



PJ WARNS FAKE NEW YAOHAN FACEBOOK PAGE PROMOTING THE SALE OF SEVERAL ITEMS AIMING TO SCAM UNAWARE INTERNET USERS

P4

FAOM LAWMAKERS CONCERNED OVER JOCKEY CLUB WORKERS' SITUATION

P2

BAIDU DENIES REPORT THAT ERNIE AI CHATBOT LINKED TO CHINESE MILITARY RESEARCH

P5



Japan The operator of the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant said yesterday it has no new safety worries and envisions no changes to the plant's decommissioning plans even after a deadly earthquake on Jan. 1 caused minor damage to another idled nuclear plant, rekindling concerns and prompting a regulatory body to order a close examination. The magnitude 7.6 quake on New Year's Day and dozens of strong aftershocks in Japan's north-central region have left 222 people dead and 22 unaccounted for.



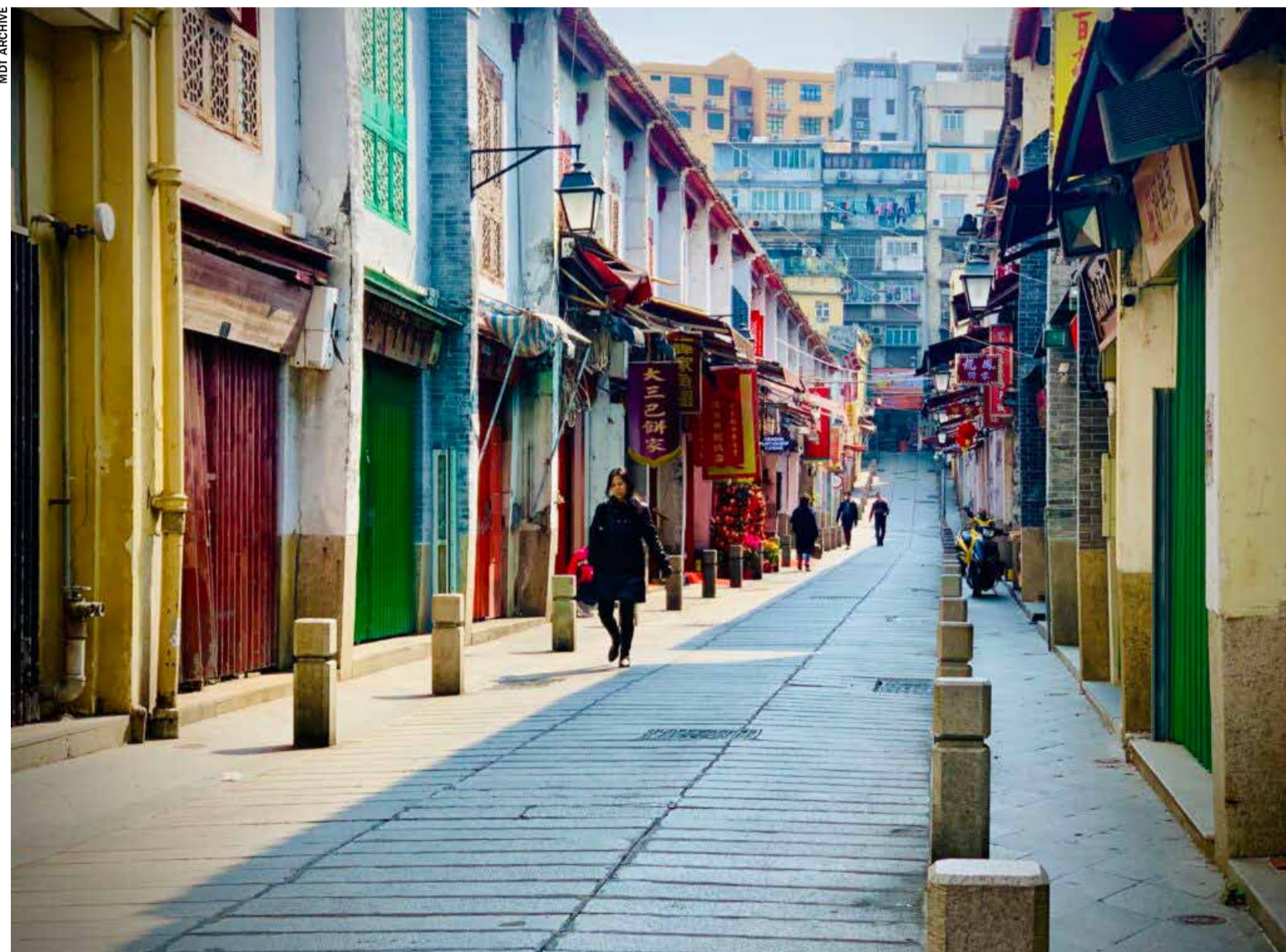
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would no longer pursue reconciliation with South Korea and called for rewriting the North's constitution to eliminate the idea of shared statehood between the war-divided countries. The historic step to discard a decades-long pursuit of a peaceful unification, which was based on a sense of national homogeneity shared by both Koreas, comes amid heightened tensions where the pace of both Kim's weapons development and the South's military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat.



Russia's top diplomat yesterday hosted his North Korean counterpart for talks on expanding ties between the two countries amid international concerns over an alleged arms cooperation deal between Pyongyang and Moscow. At the start of the meeting, Sergei Lavrov said he and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui would discuss "active work" on implementing the agreements reached by the countries' leaders.

More on backpage

CPC MUST 'WIN THE HEARTS' OF MACAU: XI



TARO, THE CAT AT FRINGE

P2

GAMING ANALYSTS UPBEAT ON JAN RESULTS

P5

FRINGE PLAYWRIGHT-ACTRESS AIMS TO SOOTHE EMOTIONS THROUGH HER PERSONAL CAT STORY

ANTHONY LAM

AS the world gradually moves on from the Covid-19 restrictions, a local playwright-actress wants to use her own stories about her deceased cat, Taro, to comfort the hearts of her audiences.

“One Christmas, by a quirk of fate, I met Taro, a stray cat,” Lei Sam I has written in the introductory note to her short play, titled “Goodbye, See You Soon.” Taro was a cat that she adopted when she was studying in Taiwan.

Unfortunately, Taro was diagnosed with cancer in 2022 and eventually succumbed to the illness.

“Taro’s falling ill and my caring for it along the way have brought to me a lot of inspirations,” Lei said. “I want to utilize these inspirations to provide support, company or even therapeutic results to people [after] the past three years.”

Asked what emotional disturbances she had observed or recognized in others during the past three years, Lei said that given Macau’s small size and its close relationships, people were not used to being alone.

“However, when lockdown arrived, we all had to face solitude, which we were not used to,” the actress said. “Some people may



Lei Sam I

have magnified the difficulties that they faced, while negative information was flying around.”

She added that it could be exceptionally difficult for people who were not used to “mingling with themselves” to do so suddenly and without training.

“They didn’t have the tools to face and understand themselves,” she said, hinting that the feeling could be extreme for some.

She hopes her play, which incorporates drama, live music and

interactions, would help calm audience members and open doors for them to move away and on from the past tension.

Tunes will be played with classical guitar and handpan during and after the show.

Although Taro’s fight against cancer was brief, it was a difficult journey, Lei said.

Not only did she need to think about transport for Taro, she also needed to worry about being locked down in the building. After

all, red health codes and sudden lockdowns were not from yesterday.

“If my building got cordoned, I would not even be able to take Taro to the vet,” she recalled.

Thankful for being able to care for Taro on a full-time basis, she felt anxious about the way in which she cared for her terminally ill pet. After falling asleep, she recalled, she would wake regularly to check on the cat’s condition.

She agreed that it was analo-

gous to carers of the chronically ill, and admitted that it was demanding both physically and emotionally.

