

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

**Times**

**16** YEARS

A-CHANGIN'

Advertise with us

+853 287 160 81

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

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

ARTYZEN GRAND LAPA MACAU 澳門雅辰酒店

DISCOVER Good Life Starts Here

N.º 4458 **TUESDAY** T. 21°/25° Air Quality Moderate  
09 Apr 2024

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

**SME: SANDS CHINA LAUNCHES ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM WITH SUBSIDIES OF UP TO MOP1 MILLION FOR URBAN REVITALIZATION**

P2

**LAWMAKERS ACKNOWLEDGE AMBIGUITY IN NEW ILLEGAL GAMBLING LAW**

P2

**LAVROV VISITS CHINA TO EMPHASIZE TIES WITH STRONGEST POLITICAL ALLY**

P6



AP PHOTO



**Philippines** The U.S. Army is introducing a joint battlefield training in the Philippines to improve combat readiness including by ensuring adequate supply of ammunition and other needs in difficult conditions in tropical jungles and on scattered islands, a U.S. general said. About 2,000 U.S. and Philippine army forces will join the dayslong combat drills backed by helicopters and artillery fire against armed adversaries in a jungle setting in the northern Philippines in June, Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans (pictured), said.

AP PHOTO



**Ukraine** The head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog agency condemned a drone strike on one of six nuclear reactors at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, saying such attacks "significantly increase the risk of a major nuclear accident." In a statement on X, Rafael Mariano Grossi confirmed at least three direct hits against the ZNPP main reactor containment structures took place. "This cannot happen," he said.

AP PHOTO



**USA** Salvage crews began removing containers from the deck of the cargo ship that crashed into and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, an important step toward the full reopening of one of the nation's main shipping lanes. The removal of the containers from the deck of the Dali would continue this week as weather permits. In total, 32 vessels have passed through temporary channels on either side of the wreckage, officials said.

# CARELESS

LYNZY VALLES



Shortage of local caregivers strains elderly homes and hundreds of families, Caritas says

P3

PERFORMING ARTS

## MGM PARTNERS WITH ZHANG YIMOU TO 'TRANSFORM' INDUSTRY

More on backpage

P4

# AL COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGES AMBIGUITY IN NEW ILLEGAL GAMBLING LAW

RENATO MARQUES

**L**AWMAKER Chan Chak Mo conceded yesterday that certain concepts and parameters of the new illegal gambling law under scrutiny remain ambiguous and lack a clear definition during a media briefing following a meeting of the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The points of concern are the first two articles, where lawmakers object to the absence of a clear definition of activities constituting illegality. They claim it may pose future challenges.

"The concepts are not very well defined, which can be problematic. There are uncertainties over, for instance, some games of mahjong and card games played at home, or in a garden or park. Are these activities also considered illegal and subject to criminal liability? We do not know for sure



and we need to address this matter very judiciously because this can create a lot of issues for people," Chan said. Chan noted that while the first article pertains to activities that take place "in an authorized casino" and relate to the "acceptance of bets," the second

article states that individuals who are "not covered in the previous number, [and who] collaborate or participate, in any way, in the exploration of the activities mentioned earlier [will be] punished with a prison sentence of up to 3 years or a fine of up to 360 days."

In Chan's view, the legislative intent should not be to tackle small recreational activities that are prevalent in everyday culture, but rather to effectively prevent and tackle the illegal exploitation of unauthorized games as well as side betting.

Despite an extensive meeting spanning over two hours, only the first four articles of the bill were discussed. A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to addressing the list of questions prepared by the AL's legal advisors since the bill's first reading. These questions will also join a list of new questions and doubts from Committee members, to be sent to the government for clarification.

Although the bill passed the first reading with 29 votes in favor and a mere 3 abstentions (José Pereira Coutinho, Che Sai Wang, and Ron Lam), it appears to still be at an early stage of develop-

ment, with subsequent versions likely to be presented to the AL Committee before the final vote in plenary.

## AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE JUSTIFIED WITH 'SAFEGUARD OF EVIDENCE'

When questioned by the media about the government's decision to amend the Penal Code in areas unrelated to gaming activities, such as national security and drug offences, the president of the Committee failed to provide a clear explanation, focusing primarily on the crimes related to the gaming industry.

On these, he said that amendments, such as the extension of preventive custody, were "all related to the protection and safeguarding of evidence." He noted that those changes aim to "ensure the healthy development of the gaming industry and tackle loopholes."

