

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

Times

16 YEARS

A-CHANGIN'

+853 287 160 81

Advertise with us

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

www.rcr-macau.com

RCR electronics

N.º 4382 **TUESDAY** T. 18º/ 26º Air Quality Moderate

05 Dec 2023

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00 HKD 10.00 2305 4271

THE SPOUSAL COHABITATION RIGHTS OF SOME APPLICANTS FOR SENIOR APARTMENTS HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED DUE TO AGE DIFFERENCE, SAYS LAWMAKER NICK LEI P3

TOURIST DIES AFTER BUNGEE JUMPING FROM MACAU TOWER P4

SOUTH CHINA SEA: CHINA SAYS A US NAVY SHIP 'ILLEGALLY INTRUDED' INTO DISPUTED WATERS P6



AP PHOTO



US, Japanese divers have discovered wreckage and remains of five crew members from a U.S. Air Force Osprey aircraft that crashed last week off southwestern Japan, the Air Force announced yesterday. The body of one victim was recovered and identified earlier. The Air Force Special Operations Command said two of the five newly located remains have been recovered but their identities have yet to be determined.

AP PHOTO



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said it is a duty of women to halt a fall in the country's births in order to strengthen national power, as his government steps up the call for the people to have more children. While getting a detailed read on North Korea's population trends is extremely difficult because of the limited statistics it discloses, South Korea's government assesses that the North's fertility rate has declined steadily for the past 10 years.

AP PHOTO



India Heavy rains and strong winds pelted the southern and eastern coastlines yesterday and states were put on high alert after a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a powerful storm, authorities said. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states in the south and Odisha in the east braced for flooding as authorities issued warnings for Tropical Cyclone Michuung. It's likely to hit the southern coast on Tuesday with maximum sustained winds of 90-100 kph and gusts up to 110 kph, the Indian Meteorological Department said.

More on backpage



CRIME SURGE

Violent crimes, including murder and sex offences, skyrocketed in first nine months of 2023 P2

ELECTIONS

ELLA LEI CALLS FOR TIGHTER DEFAMATION LAWS P3



RENATO MARQUES

GAMING

CITI: EBITDA TO RECOVER 80% ON PRE-PANDEMIC IN Q3 P4

VIOLENT CRIMES, INCLUDING MURDER AND SEX CRIMES, GROW SIGNIFICANTLY

RENATO MARQUES

THE number of violent crimes in the first nine months of this year has skyrocketed, statistics released by the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, reveal.

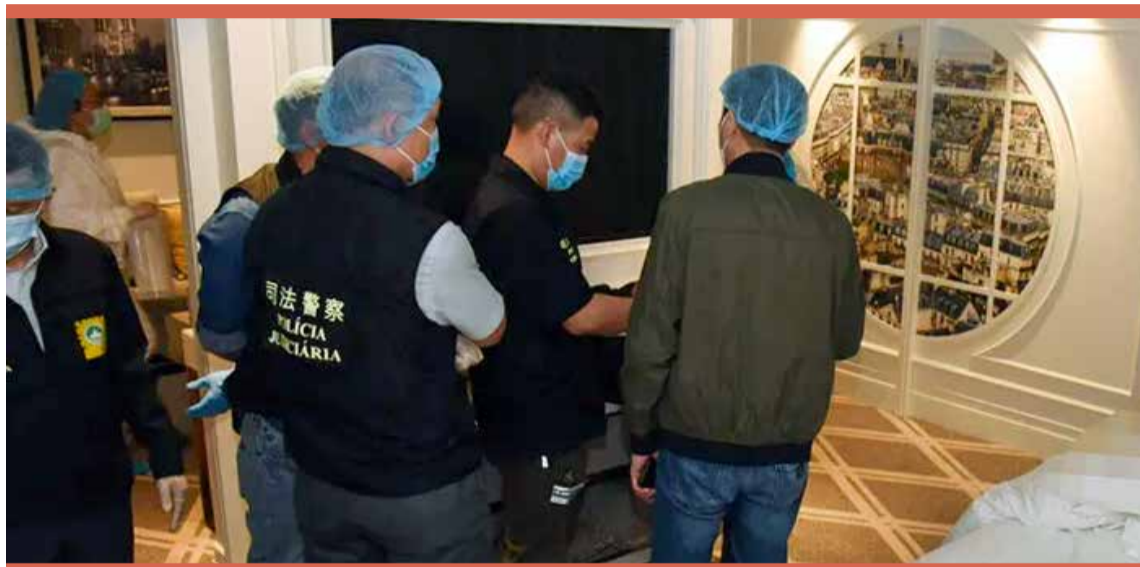
From January to September 2023, the general number of cases of violent crimes has increased by 58% when compared to the same period last year.

Concerningly, crimes such as murder, kidnapping and rape have increased dramatically.

Four cases of murder were recorded, representing an increase of 300%, while kidnapping increased by 240% with 17 cases. 27 cases of rape were recorded, representing an increase of 68.8%.

Cases of robbery involving violence have also increased by 400% and cases of bodily harm have increased by 300%.

The sexual abuse of children increased by 4.3% to 24 cases, one more than the same period last year. The slight increase reveals that any implemented measures to reduce this crime are proving ineffective.



In general, cases of crime increased by 32%. This was significantly bolstered by a 600% increase in the passing of counterfeit currency, a crime largely linked to activities involving illegal currency exchange.

TAXI DRIVER'S INFRACTIONS THROUGH THE ROOF

Concerning other violations of public order, Secretary Wong announced that the number of infractions committed by taxi

drivers has increased by 262.4% to a total of 616 cases. Authorities believe the increase is related to the surge in visitation numbers over the last few months. Attempting to earn more, taxi drivers have been picking up customers but then refusing their trips if they are either too short or otherwise "inconvenient."

Topping the list of infractions committed by taxi drivers is Refusal of Transport Service, which increased a staggering 595.5%,

followed closely by Negotiation of the Fare, up 500%.

In addition to drivers demonstrating unlawful behavior, the insufficient number of taxis to serve the population's needs also increased the number of cases of transportation in illegal vehicles. The hiring of transport services not provided by licensed operators skyrocketed to 67 cases compared to only five in 2022, representing an increase of 1,240%.

AMENDMENT TO TACKLE ILLEGAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE ALREADY SUBMITTED

RENATO MARQUES

A proposal to amend the law that would criminalize and severely punish those performing activities of illegal currency exchange has been already submitted to the government for further analysis and legal production, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said. The official revealed the proposal during yesterday's press conference concerning Macau's most recent crime statistics.

According to Wong, crimes involving the illegal exchange of money "have long affected the security situation in casinos and the surrounding areas."

"Several serious crimes have resulted from this activity, such as fraud, robberies, and even murders," he said.

Wong confirmed that, following in-depth research, the Judiciary Police has submitted suggestions to the Legal Affairs Bureau on the feasibility of criminalizing illegal exchange activities. In particular, PJ is seeking to increase punishment for those who engage in such activities, as well as to afford greater surveillance powers to police authorities.

Wong said that while the new law has not yet come into effect, the police would continue joint operations with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to clamp down on related crime.

Illegal currency exchanges are known to operate inside and near-by Macau's casinos. The unrecorded exchange of RMB to HKD, untracked by banking institutions or money exchange businesses, remains attractive to mainland gamblers.

According to Wong, some 9,633 people involved in this type of activity were intercepted in the first nine months of this year, a figure that represents a 230% hike, year-on-year.

Wong also noted that at least 1,013 of these people have been reported to DICJ. Offenders are included in the database of those banned from entering casinos.

Gaming-related crime high as expected

RENATO MARQUES

CRIMES related to the gaming industry have significantly increased as expected, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, noted during yesterday's release of Macau's crime statistics for the period January to September 2023.

The Secretary noted that, with the significant increase in the number of tourists and casino activities, it was expected that the crimes related to gaming would pick up this year.

According to data from the Judiciary Police (PJ), the number of cases directly related to the gaming industry has increased by 178.6% over the period when compared



year-on-year with 2022.