Her way of releasing pressure was to play the guitar and listen to music. The lessons that she got from the incident, she said, were the realization of life being limited, the focus on happiness, being thankful to matters that were not so.

“Do what you like, meet people whom you like and express your love to those who you love: these are the most precious deeds that we can do,” she said, when asked for suggestions to her struggles.

In response to why she had decided to relocate to Macau with Taro in 2017, she said it was a sense of responsibility – which not only applies to pet keeping but literally to everything – emphasizing that once she had decided to move she couldn’t leave Taro behind.

“Goodbye, See You Soon” will have a total of four shows – from today to Saturday – at pet-friendly business Laika Land.

In addition a photo exhibition – Likewise – will be held from today to Sunday at the same venue. The latter will feature photos of Taro, alongside pre-recorded explanations by Lei, accessible by scanning QR codes placed next to each photo.

FAOM lawmakers concerned over Jockey Club workers’ situation

RENATO MARQUES

TWO of the lawmakers linked with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) have expressed concerns over the announced closure of the Macau Jockey Club (MJC).

The lawmakers Lam Lon Wai and Lei Chan U have issued a statement on the matter after announcements on Monday from both the government and MJC. Lam and Lei claim to be closely watching as the

matter unfolds, so as to ensure the rights of affected workers are properly handled.

They said they hope authorities will properly refer their employees to other work, as well as protect their rights and interests more generally.

“According to information from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), MJC currently employs 254 locals and 316 non-residents. The company promised to provide its affected employees

with adequate compensation under law. Authorities have also claimed that there is interest from MJC shareholders to reemploy some workers, but we are concerned that this will not be possible in all cases.”

The two lawmakers also expressed hopes that authorities would closely engage with both the company and its affected employees, communicating with both and providing workers with information and options.

In addition to MJC paying out the compensation it owes, the lawmakers are calling for the current job position and work experience of affected employees be taken into account when job transfers are arranged, so that workers are referred to “suitable positions.”

They said there had been several cases where workers were offered transferences to posts outside their field of expertise, leading them to quickly quit those jobs.



Upon resigning, workers either partially or totally lost their rights.

Lam and Lei also said, regarding the relocation of horse racing activities: “The

one-year period in which to reestablish this industry shows that the government has learned from its previous experience in ceasing dog racing.”

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 * DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

UNITED FRONT

Communist Party must 'win the hearts' of people in Macau, HK and Taiwan: Xi

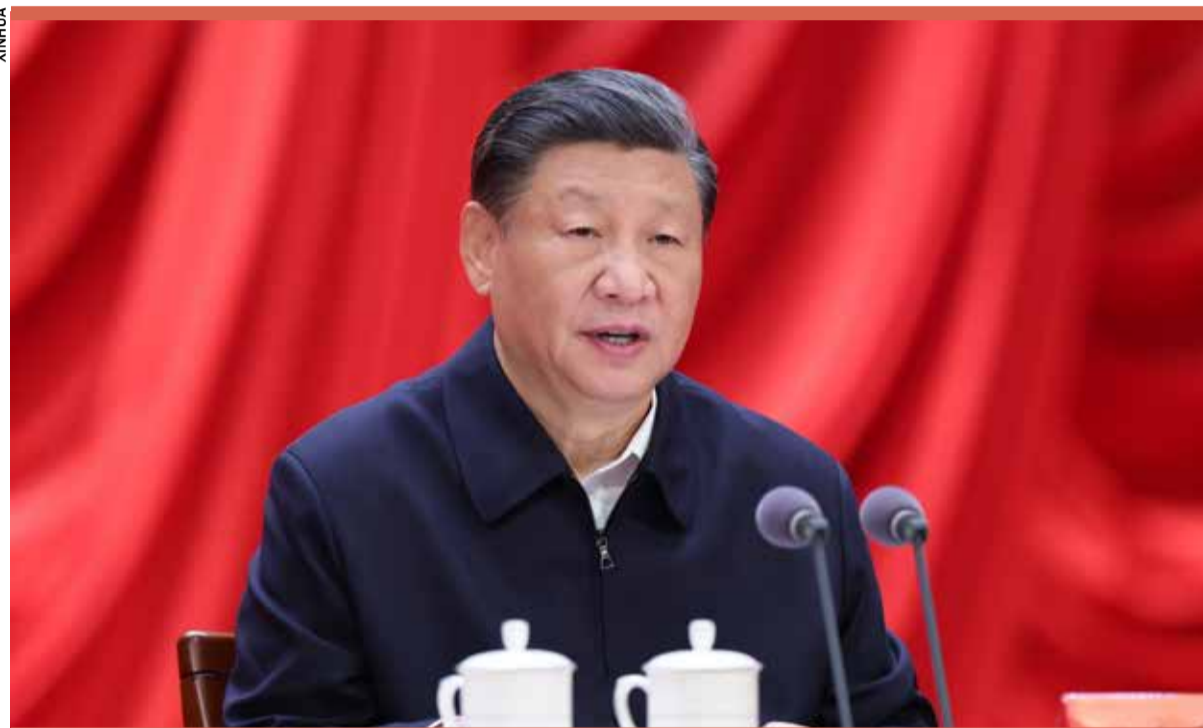
PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has emphasized the importance of the Communist Party winning the "hearts and minds" of the people of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. This call was made during a conference with the United Front department of the Communist Party in Beijing and first reported by mainland media.

The United Front is responsible for managing relations with individuals and groups outside the party, both within and outside China, and is considered a key instrument in upholding the party's influence and control.

Xi highlighted the need for the United Front to play a significant role in safeguarding China's national sovereignty and stressed the importance of building connections with "patriotic forces" overseas.

The focus is on promoting exchanges and mutual learning opportunities between China and foreign nations and cultures, to cultivate a broader understanding of, as well as support for, China.

This initiative is part of China's broader efforts towards the



XINHUA

"great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," which Xi has frequently mentioned as his central objective.

The approach involves strengthening the role of the United Front in places like Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and overseas Chinese communities, aiming to

build support and loyalty towards China and its political system.

These statements from Xi come in the context of significant political developments and tensions in the region, particularly in the case of the recent elections in Taiwan, in which the liberal Democratic Progressive Party

(DPP) retained office.

The emphasis on winning hearts and minds indicates "a strategic approach that combines soft power and cultural influence alongside more traditional political and diplomatic efforts," according to analysts cited in the reports. **PC/AGENCIES**

EDUCATION

Development of digital economy and 'red tourism' lagging behind, researchers say

RENATO MARQUES

RESearchers from the Macao Innovation and Development Research Association (MIDRA) joined the Director of the Research Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region, Guan Yanbin, to discuss the results of several recent academic studies on digital economies, 'red tourism' and patriotic education.

The results were discussed at the launches of two reports that address the topics, unveiled yesterday by MIDRA.

"Macao's Digital Economic Development Strategy Research" and "Macao's Red Tourism Resource De-



velopment and Patriotic Education" are the two reports in question. Researchers contend that Macau needs improvement in these areas.

In his speech, Guan stated his belief in the great

potential of developing Macau's local digital economy, despite initial forays by the sector having produced mixed results to date. He remarked that small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the

education sector, should make better use of technology for the digital economy in particular so as to accelerate their developments.

"Universities are lacking in e-commerce courses and practical operations," Guan said, adding that he also believes Macau can become a "red tourism hotspot," attracting visitors from the mainland.

For this to happen, he proposes further integration, with "red" resources developed and utilized to help promote patriotic education both in Macau and on the mainland.

One of the researchers and the chairman of MIDRA, Lin Zhijun, also said during the same discus-

sions that Macau's current shortcomings are the result of a lack of digital technology platforms and infrastructure, as well as a lack of talent in the sector. Lin expressed hopes that the city would soon see increased progress in tackling these issues.