# Sands China launches entrepreneurship program with up to MOP1 million subsidies

STAFF REPORTER

**S**ANDS China has announced the launch of an entrepreneurship recruitment program, offering a range of training opportunities and operational subsidies with an initial capital investment of up to MOP1 million.

Named the "Community Revitalization Series - Entrepreneurship Recruitment Programme for Rua das Estalagens," the initiative aims to boost its commitment to the SAR government's mission of revitalizing Macau's historic areas. The press conference, held yesterday, emphasized the company's dedication to leveraging its re-



sources for the benefit of the local community.

Located near popular tourist attractions such as the Ruins of St. Paul's and the A-Ma Temple, Rua das Estalagens is in dire need of revitalization. The street, once a bustling hub for visitors, has lost its charm and economic vibrancy over the years.

Recognizing the pressing need for revitalization, Sands aims to attract Macau entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises to the district, enhancing its cultural tourism offerings and promoting sustainable economic development within the community.

Those interested

must submit a proposal to the company by May 31 of this year and are required to have a minimum capital of MOP 300,000 to establish their businesses on Rua das Estalagens.

Wilfred Wong, executive vice chairman of Sands China said, "Rua das Estalagens was once a thriving commercial street in Macau

with historical and cultural value. We aim to encourage local enterprises to establish their business in this street to revive the bustling street atmosphere it once had."

Sands' previous efforts to explore the advantages of cultural tourism in the community have been focused on various key areas, including the Former Lec Long Firecracker Factory, the Taipa Houses, Rua da Estalagens, the Patio da Eterna Felicidade, and the Macau Cultural Centre Square. According to the gaming operator, Sands China's Entrepreneurship Recruitment Programme for Rua das Estalagens aims to "empower local young entrepreneurs to realize their dreams."

Revitalizing old districts is a pledge made by the city's six gaming operators following the granting of concessions to boost non-gaming offerings.

## STATS

# RESIDENTS' DEPOSITS UP IN FEB, NON-RESIDENTS' DOWN

**R**ESIDENTS' deposits with local banks rose 1% in February month-on-month when compared with January, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) disclosed in its regular monetary and financial statistics report.

The value of deposits rose as much as MOP724.1 billion.

Non-resident deposits fell 0.5% to MOP322.1 billion in the same period, however.

Public sector deposits also fell in February, down (-0.9%) to MOP188.1 billion.

As a result, total deposits in the banking sector increased 0.3% from a month earlier to MOP1,234.4 billion.

In terms of currency, the percentage of deposits in HKD continues to account for a large portion of all deposits (43.9%), followed by USD (25.5%), MOP (20.4%) and RMB (8.2%).

In the same period, domestic loans to the private sector fell 0.2% from a month before to MOP534.6 billion while external loans dropped 1% to MOP546.3 billion. As a result, total loans to the private sector fell 0.6% month-on-month to MOP1,081 billion. **RM**

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, 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 DESIGNER\_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

PAUL PUN

# Shortage of local caregivers strains elderly homes and families: Caritas

LYNZY VALLES

**E**LDERLY care facilities and local families caring for seniors are facing significant difficulties due to a shortage of local caregivers, according to Caritas Macau.

24-hour support for the elderly, particularly those who are bedridden and frail, is one of the most sought-after services offered by Caritas, which operates several dozens of social service programs.

However, the institution acknowledges its ongoing struggle to provide for and accommodate families requesting assistance due to a severe lack of manpower.

Currently, Caritas also offers additional services such as home care, deploying migrant workers to assist families with various needs, and caring for bedridden elderly individuals.

These services are not universally available, resulting in lengthy waiting lists for support.

The reliance on non-resident workers is insufficient to meet the demand for caregivers, emphasizing the need for more local workers, particularly as acquiring work quotas for non-resident workers also remains challenging.

In an interview with the Times, secretary-general of Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, said job posts seeking local caregivers are posted for long periods of time and receive no applicants.

"Unfortunately, local people are not interested in applying for caregiving jobs in NGOs. This has been the reality for almost a year, and there have been no new applicants," said Pun.

However, the number of people waiting for elder home care services is steadily increasing.

Currently, there are over 1,000 people waiting for these services.

"Even if we only consider 50% of that number, there are still 500 people waiting, which is a significant demand," he added.

According to Pun, with the su-



port and subsidy from the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), they are able to keep service costs minimal, charging as low as MOP100.

