlimited Data Usage
Handset Bundle Price \$2,070 up

Note: Customers of the above promotion are bound by the respective service agreement.

CTM



THE AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE OF GUEST ROOMS ROSE 41.1% YEAR-ON-YEAR TO 82.8% IN OCTOBER, AMID THE NATIONAL DAY GOLDEN WEEK: STATS

P2

HENGQIN: NON-OWNERS ATTRACTED AMID NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD SALES OPEN

P2

ARTIST ZENG FANZHI DEPICTS 'ZERO-COVID' TIMES

P6



AP PHOTO



Australia A visiting Chinese official yesterday warned Australia to act with “great prudence” in deploying warships in the South China Sea after a recent confrontation between the two navies. Liu Jianchao, the Chinese Communist Party’s international minister (pictured), gave the warning while speaking at a Sydney university during a trip that paves the way for President Xi Jinping’s Australian visit, expected to take place next year.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Candidates opened their campaigns yesterday for the presidential election, which is shaping up as a three-way race among a former special forces general who’s lost twice before and two former governors. The three presidential hopefuls have vowed a peaceful race as concerns rose their rivalry may sharpen religious and ethnic divides in the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country.

AP PHOTO



India Officials said yesterday they were on the verge of rescuing the 41 construction workers trapped in a collapsed mountain tunnel for over two weeks in the country’s north, after rescuers drilled their way through debris to reach them. The workers are to be pulled out through a passageway made of welded pipes which rescuers pushed through dirt and rocks.

More on backpage

MERRIER CHRISTMAS

Districts under revitalization program to see more events during Christmas: Gov’t

P3



SCIENCE
CHINA SPACE PROGRAM DELEGATION VISITS MACAU

P3

RENATO MARQUES



TAXIS
GOV’T ACCEPTS 21 BIDS FOR 500 TAXI LICENSES

P4

NON-OWNERS ATTRACTED AMID NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD SALES OPEN

ANTHONY LAM

SALES for Macau New Neighbourhood in Hengqin opened at 9 a.m. yesterday, attracting interest from individuals without current property ownership.

Several buyers or prospective buyers attended the application centers at both Macau and Hengqin yesterday morning either for queries or to submit applications.

Each apartment is priced between RMB2.41 million and RMB3.71 million, depending on its size, floor and location.

Some buyers arrived at the Macau application center as early as 8:30 a.m., public broadcaster TDM reported.

These buyers were mostly non-property owners. Some have unsuccessfully applied for Economic Housing units. Their preference for Hengqin stems from its perceived better living environment compared to Macau's.

The main challenge for potential buyers revolves around commuting and border-crossing logistics.



Project developer, Macau Urban Renewal Ltd. (MUR), is offering various full decoration plans for buyers at different prices.

According to pictures released by the MUR, long queues were present at the Hengqin application center. Meanwhile, TDM reported that the first in the line arrived at the center 12 hours before the applications opened.

The MUR added that as of 3 p.m. yesterday, over 500 applications were received at the sales centers and through online applications.

In addition, to shorten and simplify sales procedures, applicants can now complete the application

form and have the RMB100,000 initial deposit as well as all the necessary documents ready and submit them to the Hengqin sales center, where they can also choose the residential unit they want to purchase.

The MUR boasts ample facilities at the Hengqin project. For example, there are recreational and sports venues, in addition to green areas over 73,000 square meters, more than 36% of the total size of the land plot.

The project aims to provide a living environment and amenities such as internet access comparable to that of Macau.

LABOR

46 EMPLOYERS BANNED FROM REHIRING AFTER ILLEGAL WORK

RENATO MARQUES

ONLY 46 employers or entities of 2,187 found to be working illegally or engaged in unlawful work practices involving non-resident workers (TNRs) since 2018 have been banned from hiring TNRs, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) said in reply to a written inquiry from lawmaker Ella Lei last month.

According to DSAL, these 46 employers were fined and prohibited from importing workers for periods spanning from six months to two years.

The other 2,187 received administrative penalties, including fines.

Between January 2018 to September this year, a total

of 2,197 people individuals were implicated in these cases, including TNRs performing duties differing from those stipulated on their "Blue Cards" and unregistered workers.

In this year alone, there have been 270 people under investigation for suspected illegal work activities.

According to Public Security Police Force (PSP) records cited by DSAL, bans have also been enforced on 1,079 people working illegally from January 2019 to October this year.

Illegal drivers have been among the cases most cited this year (January to October) with the PSP finding 56 cases across several Macau districts.

STATS

OCTOBER HOTEL OCCUPANCY AT 83%

STAFF REPORTER

THE average occupancy rate of guest rooms rose 41.1 percentage points year-on-year to 82.8% in October, amid the National Day Golden Week, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has shown.

The rates for 5-star (85.6%) and 2-star hotels (83.1%) both exceeded 80%, surging 45.4 percentage points and 33.7 percentage points respectively.

The number of guests of hotel establishments in October leapt 151.8% year-on-year to 1,247,000. Guests from mainland China (904,000), Hong Kong (187,000) and Taiwan (28,000) jumped by 131.2%, 787% and 503.1% respectively.

The Golden Week of the National Day holidays,

which followed the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, accounted for a higher number of visitors to Macau than initially forecasted.

The eight-day holiday period saw over 900,000 (931,429) visitors, a 16.4% increase over Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) officials' expectations, with a daily average of 116,429.

In the first ten months of this year, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms of hotel establishments rose 43 percentage points year-on-year to 80.9%.

Until October, the number of visitors arriving on package tours totaled 914,000, and that of Macau residents purchasing outbound services through travel agencies skyrocketed by 858.1% year-on-year to 327,000.

CRIME

PJ arrest three suspected of circulating counterfeit currency

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has apprehended three suspects accused of circulating counterfeit currency.

Police have detained three mainland men after receiving three separate complaints from people who said they had received counterfeit banknotes after exchanging RMB currency for HKD.

When the trio was detained, they were carrying about 100 counterfeit banknotes in denominations of HKD500 and HKD1,000.

The victims reported a

RENATO MARQUES



loss of some RMB420,000 in the scam.

The detainees said an unknown person had hired them to perform illegal currency exchange activities in local casinos.

They told police they had engaged in currency exchange activities but insisted they did not know the HKD notes were coun-

terfeit.

After gamblers agreed to the currency exchange, the suspects would provide them with a mainland bank account into which the RMB sums would be transferred, and they would receive HKD on-site.

The alleged leader who hired them allegedly told the suspects they would

each be paid RMB6,000 if they could exchange all the money they had been given.

The PJ reported the case began to unravel after one of the victims became suspicious about the bank notes he had received. He had a casino clerk check them and discovered they were all fake.

The two other victims had their money checked and, upon realizing they had been defrauded, contacted the PJ.

The PJ confiscated around 800 counterfeit banknotes amounting to HKD500,000 from both the victims and the suspects.

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 Goldenhuys 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

Districts under revitalization to see more events during Christmas

ANTHONY LAM

WITH the revitalization projects well-received, additional efforts will be made for Christmas, director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau Leong Wai Man said yesterday.

Yesterday marked the seventh meeting of the Committee this year, with Leong presiding over the meeting as acting president. She highlighted the discussion on the reception of revitalization projects and flow-on effects to the Christmas period at the post-meeting press conference.

She said the meeting had discussed the revitalization projects of traditional districts.

Complimenting those projects for "bringing in innovative leisure activities and adding cultural tourism elements to the neighborhoods," she revealed that the effects of these projects were presented to committee members during the meeting.

Committee members were also introduced to additional upcoming activities planned for the upcoming Christmas period, with further announcements to be made in due course.

She hoped cultural resources rooted in the neighborhoods could be better utilized to increase the vitality of the areas.

She said that during the Macau Grand Prix weekends, the Mount Fortress had seen over 14,000 visitors. Meanwhile, Rua de Felicidade saw nearly 60,000 visitors over the same weekends.

She saw these figures as proof that the projects were successful.

Asked about rentals increases



in the neighborhoods after the revitalization projects, Leong suggested that market forces were at play, distancing her bureau from further intervention.

She questioned whether the public would like empty streets and shops in the areas with low rental levels, or crowded streets and thriving businesses with higher rental levels.

The government has previously confirmed the involvement of the casino operators in managing

revitalization projects in traditional districts, referring to the projects as collaborations.