Lao Keng Chong, director-general of MIDRA, added that red tourism needs to be constantly improved and updated, as it cannot continue to follow the past's old conventions of relatively simple activities, including photography and all-too-brief guided tours.

"We should dig deep into our background, promoting it in conjunction with our history and culture," Lao said.

DUSK CONCERTS TO CONTINUE AT LAI CHI VUN IN JANUARY

The dusk concert series will continue at the Lai Chi Yun cultural area in January, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced. Local musicians and performers will take the stage to perform acoustic rock shows on Jan. 20. Local bands Blademark, FIDA and BA Supermarket will captivate their audiences against the backdrop of Hengqin and Cotai. To cater to the needs of concert-goers as well as other visitors, the IC will arrange shuttle buses to and from Macau, Taipa and Lai Chi Yun. Buses shall depart Macau at 2, 3 and 4p.m., and from Taipa at 2:30 and 3:30p.m.

PROPERTY BUYERS TO HAVE SOME SPECIAL STAMP DUTIES PAID

Following a new law as of Jan. 1 governing special stamp duties, which are paid upon the purchase of any buyer's second real property, some property buyers who made purchases between Jan. 1 and 15 will be refunded those special duties, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) has announced. The special duties account for 5% of the price of the real properties purchased. The DSF stressed that purchases made in 2023 will comply with the old law. Those purchasing their third property will be subject to 10% special stamp duty, the DSF added.

ELECTOR REGISTERS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY

The latest Registers of Electors are now on public display at the Public Administration Building until Jan. 25. Members of the public may view the registers. The hours of access are from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday, as well as 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Voters who are Legal Persons may access their registration on www.re.gov.mo and voters who are Natural Persons may access their registration on the One Account app. Objections to the registered data can be filed with the Public Administration and Civil Services Bureau. As of the end of 2023, Macau has 325,561 Natural Person voters and 777 Legal Person voters.

GOV'T TO SUBMIT UPDATED DRAFT OF AL ELECTION BILL TO PARLIAMENT

ANTHONY LAM

WITH the competent parliamentary committee satisfied with the clarifications provided by the government on the Legislative Assembly Election Amendment Bill, an updated draft will be submitted to the parliament for review.

Committee president Chan Chak Mo held a press conference yesterday afternoon, following the committee's meeting with competent government officials on the bill.

Chan said that the committee had concerns over Article 13 of the bill, which deals with the consistency of the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL). In this article, the third clause proposes the circumstances under which a CAEAL member will be dismissed and replaced by an appointee of the Chief Executive.

The first draft of the bill failed to adequately provide for circumstances in which a CAEAL member is prosecuted or taken into custody over allegations that could ultimately lead to three or more years' imprisonment.

While the government has agreed to provide for this circumstance in the updated bill, Chan stressed that the addition was demanded by the committee because similar provisions exist in the Chief Executive Electoral Law – the latest amendment to which was passed last year.

Another amendment to the bill related to the Chief Executive Electoral Law concerns the seventh clause of Article 33. Concerning accepting support from people committing deeds "not due to electoral purposes" (per the original text), the bill has since been amended to make reference to deeds "not permitted due to elec-

ANTHONY LAM



toral purposes."

Chan even speculated that the absence of the aforementioned circumstances in the updated bill was due to the Chief Executive Electoral Law failing to pass through parliament when the Election Amendment Bill was submitted to the legislature.

Article 184 proposes that the CAEAL, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Judiciary Police (PJ) be authorized to handle "minor violations" stipulated in the relevant section.

Chan disclosed that committee members wondered why the PJ would be involved in handling minor violations, as under normal circumstances, the department concerns itself with more severe crimes.

As an explanation, the committee was told that in many instances, contemporary electoral violations take place online. Such violations include general cyber crimes, cyber-attacks, illegal campaigning, the release of classified survey results, and defamation.

According to Chan, citing Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong, the PJ are better trained to handle similar violations, thus justifying the department's inclusion in the bill.

Chan added that the PJ, upon receiving a complaint or report, would initiate an investigation before delivering any conclusions to the CAEAL for further investigation.

On matters involving external authorities, Chan said that committee members were concerned

with how the local government proposes to maintain investigative authorities in foreign jurisdictions. The bill provides for as much, should alleged violations take place outside of Macau.

Cheong offered assurances that the government has policing and judicial mechanisms in place for cooperation to facilitate this proposed authority.

The lawmakers also expressed their concerns over the ambiguity surrounding the distinction between the ordinary and lawful responsibilities of a lawmaker versus actions that would constitute illegal campaigning during an election. However, they decided to accept the government's assurances, allowing the CAEAL to determine the nature of these matters.

JUDICIARY POLICE WARNS PUBLIC TO BE WARY OF A FAKE NEW YAOHAN FACEBOOK PAGE

STAFF REPORTER

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) was recently notified of a fake New Yaohan Facebook page promoting the sale of several items aiming to scam unaware internet users.

After confirming the illicit nature of the page, PJ determined that New Yaohan was not associated with the page and did not sponsor the sale of such items.

The fraudulent Facebook page promotes various products from major brands, including bags, cosmetics, and accessories, and targets Facebook users through advertisements, enticing them to place orders for items by clicking on a fraudulent link.

In a statement, PJ noted that the authenticity of these products is questionable, and that users' personal data could potentially be stolen if purchases were attempted. This data would no doubt be used for illicit purposes, PJ said.

PJ calls on citizens to carefully read all promoted advertisements that are recommended to users by social media platforms, and for citizens to exercise caution whilst shopping online, so as to better avoid scams.

Construction of new police headquarters concludes

RENATO MARQUES

CONSTRUCTION of the new Public Security Police Force (PSP) headquarters building, located at Pac On, in Taipa, has officially concluded, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) announced.

According to the DSOP release, the project was completed yesterday, 45 days ahead of schedule.

The new building will host several departments of the PSP, including the Command Office and the Special Tactical Unit, and

spans an approximate area of 7,000 square meters, comprising three juxtaposed buildings, forming a U-shape.

The new facility is located in Taipa's Pac On precinct, in the land plot reference 'E1', next to the Immigration Services building and adjacent the 4th Macau-Taipa Bridge.

The three buildings are nine stories high and include a two-story underground parking lot, to comprise a total construction area of approximately 80,000 square meters.

The project was initially expected to be completed in March this year.

The DSOP is now performing its final verifications and inspections before it hands the building over to security forces for use.

Besides several departments of the PSP and other facilities, the building will become the new home of a 999-emergency hotline call center, and house the control and operation room for Macau's street surveillance network (Eyes in the Sky).





GAMING

Citi, JP Morgan raise January gaming revenue forecast to MOP18 billion

STAFF REPORTER

BASED on industry channels, Macau's GGR for the first 14 days of January reached MOP8.6 billion, or an average gross gaming (GGR) revenue of MOP600 million per day last week, which was 5% lower than the first week of January, Citi Research has reported.

According to Citi's research, Macau's VIP GGR has been largely flat month-on-month in recent weeks. Taking into account recent GGR trends, Citi conservatively raised its forecast for January 2024 from MOP17.5 billion to MOP18 billion, which is equivalent to about 72% of January 2019 levels.

This also implies that Macau's average daily GGR for the rest of January 2024 is expected to be about

MOP553 million.

Along the same lines, JPMorgan understands that Macau's GGR for the first 14 days of January will be MOP8.6 billion, or MOP614 million per day, which implies that last week's daily GGR was MOP600 million. This is significantly lower than that of the New Year's holiday, but the performance is still quite solid on a seasonal basis, JPMorgan has clarified in its own report.

JPMorgan expected January GGR to meet market expectations, reaching MOP17.5 billion to MOP18 billion. Although there are still challenges to the macroeconomic environment, JPMorgan remains optimistic towards Macau's casinos in this Year of the Dragon.

Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley said in its own research report that it remains positively disposed to Macau's

gaming industry, believing that gaming companies will outperform the performance of China's consumer market in their earnings, as well as suggesting that valuations in the industry have fallen too far. The key themes for this year's stock selection will be market share trends and corporate operating leverage levels.

The broker pointed out that casino stocks performed strongly in 1H23, but lost momentum in 2H23 due to concerns that Macau's GGR had already peaked, leading to an ultimate drop of 15% for the whole year and thus underperforming the HSI by about 2 ppts. It is expected that GGR will grow significantly this year, and that the growth of mass market business is expected to be strong. It is predicted that the annual mass GGR and industry EBITDA will grow by 25% and 34% year-on-year respectively.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BAIDU DENIES REPORT THAT ITS ERNIE CHATBOT IS LINKED TO CHINESE MILITARY RESEARCH

TECHNOLOGY company Baidu refuted a newspaper report that said its artificial intelligence chatbot Ernie was linked to Chinese military research.

Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post on Friday cited an academic paper from a university affiliated with the People's Liberation Army cyberwarfare division. The paper stated that the division had tested its artificial intelligence system on Baidu's Ernie and on artificial intelligence firm iFlyTek's Spark, both of which are language-based AI chatbots similar to ChatGPT.

After its Hong Kong-listed stock plunged more than 11.5% Monday, Baidu denied the allegations, saying in a statement that it had not engaged in a business collaboration with the paper's authors or their affiliated institutions.

"Ernie Bot is available to and used by the general public," the Chinese company said in its statement.

The academic paper from the PLA Information Engineering University detailed how researchers had given Ernie Bot prompts to generate simulated military response plans for Libyan troops in response to a U.S. military attack.

Baidu said that if the authors employed large language models such as Ernie Bot, they would have used the functions available to any user interacting with such AI tools.

Like ChatGPT, users can pose questions or requests to Ernie Bot, which would then generate content ba-

sed on the initial prompt. Like many other internet services in China, Ernie Bot is also subject to censorship rules and will not answer questions deemed politically sensitive or taboo by the Chinese government.

The South China Morning Post report initially described a "physical link" between Ernie and the PLA division. The reference has since been amended to say that the PLA lab had tested its system on Baidu's AI model.

The plunge in Baidu's stock price underscored fears from investors that Chinese technology firms linked to the Chinese military or government could be sanctioned by the U.S. in a similar fashion to Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, which the U.S. sees as an espionage risk.

Relations between China and the U.S. have declined in recent years over disagreements on trade, technology and issues related to Taiwan, a self-ruled island and U.S. ally that China regards as a renegade province to be taken by force if necessary.

Baidu, which operates China's leading search engine and is one of the country's leading artificial intelligence firms, made Ernie Bot available to the public in August 2023 amid a race among Chinese technology firms to produce China's ChatGPT equivalent.

The Beijing-headquartered firm said in December that it had more than 100 million users for Ernie Bot. **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

KTRANZ TRANSLATIONS LIMITED
Email: sales@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084
Avenida da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Macao Polytechnic University
Open for admission 2024/2025

Undergraduate Admission
From now until 17/01/2024

Postgraduate Admission
Master's Degree Programmes:
From now until 30/04/2024
Doctoral Degree Programmes:
From now until 15/05/2024

Degree programmes offered in the areas of:

- Information Technology
- Health Sciences and Sports
- Languages and Translation
- Arts and Creativity
- Public Administration and Services
- Business and Management

Enquiries
MPU Registry
Telephone: 8599 6111 / 6103
E-mail: admission@mpu.edu.mo

QR Code:

AP PHOTO



XINJIANG

Evacuation underway for stranded tourists after multiple avalanches trap 1,000 people

RESCUERS evacuated tourists yesterday from a remote skiing area in northwestern China where

dozens of avalanches triggered by heavy snow have trapped more than 1,000 people for a week, state media said.

The avalanches have blocked roads, stranding both tourists and residents in a village in Altay prefecture in the Xinjiang region,

close to China's border with Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Those injured were being airlifted out on a military helicopter while supplies such as food and fuel were being flown in.

State broadcaster CCTV said a snow-blocked road linking Hemu village to major roads was cleared yesterday, enabling vehicles to enter and tourists to drive themselves out.

Footage showed dozens of tourists dragging luggage over snow-covered areas toward a military helicopter, while a long line of outgoing cars was seen on the cleared road.

State media cited the local highway administration as saying the avalanches affected 350 kilometers of roads. Road clearing efforts were hampered due to the area's geography as roads leading to Hemu are situated in a valley with tree-covered slopes.

Known as an emerging ski destination, Altay prefecture had been hit by heavy snowfall since early January. China Daily, citing the Xinjiang meteorological bureau, said at least 31 avalanches were reported as of Saturday.

Authorities at the Kanas scenic area, where Hemu village is located, said the area will be closed until at least Jan. 20 due to continued extreme weather. MDT/AP

DIRE STRAIT

Beijing blasts Marcos for congratulating Taiwan election winner

CHINA'S Foreign Ministry summoned the Philippine ambassador yesterday and denounced President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s congratulatory message to the winner of Taiwan's leader election, Lai Ching-te.

Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters that Marcos's remarks "seriously violated the political commitments made by the Philippines to China and rudely interfered in China's internal affairs."

China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be recovered by force if necessary, and angrily condemns statements that appear to confer legitimacy on the island's government.

"We would like to sternly tell the Philippines not to play with fire on the Taiwan issue ... (and) immediately stop making wrong words and deeds on Taiwan-related issues, and stop sending any wrong signals to Taiwan independence and separatist forces," Mao said.

She said Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Nong Rong summoned the Philippine Amba-

sador to China Tuesday morning and "made solemn representations, and urged the Philippines to give China a responsible explanation."

Marcos Jr. congratulated Taiwan's leader-elect on Monday, saying in a statement shared on social media that he was looking "forward to close collaboration" and "strengthening mutual interests." Lai, who is detested by Beijing, has pledged to safeguard the island's de-facto independence from China and further align it with other democracies.

"On behalf of the Filipino people, I congratulate Lai Ching-te on his election as Taiwan's [next leader]," Marcos said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

After U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken congratulated Lai on his victory, China's Foreign Ministry said that Blinken's message "sends a gravely wrong signal to the 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces." The ministry claimed the congratulations went against a U.S. commitment to maintain only unofficial ties with Taiwan. MDT/AP

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

AP PHOTO



Mao Ning leads a press conference in Beijing

AP PHOTO



Thailand's former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra greets his supporters as he arrives at Don Muang airport in Bangkok, last August

THAILAND

Officials say not calling Thaksin 'inmate' is standard practice

FORMER Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is serving a prison sentence after being convicted of wrongdoing in office, but he shouldn't be called an inmate, the country's Correction Department declared yesterday.

The agency felt it necessary to explain that it is not being deferential to the controversial former

leader when it refers to him in public without using the term.

The department said its standard practice is not to call prisoners "inmates" in its public statements to avoid stigmatizing them. It said the term is only used internally among its officials.

It was responding to critics who charge that Thaksin, a billionaire populist and unofficial patron of

the political party that returned to power last year, is being given special treatment while he serves his sentence in a private room in a state hospital instead of in a prison cell.

Thaksin, 74, was ousted in a 2006 military coup after being accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespecting the monarchy. He fled into exile in 2008

ahead of a trial on corruption charges, declaring that he was being prosecuted for political reasons.

He returned to Thailand last year, and after being welcomed by supporters at Bangkok's airport was taken immediately to prison to begin serving an eight-year term for a series of convictions.