"We aim to charge our clients the minimum cost for our services, but many people are unwilling to pay even that. For instance, we charge only MOP100 per night, whereas the typical cost should be MOP1,000," he said, when referring to the charge for a caregiver to take care of an elderly

person for a day.

"However, if you hire a nurse, it could cost up to MOP4,000 just for one night," he added.

Pun revealed that a plan to create another social unit is underway. The proposed approach and model would be directed and controlled by Caritas without involving government subsidies.

Clients able to pay at least MOP600 per day will be directed to this unit, easing the burden on the

subsidized government-funded program.

"We strive to find donations that can cover the costs, but we don't want to rely solely on donations because we are a social enterprise. To ensure the healthy development of our home care service, we need a combination of different models," said Pun.

"We need to be cost conscious and find a balance in providing affordable care. Currently, we are

in the process of developing this model and discussing it with the government to ensure successful implementation. If the program is successful, it will be a testament to our efforts, not something that undermines the government's role," he added.

"The goal is to reduce the burden on aged care services and benefit the public," Pun reiterated.

Fresh data from the government shows that the elderly dependency ratio for the local population rose by 1.7 percentage points to 24.8%, equivalent to about four adults supporting one older adult.

In 2023, the elderly population exceeded the young population for the first time, being 106.1%.

Back in 2020, the IAS launched a Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Scheme, where its initial offer of financial relief stood at MOP2,175 for each caregiver.

The subsidy applies to local caregivers of people with severe or profound motor disabilities, as well as people who are permanently bedridden and unable to perform actions without assistance, people with severe or profound intellectual disabilities, and people with severe or profound autism.

## LIFEHOPE HOTLINE TRENDS AMONG YOUNGER CALLERS

**D**ATA from Caritas Macau shows that Lifehope Hotline is being increasingly used by younger residents seeking assistance for mental and emotional distress.

The entity's free and confidential support services, available via phone, SMS and WhatsApp, is being accessed by greater numbers of people aged between 10 and 20 years old. Their main reasons for seeking help include "mental health, emotional, and family factors, as well as depression and anxiety."

Paul Pun, secretary-general of Caritas Macau, said that there has been an increase in younger callers seeking help with suicidal ideations.

In 2023, the hotline received 5,410 calls, an increase of 35% when compared to the

year prior.

"The calls involve young people aged 10 to 20, who express suicidal thoughts and intentions," Pun explained to the Times.

"The callers are younger and that is maybe because our telephone number is well presented in our suicide prevention program," he added.

Macau recorded a total of 88 suicides in 2023, higher than the 80 recorded in 2022. In a statement from the Health Bureau (SSM), data shows that 57 of the cases were men, with the fourth quarter of last year recording the highest number, with 20 cases involving men.

Just late last week, authorities reported that a male teenager passed away due to an

apparent suicide.

Caritas Macau has launched numerous programs for high school teachers and students to recognize suicidal behavior and provide support. One such program, the "Life Goalkeeper" program, offers three or seven-hour sessions to raise awareness among teachers and provide hotline numbers for government assistance in suicide cases.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) encourages residents to be conscious of their psychological and emotional state as well as that of their friends and relatives. If in need, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525222) or the IAS counseling hotline (28261126). LV

EVENTS

## 12th MITE event aims to establish itself as tourism powerhouse

**T**HE 12th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE) will feature seven major highlights, aiming to establish a powerhouse of tourism, focusing on the theme "Meet

at MITE: Discovery, Networking, Interaction!"

From April 26 to 28 at the Cotai Expo, the event will feature a Gastronomy Pavilion and The Cellar under one roof, among

other highlights.

Continuing from last year, the "1+4 Pavilion" will return, promoting the development of four key industries, including big health, modern finance,

innovative technology, and MICE.

For the first time, MITE will also feature a "Belt and Road Product Pavilion," where enterprises from Belt and Road countries

and regions will be invited to showcase their products.

The Gastronomy Pavilion, The Cellar and Macao Pavilion will launch a "25 patacas" campaign, offering special offers on

different products such as mainland day tours, beverages, and culinary delights.

Business networking for partnership opportunities will be fostered by MITE. LV



### PATANE MARKET FOOD COURT OPENS WITH 11 STALLS

The food court at the Patane Market officially opened to the public yesterday and features 11 food stalls serving different specialty cuisines. With an opening ceremony held yesterday, the food court is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and has more than 200 seats. Among the 11 cooked food stalls, 10 stalls were previously open for public bidding, with one stall already leased. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the "Public Market Management Regime," stall tenants were recruited through the public tender, in contrast to the previous practice of allocating vacant market stalls through a registration and lottery process.