However, since 2019, crimes related to gaming have reduced by 55%, the data revealed.

Instead, crimes involving kidnapping increased by 1,100%. Whilst cases of kidnapping were almost nonexistent during the COVID pandemic years, PJ confirmed that the number of cases in 2023 to date, 12, should

not be of significant concern.

More concerning is cases involving scams related to the gaming industry – almost all of which relate to the activity of illegal currency exchangers.

A total of 155 scam cases have been reported in the last nine months. Whilst this constitutes an increase of 138.5% year-

-to-year, the figure is barely half of that recorded in 2019.

67 cases of the traditional crime of usury have been recorded in the same year-to-year period, up 168%.

According to PJ, there is a clear trend in the change of the type of crimes related to the gaming industry in post-pandemic Macau. There have been

fewer cases of traditional crimes of both usury and kidnapping due to gambling debts and more cases related to currency exchange scams.

According to the security authorities, almost 3,000 residents from the mainland have been detained and investigated in the first nine months of this year for cases related to illegal currency exchange, with nearly another 250 suspected of involvement in prostitution.

While prostitution is itself not illegal in Macau, the exploitation of prostitution is. Prostitutes from the mainland are generally targeted by authorities as suspects of illegal work, for they often do not possess a permit to work in Macau.

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

AL PLENARY

Ella Lei calls for tighter defamation laws during elections

ANTHONY LAM

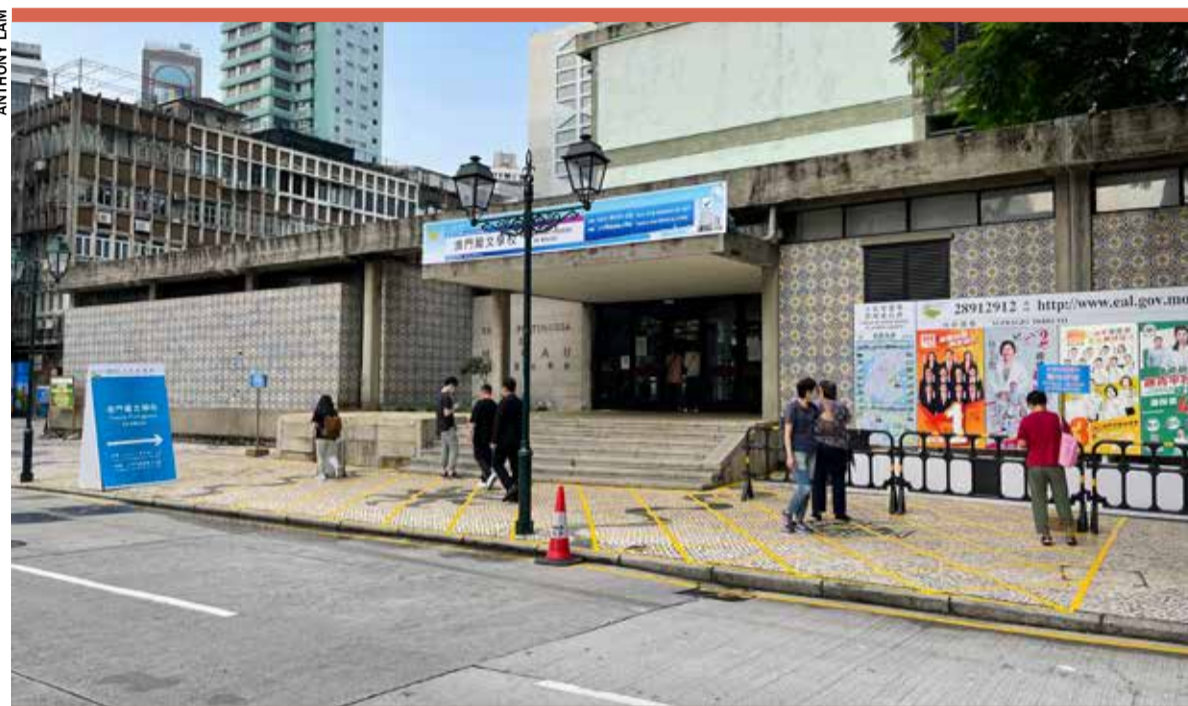
THE government should introduce additional and tighter laws to quickly handle defamation during election campaigns, directly-elected lawmaker Ella Lei demanded yesterday.

The parliament met yesterday afternoon for the first reading of the Amendment Bill to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law. Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong was present to answer questions from lawmakers.

When expressing her opinion on the bill, Lei addressed the issue of defamation during election campaigns. She noted that candidates, when believing themselves to be defamed, were usually asked to file their own lawsuits. However, she complained that judicial inefficiency often caused verdicts not to be given even after a whole parliamentary mandate, which lasts four years.

As such, Lei hoped the government could take the opportunity to review the law and establish a system to address cases of defamation more quickly.

In response to Lei, Cheong admitted that, although similar opinions had been heard or received, related proposals would not be added to the bill. He noted



that defamatory remarks inadvertently occur during elections, particularly during debates between candidates.

Despite his comment, he added that defamatory remarks between candidates or electoral lists were, once identified, addressed by the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL). The commission, he added, requires candidates to comply with an election's laws and regulations.

In addition, whilst highlighting that judicial procedures do take time, Cheong highlighted that

candidates should make their own checks before considering systematic measures against defamation occurring during elections.

In response to Lei, Cheong underlined that hasty conclusions should not be encouraged in criminal investigations and judicial procedures. He said that once the police receive a complaint, they need time to conduct their investigations and deliver information to the judicial branch.

Lo Choi In, on the other hand, pointed out that electoral guideli-

nes and rules are too complicated and sometimes even too vague, discouraging voters from voting. Lei echoed her comments. Both lawmakers declared that government is responsible for persuading voters to vote.

Lei pointed out that there are a lot of grey areas in the law and the bill. For example, she said, the provision on early campaigning is unclear. Meanwhile, the provision that requires candidates to remove campaign materials posted anywhere is, in reality, unfeasible.

Cheong, in response, agreed

that the government has a responsibility to encourage voting. However, he said that when it comes to competitive activities, supervision is critical and needs to be clear.

"In recent elections, campaign malpractices have occurred," the official said.

On the establishment of the blackout period for campaign activities, the official cited "fairness" as the reason behind the decision, noting that sometimes not even journalists know when an election campaign has started and when it has finished. The blackout is to clarify the time of commencement and ensure that all candidates start from the same line.

The official also pointed out that candidates and their officials are primarily responsible for ensuring that their lists are free of malpractice.

Lawmaker Ron Lam addressed the proposal of criminalizing the lobbying of invalid votes. Without expressing his support or objection, the lawmaker requested the government uphold people's individual rights to not vote or to cast invalid votes. He also asked about details and related matters regarding electoral donations.

Cheong said that current CAEAL regulations requiring the registration of donations of MOP1,000 or more are to safeguard elections from the influence of "unverified sources." On the matter of encouraging invalid votes, the official said further discussions would be conducted at a committee level.

The bill passed its first reading unanimously and is next due to be discussed in a parliamentary committee.

AL PLENARY

Lawmaker stands up for elderly cohabitation rights

ANTHONY LAM

THE spousal cohabitation rights of some applicants for senior apartments have been deprived due to age difference, lawmaker Nick Lei said yesterday in his pre-agenda speech at the parliament.

According to the rules, the eligibility for the apartments is at least 65 years of age, among other criteria. Applicants are allowed to apply in pairs so that they can live in the same apartment with better care and company.

The lawmaker pointed out, however, that some applicants are not allowed to apply in pairs because their spouses are not yet 60. Instead, their spouses were asked to apply as caretaker, the eligibility for which is



determined through vetting by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

Citing a provision in the Civil Code that concerns the cohabitation duty of spouses, the lawmaker added that the rules did not take into account the needs of spouses with greater age

differences.

Regarding this scenario, the lawmaker called on the government to drop the need for vetting eligibility, proposing applicants simply submit declarations instead.