Less than a day later, he was

transferred from prison to the Police General Hospital. Corrections Department officials said he had high blood pressure and low oxygen, suffered from insomnia and felt tightness in his chest, and that doctors recommended he be transferred to avoid life-threatening risks.

His return to Thailand came the same day that the Pheu Thai party -- the latest incarnation of the party that he originally led to power in 2001, and for which he is considered the de facto leader -- won a parliamentary vote to form a new government. The previous government was heavily influenced by the military, which continued its hostility to Thaksin and his allies long after ousting him in 2006.

About a week after Thaksin's return, King Maha Vajiralongkorn reduced his eight-year sentence to a single year. He will be able to apply for parole after serving one-third of his amended sentence, or four months.

Thaksin was a police lieutenant colonel before becoming a successful telecoms entrepreneur. The Corrections Department and the hospital have declined to reveal in detail what Thaksin is being treated for, citing his right to privacy, although officials have said he has undergone surgery twice.

His daughter, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who now heads the Pheu Thai party and is seen as the heir apparent to his political ambitions, has said he suffered complications after contracting the coronavirus in 2020, and that she is most worried about a heart condition. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

6,500 people evacuated on the island of Flores after volcano spews clouds of ash

INDONESIA has evacuated about 6,500 people on the island of Flores after Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano spewed thick clouds of brownish ash for the past days, authorities said.

No casualties or major damage have been reported so far.

The eruptions in East Nusa Tenggara province are part of hot gas spills that have become more frequent in recent days. The 1,584-meter (5,197 foot) mountain is one of the "twin volcanoes" — the Lewotobi Laki-laki and Lewotobi Perempuan — in the Flores Timur district.

The volcano has erup-



Mount Lewotobi spews volcanic smoke from its crater during an eruption in East Flores

ted 40 times since Sunday, with columns of hot clouds rising 500-1,500

meters into the air. Residents in nearby villages were taken in by

relatives or brought to evacuation centers as authorities raised the vol-

cano's alert status to the highest level last Tuesday. Officials urge the local

community, as well as visitors and tourists, to stay away from a 4-kilometer radius around the eruption zone and be aware of the potential for cold lava surging into rivers upstream from the peak in case of intense rain.

Lewotobi Laki-laki is one of the 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people. The country is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the Pacific Ocean.

Meanwhile, on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia's Mount Marapi erupted again on Sunday, for the second time since December, spewing smoke and ash high into the air, but no casualties were reported. At least 100 residents were evacuated there since Friday. **MDT/AP**

DAVOS

Zelenskyy takes center stage in forum to rally support for Ukraine's fight

JAMEY KEATEN, DAVOS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is headlining a frenzied first full day of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, where top officials from the United States, European Union, China, the Middle East and beyond spoke yesterday about tackling conflict and embracing technology like artificial intelligence.

Zelenskyy will endeavor to keep his country's long and largely stalemated defense against Russia on the minds of political leaders, just as Israel's war with Hamas, which passed the 100-day mark this week, has siphoned off much of the world's attention and sparked concerns about a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Yesterday's activities got rolling with a dizzying array of subjects in rooms at the Davos conference center, where discussions tackled issues as diverse as innovation in Europe, the economic impact of generative AI and corporate support for clean technologies.

Conversations with the prime ministers of Qatar and Jordan will bookend the day's most visible events, with speeches by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan in between.

Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said the concentration on the attacks on ships in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthi rebels — which have spurred retaliatory strikes by the U.S. and Britain — was "focusing on the symptoms and not treating the real issue" of Israel's war on Hamas.

"We should focus on the main conflict in Gaza. And as soon as it's defused, I believe everything else will be defused," he said, adding that a two-state solution was required to end the conflict.

Sheikh Mohammed also warned a military confrontation "will not contain" the Houthi attacks.

"I think that what we have right now in the region is a re-



Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission (left) and Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Davos

ception of escalation everywhere," he added.

Li, the Chinese premier, focused on pitching the country as a place to invest, noting that "we are opening wide our embrace." He said China's economy is estimated to have grown about 5.2% last year, exceeding the target it had set of 5%.

China's economy, for decades a leading engine of global expansion, has struggled since COVID-19 restrictions, with high youth unemployment and its overbuilt property market imploding.

Li gave veiled criticism of U.S. restrictions on China's ability to buy advanced computer chips used in everything from cellphones to washing machines.

"Technology's achievements should be used to benefit all humankind and it should not be used as a method to limit, to suppress another country," Li said.

Von der Leyen, for her part, reiterated that the EU doesn't want to break from Beijing — one of its most important trade partners — but to ease the risks of relying too heavily on it because "we have issues when it comes to access to the market, when it comes to a level playing field, when it comes to economic security."

She noted China's export controls on metals used in computer chips, solar cells and more.

For the U.S., Sullivan said no when The Associated Press asked whether he would meet with China's delegation

as he headed into talks with Zelenskyy and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Zelenskyy, once reticent about leaving his war-torn country, has recently gone on a whirlwind tour to try to rally support for Ukraine's cause against Russia amid donor fatigue in the West and concerns that former U.S. President Donald Trump — who touted having good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin — might return to the White House next year following his commanding win Monday in the Iowa caucuses.

It is Zelenskyy's first trip to Davos as president after speaking by video in previous years, and he's drawn the attention of media and others trying to grab a word from him — while he's surrounded by a large contingent of security.

He hopes to parlay the high visibility of the event into a bully pulpit to showcase Ukraine's pressing needs, and allies will be lining up: Corporate chiefs and officials like von der Leyen learned what support was needed to help Ukraine rebuild at an invitation-only "CEOs for Ukraine" session.

"It's time for us, for Ukrainian companies, for international companies to rebuild (the) Ukrainian economy," Maxim Timchenko, CEO of Ukrainian energy company DTEK said after the session. "To rely on ourselves. To build a future for Ukraine."

In her speech, Von der Leyen painted an optimistic view of the war in Ukraine despite the stalemate on the

battlefield. She said Russia has "lost half of its military capabilities," while Ukraine regained half the ground it had originally lost early in the invasion.

A day earlier, Zelenskyy made a stop in Switzerland's capital, Bern, where President Viola Amherd pledged her country would start working with Ukraine to help organize a "peace summit" for Ukraine.

The theme of the meeting in Davos is "rebuilding trust," and it comes as that sentiment has been fraying globally: Wars in the Middle East and Europe have increasingly split the world into different camps.

While the geopolitical situation has oozed gloom, businesses appear more hopeful — in part from prospects that artificial intelligence can help boost productivity.

AI is a major topic at Davos, with a key talk by Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella — whose company has invested billions in ChatGPT maker OpenAI — among the sessions.

Nadella, speaking at a Bloomberg News event ahead of his talk, indicated that issues surrounding OpenAI's leadership have been resolved. The ChatGPT maker's governance and relationship with Microsoft came into question last year after the startup's board suddenly fired CEO Sam Altman, who was then swiftly reinstated.

"I'm comfortable, I have no issues with any structure" of the operating model at OpenAI, Nadella said. "What I would like is good governance and real stability." MDT/AP

this day in history

1983 BBC WAKES UP TO MORNING TV



People have been switching on their televisions a little earlier than usual to catch Britain's first breakfast news programme.

The BBC's new Breakfast Time programme went on air at 0630 GMT, presented by Nationwide's Frank Bough and former ITN news reader Selina Scott.

Nick Ross, who has presented a range of BBC radio news programmes, will also be hosting the show.

The two-and-a-half hour programme - presented live from the BBC's refurbished Lime Grove studios - is costing a reported £6m a year.

It is the corporation's biggest investment since BBC Two went on the air.

The battle for ratings will really hot up next month, when TV-am launches its new breakfast news programme.

The BBC's Director General, Alasdair Milne, was full of praise for this morning's show: "It was a terrific start. The first Tonight programme was not as good as this."