### GOV'T PUBLISHES SALE PRICE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS AT ZONE A

The government Housing Bureau (IH) yesterday published prices of public housing units for economic acquisition at Zone A of the new landfills on land plots B4, B9, and B10. Prices of the one-bedroom apartment (T1) vary between MOP1,176,200 and MOP1,458,800, according to the government's official gazette. For T2 apartment units, prices range between MOP1,546,400 and MOP1,822,500, while large units (T3) can cost between MOP1,934,900 and MOP2,370,500. A total of 3,017 housing units, which were tendered in 2019, are expected to be completed this year.

### PROPERTY PRICE INDEX CONTINUES TO DECREASE

The overall residential property price index for December 2023 - February 2024 decreased by 0.9% over the previous period (November 2023 - January 2024), now standing at 229.4, new data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows. The indices for the Macau Peninsula (229.2) and Taipa & Coloane (230.2) dropped by 0.9% and 0.7% respectively. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units (255.5) dropped by 0.3%. Compared to the same period last year, the overall residential property price index fell by 6.6%.

### PSP ARRESTS MAN AFTER STEALING MOP100 FROM DONATION BOX

A man has been arrested for suspected aggravated theft after allegedly stealing money from a donation box from a charity association located in a hospital. Public Security Police allege that a 52-year-old mainland man used two ballpoint pens to access the donation box and steal MOP100. Authorities said that an employee of the hospital charity association discovered that the donation box was stolen and reported it. He admitted to the crime, citing health issues as his motive for seeking hospital treatment.

### MGM 2049

# SYMPOSIUM KICKS OFF AMBITIOUS PLANS TO TRANSFORM MACAU'S ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

MGM Resorts International has embarked on an audacious endeavour to revolutionize Macau's cultural landscape with its production, MGM 2049.

The symposium, featuring esteemed filmmaker Zhang Yimou and an international creative team, unveiled the project's visionary scope and opportunities yesterday.

Furthermore, it announced the creation of over 200 jobs as part of a global recruitment program.

The event showcased ambitions to nurture local talent and attract artists from around the world to contribute to Macau's performing arts sector.

The recruitment program offers hands-on training, while the show aims to "illuminate the city's cultural potential on a global scale."

At the heart of the project lies MGM 2049, a collaboration between MGM Resorts and Zhang Yimou. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to China and the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic, this residency show serves to pay homage



to these significant milestones while placing Macau firmly on the global cultural map.

The symposium featured Pansy Ho, co-chairperson of MGM China, who joined forces with Zhang Yimou to articulate their vision of branding Macau as the "City of Performing Arts" and showcasing Chinese culture to the world.

Their objective is to transform the production into a "must-see spectacle that inspires the next generation and fosters continuous growth."

One of the primary aims of MGM 2049 is to establish "a deep connection with audiences, transcending mere

song and dance."

Zhang Yimou expressed, "Ultimately, it's about establishing a profound connection with people. It's not simply a show of dancing and singing—it's thought-provoking. By incorporating cutting-edge technology and drawing from ancient Chinese culture, it becomes an exceptionally unique experience."

Through the integration of modern technological advancements and the rich tapestry of ancient Chinese culture, MGM 2049 yesterday pledged an "intellectually stimulating and unforgettable production."

Zhang Yimou further emphasizes that forging a profound connection with audiences necessitates thought-provoking storytelling and performances. "Even if you can't speak Chinese, you'll still get a big round of applause. Our stage in Macau is very different to the international stage," he said.

Leveraging technology presents its own set of challenges, but the creative team is resolute in maintaining the integrity of the director's vision. Dominic Faraway, the Visual director of MGM 2049, affirms, "This screen presents challenges that require new technologies. My role is to ensure the technology does not limit the director's vision - it's about presenting the visuals as effectively as possible."

By pushing the boundaries of what is technically possible, he hopes to help realize the director's bold, cinematic vision in a way that captivates audiences for years to come.

While incorporating futuristic elements poses challenges, the team remains steadfast in realizing the artistic vision.

# New members appointed to CE Electoral Commission; Election Committee polls scheduled for August

### RENATO MARQUES

THE Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, has appointed the five people who will constitute the Electoral Affairs Commission for the CE Election, which is the supervisory body overseeing the upcoming election.