Lei underlined that spousal applicants should not be

deprived of their cohabitation rights due to age even if some do not meet minimum age requirements.

He also warned the government about the possibility of tenants not being able to pay their rent, should their economic status change.

Another lawmaker, Stanley Ma, wondered if the government is attuned to the reality of the demand for property. Although the current round of applications for economic housing does not appear to be popular, Ma pointed out that bureaucratic concerns could be the reason for the drop in demand.

The government has decided to open applications without including prices, discouraging interested applicants. Additionally,

the sudden update to income thresholds prior to this application period has exempted some people who were previously eligible.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng claimed that the issue of low economic housing supply has been resolved, resulting in a temporary halt to the sandwich-class housing project.

As such, he forecast that future economic housing application schemes will not be popular. On the one hand, interested applicants – especially young applicants – will not have enough information to evaluate their purchasing power if no pricing information is released during the application process.

On the other hand, the lack of sandwich-class hou-

sing will affect interested applicants in their decisions as to whether they should risk purchasing private housing, which is expected to be more expensive than sandwich-class housing units.

Based on these concerns, he wondered how the government could encourage youths to sustain Macau's population amid an ongoing declining birth rate.

The government has changed the nature of economic housing, eliminating this form of investment and the future possibility of resale on the market. Apartment owners will only be permitted to resell their units to the Housing Bureau (IH) at the initial acquisition price, after deduction of the costs for restoring the unit to its original state.

UM WELCOMES 1,500 NEW ALUMNI

More than 1,500 students have graduated from the University of Macau's doctoral, master, bachelor and diploma programs in 2023. The university also conferred honorary doctorates on five distinguished individuals, in recognition of their achievements and significant contributions to society: Cai Fang, Leong Kam Weng, Ching-Ping Wong, Franco Maloberti, and William Shiyuan Wang.

POLICE CHARGE TWO ON DRUG POSSESSION

Judiciary Police have arrested two men at Macau International Airport on charges of drug possession. A 35-year-old man from Uganda, who arrived in Macau from Malaysia, was found to have swallowed 100 capsules containing cocaine. A 40-year-old man, from the Republic of Suriname who arrived from Manila late last week, excreted 84 similar capsules weighing more than 1,190 grams in his body while being held under investigation. The cocaine is worth more than MOP8 million on the black market.

OTTENSAMER BROTHERS IN CONCERT ON DEC. 9

Brothers Daniel and Andreas Ottensamer will perform the 20th century French composer, Jean Françaix's Clarinet Concerto with the Macao Orchestra in "The Ottensamer Brothers with the Macao Orchestra" on Dec. 9 at the Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium as part of the Macao Orchestra Concert Season. Daniel Ottensamer, who performs as soloist, is the principal clarinetist of the Vienna Philharmonic. Andreas Ottensamer, the principal clarinetist of the Berlin Philharmonic, will conduct the concert.

CITI: GAMING EBITDA TO RECOVER 80% ON PRE-PANDEMIC IN Q3

MACAU'S gaming EBITDA is forecast to recover to about 80% of pre-Covid-19 levels in the third quarter of this year, according to Citi Research.

This is despite China's weakening economy affecting casinos over the past few months, which has caused price wars targeting player incentives and also impacted luxury spending. Analysts have however stated there is a "weak correlation" between China's gross domestic product and Macau's mass gaming revenue growth potential.

Citi Research believed that the industry still has a lot of room for revenue growth in 2024 and that the fundamentals still offer long-term value.

The institution expected Macau's GGR to grow 19% year-on-year to MOP216 billion in 2024, premised on Macau's visitor arrivals recovering to 85% of the pre-Covid-19 level, the same as that in 3Q23. Gaming expense per player needs to remain at the same level as 2023, with a slight increase in the time spent in Macau, the analysts said,



Meanwhile, UBS mentioned in a research note that Macau's GGR amounted to MOP16 billion in November 2023, translating to a daily run-rate of MOP535 million, in line with market consensus, and recovering to 70% of the corresponding 2019 level.

The average price for hotel guest rooms in Macau for late December has been increased to HKD3,800 per night, from HKD2,600 per night in November, powered primarily by seasonality and non-gaming events, the report added. UBS remained upbeat on the gaming sector, and selected Galaxy as its top pick. LV

CESL Asia celebrates 35th anniversary



Dominic Sio and António Trindade

RENATO MARQUES

Local company CESL Asia, Investments & Services Ltd is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

The company has an established business presence in Macau and Portugal in fields such as facilities management, architecture, engineering, agriculture, agri-foods, and renewable energy. As part of the celebration, several experts were invited to share insights on "The Platform to a Sustainable and Diversified Economy," CESL Asia's roadmap for regenerative

agriculture and sustainable food production in Portugal, the management of energy-efficient utilities in the mainland, and intelligent technologies for decarbonization of Macau and the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Among the speakers were the president and CEO of the company, António Trindade, the co-president Dominic Sio, and the COO, executive director Energy and Technical Assets, Roland Schoorl.

Also included in the panel of participant guests was Bruno de Pellegars, senior vice-president of EREN

group, a Luxemburg-based company dedicated to carbon-neutral strategies and resources dedicated to renewable energy production, energy conservation and energy storage.

The company specializes in the use of hydrogen, thermal energy, nuclear, biomass, and water treatment.

Xiu Jiashuo and Teresa Moreira were also part of the same panel.

Before the talk, there was a signing ceremony between CESL Asia and EREN group, represented by de Pellegars, on the start of a cooperation between the two companies on decarbonization technologies for the GBA.

TOURIST DIES AFTER BUNGEE JUMP

STAFF REPORTER

A Japanese tourist has died after bungee jumping from Macau Tower on Sunday. The 56-year-old man, who became short of breath and then stopped breathing following the jump, was rushed to Hospital Conde S. Januário for treatment but was

later pronounced dead. The man did not suffer any superficial injuries to his body during the jump.

The website of Skypark by AJ Hackett, which operates the bungee jump and other activities at Macau Tower, advises its clients to pre-emptively disclose any medical conditions they

might have to staff.

The Macau attraction, which first opened to the public in 2006, is the second-highest commercial bungee jump in the world, surpassed only by China's Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge Bungee measuring at 853 feet.

Back in January 2018, a Russian tourist was left dangling 180 feet in the

air after completing a bungee jump from the Macau Tower. The operator at the time said it suspected cold weather had activated a backup safety system as the tourist was being lowered to the ground after completing his jump, leaving him stranded.

The Russian man was eventually rescued by firefighters and taken to a hospital after showing signs of hypothermia.



Macau students take 'space class' offline with Chinese astronauts

ONE, two, three!" An email was sent into space at the Macau Science Center on the weekend, witnessed by nearly 200 local students.

The email was sent by Wang Yaping, a crew member for China's Shenzhou-13 space mission and the first woman astronaut who has entered China's space station, together with Wong Ging Pui, a senior high school student from Tong Nam Middle School who attended Wang's space class online two years ago.

"Can astronauts surf on the internet and play video games? Can you watch TV? Can we send emails to you while you are in space?" These were the questions Wong had the chance to ask Wang in December 2021 on behalf of Macau students when she was broadcasting a live lecture in space to students on Earth.

Now Wong was excited to meet Wang in person and experience how to send an email into space using the Beidou Navigation Satellite System.

"I made it!" said Wong. He said Wang has inspired him by her own stories and personally encouraged him to keep studying hard.



"I hope to become a person like her whose life is meaningful to both the society and the country," he said.

Known for being a "space teacher," Wang said she was very happy to be able to interact with the students face to face.

"I'm very glad to see how they have grown," she said, encouraging the young people to explore the unknown and break limits on the way to realizing their dreams.

Wang is a member of a delegation of China's manned space program on a six-day visit through Sunday to Hong Kong and Macau SARs at the invitation of the SAR governments.

While at the Macau Science Center, the delegation was briefed on popular science education plans for Macau students. The astronauts gave their thumbs up when learning that junior high school students in Macau have lessons on human explo-

ration of the universe and China's space technology development.