Galaxy is working on the former shipyard at Lai Chi Vun; MGM on the neighborhood of Barra District; Melco will revitalize Piers 23 and 25 at Inner Harbour as well as the Mount Fortress; Wynn Resorts Macau is focused on the pedestrianization of Rua de Felicidade (Happiness Street); Sands China on the former Iek Long Firecracker Factory,

Pátio da Eterna Felicidade and Rua das Estalagens; SJM Resorts, S.A. will work on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and Piers 14 and 16.

Committee member Ieng Weng Fat said members were eager to see the conclusion of the revitalization of Piers 14 and 16, as well as the relocation of the former Macau Palace Casino to the Inner Harbour. The latter, which is a pontoon, is not berthed on the sea off from Fai Chi Kei.

LEONG DEFENDS 'NO COMMENT' ON RUA DAS ESTALAGENS DEVELOPMENT

THE director of Culture, Leong Wai Man, yesterday defended her bureau's decision to withhold comment about an aged building on Rua das Estalagens, saying it is not necessary for the entire street to be preserved.

The Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSOP) has released a draft plan of the proposed development of the building for public discussion. The draft contained no opinion from Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), despite it being on a street that will be revitalized by a local casino operator.

Under law, the IC is entitled to issue binding opinions on the mode of development and parts that should be retained, among other details.

She believes that not preserving a handful of structures should not pose significant risks on the presentation of the overall atmosphere or scenery on the street as a whole.

In response to public concerns that the overall "agedness" of the street will not survive, Leong refrained from making assumptions about the future, adding that her bureau would consider each draft plan independently.

China Space Program delegation to visit Macau over the weekend



A delegation of the China Manned Space Program will visit Macau from Dec. 1-3, the government has announced.

The delegation will be led by Lin Xiqiang, deputy director of the China Manned Space Agency, and also includes the taikonauts Liu Boming, Wang Yaping, Chen Dong and Zhang Lu, respectively from the crews of Shenzhou-12, 13, 14 and 15.

The delegation also includes other experts in the

manned aerospace program as well as engineering systems.

During its stay in Macau, the delegation will present developments in aerospace engineering to Macau's scientific and technological sector, as well as to the education sector with whom they will have in-person exchange sessions.

Ahead of the delegation's visit, the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, met with the director of the National Space Administration

of China, Zhang Kejian, on Monday to discuss the country's support for innovation and development of science and technology in Macau.

Zhang noted the support from the local government to the national space sector and said that the satellite "Macau Science Satellite-1" has been working well in orbit since its successful launch and achieving important scientific results.

Zhang and the delegation he led also took part in the "Bright Stars and Moon, Wonderful View of the Sea and Sky" event promoted by the Macau Science Center under its Science and Technology activity series. **RM**

PHOTOGRAPHER CANDIDA HÖFER SHOWCASES WORKS IN EXHIBITION

The exhibition "Candida Höfer: Epic Gaze" will begin Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. on the first floor of the Macao Museum of Art, featuring 60 photographic pieces by renowned contemporary photographer Candida Höfer. The exhibition includes representative works from the past two decades and some of her more recent works, inspiring the public to reflect on how these spaces continue to shape and influence the collective memory of future generations through the presentation of different types of Western cultural architecture in different periods.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESENTS DOCUMENTARY ON CHINA'S LANDMARK PROJECTS

The Commissioner's Office has presented the large-scale documentary "Extraordinary Construction" (Season 1) to Portuguese-speaking Countries' television stations. Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao leong U and Commissioner Liu Xianfa of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Macau attended yesterday's ceremony. Liu Xianfa said that this year, the documentary aims to share the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge with residents of Portuguese-speaking countries. The construction process and experience of 40 new landmark projects in China are expected to be used to better leverage Macau's role as a China-Portuguese platform, he said, according to a TDM report.

MPU HOLDS FORUM ON POTENTIAL OF AI IN ENGLISH TEACHING

The Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) has organized an AI creative English language teaching forum, inviting teaching scholars from the Greater Bay Area to share their insights. The forum explored the potential of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in English teaching and the role of creative English teaching in the era of high technology, to promote the high-quality development of education. Nearly 200 English teachers of Basic Education from more than ten universities and schools in Macau attended the forum, the university said in a statement.

PUBLIC WORKS

URBAN RENEWAL ARRIVING AT CITY'S HEART

RENATO MARQUES

BY private initiative, urban renewal is underway in several areas of the city center, with at least two projects focusing on the redevelopment of two buildings, one located at Rua do Campo and the other at Avenida da Praia Grande currently under public consultation before being reviewed by the Urban Planning Committee (CPU).

According to information from the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU), the two projects aim to rebuild from scratch the residential and commercial buildings situated at Avenida da Praia Grande Numbers 701-723 and Rua Formosa Numbers 12-14, as well as the building located at Numbers 343-351 of Rua do Campo and Calçada do Poço Numbers 1-1A.

The first project relates to a seven-story building previously used as one of the City University of Macau's student dormitories. This building has returned for discussion at the CPU after the committee issued an urban conditions plan (PCU) in 2021. At the time, the committee authorized a major transformation of the building, with the conditions stating that the new building height



RENATO MARQUES

ld be tripled to up to 75 meters, with the number of stories ranging between 20 and 24.

Unlike the previous 2021 PCU that allowed for both residential and commercial use, the revised plan now designates the building for commercial purposes only.

Regarding the building located at Rua do Campo, the proposed conditions establish a maximum height of 20.5 meters, with the final two stories set back from the

façade's vertical alignment.

The new building should theoretically be able to accommodate twice the number of stories compared to the existing four. In contrast to the Praia Grande building, the conditions for this land plot allows for mixed residential and commercial use, consistent with its current usage.

Public opinions on the projects may be submitted to the DSSCU until December 6.



Taipa new outdoor parking lot charges MOP8 per hour during daytime

THE hourly fares at the new outdoor parking lot near Nam San Garden will range between MOP4 and MOP10 depending on vehicle type

and time of day, according to yesterday's Official Gazette.

This is the government's first hourly-charged outdoor parking lot.

It will have 41 spaces for light vehicles and 17 for heavy vehicles. The hourly daytime rates for light vehicles are MOP8 and MOP10 for heavy vehi-

cles, while the nighttime hourly rates are MOP4 and MOP5 respectively.

The entrance and exit are located on Estrada Gov. Albano de Oliveira.

Although the operational details are confirmed, no opening date has yet been officially announced.

The parking fee increase for the Qingmao Border parking lot was also confirmed yesterday in the Official Gazette.

The daytime hourly fees for light vehicles and motorcycles will rise to MOP10 and MOP4. At night, the two fees will be MOP8 and MOP3. The price rise will take effect from midnight on Dec. 7.

The parking lot has 158 spaces for light vehicles and 207 for motorcycles.

Previously, the government announced raising the hourly fares for seven parking lots, with Qingmao included. Besides Qingmao, the remaining six parking lots will see increases next month. AL



RENATO MARQUES

GOV'T ACCEPTS 21 BIDS FOR UP TO 500 TAXI LICENSES

RENATO MARQUES

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has accepted 21 of 40 bids in the public tender for the allocation of regular taxi licenses.

The successful bids aim to secure 10 general taxi licenses with eight-year terms.

According to Law 3/2019 and Administrative Regulation 34/2023, this tender will grant 10 general licenses to operate taxis, with each contracting company entitled to request permits for a maximum of 50 taxis per license.

Therefore, the license tender is set to grant up to 500 permits for individual taxi vehicle operations.

In a press statement, the DSAT disclosed that the committee evaluating the proposals had accepted 21 bids and

rejected 19.

The accepted bids proposed tender amounts varying between 2.5 million patacas and 3.8 million patacas.

The average value of the 21 accepted bids was 3.1 million patacas. When divided among 50 taxi permits, this represents an average cost of 62,000 patacas per permit/vehicle or 7,750 patacas per year.

Several bids were excluded for failing to adhere to the rules of Article 7.2 (governing the printing and numbering of bid pages) as well as for incomplete submissions lacking required documents such as certification of taxi meters, among others.

The tender specifications require successful bidders to be Macau-registered companies exclusively engaged in taxi operations.

GBA

CHINA'S NEW CROSS-SEA HIGHWAY ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETION

A cross-sea highway project between the cities of Shenzhen and Zhongshan in south China's Guangdong Province is one step closer to completion.

The last pouring of concrete was put in place yesterday, as work on the immersed tube underwater tunnel, which spans around 6.8 km, is nearing its end, said Guangdong Provincial Communication Group Co., Ltd.