The appointees' names and posts were published yesterday in the government's official gazette.

The president of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the CE Election is Judge Song Man Lei from the Court of Final Appeal.

Other members of



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng administers the swearing-in ceremony of the president of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the CE Election, Song Man Lei

the Commission are the Assistant Prosecutor-General of the Public Prosecutions Office, Mai Man Ieng; the president of the Collegial Panels of the Court of First Instance, Seng Ioi Man;

the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, Ng Wai Han; and the director of the Government Information Bureau, Inês Chan.

The five members

were officially inaugurated in a ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the government's headquarters and presided over by the CE.

In a separate order

published in the same edition of the official gazette, the CE announced that the polling day to select members of the CE Election Committee has been scheduled for August 11.

The Macau CE is appointed by the Central government and elected by the CE Election Committee, a body composed of 400 members from four sectors of society (Industrial, Commercial, and Financial; Culture, Education, Professional and Sports; Labor, Social Service, and Religious; and Representatives of Members of the Legislative Assembly, Macau Deputies to the National People's Congress, Representatives of Macau Members of the CPPCC National Committee, and Representatives of Members of Municipal Organizations), aiming to represent the broader community.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

金沙中國片區活化項目  
SANDS CHINA'S COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME

ENTREPRENEURSHIP RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME FOR  
**RUA DAS ESTALAGENS**

# 草堆街創業方案 大募集

## 古街·融舊·立新

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS ARE INVITED TO JOINTLY  
RESTORE THE PROSPERITY OF RUA DAS ESTALAGENS

誠邀本澳創業者攜手  
重啟草堆街的時光密碼

截止報名日期  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
**31/5/2024**



<https://hk.sandschina.com/the-company/sands-resorts-incubation-center.html>

請掃二維碼查詢更多詳情  
Please scan QR code for details

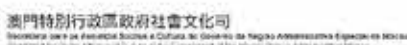
主辦單位 Organizer



協辦單位 Co-organizer



指導單位 Patronage



支持單位 Supporting Entities



ANALYSIS

# US treads carefully in responding to Hong Kong's new national security law

DIDI TANG, WASHINGTON

**T**HE U.S. has denounced Hong Kong's new national security law as a tool to potentially silence dissent both at home and abroad, but so far the action from Washington has been notably muted, disappointing those fighting for the Chinese territory's democracy and freedoms.

Since the law's swift passage on March 19, the U.S. has announced visa restrictions on an unspecified number of unnamed Hong Kong officials but taken no further action. That's a far cry from 2020, when Beijing imposed national security restrictions to end months of unrest on Hong Kong streets. The U.S. responded by hitting the city's highest-ranking officials with sanctions and depriving the territory of its preferential trading status.

While the new law, known as Article 23, now expands the Hong Kong government's powers to go after those it accuses of spying and to target dissidents anywhere in the world, Washington has been treading carefully.

The State Department declined to preview or comment on any potential actions but said it is considering all options.

Analysts suggest the Biden administration may not want to rock relations with China in an election year, especially when the impact of the law might take a while to manifest itself and any punitive U.S. measures would be unlikely to bring about meaningful change.



Xi and Biden last met in person in California, last November

"U.S. policymakers appear resigned to the fact that China's takeover of Hong Kong is, for all intents and purposes, complete and irreversible," said Craig Singleton, senior China fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a research institute based in Washington. "Moreover, it's not entirely clear that any specific actions from Washington would prompt Beijing to meaningfully reassess its approach towards Hong Kong, with Chinese policymakers having more or less signaled that Hong Kong's fate is not up for debate."

Rorry Daniels, managing director of Asia Society Policy Institute in New York, said the U.S. could be "trying to calibrate the response to the effects of the legislation and its use, rather than just to its enactment."

The language of the new law is vague, and its implementation will depend on how it is interpreted,

which in itself "is worrisome and could erode Hong Kong's status as a safe place for international contract settlement," Daniels said.

The new security law has come at a time when the White House wants to protect the fragile U.S.-China relationship, which has only stabilized in recent months, said Willy Lam, a senior fellow at the Jamestown Foundation, another Washington-based think tank.

"I think they don't want the relationship to deteriorate ahead of the election," Lam said.

Hong Kong and the latest legislation was brought up during the phone call between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 2. Xi told Biden the law reflected a "constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security," which he said would protect the well-being of Hong Kong's people and the interests of global investors, according to China's fo-

reign ministry.