Breakfast Time editor Ron Neil said the show was intended to be relaxed and informal - and he dismissed suggestions it would fail to draw a big audience.

One survey in this morning's papers claims only four out of 10 people will watch the programme. Mr Neil said "That's an awful lot of people. If four out of 10 are watching, I will be delighted."

He added: "It isn't costing the licence fee payer any more money, the licence fee hasn't gone up. I think we will give people a very entertaining and informative two-and-a-half hours every morning."

The programme is catering for a wide variety of tastes - with its own resident astrologer, Russell Grant, and a regular exercise slot led by "Green Goddess" Diana Moran.

Families around the country got up especially early to watch the first programme. The BBC says it received 1,500 calls from well-wishers phoning to offer their congratulations.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Newspaper critics at the time claimed there was no demand for breakfast TV.

Richard Ingrams writing in *The Spectator* said: "There is no earthly reason why anyone of intelligence should want to watch it."

TV-am's Good Morning Britain launched two weeks later and the battle for ratings quickly hotted up.

Personalities on both programmes came and went - but TV-am faced financial ruin when ratings plummeted to 200,000 in May.

Greg Dyke was brought in from London Weekend Television to save the programme. The original five presenters were sacked and he promoted a puppet, Roland Rat, to help read the news. His tactics paid off.

A year later, the BBC and TV-am were bringing in weekly audiences of 1.5m and 1.2m respectively.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. Travel will be on your mind, but you should be sure that you've got all your work up-to-date.

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20
Do a little shopping. You're likely to find a real bargain. You will have to face each issue separately and in person. Do not jump to conclusions concerning your romantic partner.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21
You will enjoy physical activities more than you think. Don't let others restrict you from saying how you feel about family issues. Work quietly on your own and you will forge ahead.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You will have a tendency to put on pounds. Problems with your mate will develop if you don't let them have their way. Make those phone calls and pay your bills.

LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your best gains will come through helping others emotionally. Don't count on others to cover up for your shortcomings. Be sure to double-check the house on your way out.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Try to avoid any drastic decisions concerning personal legal matters. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. You can make life easier for an older member of your family.

LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Find out all you can; secret enemies may lead you astray. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Secret affairs will only lead to deception.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs.

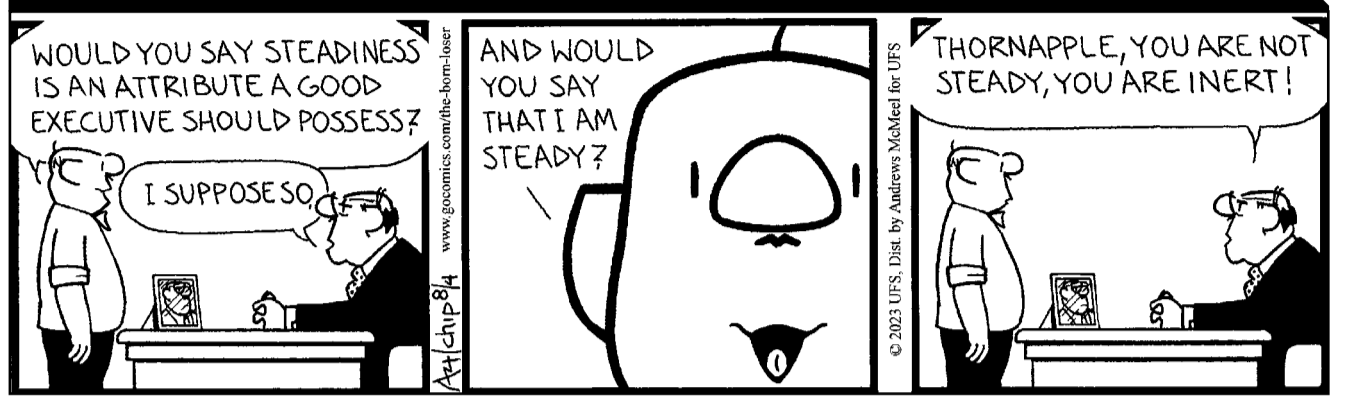
SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Call siblings or old friends to catch up on recent news. Don't put all your cash in one place. Don't be angry, but be on your guard. Elders may need your help.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Be cautious who you deal with financially. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. Pay attention to small but important details.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda. Children may be difficult to deal with. Don't get involved in uncertain financial ventures.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. This is not the day to be extravagant. You may come down with minor infections if you have allowed yourself to get rundown.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

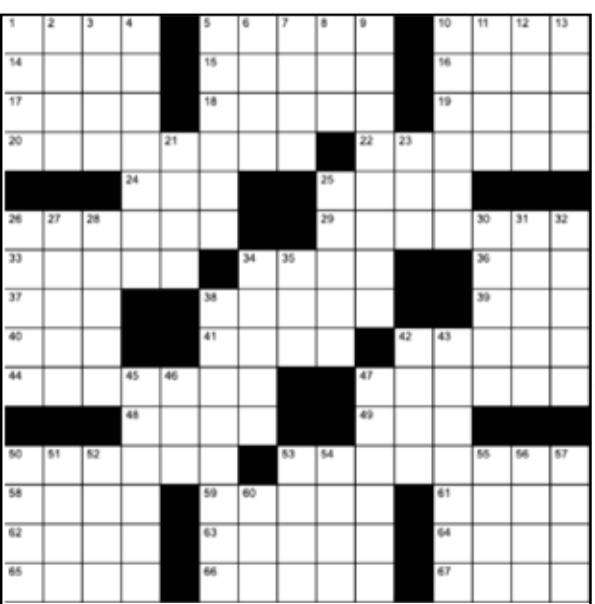
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	1	overcast
Changchun	-11	0	fine
Chengdu	8	12	overcast
Chongqing	11	14	rain
Fuzhou	10	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	12	24	cloudy
Guiyang	12	18	showers
Haikou	20	25	rain
Hangzhou	3	20	cloudy
Harbin	-15	-6	cloudy
Hefei	2	6	rain
Nanjing	2	10	rain
Shanghai	7	18	fine
Taipei	15	22	fine
Wuhan	3	6	rain
Hong Kong	21	21	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-18	-9	windy
Frankfurt	0	1	snow
Paris	0	3	rain
London	-4	2	overcast
New York	-6	-4	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Diplomacy; 5- Japanese three-line verse; 10- Undoing; 14- Dept. of Labor division; 15- Clampett player; 16- Blunted blade; 17- Chow ___; 18- Tied; 19- Roman god of war; 20- Rear curtain of a stage; 22- In groups; 24- Fair-hiring abbr.; 25- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 26- Tissue in the cavities of bones; 29- Photo of a raindrop on a rose petal, e.g.; 33- Bottomless gulf; 34- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 36- Rapping Dr.; 37- Caesar of comedy; 38- Crackers; 39- May ___ excused?; 40- Poem of praise; 41- Pass over; 42- Charged; 44- Soothing medicine; 47- Merciful; 48- Emilia's husband; 49- Jurist Fortas; 50- Magic spells; 53- Bottom-dwelling; 58- Dutch name of The Hague; 59- Every sixty minutes; 61- Member of a great Peruvian people; 62- Longfellow's bell town; 63- Emulate Cicero; 64- Pres., militarily; 65- High schooler; 66- Rendezvous; 67- To ___ (perfectly);