The tunnel is part of a 24-km-long highway connecting Shenzhen and Zhongshan, situated on either side of the Pearl River Estuary.

Shenzhen-Zhongshan link is a core transportation hub project in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It consists of one underwater tunnel,

two bridges and two artificial islands, making it one of the most challenging cross-sea cluster projects in the world.

The cross-sea link is scheduled to open to traffic in 2024. Once operational, the travel time between Shenzhen and Zhongshan will be reduced from the current two hours to approximately 20 minutes.

Shenzhen-Zhongshan link, along with existing structures like the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, will form a network of cross-sea and cross-river passages in the Greater Bay Area, boosting connectivity of the city cluster, said Deng Xiaohua, head of Guangdong Provincial Communication Group Co., Ltd. MDT/XINHUA



XINHUA

TECH

AI firm SenseTime denies research firm Grizzly's claim it inflated its revenue

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

SENSETIME, a major Chinese artificial intelligence company, has rejected claims by a research company that it has falsely inflated its revenue.

"(SenseTime) believes the report is without merit and contains unfounded allegations and misleading conclusions and interpretations," the company said in a notice yesterday to Hong Kong's stock exchange, after its stocks tumbled nearly 10% following the report's release by short-seller Grizzly Research LLC.

"It also shows a lack of understanding of the company's business model and financial reporting structure, and a lack of thorough reading of the company's public filings," SenseTime said.

The company said it was reviewing the allegations and "considering the appropriate course of action to take to safeguard the interests of all shareholders."

SenseTime is known for its facial recognition technology. It launched a ChatGPT-style chatbot to the public in August.

Grizzly's report alleges that SenseTime uses revenue fabrication schemes to inflate its sales data. It also said SenseTime was



controlling several entities that it has not disclosed on its balance sheet, suggesting the publicly listed company is not as transparent about its business as it should be.

In its statement, SenseTime also responded that Grizzly did not understand its business model.

Reports by short-selling research companies like Grizzly usually focus on corruption or fraud in the business world, such as accounting irregularities and bad actors in management. The short-sellers make "short" bets

against those targets, enabling them to make money when their share prices fall.

SenseTime's Hong Kong-traded stock sank as much as 9.7% early yesterday but recovered some lost ground and closed 4.9% lower.

SenseTime was blacklisted by the U.S. government in 2019. In July, Alibaba, one of its prominent backers, cut its stake in SenseTime to 3.15% from 5.29%. Japan's SoftBank Group, also a SenseTime backer, has also sold off significant holdings in the company. **MDT/AP**

GLOBAL EVENTS

HIGH STAKES AND GLITZ MARK THE VOTE IN PARIS FOR THE 2030 WORLD EXPO HOST

THOMAS ADAMSON, PARIS

IN a high-profile showdown, Rome, Busan, and Riyadh are the top contenders as the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) prepares to vote today [Macau time] in Paris for the host city of the 2030 World Expo. With the stakes high, each city has escalated its campaign efforts, showcasing unique visions and ambitious promises to secure the rights to this globally prestigious event.

Rome has enlisted actor Russell Crowe, who appeared in a promotional video echoing his "Gladiator" persona, to underscore the city's readiness for the Expo. The Rome campaign also hosted BIE delegates at Paris' luxurious Plaza Athénée hotel, complete with a Michelin-starred meal and gifts of extra virgin olive oil.

Rome's bid also includes plans for the world's largest urban solar park and a green corridor connecting the Expo site to historic landmarks like the Appia Antica (Appian Way), one of the oldest and most important roads of the Roman Empire.

South Korea's Busan has brought in cultural heavyweights like "Gangnam Style" rapper Psy and K-pop supergroup BTS to bolster its bid. The city is positioning itself for a high-tech Expo, emphasizing its capabilities in AI and 6G technology with the aim of attracting millions of visitors and spurring job creation.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Riyadh has mounted a significant marketing campaign, featuring a "Riyadh 2030" exhibit near the Eiffel Tower and extensive advertising across Paris. The Saudi bid,

seeking to diversify the kingdom's economy and boost its international stature, has received support from French President Emmanuel Macron, as indicated in a July statement from the Élysée Palace.

The World Expo has a storied history of bringing together nations to showcase technological innovations and cultural achievements. Since the inaugural event in 1851, Expos have been platforms for introducing groundbreaking inventions such as the light bulb, the Ferris wheel and the Eiffel Tower itself, which was built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle.

These events have evolved to not only be celebrations of human ingenuity but also opportunities for host cities to catalyze economic growth and global recognition.

With the world's attention turned to Paris, the upcoming vote will set the stage for the next chapter in the rich legacy of the World Expos. The next Expo is scheduled to be held in Osaka in 2025. **MDT/AP**



CORPORATE BITS

Bruno Mars to perform at MGM Cotai in January



MGM Resorts is bringing award-winning superstar Bruno Mars to its partner property MGM Cotai in Macau.

The gaming operator will showcase Bruno Mars in the "The One & Only Night" concert, marking the very first international superstar performance of 2024. The event will take place at the roof terrace of MGM Cotai on Jan. 6, 2024.

Tickets will be on sale Dec. 9.

Famous for his versatile musical style blending funk, hip-hop and R&B, Bruno Mars' repertoire includes iconic tunes such as "Just the Way You Are," "Uptown Funk," "That's What I Like," and "Wake Up in the Sky".

Sands China donates MOP700,000 to Tung Sin Tong



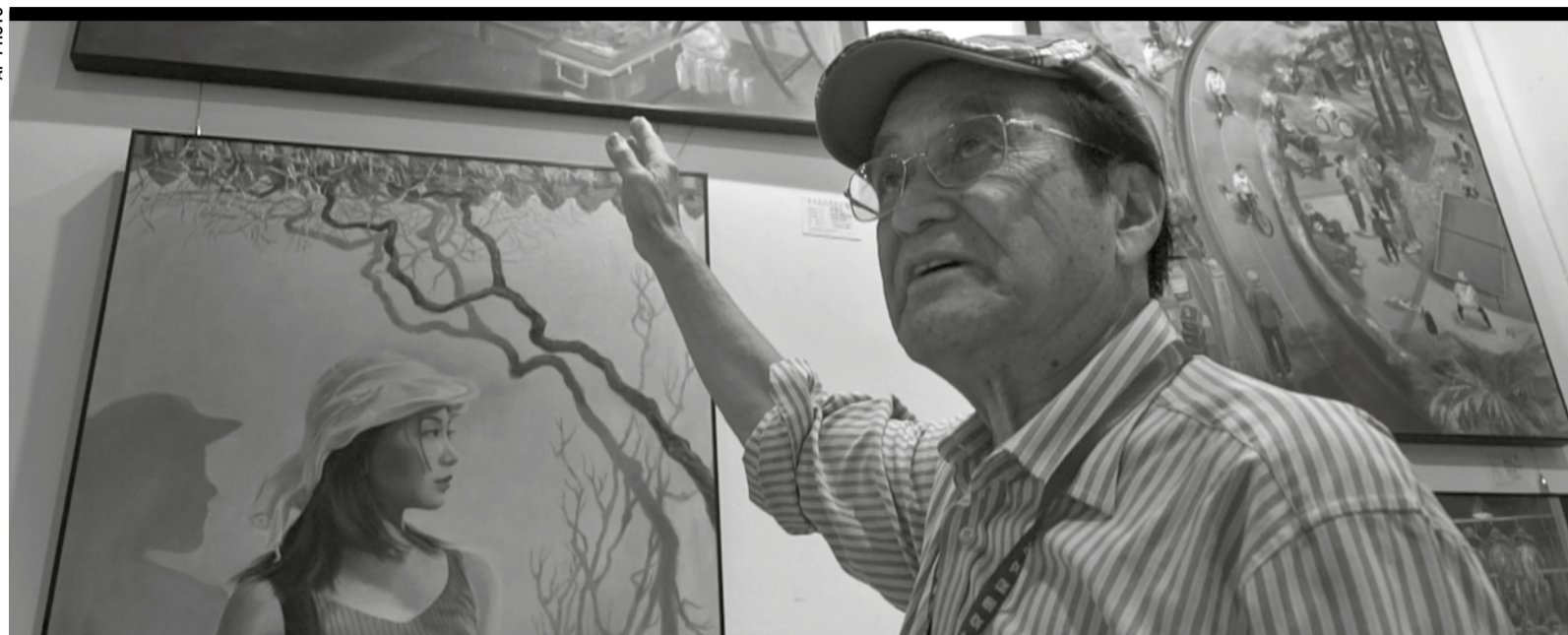
Sands China Ltd. donated MOP700,000 to the Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable

Society at a recent cheque presentation ceremony at The Venetian Macao. The

contribution supports the nongovernmental organization's annual December-February fundraising campaign.