"The U.S. needs to respect China's sovereignty and the rule of law in Hong Kong, and should not disrupt, still less interfere, in the process," said ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

In Congress, a bill to strip Hong Kong's trade offices in the U.S. of their diplomatic privileges has not moved forward and neither has one that would require the president to consider sanctioning the city's judges, prosecutors and police commissioner if they were found to have undermined civil freedoms there.

"The latest response by the Biden administration has honestly concerned me about the administration's commitment to stand up against Beijing's aggression," said Frances Hui, policy and advocacy coordinator for the Washington-based Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation. "A more

robust response from the U.S. is needed to facilitate future behavioral changes among (Chinese) and Hong Kong officials. A visa ban is something but not enough."

The committee and 23 other Hong Kong advocacy groups issued a joint statement on Thursday calling the Biden administration's response "inadequate and concerning." They urged the government to sanction Hong Kong officials responsible for the intensifying crackdown and offer haven in the U.S. to dissidents. They also urged Congress to pass the stalled legislation.

Singleton said action by the private sector might be more meaningful.

"American companies are quietly scaling back in Hong Kong amid growing safety concerns, with many fearing potential arrests for routine business activities," he said. "The private sector's shifting sentiments toward Hong Kong, rather than any single U.S. government action, will likely have the biggest impact on Beijing's ability to leverage Hong Kong's unique status to reverse China's downward economic spiral."

Lam said the U.S. government might be holding off until the conclusion of the trial against Jimmy Lai, a prominent publisher, in a high-profile national security case.

Should a Hong Kong court jail Lai for 20 years or more, which would equal life imprisonment given he is 76, "the U.S. government cannot afford to be seen not doing anything," Lam said.

MDT/AP

DIPLOMACY

# Russia FM Lavrov visits Beijing to emphasize ties with strongest political ally

**R**USSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in Beijing yesterday to display the strength of ties with close diplomatic ally China amid Moscow's grinding war against Ukraine.

The two continent-sized states, increasingly in dispute with democracies, seek to gain influence in Africa, the Middle East and South America. China has backed Russia's claim that President Vla-

dimir Putin launched his assault in 2022 because of Western provocations, without producing any solid evidence.

Russian state news agency Tass said the ministers would "discuss the situation in Ukraine and the Asia-Pacific region, issues of bilateral cooperation and interaction in the international arena," quoting Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova.

Lavrov is expected to meet with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, who has visited Russia during the conflict and maintained China's line of not dubbing the Russian war in Ukraine an invasion.

China has at times taken an equally combative tone against the U.S. and its allies. China and Russia have held joint military drills, and are seen as seeking to supplant democracies with dictator-

ships in areas where they wield influence.

Despite its clear backing of Russia in the Ukraine war, China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters yesterday that "China has an objective and fair position on the Ukraine issue."

"We have been actively promoting peace talks and political solutions. China is not a creator or party to the Ukraine cri-

sis, and we have not and will not do anything to profit from it," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing.

China has also said it wasn't providing Russia with arms or military assistance, although it has maintained robust economic connections with Moscow, alongside India and other countries.

"We have always controlled the export of dual-use items in accordance

with the law," Mao said, referring to industrial items that can be used for both industrial or military purposes, such as drones.

"The relevant country should not smear or attack the normal relations between China and Russia," Mao said.

In a phone call last week with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, U.S. President Joseph Biden pressed China over its defense relationship with Russia, which is seeking to rebuild its industrial base as it continues its invasion of Ukraine. And he called on Beijing to wield its influence over North Korea to rein in the isolated and erratic nuclear power.

MDT/AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



A Vern's outlet at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

# Shoemaker apologizes for high heels with God written in logo

A Malaysian shoe company has apologized and stopped selling some of its footwear after some Muslims said the logo resembled the Arabic writing for the word God.

Vern's Holdings said the logo stamped on the soles of some high-heeled shoes depicted the silhouette of a stiletto heel with an ankle spiral wrap. It acknowledged, however, that shortcomings in the design may have led to the logo being misinterpreted. It said it acted immediately to stop sales of the shoes and issue refunds to customers who bought them.

"We have absolutely no intention of designing a logo aimed at belittling or insulting any religion or belief," Vern's said in the statement posted on social media. "The management would like to humbly apologize and seek forgiveness. We hope for compassion so we can rectify this mistake."