The delegation also visited an ongoing exhibition of China's achievements in space exploration and navigation held at the Center, including moon samples brought back by the Chang'e 5 lunar mission, models of rockets and "Macao Science 1" space exploration satellites jointly developed by the mainland and Macau.

MDT/XINHUA



Yau Yun Wah, deputy director of the Commercial Services Bureau of the cooperation zone, presented registration certificates to the two pharmacists at the store

GBA

FIRST BATCH OF MACAU PHARMACISTS STARTS WORKING IN HENGQIN

GUANGDONG Hengqin Zhenxipin Pharmacy Co., Ltd., the first fully Macau-owned pharmacy in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, officially opened for business late last week. Two pharmacists from Macau will provide Macau-styled pharmaceutical services to the Macau residents living in the cooperation zone.

Yau Yun Wah, deputy director of the Commercial Services Bureau of the cooperation zone, presented the registration certificates to the two pharmacists at the store, allowing them to provide pharmaceutical services from that day on.

"Pharmacists from Macau are more familiar with the drug-using habits of Macau residents and the pharmaceutical service model in Macau. We hope to take this opportunity to promote the exchange and learning between the pharmacists from both regions, in order to fur-

ther integrate the traditional Chinese medicine cultures of Hengqin and Macau," said Huang Yin, legal representative of Guangdong Hengqin Zhenxipin Pharmacy Co., Ltd.

So far, a total of 43 Macau residents have registered accounts and completed pre-employment training on the mentioned website. Among them, two have finished the registration process and obtained the qualifications to operate a business in the cooperation zone.

Going forward, the Commercial Services Bureau will continue to promote the alignment of drug safety governance regulations between Hengqin and Macau, aiming to better meet the medication needs of Macau residents in the cooperation zone, facilitate their lives and work, and contribute to the construction of an innovative and dynamic demonstration zone.

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China assembles hygiene kits for Clean the World



Approximately 200 volunteers from Sands China and the Rotary Club of Macau joined together to assemble hygiene kits for international social enterprise Clean the World, with more than 27,000

kits assembled at this year's event last week.

Clean the World helps prevent the spread of disease worldwide by distributing hygiene supplies essential for good health to populations

in need around the globe.

Each kit also comes with shampoo, conditioner, bath gel, and toothbrush set.

"Sands China is proud to continue our longstanding partnership with Clean the World, marking a remarkable decade of shared commitment toward improving hygiene and well-being of those in need across in the globe," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Global charity Children International will distribute the finished kits to families in need in the Philippines, providing them with hygiene supplies that are essential in times of crisis, such as during natural disasters.

Melco rated amongst Top 10 most sustainable hospitality companies



Melco Resorts & Entertainment has been named among the Top 10 most sustainable hospitality companies in the 3rd Greater China Hotel Business Sustainability Index (Hotel BSI).

Lawrence Ho, chairman &

CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "Melco has outlined a clear roadmap and action plan for achieving our ambitious goal of carbon neutrality and zero waste by 2030. Our 'Above & Beyond' sustainability strategy continues to

propel new initiatives that will help us make progress on these important objectives."

Launched by CUHK Business School's Centre for Business Sustainability (CBS), the Greater China Hotel Business Sustainability Index aims to engage hotel companies in the continuous optimization of CSR hotel practices, sustainable development and concurrent growth for both businesses and society.

The index shows the composite score of the annual sustainability performance of 30 listed hotel companies in Greater China and six large international hotel chains, with scoring based on the four aspects under the VPI model, namely Value, Process (Management & Practice) and Impact.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China says a US Navy ship 'illegally intruded' into disputed waters

THE Chinese military said that an American naval ship had "illegally intruded" yesterday into waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, the site of a hot territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.

A Chinese naval force was mobilized to track the USS Gabrielle Giffords during the operation, according to a statement from the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater. The U.S. Navy did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Chinese and Philippine naval and coast guard ships have confronted each other repeatedly around the Second Thomas Shoal in recent months as China tries to prevent the Philippines from resupplying and repairing a rusting warship that it intentionally ran aground in 1999 to serve as a military outpost.

Dwarfed by China's military might, the Philippines has sought America's help, agreeing to an expansion of



the U.S. military presence in the country earlier this year and launching joint sea and air patrols with the United States late last month.

China says the U.S. is meddling in waters far from its shores and renewed its accusation that America is the one raising regional tensions following the sailing of the USS Giffords, a littoral combat ship designed to operate in coastal areas, near Second Thomas Shoal.

"The U.S. deliberately disrupted the situation in the South China Sea, seriously violated China's sovereignty and security, seriously undermined regional peace and stability, and seriously violated international law and basic norms governing international relations, fully demonstrating that the U.S. is the biggest threat to peace and stability in the South China Sea," the statement from the Chinese

military's Southern Theater said.

China has staked claim to virtually all of the reefs and other outcroppings in the South China Sea, building some into islands with runways that could be used by the military. Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also say they are the rightful owners of territory in the same waters in a complex web of overlapping claims. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

COURT PUTS OFF EVERGRANDE'S HEARING ON ITS DEBT RESTRUCTURING TO JANUARY

A Hong Kong court postponed until Jan. 29 a court hearing scheduled yesterday on troubled Chinese property developer Evergrande's winding-up petition.

Evergrande is trying to win support from its creditors for a plan to restructure more than \$300 billion in debt to stave off liquidation. The company's lawyer told the court it was requesting an adjournment to "refine" its new debt restructuring plan.

The Hong Kong High Court has postponed the hearing over Evergrande's potential liquidation several times.

Judge Linda Chan had said in October that Monday's hearing would be the last before a decision is handed down.

Evergrande could be ordered to liquidate if creditors reject its plan.

The company, the world's most indebted property developer, ran into trouble when Chinese regulators cracked down on excessive borrowing in the real estate sector.

Neil McDonald, a lawyer at Kirkland and Ellis which represents a group of creditors, described the adjournment as a "surprise."

Yesterday, the company issued a statement refuting claims in a report by Hong Kong-based GMT Research that Evergrande was never profitable and had overstated its revenue for years.

Evergrande said GMT's report was "without basis." It said it would provide more clarification in due course.

Last month, the company said Chinese police were investigating Evergrande's chairman, Hui Ka Yan, for unspecified suspected crimes in the latest obstacle to the company's efforts to resolve its financial woes. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Activist Chow jumps bail and moves to Canada

ONE of Hong Kong's best-known activists who moved to Canada to pursue her studies said she would not return to the city to meet her bail conditions, becoming the latest politician to flee Hong Kong.

Agnes Chow, a famous young face in the city's once-vibrant pro-democracy movement, was arrested in 2020 under a security law that was enacted following 2019 anti-government violent protests. She was released on bail but also served more than six months in jail in a separate case over her role in the protests.

After Chow was released from prison in 2021, she had to regularly report to the police. She said in an Instagram post on Sunday



Hong Kong activist Agnes Chow arrives at court in Nov 2020

night that the pressure caused her "mental illnesses" and influenced her decision not to return to the city.

Many of her peers have been jailed, arrested, forced into self-exile or silenced after the introduction of the security law in 2020.

After considering the si-

tuation in Hong Kong, her safety and her health, Chow said she "probably won't return" to the city again.

"I don't want to be forced to do things that I don't want to do anymore and be forced to visit mainland China again. If it continues, my body and my mind will

collapse even though I am safe," she wrote.

Chow told TV Tokyo yesterday that she was still weighing her next steps, including the option of seeking asylum in Canada, the broadcaster reported. Asked whether she would take up political activism

there, she said she wanted to do something in Hong Kong's interest, TV Tokyo said.

Hong Kong police yesterday "strongly condemned" Chow's move, without naming her, saying it was "against and challenging the rule of law."

"Police urge the woman to immediately turn back before it is too late and not to choose a path of no return. Otherwise, she will bear the stigma of 'fugitive' for the rest of her life," the police said in a statement.