Since 2004, Sands China has donated annually to support Tung Sin Tong's fundraising campaign. The Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society was founded 131 years ago and has been offering free medical services, medicine and education since the early days of its establishment in 1892.

Sands China's support for Tung Sin Tong is part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship program of its parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp.



Zero-Covid by Zeng Fanzhi

THREE YEARS OF LOCKDOWNS

ARTIST ZENG FANZHI DEPICTS 'ZERO-COVID' AFTER A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE CHINESE STATE

DAKE KANG, SHENZHEN

In one painting, a child sits, mouth wide open, as a worker in white medical garb extends a long cotton swab toward her tonsils. In another, a masked officer and medical workers stand guard in front of an apartment cordoned off with ropes and seals reading "CLOSED," as residents look on with frustration and despair.

These are some of the portraits that Zeng Fanzhi, 85, has painted to commemorate three years of China's strict "zero-COVID" controls, which sparked nationwide protests a year ago. But Zeng, a retired architect living in Shenzhen, is not a critic of the measures, under which millions of people were tested, locked in apartments, or carried off to quarantine centers.

Zeng has spent much of his life in service to the Chinese state, designing monuments in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and coal plants for the Ministry of Coal. He's a member of Shenzhen's state-sponsored artist's association and his paintings feature on stamps and win prizes.

The artist has a different perspective from the young protesters — one shaped by early years in China living through war and revolution, and later years witnessing decades of prosperity and growth. To Zeng, China's adherence to "zero-COVID" controls was necessary, and its people's adherence to it heroic.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping "says that artistic creation must be from 'The People's Standpoint,'" Zeng says, explaining his focus on ordinary people. "This means art should reflect the reality of people's lives. The subjects of my paintings are aligned with this direction."

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

Growing up, Zeng lived through some of the most tumultuous periods in Chinese history. Born to civil servants who fled for Chongqing, China's wartime capital in World War II, Zeng grew up moving from city to city, fleeing the invading Japanese and the Chinese civil war that followed.

The Communist Party's victory in 1949 ended decades of strife in China, bringing some stability to the country. Zeng aspired to be an artist and took art school entrance exams in 1957, but failed twice. His parents encouraged him to study architecture instead.

Soon after, the founder of Communist China, Mao Zedong, launched the Great Leap Forward, an ambitious but disastrous campaign to transform the impoverished country into an industrial power. Millions starved to death, and students across China spent time in political study sessions.

In 1962, fresh from college, Zeng was assigned to work for an architectural team in Beijing and put in charge of drafting designs for Tiananmen Square and the Avenue of Heavenly Peace.

A few years later, Zeng and his wife, a fellow architect, decided to move to Pingdingshan — home to one of the largest coalfields in China, nestled among mountains in the heart of the country.

There, for 20 years, they designed coal separation plants, from coal crushers to worker's dorms.

By the 1980s, the couple was getting antsy. Mao had died and a new reformist leader, Deng Xiaoping, was in charge. China was opening up, and opportunity beckoned on the coasts. They begged to be relocated.

"We felt like we weren't being

put to our best use, so we want to jump ship," Zeng said.

College graduates like them were in scarce supply, and jobs were easy to find. They moved to Shenzhen, an experimental economic zone located next to Hong Kong in China's south. The '90s saw China's leaders experimenting with market capitalism, and Shenzhen was rapidly developing. Zeng began working at Shenzhen University, which back then was located in the distant suburbs and built among fields with muddy roads winding up to the entrance.

In the years that followed, Shenzhen boomed, and Zeng's family prospered. Millions came to Shenzhen to work in factories that exported goods to overseas markets. Zeng and his wife designed dozens of Shenzhen's apartments and office towers, which rose like reeds out of empty fields.

Newly affluent, they bought an apartment near the center of the city, while their children went overseas for study. Today, Shenzhen has more skyscrapers than New York or Tokyo.

"We've seen a lot of ups and downs in our life," says his wife, Zhao Sirong. "Shenzhen was a fledgling city, and we were pioneers."

SOCIALIST REALISM

It wasn't until Zeng turned 80 that he retired from architecture. Finally, Zeng was able to pursue his true passion: painting.

Despite his old-school training, he learned his new trade in a distinctly 21st-century fashion. Day by day, he watched tutorials of master artists online.

Zeng's art is informed by socialist realism, a style he encountered growing up in Maoist China.

He cites works by famed Russian realist painter Ilya Repin as inspiration, such as "Barge Haulers on the Volga," which shows 11 men dragging a barge, exhaustion on their faces. It's an unflinching depiction of backbreaking labor, the quiet heroism of ordinary people in harsh conditions.

"It left a deep impression on me," Zeng said.

Zeng found himself drawn to similar themes. One of his paintings, "Life is Not Easy," portrays a migrant worker bundled in scarves, selling vegetables and shivering as snow swirls around her.

Zhao, Zeng's wife, complains about his rigorous painting routine. Zeng drives to his studio every morning, painting till late afternoon. The octogenarian works weekends, leaving his wife with only her plants to keep her company.

"What I want from my husband is that he walks slower and stops acting like a young man," Zhao said, chuckling and sighing. "Why is he working so hard? I don't understand."

But Zhao still supports her husband's craft because she believes regular activity is key to preventing mental decline. They wonder at young people who spend their days idle, swiping endlessly on cellphone videos and whiling away their savings on outdoor games of mahjong in steamy Shenzhen.

"My life is still very fulfilling," Zeng says. "Some say painting must be tiring for you. OK, sure, but is gambling tiring for you?"

UPENDED DAILY LIFE

As the coronavirus spread, Zeng was fascinated by how it upended daily life around him.

First he painted nurses swabbing residents, then children attending online classes. Then, last year, as controls grew strict and Zeng's compound was locked down, he spent his days sitting on his balcony, painting residents locked in their complexes, guards standing sentry, and masked delivery drivers tossing groceries over fences.

"This was an unimaginable event that's never happened before in the whole world," Zeng says.

Zeng and his wife caught the virus last winter, when controls were abruptly lifted. Though his wife recovered quickly, Zeng spent weeks recuperating. Across China, hundreds of thousands perished as the infected overran hospitals and medication ran out of stock.

"We were all infected," Zhao said. "We struggled through the past three years, and then things suddenly opened up. We weren't psychologically prepared."

Despite the pandemic's historic nature, few depictions of the era exist in China outside official exhibits and state television glorifying the government's role in combatting the virus. Under Xi, the state has tightened controls on artist expression, leading to some going overseas.

At a Beijing art exposition this fall, one of Zeng's paintings was tucked away behind a column. The exposition, he said, deemed it too negative, as it depicted residents confined to their homes.

"We couldn't put it on display," he said with a chuckle, walking out of his booth and gesturing to the painting.

But Zeng sees his art as commemoration, not criticism. He lived through a "great historical event," he says, and he sees his artwork as an observation honoring all the sacrifice and difficulty endured by ordinary people.

For Zeng and Zhao, their government benefits — including public medical care, subsidized food, free public transit, and a pension of 10,000 yuan (\$1,400) a month — is well beyond what they imagined having when they were younger, growing up in a China scarred by war.

"We understand the country's measures," Zhao says. "We all feel that on the whole, our policy was correct, because if we reopened too early, it could have been like the United States, where the death rate was very high."

Today, Zeng is hard at work on a new series portraying Chinese leader Xi Jinping, which he hopes will serve as positive "political promotion". His latest depicts Xi sitting humbly among villagers. He tentatively calls it, "Chairman Xi Taking Us on the Road to Prosperity."

"My work can play a role in promoting the superiority of our distinctive socialist system," Zeng says. "Our current era is a great era, and I want to paint paintings that capture this era." **MDT/AP**



KOREAS

South delays spy satellite liftoff, days after North's satellite launch

SOUTH Korea has postponed the planned launch of its first military spy satellite set for tomorrow, officials said, days after rival North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time.

Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea is to launch five spy satellites by 2025, and its first launch using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket had been scheduled to take place at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base in the United States.