The controversy followed a furor last month over socks printed with the word "Allah" on the shelves in a large Malaysian convenience store chain. The owners of KK Mart and representatives from one of its suppliers were charged March 26 with offending the religious feelings of Muslims, and some stores were hit with small petrol bombs. No injuries were reported.

Religion is a sensitive issue in Malaysia, where Muslims account for two-thirds of a population of 34 million, with large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities. "Allah," the Arabic word for God, is sacrosanct to Malaysian Muslims and many found it offensive to associate the word with feet.

The matter came to light after critical social media posts highlighted the logo's resemblance. Religious authorities and police have said they were investigating the matter after receiving complaints from the public.

Meanwhile, tensions have remained over the earlier case. KK Mart Group, the country's second-largest chain of convenience stores, has said the supplier sent items the company had not agreed to stock. The supply company founder has said the socks were imported from China as part of a large shipment and apologized for being careless in their inspection.

The leader of a Malay nationalist party's youth wing in Malaysia's government has pressed for a boycott of the chain and is being investigated for alleged sedition over a social media post showing him wielding a sword. Critics say the party is seeking to woo ethnic Malay support after heavy losses in the last general elections. MDT/AP

Create A Better  
**TOMORROW TODAY**  
今天開創明天



## MGM's Innovative Artistic Initiatives in March



Empowered by the core values of originality and innovation, MGM endeavors to bring expansive art and culture programs while reinforcing Macau as a destination where globally influential art happenings are created, appreciated, and treasured. This March, MGM has launched various artistic initiatives to bridge Macau and the world.

With an unwavering commitment to promoting the preservation of Chinese traditional cultures through innovative means, MGM hosted the "Living Heritage: Poly Culture MGM Charity Auction Gala" in March. Building upon the strategic arts and cultural partnership between MGM and Poly Culture Group Corporation Limited (Poly Culture) initiated last year, this auction gala received the generous support of Poly Culture – leveraging its artistic resources to carefully select more than 20 pieces of contemporary Chinese artworks and cultural experiences as auction items for the charity gala. All auction items were successfully sold, and the total amount raised reached nearly HKD 12 million. The funds raised will be utilized to support Chinese arts and cultural promotional activities associated with the China-France Cultural Tourism Year, in a bid to foster exchanges between the East and West, allowing the world to experience the beauty of Chinese civilization along the Silk Road.



In collaboration with Art Basel Hong Kong since 2017, MGM has forged a long-term partnership with the prestigious global art fair. This year, MGM and Art Basel Hong Kong have joined forces to announce the launch of the "MGM Discoveries Art Prize" in 2025. The prize is dedicated to supporting emerging artists and fostering new talent. It recognizes the originality and innovation showcased in the art fair's Discoveries sector and supports the artists in their pursuit of limitless possibilities in the field

of art. In addition, MGM invited Macau's cultural leaders and representatives to join an exclusive tour of the Discoveries sector and a cocktail reception hosted by MGM, providing them with a preview chance to appreciate the artworks from globally renowned and emerging artists, with an aim to bring new perspectives and vitality into Macau's arts scene.

To make art accessible for all and to further unleash the potential of Barra district, MGM launched the Barra District Revitalization Series – "The Barra ARTivation", with local students and elderly jointly creating murals and thus fostering connections between generations through art. MGM aims to inject contemporary, trendy, artistic, and lifestyle elements into Barra driving its continuous development, and to present the district's cultural and tourist appeal through a wide range of art forms.



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



AP PHOTO



Palestinians walk through the destruction left by the Israeli air and ground offensive after they withdrew from Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip

GAZA STRIP

# Israel army is pulling troops from southern Gaza

JACK JEFFERY & TIA GOLDENBERG, JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S military announced yesterday [Macau time] it had withdrawn its forces from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, wrapping up a key phase in its ground offensive against the Hamas militant group and bringing its troop presence in the territory to one of the lowest levels since the six-month war began.

But defense officials said troops were merely regrouping as the army prepares to move into Hamas' last stronghold, Rafah. "The war in Gaza continues, and we are far from stopping," said the military chief, Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi.

Local broadcaster Channel 13 TV reported that Israel was preparing to begin evacuating Rafah within one week and the process could take several months.

Still, the withdrawal was a milestone as Israel and Hamas marked six months of fighting. Military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity under army policy, said a "significant force" remained in Gaza to continue targeted operations including in Khan Younis, hometown of the Hamas leader, Yehya Sinwar.