DOWN 1- Grave; 2- On the briny; 3- In vogue; 4- Large ships; 5- Semitic language; 6- Peek follower; 7- The jig ___; 8- He's a doll; 9- Lay beneath; 10- Negligent; 11- ___ the crack of dawn; 12- Able was ___; 13- Scottish loch, home to a monster!; 21- Adverse fate; 23- ___-tzu; 25- Hound's trail; 26- Person who dresses stones; 27- Remain; 28- U-Haul competitor; 30- Minneapolis suburb; 31- Living in a city; 32- Golfer Calvin; 34- Lover of Juliet; 35- ___ polloi; 38- Unlikely to be successful; 42- Yokel; 43- 1981 Neil Diamond hit; 45- The ___ Mary; 46- Cartesian conclusion; 47- Small village; 50- Converse; 51- Can't stand; 52- Bern's river; 53- Cart for heavy loads; 54- Puts away; 55- Bad mood; 56- Skin eruption; 57- Ornamental fabric; 60- Bobby of hockey; e river; 61- Mont. neighbor; 62- ___ culpa;



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

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

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

Tou Un
HKD 2,980,000 1 bed 1 bath

Supreme Flower City
HKD 22,000/mth 3 bed 1 CP



From left: Alan Ruck, Sarah Snook, Alexander Skarsgard, Brian Cox, Nicholas Braun, Kieran Culkin, Matthew Macfadyen, and J. Smith-Cameron, winners of the award for outstanding drama series for "Succession," at the the 75th Primetime Emmy Awards

TV SHOWS

'SUCCESION' DOMINATES DRAMA EMMYS, 'THE BEAR' CLAIMS COMEDY AND QUINTA BRUNSON MAKES HISTORY

ANDREW DALTON,
LOS ANGELES

SUCCESION secured its legacy with its third best drama series award, "The Bear" feasted as the night's top comedy, and the two shows about squabbling families dominated the acting awards at the Emmys (yesterday, Macau time).

Quinta Brunson of "Abbott Elementary" and Steven Yeun and Ali Wong of "Beef" also had historic wins at the 75th Primetime Emmy Awards, in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day ceremony that was finally held four months late after a turbulent year of strikes in Hollywood.

"Succession," the HBO saga of the dysfunctional generations of a maladjusted media empire, won the top prize for its fourth and final season. It also won best actress in a drama for Sarah Snook and best actor in a drama for Kieran Culkin.

"We all put our all into it, and the bar was set so high," Snook said.

"The Bear," the FX dramedy about a contentious family and a struggling restaurant at the

center of the life of a talented chef, won best comedy series for its first season. It also made a meal of the comedy acting categories, with Jeremy Allen White winning best actor, Ayo Edebiri winning best supporting actress, and Ebon Moss-Bachrach taking best supporting actor. All three were first-time nominees.

"This is a show about family, and found family and real family," Edebiri said from the stage as she accepted the first trophy of the night at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Instead of the usual producer speeches, Matty Matheson, a real-life elite chef who plays a kitchen newbie and repairman on "The Bear," spoke for the show while surrounded by the cast near the end of the Fox telecast.

Brunson won best actress in a comedy for the show she created, ABC's "Abbott Elementary," becoming the first Black woman to win the award in more than 40 years and the first from a network show to win it in more than a decade.

"I am so happy to be able to live my dream and act out comedy," Brunson said during her

acceptance, fighting back tears. The writer-actor was among the stars with standout looks on the Emmys' silver carpet.

"Succession" won six Emmys overall including best supporting actor in a drama for Matthew Macfadyen and best writing in a drama for show creator Jesse Armstrong. The only drama acting category it didn't win was supporting actress, taken for the second time by Jennifer Coolidge of "The White Lotus."

"The Bear" won in every category it was nominated for, and along with the four it had won previously at the Creative Arts Emmys, took 10 overall, the most of any show.

LANDMARK WINS ON TV'S BIG NIGHT

"Beef" from Netflix won best limited series, while Yeun and Wong became the first Asian Americans to win in their categories – Yeun for best actor in a limited series and Wong for best actress. Creator Lee Sung won Emmys for writing and directing. It had eight Emmys overall after three wins at the Creative Arts Emmys.

Brunson had won a writing Emmy for "Abbott Elementary," her mockumentary about a predominantly Black and chronically underfunded grade school in Philadelphia, but this was her first for acting. Isabel Sanford of "The Jeffersons" was the only previous Black woman to win the category in 1981.

The show held on the King holiday saw three Black women win major awards: Brunson, Edebiri and Niecy Nash-Betts, who won best supporting actress in a limited series for "Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story."

On the Netflix show, Nash-Betts played a neighbor of the serial killer whose complaints to authorities about his behavior go unheeded.

"I accept this award on behalf of every Black and brown woman who has gone unheard and over-policed," she said.

"Everybody having fun at the chocolate Emmys tonight?" host Anthony Anderson said during the show. "We are killing it tonight! ... This is like MLK Day and Juneteenth all rolled up in one!"

The tweaked awards calendar made for some oddities. Edebiri and White won their Emmys for the show's first season eight days after winning Golden Globes for the second season.

BABY TALK AMID 'SUCCESION' WINS

Culkin as little brother Roman Roy outshined the older brother and the father to win the last lead actor Emmy for "Succession."

He had twice been nominated for best supporting actor for "Succession" without a win. But in the final season, in which his character goes from sideline wisecracker to emotional disaster at the center of the show's drama, he was put in the lead category and won over his fictional father Brian Cox and brother Jeremy Strong.

After praising his on-screen family, he shifted to his own family, getting big laughs during his speech when he told his wife Jazz Charton that their two young kids weren't enough. "I want more," he said. "You said if I won, we could talk about it."

Snook took her first Emmy in three nominations for "Succession" for playing the family's lone daughter Shiv Roy, and her show-husband Macfadyen won the second Emmy of his career for playing Tom Wambsgans, the son-in-law that began the HBO series as a hanger-on and ended it as the closest thing it had to a victor.

OLDER SHOWS RETURN TO SPOTLIGHT

Honoring television history was the theme at the 75th Emmys. Anderson opened the show on a "Mr. Rogers" set and performed TV theme songs including "Good Times," and several cast reunions were spread throughout the show.

Cast members including Martin Lawrence and Tisha Campbell from "Martin," Ted Danson and Rhea Perlman from "Cheers," and Rob Reiner and Sally Struthers from "All in the Family" performed short bits from recreations of their sitcom sets before presenting awards.

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler reunited to present in the form of their 2001-2005 "Weekend Update" team-up from "Saturday Night Live."

"We've reached the stage in life where we'll only present awards sitting down," Fey said.

One notable appearance came from Katherine Heigl, who joined Ellen Pompeo and other former "Grey's Anatomy" castmates on a hospital room set after leaving the show, now about to start its 20th season, on less than ideal terms in 2010.

"Yes, there have been changes over the years," Heigl said with a wry smile, "But the one constant is the amazing fanbase." **MDT/AP**

TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Alcaraz overpowers Gasquet to win his first match since 2022

THE bugs bothered Carlos Alcaraz in his first match at the Australian Open for two years, and so did the 37-year-old veteran Richard Gasquet.

AP PHOTO



For the first set, at least. After taking an hour and 12 minutes to clinch the opener in a tiebreaker, second-ranked Alcaraz raced through the rest of the match in another hour against the tiring, sweat-soaked Frenchman for a 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-2 win last night.

The first two games took a combined 17 minutes, with the 20-year-old Alcaraz needing a few moments to try to remove a persistent insect that was bothering him behind the baseline just before he held for 1-1.

Both players used their rackets to push the bugs away from the court after the eighth game, and Alca-

raz was at it again after the first set.

There were few distractions after that until Alcaraz was serving for the match and the game went to deuce five times before he closed

with an ace.

He threw in some drop shots and slices that made Gasquet run, saying it shows he's "playing for myself, but I always try to make the people enjoy watching tennis."

"Every set, I played better and better," he said. "In the end, I played at quite a good level."