The South Korean Defense Ministry said in a brief statement yesterday the launch was delayed due to weather conditions. Ministry officials said the launch was tentatively rescheduled for this Saturday but it wasn't a fixed date.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and partially resorts to U.S. spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

After two launch failures earlier this year, North Korea said it successfully placed its "Malligyong-1" spy

satellite into orbit on Nov. 21. South Korea said it has confirmed that the satellite entered orbit, but said it needs more time to verify whether it is working properly.

North Korea said yesterday leader Kim Jong Un reviewed imagery taken by the Malligyong-1 satellite of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington and U.S. aircraft carriers at a navy base and a shipyard in Virginia. North Korea earlier said the satellite also transmitted photos of U.S. military facilities in Guam and Hawaii and key sites in South Korea.

North Korea hasn't yet released those satellite photos. Outside experts remain skeptical about whether the North Korean satellite can send high-resolution imagery and perform proper military reconnaissance.

The North Korean launch invited strong condemnations from South Korea, the U.S., Japan and others. It violated U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any satellite liftoffs by North Korea because they are con-

sidered disguised tests of the country's long-range missile technology.

Kim has said spy satellites would allow his country to better monitor its rivals and enhance the precision-strike capability of its nuclear-capable missiles.

The satellite launch flamed animosities between the rival Koreas, with both nations taking steps to breach their previous military agreement meant to ease frontline military tensions.

Spy satellites were among the high-tech weapons systems that Kim has publicly vowed to introduce. Since last year, North Korea has conducted about 100 ballistic missile tests in part of efforts to modernize its arsenal of weapons targeting South Korea and the United States.

In response, South Korea and the United States have expanded their military training and enhanced "regular visibility" of U.S. strategic assets such as aircraft carriers, nuclear-capable bombers and a nuclear-armed submarine to the Korean Peninsula. MDT/AP

MALAYSIA

127 MALAYSIANS, SUSPECTED TO BE VICTIMS OF JOB SCAMS, RESCUED FROM MYANMAR FIGHTING

MORE than 120 suspected victims of job scams have been rescued after being stranded by fighting in northern Myanmar between the military and armed ethnic groups, Malaysia's government said.

The number of Malaysians rescued surged from an initial 26 to 127 in the past few days, Foreign Minister Zambry Abd Kadir told local media late Monday before flying to New York.

He said they are in a safe location and the government hoped to fly them home by tomorrow.

The foreign ministry earlier said the group were stranded in Laukkaing, a town known as a notorious hub for online scams, gambling and other major organized crimes.

Fighting has continued in northern Myanmar after an alliance of armed ethnic minority groups launched a surprise offensive last month. They have seized control of several border crossings to China, in a major disruption to trade.

Zambry said the ministry was asked to help evacuate an Indonesian and a Hong Kong citizen from the area. He said the duo will be flown out with the Malaysians. He thanked China and Myanmar authorities for their help in the operation but didn't give further details.

A government official who declined to

be named as he isn't authorized to speak to the media said yesterday that based on initial information, the 127 Malaysians were lured to the area by fraud job offers. He said details of the rescue operation and their evacuation couldn't be released yet due to the sensitivity of the case and the various parties involved.

Earlier this month, 266 Thai victims of human traffickers, several Filipinos and a Singaporean were also rescued from Laukkaing and taken to China's Kunming city, where they boarded chartered flights to Bangkok. Another group of 41 Thais were also reportedly repatriated across the land border. MDT/AP



Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abd Kadir

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
• 仁德醫療中心 •

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

ISRAEL

As freed hostages return home, details of captivity emerge: irregular meals, benches as beds

JULIA FRANKEL, JERUSALEM

PLASTIC chairs as beds. Meals of bread and rice. Hours spent waiting for the bathroom. As former hostages return to Israel after seven weeks of Hamas captivity, information about the conditions of their confinement has emerged.

The 58 hostages freed under a cease-fire deal over the past three days have largely stayed out of the public eye, with most still in hospitals.

Nearly two months after Hamas militants dragged them into Gaza during a bloody cross-border attack on Israel that also killed 1,200 people, most freed hostages appear to be in stable physical condition.

Information about the conditions of their captivity has been tightly controlled, but family members of the released hostages have begun to share details about their loved ones' experiences.

Merav Raviv, whose three relatives were released by Hamas on Friday, said they had been fed irregularly and had eaten mainly rice and bread. She said her cousin and aunt, Keren and Ruth Munder, had each lost around 7 kilograms (15 pounds) in just 50 days.

Raviv said she'd heard from her freed family members that they had slept on rows of chairs pushed together in a room that looked like a reception area. They said they sometimes had to wait hours before going to the bathroom.

Adva Adar, the grandchild of 85-year-old released hostage Yaffa Adar, said her grandmother had also lost weight.

"She counted the days of her captivity," Adar said. "She came back and she said, 'I know that I've been there for 50 days.'"

Adar said that her grandmother was taken captive convinced that her family members were dead, only to emerge to the news that they had survived. Still, her release was bitter-sweet: She also found out that her house had been ravaged by militants.

"For an 85-year-old woman, usually you have your house where you raised your kids, you have your memories, your



photo albums, your clothes," said Adar. "She has nothing, and in her old age she needs to start over. She mentioned that it is tough for her."

In the 50 days since the hostages were taken captive, Israel has devastated the Gaza Strip with a ground and air offensive that has killed at least 13,300 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. Under the current four-day cease-fire, Hamas has agreed to release a total of 50 Israeli hostages in exchange for Israel releasing 150 Palestinian security prisoners and ramping up aid to the pummeled enclave.

Eighteen foreign nationals, mostly Thais, have also been released.

Eleven more hostages are set to be released on the last day of the cease-fire, leaving close to 180 hostages in the Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities have said that they are willing to extend the truce one day for every 10 hostages released by Hamas.

The fullest image yet of life under Hamas captivity was conjured by 85-year-old Yocheved Lipschitz, a hostage who was freed before the current cease-fire. Upon her release, Lipschitz said she had been held in tunnels which stretched under Gaza "like a spider web." She said her cap-

tors "told us they are people who believe in the Quran and wouldn't hurt us."

Lifshitz said captives were treated well and received medical care, including medication. The guards kept conditions clean, she said. Hostages were given one meal a day of cheese, cucumber and pita, she said, adding that her captors ate the same.

The recently freed hostages also appeared to have been held underground. Eyal Nouri, the nephew of Adina Moshe, 72, who was freed on Friday, said his aunt "had to adjust to the sunlight" because she had been in darkness for weeks.

"She was in complete darkness," said Nouri. "She was walking with her eyes down because she was in a tunnel. She was not used to the daylight. And during her captivity, she was disconnected ... from all the outside world."

Nouri said that Moshe didn't know that she was going to be released until the last moment.

"Until she saw the Red Cross," he said. "This is the moment when she realized, okay, these horrifying seven weeks are over."

She emerged to the news that her husband had been killed by the militants and her son's family had miraculously survived.

Doctors have warned of the

steep psychological toll of captivity. Israel has made counseling and other support available to those who have been released.

But most of the freed hostages have appeared to be in good physical condition, able to walk and speak normally.

But at least two needed more serious medical care. One hostage released Sunday, 84-year-old Alma Abraham, was rushed to Israel's Soroka Medical Center in the southern city of Beersheba in life-threatening condition.

The hospital's director said she had a pre-existing condition that had not been treated properly in captivity. Another young female hostage was on crutches in a video Hamas released Saturday. The girl grimaced at her captors as she entered a Red Cross vehicle bringing her out of the besieged enclave.

Yair Rotem, whose 12-year-old niece, Hila Rotem-Shoshani, was released Sunday, said he had to keep reminding her she didn't need to whisper.

"They always told them to whisper and stay quiet, so I keep telling her now she can raise her voice," said Rotem. He added that Hila, who will celebrate her 13th birthday slept well during her first night back in Israel and has an appetite. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1975 GRAHAM HILL KILLED IN AIR CRASH



One of Britain's greatest motor racing drivers has been killed in a plane crash in south-east England.

Graham Hill, 46, who retired from the sport in July 1975, was killed instantly along with the four other occupants in his Piper Aztec - all members of the Embassy Hill team.

Hill was piloting the plane when he clipped a row of trees on Arkley golf course in Hertfordshire, just before 2200 GMT.

The two-times world champion was flying Embassy Hill manager Ray Brimble, fellow driver Tony Brise, and two mechanics from France to attend a party in London.