The police did not respond to questions from The Associated Press on Chow's mainland China trip.

Asked about Chow's case at a daily briefing,

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Hong Kong is a law-based society and no one has a privilege beyond law. Any illegal acts will be punished, he said.

Chow rose to fame with other prominent young activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law as a student leader, including in pro-democracy protests in 2014.

She co-founded the now-defunct pro-democracy party Demosisto with Wong and Law, but the party was disbanded on June 30, 2020, the same day the security law was enacted.

Wong is now in custody and faces a subversion charge that could result in life imprisonment if convicted. Law fled to Britain and the police in July offered a reward of 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$127,600) for information leading to his arrest. **MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Embraces an Inclusive Society with Grand Prix Happenings



The 70th Macau Grand Prix concluded amidst rousing cheers in November. In addition to being a major sponsor of the 70th Macau Grand Prix and supporting a lineup of internationally renowned racers to compete in the races, MGM also rolled out various themed community events, in hope to engage different local community groups to enjoy this annual citywide sports event and to create an inclusive society.

On the first weekend of Grand Prix, MGM has hosted the "MGM Racing Fun Day" at the Macao Grand Prix Museum for 60 parents and children from the Federation of Trade Unions of Macau, the Federation of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, and the Federation of Women's Associations of Macau. Participants got to experience the charm of Macau Grand Prix, where they had fun in the racing simulation games and multi-media installations inside the museum. What is more, the top racers from FHO Racing, including Peter Hickman, the champion of this year's Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, as well as, Michael Rutter, nine-time champion of the Guia Circuit, and Australian racer Josh Brookes, were invited to meet and interact with the participants, which created an exciting buzz among the crowd of little racing fans.



On the other hand, MGM once again invited artists with intellectual disabilities to design bikes, leathers and helmets for the MGM-sponsored riders in the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, showcasing these artists' talent at such world-class sports event. Prior to the race, the artists, namely Ip Chi Kin, Chan Ka lan, Ng Ting Gei and Sin Kei Cheong, accompanied by Macau Fuhong Society and management team members of MGM, met with the two racers, Davey Todd and Sam West, who were getting ready to race on the Guia Circuit with the leathers and helmets designed by them. During the race weekend, MGM also invited a group of individuals with disabilities to watch the race and meet with the racers at the paddock.



Earlier, MGM and the team of Davey Todd and Sam West organized a Grand Prix themed art workshop at the Macau Anglican College (MAC). 40 members of Macau IC2 Association, as well as teachers and students of MAC were invited to unleash their creativities and embrace inclusiveness within the community.

MGM
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau
E info@mgmchina.com.mo
W http://www.mgm.mo/



AP PHOTO



French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna

CLIMATE CHANGE

France open to South Pacific resettlement requests due to rising seas

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

FRENCH Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said yesterday she was open to any resettlement request from tiny South Pacific nations threatened by rising sea levels, similar to Australia's agreement with Tuvalu.

Colonna said France had watched with "great interest" last month when Australia offered Tuvalu a lifeline to help residents escape the rising seas and increased storms brought by climate change.

At a meeting of Pacific leaders in the Cook Islands, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced a plan that will initially allow up to 280 Tuvaluans to come to Australia each year. Tuvalu has a population of 11,000, and its low-lying atolls make it particularly vulnerable to global warming.

Colonna said she was not sure if the French Pacific territories of French Polynesia and New Caledonia had the capacity to make similar offers.

"I'm open to consider any specific request," Colonna told the National Press Club.

"But ... the size of the Australian continent makes a big difference with the size and beauties of French Polynesia and New Caledonia," she added.

Colonna said the Australian deal initiated by Tuvalu was one way to address some of the challenges posed by climate change.

"I'd rather see climate change being controlled and mastered," Colonna said.

"Preemptive action maybe is better than taking some

corrective measures when it is late," she added.

She said she did not know the details of the Australia-Tuvalu treaty but was confident it respected basic principles of international law.

The treaty commits Australia to assist Tuvalu in response to major natural disasters, health pandemics and military aggression, Albanese said in a statement.

It also gives Australia veto power over any security or defense-related agreement Tuvalu wants to make with any other country.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Kausea Natano said the new arrangement with Australia respected both nations' sovereignty and committed each country to supporting the other through such challenges as climate change.

Colonna spoke to the media ahead of a meeting at Parliament House with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong. The two ministers signed a bilateral agreement on Pacific development cooperation.

Defense Minister Richard Marles also met with French Armed Forces Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Monday at New Caledonia where they have gathered for a conference with their South Pacific counterparts.

Colonna said Marles and Lecornu were negotiating an agreement on reciprocal access to Australian and French military facilities in the region and increased joint activities.

Wong said Australia was keen to work more closely with the French military, particularly in the Pacific. **MDT/AP**

EUROPEAN UNION

World-leading artificial intelligence rules are facing a do-or-die moment

KELVIN CHAN, LONDON

HAILED as a world first, European Union artificial intelligence rules are facing a make-or-break moment as negotiators try to hammer out the final details this week — talks complicated by the sudden rise of generative AI that produces human-like work.

First suggested in 2019, the EU's AI Act was expected to be the world's first comprehensive AI regulations, further cementing the 27-nation bloc's position as a global trendsetter when it comes to reining in the tech industry.

But the process has been bogged down by a last-minute battle over how to govern systems that underpin general purpose AI services like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard chatbot. Big tech companies are lobbying against what they see as overregulation that stifles innovation, while European lawmakers want added safeguards for the cutting-edge AI systems those companies are developing.

Meanwhile, the U.S., U.K., China and global coalitions like the Group of 7 major democracies have joined the race to draw up guardrails for the rapidly developing technology, underscored by warnings from researchers and rights groups of the existential dangers that generative AI poses to humanity as well as the risks to everyday life.

"Rather than the AI Act becoming the global gold standard for AI regulation, there's a small chance but growing chance that it won't be agreed before the European Parliament elections" next year, said Nick Reiners, a tech policy analyst at Eurasia Group, a political risk advisory firm.

He said "there's simply so much to nail down" at what officials are hoping is a final round of talks tomorrow. Even if they work late into the night as expected, they might have to scramble to finish in the new year, Reiners said.

When the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, unveiled the draft in 2021, it barely mentioned ge-



neral purpose AI systems like chatbots. The proposal to classify AI systems by four levels of risk — from minimal to unacceptable — was essentially intended as product safety legislation.

Brussels wanted to test and certify the information used by algorithms powering AI, much like consumer safety checks on cosmetics, cars and toys.

That changed with the boom in generative AI, which sparked wonder by composing music, creating images and writing essays resembling human work. It also stoked fears that the technology could be used to launch massive cyberattacks or create new bioweapons.

The risks led EU lawmakers to beef up the AI Act by extending it to foundation models. Also known as large language models, these systems are trained on vast troves of written works and images scraped off the internet.

Foundation models give generative AI systems such as ChatGPT the ability to create something new, unlike traditional AI, which processes data and completes tasks using pre-determined rules.

Chaos last month at Microsoft-backed OpenAI, which built one of the most famous foundation models, GPT-4, reinforced for some European leaders the dangers of allowing a few dominant AI companies to police themselves.

While CEO Sam Altman was fired and swiftly rehired, some board members with deep reservations about the safety risks posed by AI left, signaling

that AI corporate governance could fall prey to boardroom dynamics.

"At least things are now clear" that companies like OpenAI defend their businesses and not the public interest, European Commissioner Thierry Breton told an AI conference in France days after the tumult.

Resistance to government rules for these AI systems came from an unlikely place: France, Germany and Italy. The EU's three largest economies pushed back with a position paper advocating for self-regulation.

The change of heart was seen as a move to help home-grown generative AI players such as French startup Mistral AI and Germany's Aleph Alpha.

Behind it "is a determination not to let U.S. companies dominate the AI ecosystem like they have in previous waves of technologies such as cloud (computing), e-commerce and social media," Reiners said.