He will next play Lorenzo Sonego, who beat Dan Evans 4-6, 7-6 (8), 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Last year, Alcaraz had to withdraw from the Australian Open because of an injured right leg. That was the rare hiccup in a run of four major tournaments that netted him two titles — the 2022 U.S. Open and Wimbledon last year — and trips to the semifinals.

Gasquet was playing in his 17th Australian Open and his 73rd Grand Slam singles draw overall — equal third with Novak Djokovic on the all-time list for the Open era.

A first-round loss in Auckland last week ended Gasquet's streak of 843 consecutive weeks in the top 100 dating back to April 2005. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

British and Irish Lions launches women's team

THE British and Irish Lions has launched a women's team, with its first tour coming in 2027 in New Zealand.

The inaugural women's Lions tour was announced yesterday, though the full schedule has not been finalized aside from a three-test series against the current world champions.

That series will take place in September 2027, with organizers saying it will not overlap with the men's Rugby World Cup in Australia that is scheduled to start Oct. 1.

"This is a key development for women's rugby and women's sport in general," British and Irish Lions chair Ieuan Evans said.

There has been a men's British and Irish Lions team since 1888, taking the best players from the national teams of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It tours New Zealand, South Africa or Australia every four years on a rotation basis. **MDT/AP**

AD

NOW ON SALE

MACAUCLOSER

SPACIAL CONTEMPLATIONS 沉思空間

RENOUNDED GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHER CANDIDA HOFFER PRESENTS 20 YEARS OF WORK AT MACAO MUSEUM OF ART

MACAUCLOSER

MACAU BENFICAMACAU ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校

FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

CHINA WORKING TO OVERCOME GLOBAL TRUST DEFICIT

The 54th annual gathering of the World Economic Forum, which opened at the Swiss ski resort of Davos on Monday, provides another opportunity for more than 60 heads of state and government and some 800 chief executives, among a total of 2,800 participants, to discuss ways to deal with the many challenges the world is facing today.

That the five-day gathering "is taking place against the most complicated geopolitical and geoeconomic backdrop in decades", as WEF President Borge Brende put it, underscores how crucial it is that the participants engage in these discussions in good faith and with a sincere desire to work together in the spirit of the forum's theme of "rebuilding trust".

Premier Li Qiang, who is expected to deliver a key speech at the Davos meeting, will put forward China's solutions to many pressing global issues, including slower world economic growth.

The International Monetary Fund has forecast that global growth will slow from 3 percent in 2023 to 2.9 percent in 2024, well below the historical (2000-19) average of 3.8 percent. The subdued growth prospects are mainly due to geopolitical strife, tight financing conditions and the disruptive impact of artificial intelligence, according to a survey of top economists conducted ahead of the WEF meeting that was released on Monday.

China, which is pivoting from growth based on investment and real estate to one based on innovation, can contribute to rebuilding trust among nations because of its significant economic and trade strength and its role as a major engine for global growth, as Brende said in a recent interview.

China's GDP represented about 2 percent of the world's total in 1979 when the country first attended the annual WEF gathering. Today, it accounts for nearly 20 percent of the world's GDP. China has been a direct beneficiary of economic globalization and the mutual trust that trend embodied. Cherishing this trust, it is doing its best to reverse the trend of de-globalization and forge trust with its trade partners.

Decoupling, as advocated by the United States and some of its allies, in the name of "de-risking", is a politicized concept intended to fuel mistrust against those countries the US is at odds with for one reason or another.

Contrary to these US-led efforts, China is seeking to promote trade liberalization and keep the global industry and supply chains functioning smoothly. In doing so, it is not only striving to maintain its own development momentum but to continue to bring cooperation opportunities to other countries and give more impetus to the global recovery and growth.

Donald Trump's iron grip on the Republican Party has been clear since the day he announced he would make another run for the White House 14 months ago.

It can be seen in the party's ideological shift even further to the right on cultural issues and, especially, on immigration policy.

Iowa Republicans were a clear reflection of that yesterday [Macau time], delivering the former president an emphatic victory.

They channeled his anger, and his view that basically every-

thing President Joe Biden has done has been a "disaster."

About 9 in 10 voters said they want upheaval or substantial change in how the government operates, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 1,500 voters who said they planned to take part in the caucuses.

As clear-cut as his win was, though, Iowa has not historically played the role of kingmaker in the Republican nominating process. New Hampshire's voters don't take their cues from Iowa.

BRUNEI

NEWLYWED PRINCE MATEEN AND HIS COMMONER WIFE TO BE FETED AT THE END OF LAVISH CELEBRATIONS

BRUNEI'S Prince Abdul Mateen and his commoner wife will be feted at a royal banquet this early week to mark the end of a lavish nuptial festival in the oil-rich sultanate.

The 32-year-old prince, once dubbed one of Asia's most eligible bachelors, married Anisha Rosnah Isakalebic, 29, in ceremonies steeped in tradition that began Jan. 7. A solemnization ceremony was held at a mosque on Thursday, and events climaxed Sunday with a reception and a parade on the streets of Brunei.

During Sunday's procession, the newlyweds stood at the back of an open-top Rolls-Royce as they waved to the crowds lining the streets to catch a glimpse of the popular prince and his bride. The pomp and splendor of their wedding festival has brought much excitement to the tiny sultanate of 450,000 people.

The royal couple will be feted at a feast at the swanky 1,788-room palace yesterday [Macau time], their last public event. Family members will hold prayers this



In this photo released by Brunei's Information Department, Brunei's Prince Abdul Mateen and bride Anisha Rosnah, in their car, attend the wedding procession in Bandar Seri Begawan

week to officially mark an end to the 10-day celebration, but without the couple.

Mateen is the fourth son and 10th child of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, one of the world's richest men. While sixth in line to the throne, the prince has gained prominence in recent years accompanying his father on diplomatic engagements.

The sultan announced the engagement in October of Mateen and Anisha, who

is the granddaughter of the ruler's special advisor. Mateen, who plays polo and is a helicopter pilot in the Royal Brunei Air Force, has a 2.6 million-strong following on Instagram. Anisha reportedly owns a fashion brand and tourism business.

Mateen posted video clips and pictures of his wedding ceremony on Instagram as he thanked the people for celebrating his big day with him. "This means a lot to us," he wrote.

MDT/AP

Iran fired missiles yesterday [Macau time] at what it claimed were Israeli "spy headquarters" near the U.S. Consulate in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, and at targets linked to the extremist group Islamic State in northern Syria. Four civilians were killed and six injured after missiles hit an upscale area near the consulate in Irbil, the seat of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, according to the security council of the Kurdish regional government.

Yemen Houthi rebels fired a missile that struck a U.S.-owned ship yesterday just off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden, less than a day after they launched an anti-ship cruise missile toward an American destroyer in the Red Sea. The attack on the Gibraltar Eagle, later claimed by the Houthis, further escalates tensions gripping the Red Sea after American-led strikes on the rebels. The Houthis' attacks have roiled global shipping, amid Israel's war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, targeting a crucial corridor linking Asian and Mideast energy and cargo shipments to the Suez Canal onward to Europe.



EU presidency yesterday warned that the foundations of democracy will be put to the test during the November U.S. election, envisaging a scenario where the longstanding trans-Atlantic alliance could unravel ever more. Prime Minister Alexander De Croo of Belgium, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said that "if 2024 brings us 'America first' again, it is really more than ever 'Europe on its own.'"



Romania Truck drivers and farmers protested across Romania again yesterday as negotiations with the coalition government over lower taxes, higher subsidies and other demands failed to reach any agreements. Long convoys of trucks and tractors disrupted traffic on the outskirts of the capital, Bucharest, and other cities throughout the European Union nation. It was the sixth straight day of demonstrations.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Petr David Josek



Big-small. Mikolas, a newborn pygmy hippopotamus calf, appears with its mother, Malaya, at the safari park in Dvur Kralove, Czech Republic.