Arley Golf Club steward Ted Dickins said visibility had been very poor at the time of the accident.

"It was terrible - the ambulances couldn't even see the bunkers as they were driving down," he said.

Friend and Elstree Aero Club chairman Spencer Flack said the champion driver was taking a risk by trying to land in bad conditions but told reporters he was an experienced flier.

"He was a skilful pilot who tried to get in and failed.

"In those conditions it's just a matter of feet and seconds between life and death," he said.

Government accident investigation officials are sifting through the wreckage to try to establish the cause of the crash.

Hill is the only driver to have won the Triple Crown of the Indianapolis 500, the 24 hours of Le Mans and the Formula One World Championship.

He won the world title with BRM in 1962 and again in 1968, with Lotus.

Hill retired from Formula 1 mid-season so he could concentrate on coaching Brise, a promising new driver in his own fledgling team Embassy Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Three thousand people attended Graham Hill's funeral in St Alban's, Hertfordshire, on 5 December.

An inquest found he was flying only 60 ft (18.3m) above the ground when the plane hit the tree - but did not realise because of the poor visibility.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned for all six occupants of the plane.

Hill's son, Damon, followed his father into Formula One racing and won the world championship in 1996.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Broaden your horizons and look into programs that will teach you awareness and relaxation. Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts. Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. Get busy. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. Take care of your personal needs.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Look into ways that you can make extra cash. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Recognition can be yours if you present your ideas and stand behind your beliefs. You may not be happy if members of your family are not pulling their weight.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Lend an ear to children; it can make a difference. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Invite people home to discuss your plans for group fundraising events and outings. Think of changes to your home that will please and add to everyone's comfort.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. You need an outlet that will not only stimulate you but also challenge your intelligence as well.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You can make money through real estate or by using your head when it comes to personal investments. Discuss your objectives with partners or peers.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. Your unique approach to life will interest others. Don't let your health suffer because of worry.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

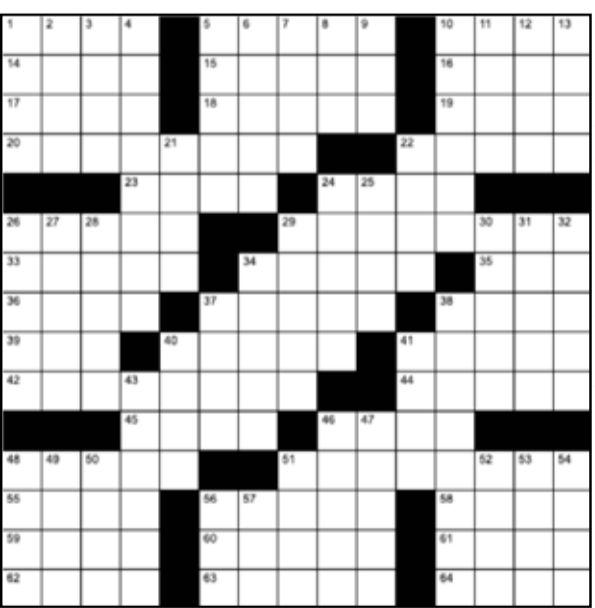
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	2	fine
Changchun	-16	-9	fine
Chengdu	8	18	overcast
Chongqing	14	18	rain
Fuzhou	14	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	24	cloudy
Guiyang	7	16	overcast
Haikou	21	27	rain
Hangzhou	6	23	fine
Harbin	-21	-15	cloudy
Hefei	4	15	cloudy
Nanjing	7	17	cloudy
Shanghai	10	19	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	cloudy
Wuhan	4	17	cloudy
Hong Hong	23	26	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-3	-3	snow
Frankfurt	-4	3	snow
Paris	2	8	rain
London	-1	5	overcast
New York	1	4	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Miners' sch.; 5- Small canyon; 10- Clenched hand; 14- In the neighborhood; 15- Bay window; 16- Director Preminger; 17- Lucie's father; 18- Emblem; 19- Simon ___; 20- Person-to-person; 22- Politico Kefauver; 23- City in Western Nevada; 24- ___ but known...; 26- Flight segment; 29- Criminal underworld; 33- Sister of Thalia; 34- Specialty; 35- Bring civil action against; 36- Alter; 37- Give the slip; 38- ___ never work!; 39- Friendly introduction?; 40- Guarded; 41- Journalist ___ Rogers St. Johns; 42- Portrayed; 44- Equine; 45- Grandson of Adam; 46- Catchall abbr.; 48- Accord maker; 51- Insolate; 55- Biblical birthright seller; 56- Africa's most populous city; 58- Lacking slack; 59- Novelist Waugh; 60- Wine grape; 61- Formerly, formerly; 62- Prepare to be shot; 63- " ___ by any other name..."; 64- Architect Mies van der ___;

DOWN 1- Bring to ruin; 2- High schooler; 3- Facilitate; 4- Precedence; 5- Boarded; 6- Home of the Black Bears; 7- Ceremony; 8- Golly!; 9- Freddie Krueger roamed ___ Street in the movies; 10- Remains of any organism preserved in rock; 11- Let's just leave ___ that; 12- Eye sore; 13- Throw; 21- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 22- Advantage; 24- Firm; 25- Initial stake in a hand of poker; 26- Cleave; 27- Vestige; 28- Biblical brother; 29- Melon, e.g.; 30- Fall bloomer; 31- Negates; 32- Postpone; 34- Skedaddles; 37- Architect Saarinen; 38- Worshiper of Baal, Hathor, or Jupiter; 40- Actress Olin; 41- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 43- Infer; 46- Continental cash; 47- Govt. security; 48- Jalopy; 49- Kon-Tiki Museum site; 50- Scottish refusals; 51- ___-Japanese War; 52- Edible corm; 53- Quiet; 54- Novel ending; 56- Tax pro; 57- Televiser;



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



It's prime time to BUY & RENT!

jml property

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

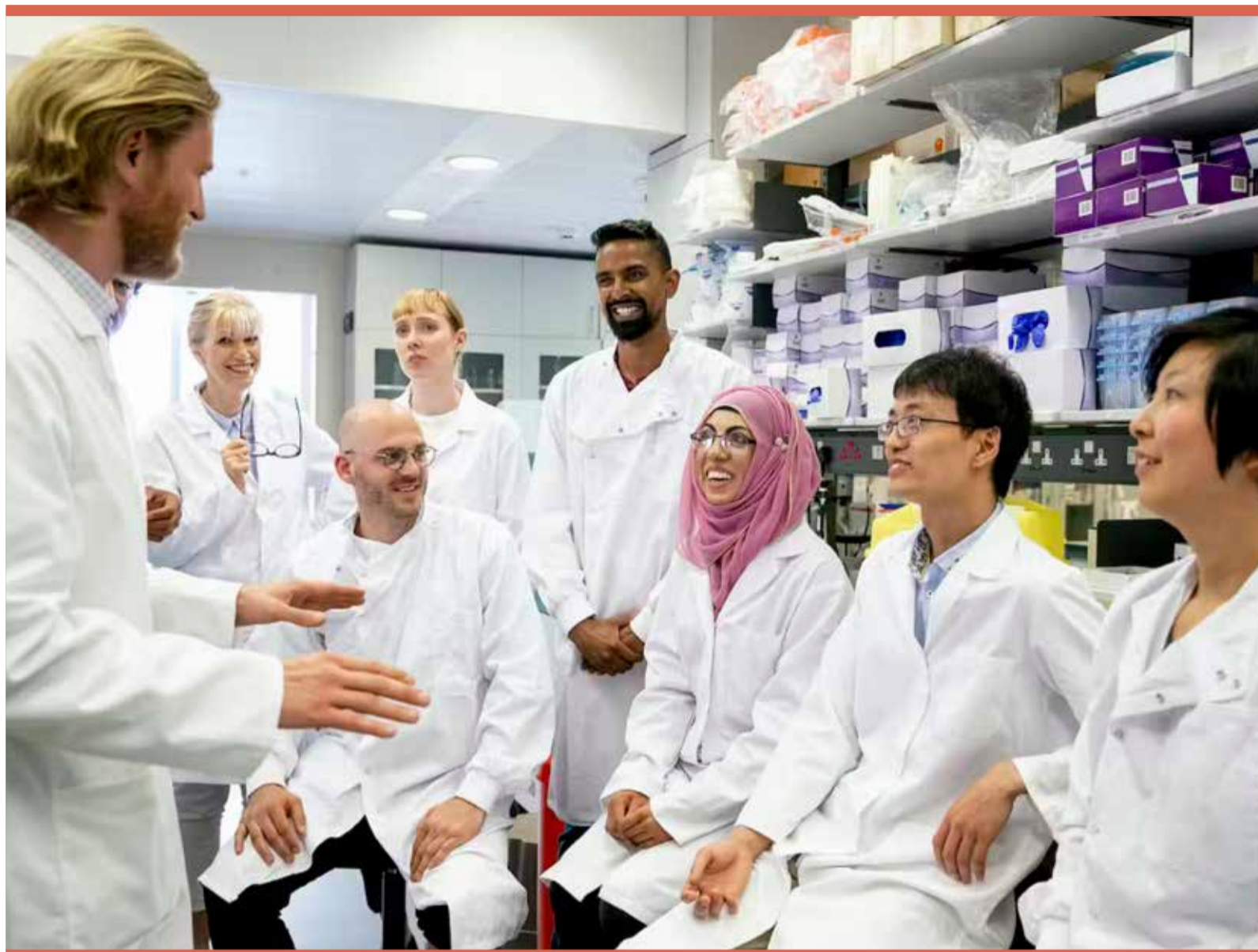
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