A group of influential computer scientists published an open letter warning that weakening the AI Act this way would be "a historic failure." Executives at Mistral, meanwhile, squabbled online with a researcher from an Elon Musk-backed nonprofit that aims to prevent "existential risk" from AI.

AI is "too important not to regulate, and too important not to regulate well," Google's top legal officer, Kent Walker, said in a Brussels speech last week. "The race should be for the best AI regulations, not the first AI regulations."

Foundation models, used for a wide range of tasks, are proving the thorniest issue for EU negotiators because regulating them "goes against the logic of the entire law," which is based on risks posed by specific uses, said Iverna McGowan, director of the Europe office at the digital rights nonprofit Center for Democracy and Technology.

The nature of general purpose AI systems means "you don't know how they're applied," she said. At the same time, regulations are needed "because otherwise down the food chain there's no accountability" when other companies build services with them, McGowan said.

Altman has proposed a U.S. or global agency that would license the most powerful AI systems. He suggested this year that OpenAI could leave Europe if it couldn't comply with EU rules but quickly walked back those comments.

Aleph Alpha said a "balanced approach is needed" and supported the EU's risk-based approach. But it's "not applicable" to foundation models, which need "more flexible and dynamic" regulations, the German AI company said.

EU negotiators still have yet to resolve a few other controversial points, including a proposal to completely ban real-time public facial recognition. Countries want an exemption so law enforcement can use it to find missing children or terrorists, but rights groups worry that will effectively create a legal basis for surveillance. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1977 EGYPT SEVERES TIES WITH ARAB HARDLINERS



President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt has broken all relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen.

He has ordered their diplomats to leave Egypt within 24 hours and recalled his envoys from the countries.

The move is in retaliation to the four nations and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation signing the Declaration of Tripoli.

The document is an official pledge to "freeze" relations with the Egyptian Government.

Hostilities have been growing between Egypt and her former allies in the region after Mr Sadat visited Israel last month and became the first Arab leader to recognise the state.

The agreement in Tripoli is said to have formed a unified military front against Egypt which includes sanctions against any Egyptian company or individual doing business with Israel.

The coalition is also considering moving the headquarters of the Arab League from Cairo.

It called on all Arab states to give full financial, political and military assistance to Syria as the main confrontation state and it condemned Mr Sadat's visit to Israel as "high treason".

Egypt is now expected to expel an estimated 200 diplomats with the Syrians leaving first.

It is not yet known if Egypt will take any action against Iraq which walked out on the talks in Tripoli.

Iraqi president Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr refused to agree to the declaration because the remit was too vague and he wanted tougher sanctions against Egypt.

The Egyptian move is seen as a damper on the forthcoming visit to the Middle East by the US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Mr Vance will be seeking Arab support for Mr Sadat's peace initiative and his plans for preliminary talks on the subject in Cairo.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following September the Egyptian and Israeli leaders met with American president Jimmy Carter and signed the Camp David Peace Accords.

That same year President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize.

But when the peace treaty between the two countries was signed in March 1979 Egypt was condemned by the other Arab nations and excluded from the Arab League.

In October 1981 Present Sadat was assassinated by Islamic militants angered by his deal with Israel.

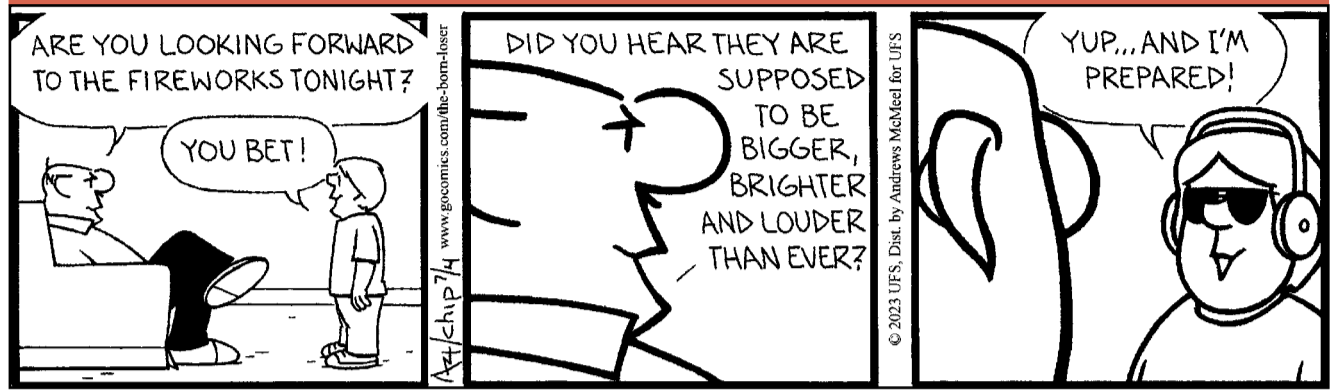
Since then Egypt has regained favour with Arab states and become pivotal to diplomacy throughout the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

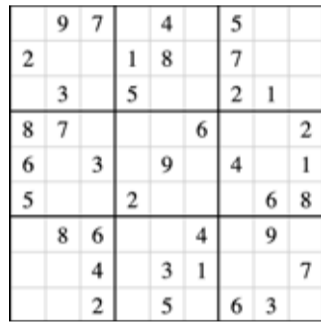
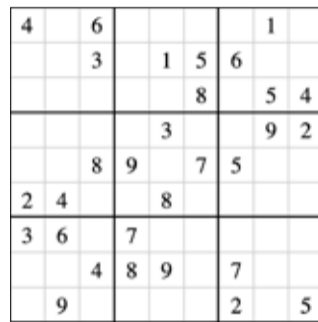
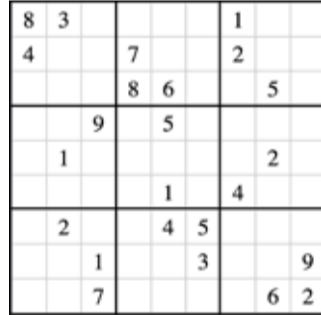
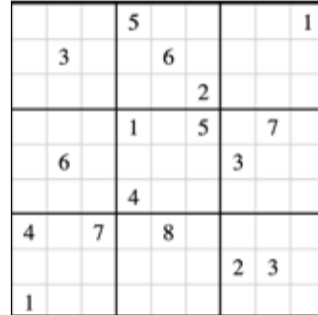
YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Do not let others exhaust you financially. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. You can put in some overtime and make extra cash.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. You are likely to reveal information unintentionally.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Don't consume more than necessary. Be wary of those who have overly strong convictions.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Entertain in your home and make aesthetic enhancements that will please those who reside with you. Too many opportunities and too many changes going on.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. Things at work have been moving quickly and you may be feeling a little uncertain about the changes taking place.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love. Emotional deception is evident. Gambling will be a waste of time and money. Your reputation will be affected.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Advancement can be yours if you are assertive in your approach. Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Involvement in financial schemes will be followed by losses.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Spend some time with people who can shed some light on your personal situation.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Curl up with a good book or go for a drive in the country. You may interest some of them in a service you have to offer. Don't push your luck with your boss.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You may experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. Personal problems may be hanging over your head but don't confront the situation.	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues. Shopping could cost more than you bargained for. Your ability to deal with others will help you accomplish your goals.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY 	EASY+ 
MEDIUM 	HARD 