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

Hellene Garden
HKD 11,800/mth 3 beds 2 bath

Hellene Garden
HKD 13,000/mth 3 bed 2 bath



SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A RELIGIOUS SCIENTIST

CHRISTOPHER P. SCHEITLE,
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

GIVEN popular portrayals, you would be forgiven for assuming that the type of person who is a scientist is not the type of person who would be religious. Consider the popular television show “The Big Bang Theory,” which is about friends who nearly all have advanced degrees in physics, biology or neuroscience. The main character, Sheldon – a physicist who is often dismissive of religion – is juxtaposed with his devout Christian mother, who is uninterested in and ignorant about science.

Such stereotypes reinforce the idea that religion and science are not only different from each other, but also locked in combat. Yet social scientists have found that most of the U.S. public does not actually view religion and science as being in conflict. When religion does seem to reduce individuals’ acceptance of scientific ideas, it is typically not because of the facts themselves. Rather, religious individuals’ objections are often grounded in the moral implications of that research, or scientists’ perceived role in policymaking.

And plenty of scientists are religious, undercutting assumptions

about faith and science being inherently in conflict. Take Francis Collins, the former director of the National Institutes of Health, who is open about his Christian beliefs.

On the other hand, religious people do face challenges when working in science. These challenges have little to do with internal struggles over stereotypical issues like the origins of human life. Instead, religious scientists more often report navigating hostility from their peers and a professional culture that poses challenges for other life goals, such as building a family.

I came to this conclusion after surveying over 1,300 U.S. graduate students in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology and sociology – one of many sociological studies I’ve done to try to understand the social dynamics of religion and science. Findings from this research are presented in a book I published in October 2023, “The Faithful Scientist: Experiences of Anti-Religious Bias in Scientific Training.”

ASSUMED ATHEISM

According to my survey, 22% of graduate students in science say that they believe in God and 20% describe themselves as “very” or “moderately” religious. These

percentages are similar to what is seen among science faculty, but much less than what is seen in the general U.S. public. According to surveys by the Pew Research Center, around half of Americans say they believe in “God as described in the Bible,” while another third believe in some kind of higher power. Gallup has found that 3 in 4 Americans say religion is very or fairly important in their lives.

The relatively nonreligious composition of their peers and faculty can create challenges for religious graduate students. Many of the religious students I spoke with described a culture that assumed everyone in a lab or classroom was atheist and permitted comments that were openly hostile toward religion or religious people. One Christian graduate student in biology told me, “I was actually really shocked when I started graduate school ... at the lack of respect of my fellow students as well as professors. I still feel like I need to hide that part of my life. ... I don’t feel willing to open up.”

Indeed, around two-thirds of the students who identified as very religious or moderately religious agreed with the statement that “people in my discipline have a negative attitude toward religion,”

according to a survey I created and examined in my book. Around 40% of those students also agreed that they “conceal or camouflage” their views or identity around people in their program.

FAMILY AND CAREER

Religious graduate students in science face more subtle cultural conflicts as well.

Social science has highlighted the many challenges academic scientists face in establishing and maintaining their family life. For one, graduate school and pre-tenure positions are demanding, leading many academic scientists to delay having children and have fewer children than they would have liked.

The highly competitive nature of academic jobs also means that scientists rarely have much say in where they live, which makes it difficult to rely on the support of grandparents and other extended family when raising a family. All of these dynamics become even more difficult if a scientist is partnered with another scientist – what is often called the “two-body problem.”

These challenges are particularly salient for religious graduate students. Many scholars’ studies have shown that religion influences individuals’ attitudes and behaviors when it comes to things like how many children they would like to have.

Indeed, my book’s survey found that 23% of science graduate students who identify as very religious have at least one child already.

This compares to 12% among the moderately religious, 7% among the slightly religious and 6% among those who say they are not religious. More religious students also indicated a greater desire to have additional children in the future.

These patterns have implications for career paths. My survey asked respondents to rate the importance of career, partnership and parenthood on a four-point scale. On average, religious students did not place less importance on career than their less religious peers, but they did place more importance on their family lives. This importance placed on family, in turn, is associated with a lower intent to pursue research-focused tenure-track positions. All else being equal, students who say that family goals are “very important” to them are 12% less likely to say they intend to pursue such a position, compared to students who say such family goals are “not important” to them.

BENEFITS OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Many people may dismiss these challenges, as religion is not typically part of the conversation about supporting and increasing diversity in science.

At the very least, however, making derogatory comments or showing other forms of hostility toward an individual’s religion – as many of my respondents said they experienced – could violate anti-discrimination and harassment laws.

What’s more, dimensions of diversity are not isolated from each other. The data collected for my book finds that female and Black graduate students in science are significantly more likely to identify as religious than male and white students. Twenty-three percent of Black students I surveyed identify as “very religious,” for example, compared with 7.3% of white students. Ignoring religion as a dimension of diversity has the potential to undermine efforts to support other forms of diversity in science.

I would argue that religious diversity could bring other benefits to the scientific community, as well. Given the heightened salience of work-family issues among scientists who are religious, these individuals could be important agents in changing norms and policies that improve work-life balance for all scientists.

Similarly, scientists who are religious could also serve as ambassadors, or what sociologist Elaine Howard Ecklund calls “bridge-builders,” between scientific and religious communities.

In the short term, graduate programs in science might consider how they approach and talk about religion, keeping in mind that about 1 in 5 of their students are likely religious.

MDT/THE CONVERSATION

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Man United set for another fiery match against Galatasaray

STEVE DOUGLAS

Thursday, 01:45
Galatasaray v Man Utd
H 2.7, D 3.9, A 2.55

ODDSCHECKER.COM

IF it wasn't the "Welcome to Hell" signs at the airport, it was the bell boy at the team hotel performing a throat-slitting gesture as the players arrived.

Or the deliberately timed phone calls during the night to disrupt sleep, and the mud and flags thrown at the bus to the stadium.

Or the riot police bundling players down the steps to the locker room with their shields after the match.

Manchester United's first Champions League match against Galatasaray at the Turkish team's Ali Sami Yen Stadium has gone down in lore. Thirty years later, United is back in Istanbul and again fighting to stay in the competition — something it failed to



do back in 1993.

"It was probably the most intimidating atmosphere I ever played in," then-United midfielder Bryan Robson has said.

United's players probably thought their Premier League match on Sunday against a fired-

-up Everton seething with resentment at the perceived injustice of a 10-point sanction for financial mismanagement was a tough gauntlet to run.

Today's match [01:45, Thursday] against Galatasaray promises to be as — if not more — fiery.

There's plenty on the line, too, like there was in 1993 when United could only draw 0-0 and was eliminated on away goals after a 3-3 draw at Old Trafford to miss out on a place in the group stage.

This time, a defeat would end United's chances of reaching the round of 16, with Erik ten Hag's team having lost three of its first four Group A matches — including at home to Galatasaray on Oct. 3.

United starts the game in last place on three points, one behind both Galatasaray and FC Copenhagen. Bayern Munich is on 12 and has already qualified as group winner ahead of its home match against Copenhagen.

United has played away to Galatasaray twice in the Champions League since 1993 but wasn't in the same qualification jeopardy in those trips.

Former United midfielder Mike Phelan said the team's senior players need to step up.