WEATHER

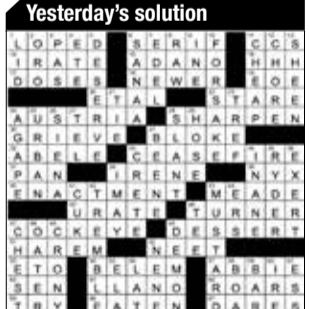
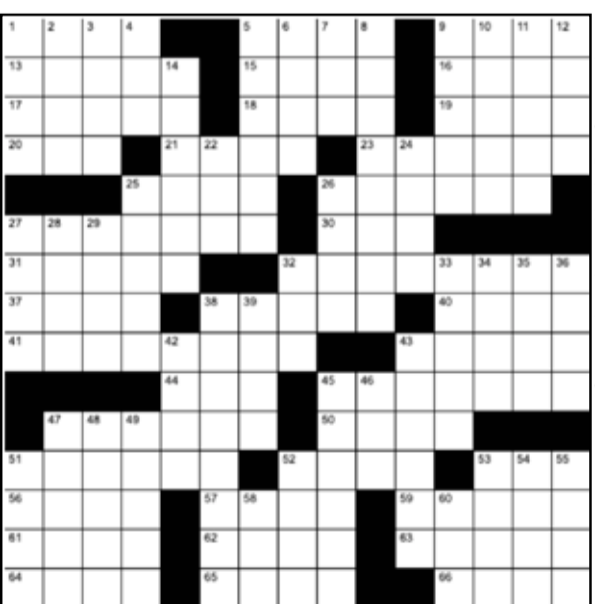
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-2	8	fine
Changchun	-9	4	fine
Chengdu	8	14	overcast
Chongqing	10	14	overcast
Fuzhou	12	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	23	cloudy
Guiyang	6	14	overcast
Haikou	20	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	4	19	cloudy
Harbin	-15	1	fine
Hefei	0	20	cloudy
Nanjing	4	18	cloudy
Shanghai	7	17	cloudy
Taipei	18	20	overcast
Wuhan	3	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-16	-12	cloudy
Frankfurt	3	5	rain
Paris	4	8	rain
London	2	7	rain
New York	3	8	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Rat; 5- Crack; 9- Soviet news service; 13- Hawks of Dogpatch; 15- Mother of Ares; 16- "Star Trek" role; 17- Piles; 18- Sorts; 19- Hebrew month; 20- "Slippery" tree; 21- Damage done; 23- Flourish; 25- Dynamic beginning; 26- Pie coverings; 27- Tragedy by Shakespeare; 30- Piece of cloth, tabloid newspaper; 31- Render weaponless; 32- Junior, to Senior; 37- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 38- Varnish resin; 40- Very, in Versailles; 41- Captivated; 43- Sublease; 44- Bit of wordplay; 45- Gastropod mollusk; 47- Take; 50- City on Norton Sound; 51- Unmitigated; 52- Food thickener; 53- Big ___; 56- ___ Pack; young 1980s actors; 57- Othello villain; 59- Money spent; 61- Ruin; 62- River to the Baltic; 63- Waggish; 64- Sight organs; 65- "A Doll's House" heroine; 66- Arrest.

DOWN 1- Tennis great Arthur; 2- Chinese weight; 3- First man; 4- Apex; 5- Civil War battle site; 6- Dudley Do-Right's love; 7- Raiders of the Lost ___; 8- Deli meat; 9- Former Russian rulers; 10- Examine account books; 11- Poles, e.g.; 12- Free from doubt; 14- Prize; 22- Meal crumb; 24- Enormous; 25- Garfield's middle name; 26- Pull an all-nighter; 27- Trumpet accessory; 28- By and by; 29- Irene of "Fame"; 32- Beatty of "Deliverance"; 33- Inscribed pillar; 34- Woody's boy; 35- Sharp; 36- Ferrara family; 38- Outburst; 39- Time to give up?; 42- Ready for business; 43- Strict disciplinarian; 45- Goat hair fabric; 46- Anaconda; 47- Marshal; 48- Large wading bird; 49- Actress Phoebe; 51- French clergyman; 52- Antiquing agent; 53- Portico; 54- Wrinkly fruit; 55- Drum sound; 58- Ruckus; 60- Samovar.

Yesterday's solution

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!



CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com

有關樓宇廣告法例資料請向職員查詢
 For more information on advertising laws, please speak to one of our representatives.



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

FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

FÉLIX GIVES ATLETICO FANS ANOTHER REASON NOT TO LIKE HIM BY SCORING WINNER FOR BARCELONA

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

ATLETICO MAD 0, BARCELONA 1

JOÃO Félix has given Atletico Madrid fans even more reason not to like him.

Playing on loan from Atletico after falling out with the club last season — and highly unlikely to return — Felix scored with a neat shot over goalkeeper Jan Oblak in the 28th minute to give Barcelona a 1-0 home victory yesterday [Macau time] and move the Catalan team closer to the top of the Spanish league standings.

“It was a relief after everything that I went through last summer,” said Félix, who was still with Atletico when he upset fans by saying his dream was to play for Barcelona. “Only those close to me know what it was like, especially my family. This was for them.”

The victory put Barcelona back within four points of leaders



Girona and Real Madrid, which won their matches on Saturday. Madrid beat Granada 2-0 and Girona defeated Valencia 2-1.

Atletico, winless in its last 18 away matches against Barcelona

in the league, dropped to fourth place, three points behind Barcelona in third but with a game in hand.

It was the fourth win in four matches between Barcelona's

coach Xavi Hernández and Atletico's Diego Simeone.

“It's another loss in Barcelona, but good things will come, we have to be patient,” said Simeone, who avoided talking about Félix's performance.

Félix arrived at Atletico for 120 million euros (now \$130 million) in 2019 but never fully met the high expectations that came along with his signing. He got off to a good start with Barcelona, scoring three goals in his first three matches.

Félix received a standing ovation when he was substituted by Ferran Torres in the 77th at the Olympic Lluís Companys Stadium.

The Portugal forward got the winner by flicking the ball over Oblak from a tight angle after a pass by Raphinha.

Barcelona goalkeeper Iñaki Peña, replacing the injured Marc-André ter Stegen, made a few good saves toward the end to se-

cure Barcelona's third win in four league matches.

Barcelona was coming off a 1-1 draw at Rayo Vallecano before beating Porto 2-1 to secure its return to the knockout stage of the Champions League for the first time after two consecutive group-stage eliminations.

Félix, a former Benfica player, also scored against Porto on Tuesday.

Simeone's Atletico had won four in a row in all competitions, with two losses — including at Las Palmas — and eight wins in its last 10 league matches.

SEVILLA HELD AGAIN

Sevilla's winless streak in the Spanish league reached eight matches after a 1-1 home draw with Villarreal.

The latest setback came four days after Sevilla was eliminated in the group stage of the Champions League following a 3-2 loss to PSV Eindhoven in a match it was winning 2-0 in the second half.

The hosts escaped another defeat after Villarreal's potential winner was disallowed deep into stoppage time. Ben Brereton scored in the seventh minute of added time but the goal was called back after video review because of a foul by Brereton on Kike Salas. **MDT/AP**

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

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

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

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

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

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

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

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

法律專家及外地註冊律師

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

法律專家 JURISTS:

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

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

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



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



OLYMPICS 2023

Brisbane mayor quits organizing committee, condemns stadium costs

BRISBANE Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner has quit the inter-governmental committee charged with organizing the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, calling it a "pointless talkfest" and "dysfunctional farce."

It's the first significant split for the organizers of the bid which was selected in 2021 by the International Olympic Committee to host the 2032 Games.

The so-called Leaders' Forum comprises representatives from all three levels of government and other agencies and is designed to deliver the Olympics and create a legacy for Queensland. Its brief is to work with the Queensland state government of Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk to "progress the significant venues, villages and transport infrastructure" for the Games.

But Schinner said the group



was only being used to "placate key stakeholders while all the real decisions were made by the state government behind closed doors."

"The reality is we always wanted to be team players. The state government wanted to play politics," Schinner said this week.

He called for the establishment of an independent authority,

similar to the one which oversaw preparations for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the 2012 London Olympics, to get planning "back on track."

"We don't need overpriced stadiums, we need better transport," Schinner said. "This week it became very apparent that the Intergovernmental Leaders' Forum is a dysfunctional farce." **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

Barrett to stick with New Zealand through 2027 Rugby World Cup

ALL Blacks playmaker Beau-Aden Barrett has re-signed with New Zealand Rugby through the 2027 World Cup.

The two-time World Rugby Player of the Year also has re-signed with the Auckland Blues in Super Rugby. At age 32, Barrett is New Zealand's second most-capped rugby international with 123 tests and already has played at three World Cups.

Barrett will play in Japan League One at the start of the 2024 season before returning to New Zealand, where he will be available for the All Blacks. He will rejoin the Blues in 2025.

"It's a huge privilege to put on the black jersey and one I will never take for granted," Barrett said in a statement yesterday. "I'm still really passionate about playing alongside my brothers Scott and Jordie for Coastal, Taranaki or the

All Blacks, so looking forward to adding value where I can on my return from Japan."

Incoming All Blacks coach Scott Robertson has welcomed Barrett's decision to continue in New Zealand rugby. With the departure of flyhalf Richie Mo'unga, who has decided to play in Japan after the World Cup, Barrett provides valuable experience at flyhalf or fullback.

"He is the second most-capped All Blacks back in history for a reason and to have his knowledge and experience in our game is a reflection of his loyalty," Robertson said.

Barrett, playing fullback in a starting XV containing his two brothers, scored the only try in the Rugby World Cup final in October, which the All Blacks narrowly lost 12-11 to South Africa. **MDT/AP**

AD



ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING


We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084


Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

**Enjoy the Good Life
Boa Vida Starts Here**

**Discover
Now**



T +853 2856 7888
Terms & conditions apply



ARTYZEN
GRAND LAPA MACAU
澳門雅辰酒店

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

CHINA PLAYING ITS PART BY ENSURING ITS STEPS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHALLENGE ARE MEANINGFUL

This year has been the hottest on record. The latest in a sweltering series of record-breaking years in which too many climate-related disasters have been witnessed.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell was not crying wolf when he lamented in Dubai at COP28 that the world is “taking baby steps” and making progress “far too slowly” to curb the cataclysm-heralding rise in the global temperature. “We are paying with people’s lives and livelihoods,” he warned.

Stiell urged those attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in the United Arab Emirates from Nov 30 until Dec 12 to rise to the challenge and he called on governments to “teach climate action to run”. That requires ramped-up nationally determined contributions and the willingness to ensure that they are more than just lip service to meaningful action, as well as the honoring of financing pledges and greater resolve to shrink the climate action funding gap.

China’s efforts in this regard have been widely recognized and it is regarded as a crucial agent and catalyst of the change required to realize the essential green transition. This is because the country has moved decidedly and effectively with the green transition in mind. By 2022, the carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP in China had dropped over 51 percent from the level in 2005. Besides, the Chinese government has also arranged 20 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) in special funds to support South-South climate cooperation. Climate response is increasingly taking over from the past pursuit of fast growth as the shaper of China’s modernization path, and it is a key area for cooperation between China and the developed countries as well.

In his speech at the COP28, Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang highlighted three steps that are of critical significance to effectively addressing climate change: Practice multilateral cooperation, accelerate the green transition, and take actions to honor commitments that have already been made.

Proceeding from common but differentiated responsibilities, Beijing has been consistent in urging developed countries to help developing nations with their climate change responses. At the same time, despite being a developing country itself, China is shouldering its responsibility as the world’s second-largest economy and offering climate assistance.

The COPs are the world’s only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change. This year’s COP, with almost the complete participation of every country, has set a record itself, witnessing the biggest participation in any COP while highlighting the sense of urgency that prevails and the widening consensus that no country can stay out of the picture as the impacts of climate change leave no country unscathed.

US IS OUT OF MONEY, NEARLY OUT OF TIME TO AVOID ‘KNEECAP’ TO UKRAINE

THE BUZZ

The Biden administration yesterday sent Congress an urgent warning about the need to approve tens of billions of dollars in military and economic assistance to Ukraine, saying Kyiv’s war effort to defend itself from Russia’s invasion may grind to a halt without it.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders and also released publicly, Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young warned the U.S. will run out of funding to send weapons and assistance to Ukraine by the end of the year, saying that

would “kneecap” Ukraine on the battlefield.

She added that the U.S. already has run out of money that it has used to prop up Ukraine’s economy, and “if Ukraine’s economy collapses, they will not be able to keep fighting, full stop.” “We are out of money — and nearly out of time,” she wrote.

Biden has sought a nearly \$106 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other needs, but it has faced a difficult reception on Capitol Hill, where there is growing skepticism about the magnitude of assistance for Ukraine.

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA

11 BODIES RECOVERED AFTER VOLCANIC ERUPTION, 12 STILL MISSING

RAHMA NURJANA, PADANG

The bodies of 11 climbers were recovered yesterday a day after a furious eruption of the Mount Marapi volcano as Indonesian rescuers searched for 12 apparently still missing.

Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, a level indicating above normal volcanic activity and prohibiting climbers or villagers within 3 kilometers of the peak, said Hendra Gunawan, the head of the Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation.

“This means that there should be no climbing to the peak,” Gunawan said, adding that climbers were only allowed below the danger zone, “but sometimes many of them broke the rules to fulfill their satisfaction to climb further.”

About 75 climbers had started their way up the nearly 2,900-meter mountain on Saturday and became stranded. Eight of those rescued Sunday were rushed to hospitals with burns and one also had a broken limb, said Hari Agustian, an official at the local Search and Rescue

Agency in Padang, the West Sumatra provincial capital.

All of the climbers had registered at two command posts or online through West Sumatra’s conservation agency before they climbed, Agustian said. It was possible others took illegal roads or local residents were active in the area, but it couldn’t be confirmed, he said.

Marapi spewed thick columns of ash as high as 3,000 meters in Sunday’s eruption and hot ash clouds spread several kilometers. Nearby villages and towns were blanketed by tons of volcanic debris. Volcanic dust and rain smeared the faces and hair of evacuated climbers, according to video on social media.

Falling ash blanketed several villages and blocked sunlight, and authorities distributed masks and urged residents to wear eye-glasses to protect them from volcanic ash. About 1,400 people live on Marapi’s slopes in Rubai and Gobah Cumantiang, the nearest villages about 5 to 6 kilometers from the peak.

Gunawan said that the eruption was not preceded by a significant increase in volcanic earthquakes. Deep

volcanic earthquakes were only recorded three times between Nov. 16 and on Sunday, while the deformation equipment or tiltmeter on the peak showed a horizontal pattern on the radial axis and a slight inflation on the tangential axis.

“This shows that the eruption process is taking place quickly and the center of pressure is very shallow, around the peak,” he said.

Marapi has been observed regularly erupting since 2004 with a gap of 2 to 4 years, Gunawan said.

“Marapi eruptions are always sudden and difficult to detect using equipment because the source is near the surface,” Gunawan said, “This eruption was not caused by the movement of magma.”

West Sumatra’s Search and Rescue Agency head Abdul Malik said rescuers found 11 bodies of climbers as they searched for those who still missing and rescued three others yesterday morning.

“The evacuation process of the bodies and survivors are still ongoing,” he said, adding that rescuers are still searching for 12 climbers reportedly still missing. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



UK Spotify says it’s axing 17% of its global workforce, the music streaming service’s third round of layoffs this year as it moves to slash costs while focusing on becoming profitable. In a message to employees posted on the company’s blog yesterday, CEO Daniel Ek said the jobs were being cut as part of a “strategic reorientation.” The post didn’t specify how many employees would lose their jobs, but a spokesperson confirmed that it amounts to about 1,500 people.

AP PHOTO



Stockholm Many Western arms companies failed to ramp up production in 2022 despite a strong increase in demand for weapons and military equipment, a watchdog group said yesterday, adding that labor shortages, soaring costs and supply chain disruptions had been exacerbated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. In its Top 100 of such firms, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, said the arms revenue of the world’s largest arms-producing and military services companies last year stood at \$597 billion — a 3.5% drop from 2021.

AP PHOTO



Zambia A member of a rescue team raised hope yesterday that there may be survivors at a Zambian mine where more than 30 informal miners have been trapped under debris for days and presumed dead after heavy rain caused landslides. Rescuers have been searching for the miners since early Friday after they were buried Thursday night while digging tunnels at an open-pit mine near the city of Chingola on the country’s copper belt.