"In big games and occasions, you need your big players," said Phelan, who played in that game in Istanbul 30 years ago. "I think you've got to control the game because you can't control the atmosphere."

"You might be able to, in a little way, if your retention of the ball is good and you're not making mistakes, then you control the game, control the ball, and that can silence the crowd — don't encourage the crowd."

Galatasaray, which is second in the Turkish league and only behind Fenerbahce on goal difference, has a former United player in winger Wilfried Zaha in its team and has plenty of players with experience of English soccer. Tanguy Ndombele and Davinson Sanchez — who both played for Tottenham — and ex-Arsenal midfielder Lucas Torreira are igniting their careers after struggles in the Premier League while attackers Dries Mertens and Mauro Icardi have big-game experience with former clubs Napoli and Paris Saint-Germain, in particular.

Marcus Rashford will be missing for United because he is serving a one-match ban after getting sent off against Copenhagen last time out, though Rasmus Hojlund might return from injury after being spotted in training yesterday. **MDT/AP**

AD

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER

馳騁高峰
RIDING HIGH

何家華的賽車隊大放異彩，即將征戰澳門

FAYE HO'S NEW RACING TEAM IS WINNING BIG AND HEADING TO MACAU

NOW ON SALE

WWW.MACAUCLOSER.COM
生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

知得更多 活得更好
KNOW MORE LIVE BETTER

Santa's GONE TROPICAL
熱帶海島·聖誕狂歡

ILCM & GRAND COLOANE RESORT
Charity Christmas Bazaar

ISLAND'S GIFT OF GIVING

3 / 12 / 2023
Sunday 12pm - 6pm
Free entrance, parking and shuttle bus service

Principal Media Sponsor
Times

With many great vendors, savor global cuisine, enjoy a special Christmas choir performance, and create lasting memories at Grand Coloane Resort.

鸞環海天度假酒店
GRAND COLOANE RESORT

Discover more

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

PREPAREDNESS FOR SPILLOVER NATURAL PRECAUTION

A month into the so-called Operation 1027, a joint offensive against the Myanmar government forces by the Brotherhood Alliance of three ethnic armies in the country's northern region, fighting continues along the China-Myanmar border.

In light of this, the People's Liberation Army has conducted live-fire drills on the Chinese side of the border since Saturday.

While there is no denying the two are interrelated, it is groundless overstretch to talk about a Chinese attempt to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs, as some Western observers have done.

At both government-to-government and people-to-people levels, China and Myanmar have been on good terms. So good that the close official relationship has been a constant target of Western criticism as some Western countries aspire for changes in Myanmar politics.

Beijing's critics, however, often ignore the fact that the Chinese government's good-neighborly ties with the government in Myanmar is based on the principle of mutual noninterference. This principle sits at the center of the Chinese diplomatic compass — the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

With no signs of the fighting abating along the border, it is only natural for China to upgrade its own preparedness to deal with any unexpected scenarios.

"It is the responsibility of the PLA to safeguard border security and protect the lives and property of people living in the border areas," said the PLA Daily. "The drills being conducted ... are aimed at testing the mobility, border control abilities and fire-power capabilities of the military units so that the People's Liberation Army is ready for any emergency."

According to the PLA Southern Theater Command, the drills are being carried out in accordance with an annual training plan.

Those who accuse the Chinese of siding with the ethnic forces should not neglect what the Myanmar military has to say.

A spokesman of the Myanmar government stated on Saturday that Myanmar had been informed of the drills. Military relations between China and Myanmar are firm, collaboration between the two militaries is friendly, and getting closer.

Nor should they ignore the fact that the PLA's exercises are only part of Beijing's response to the situation.

Wary of the fighting's effects spilling over and disturbing peace on the Chinese side, Beijing has repeatedly appealed to the conflicting parties to agree to a cease-fire and negotiate. It has also coordinated with the Myanmar authorities to accommodate displaced refugees and help third-country nationals withdraw via China.

China and Myanmar share a border of more than 2,000 kilometers. The surge in fighting has displaced more than 2 million people in Myanmar, according to a United Nations' estimate. The domestic conflict on the other side of the border is certainly a grim and genuine concern for China.

A truce between Israel and Hamas entered its fifth day yesterday, with the militant group promising to release more civilian hostages to delay the expected resumption of the war and Israel under growing pressure to spare Palestinian civilians when the fighting resumes.

The sides agreed to extend their truce through today, with another two planned exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But Israel has repeatedly vowed to resume the war with "full force" to destroy Hamas once it's clear that no more hostages will be freed under the current agree-

ment's terms.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to visit the region later this week for the third time since the start of the war, and is expected to press for an extension of the truce and the release of more hostages.

The Biden administration has told Israel it must avoid "significant further displacement" and mass casualties among Palestinian civilians if it resumes the offensive, and that it must operate with more precision in southern Gaza than it has in the north, according to U.S. officials. (See p8)

AP PHOTO



In this undated photo released by Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, a newly born Sumatran rhino calf walks in its enclosure at Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary at Way Kambas National Park

A SUMATRAN RHINO CALF BORN IN INDONESIA ADDS TO AN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF LESS THAN FIFTY

EDNA TARIGAN, JAKARTA

A critically endangered Sumatran rhino was born in Indonesia's western island of Sumatra last weekend, the second Sumatran rhino born in the country this year and a welcome addition to a species that currently numbers fewer than 50 animals.

A female named Delilah gave birth to a 25-kilogram male calf at a sanctuary for Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas National Park in Lampung province, at the southern tip of Sumatra island.

The calf is fathered by a male named Harapan, who was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2006. He was the last Sumatran rhino in the world to be repatriated to Indonesia, meaning that the entire population of Sumatran rhinos is now in Indonesia.

Most of the remaining rhinos live on Sumatra, several in captivity. They are threatened by destruction of tropical forest habitat and poachers who kill the

animals for their horns, which are prized for making ornaments and for use in traditional medicine in China and other parts of Asia.

"This birth is also the birth of the second Sumatran rhino in 2023. It emphasizes the government commitment of the Indonesian Government on the rhino conservation efforts in Indonesia, especially the Sumatran rhino," Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said in a written statement.

She added that, from the semi-natural breeding efforts, there were five live births of Sumatran rhinos at the Way Kambas sanctuary.

A conservation guard found Delilah with the newborn male calf next to her on Saturday morning, 10 days earlier than the estimated date of delivery.

Delilah and her baby are in good condition as the calf is now able to stand upright and walk. Not long after he was discovered, he was able to breastfeed in a standing position, said a statement

from Indonesia's Environment and Forestry Ministry.

The Sumatran rhino is legally protected in Indonesia. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species describes the Sumatran rhinos as critically endangered: the population is declining and only about 30 mature animals remain.

The yet-to-be-named calf is the first success delivery from Delilah.

Delilah, a 7-year-old female, was born in an Indonesian sanctuary in 2016.

She was the second calf born to her mother, Ratu, who also gave birth to a male named Andatu in 2012, the first rhino birth in captivity in Indonesia in 124 years. The father, Andalas, was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2001.

In September, Ratu, a 23-year-old female rhino, gave birth to a female rhino at the sanctuary in Lampung. Sumatran rhinos typically have a life expectancy of 35 to 40 years, according to the WWF conservation group. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Germany With its economy struggling, Germany now is wrestling to find a way out of a budget crisis after a court struck down billions in funding for clean energy projects and help for companies and consumers facing high utility bills because of Russia's war in Ukraine. Chancellor Olaf Scholz plans to lay out how he and his quarrelsome governing coalition aim to fix things in a speech to parliament today [Macau time].

EU regulators said that Amazon's proposed acquisition of robot vacuum maker iRobot may harm competition. The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer, said it has informed Amazon of its "preliminary view" regarding the deal following an investigation that began in July. The news raised investors' concerns about the acquisition.

AP PHOTO



South Africa An elevator suddenly dropped around 200 meters (656 feet) while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75, the mine operator said yesterday. It happened Monday evening at the end of the workers' shift at a mine in the northern city of Rustenburg. The injured workers were hospitalized.

AP PHOTO



USA Jean Knight, a New Orleans-born soul singer known for her 1971 hit "Mr. Big Stuff," has died at 80. Family, friends, fans and veterans of the music world mourned the loss of the Grammy-nominated singer who was considered a musical powerhouse and an integral part of New Orleans' cultural legacy. Knight died Wednesday of natural causes in Tampa, Florida, where she was living, said family representative Mona Giamanco.