AP video in Khan Younis showed some people returning to a landscape marked by shattered multistory buildings and climbing over debris. Cars were overturned and charred. Southern Gaza's main hospital, Nasser, was in shambles.

"It's all just rubble," a dejected

Ahmad Abu al-Rish said. "Animals can't live here, so how is a human supposed to?"

Israel for weeks has vowed a ground offensive in nearby Rafah. But the city shelters some 1.4 million people — more than half of Gaza's population. The prospect of an offensive has raised global alarm, including from Israel's top ally, the U.S., which has demanded to see a credible plan to protect civilians. Allowing people to return to nearby Khan Younis could relieve some pressure on Rafah.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby repeated yesterday the U.S. opposition to a Rafah offensive and told ABC the U.S. believes that the partial Israeli withdrawal "is really just about rest and refit for these troops that have been on the ground for four months and not necessarily, that we can tell, indicative of some coming new operation for these troops."

Israel's military quietly drew down troops in devastated northern Gaza earlier in the war. But it has continued to carry out airstrikes and raids in areas where it says Hamas has resurfaced, including Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, leaving what the head of the World Health Organization called "an empty shell."

The six-month mark has been met with growing frustration in Israel, where anti-government protests have swelled and anger is mounting over what some see as government inaction to help free about 130 remaining hostages, about a quarter of whom Israel says

are dead. Hamas-led militants took about 250 captives when they crossed from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7 and killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians.

Several thousand protesters called for a "hostage deal now" at a rally outside the Knesset in Jerusalem, organized by hostages' families. In southern Israel, weeping relatives gathered at the site of a music festival where more than 300 people were killed on Oct. 7.

"It's an impossible reality for us, it's an impossible reality for the Gazans and the people of this country. We just want to live," said one protester, Talia Ezrahi.

"I would agree to anything to return the hostages and stop the mass killings in Gaza," said another protester, Michal Fruchtman.

Negotiations in pursuit of a cease-fire in exchange for the hostages' release were expected to resume in Cairo.

"This doesn't seem a war against terror. This doesn't seem anymore a war about defending Israel. This really, at this point, seems it's a war against humanity itself," chef José Andrés told ABC, days after an Israeli airstrike killed seven of his World Central Kitchen colleagues in Gaza. Aid deliveries on a crucial new sea route to the territory were suspended.

"Humanity has been all but abandoned" in Gaza, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement.

The U.N. and partners now warn of "imminent famine" for more than 1 million people in

Gaza as humanitarian workers urge Israel to loosen restrictions on the delivery of aid overland, the only way to meet soaring needs as some Palestinians forage for weeds to eat. Thousands of aid trucks have been waiting to enter Gaza.

"It's a slow-motion massacre of people to subject them to the kind of deprivation of food and water that they have been subjected to for the last six months," Doctors Without Borders USA executive director Avril Benoit told CBS.

Mothers who have given birth in Gaza since the war began are especially vulnerable.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said the bodies of 38 people killed in Israel's bombardment had been brought to the territory's remaining functional hospitals in the past 24 hours. It said 33,175 have been killed since the war began. It doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says two-thirds of the dead are children and women.

Israel's military continued to suffer losses, including in Khan Younis, where the military said four soldiers were killed. Over 600 Israeli soldiers have been killed since Oct. 7, according to Israel's government.

Concerns about a wider regional conflict continued as a top Iranian military adviser warned Israel that none of its embassies were safe following last week's strike in Damascus — blamed on Israel — that killed two elite Iranian generals and flattened an Iranian consular building. Israel has not directly acknowledged its involvement. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1976 YOUNG LIBERAL LEADER CLEARED OF ROBBERY

The president of the Young Liberals, Peter Hain, has been acquitted of stealing £490 from a branch of Barclays bank last October.

Supporters in the public gallery at the Old Bailey in London clapped and cheered as the verdict was announced.



The case is certain to raise new doubts about the validity of eye-witness identification.

The only evidence presented against Mr Hain, a postgraduate student at Sussex university, was his identification by three schoolboys and a bank cashier.

The schoolboys, who chased the thief, only saw him from a distance and a fourth boy said it was not Mr Hain.

The cashier was the only person from a number of bank staff and customers to pick Mr Hain, 26, from a police identity parade staged three days after the robbery.

During the trial members of Peter Hain's family testified he had not left his home in time to commit the robbery.

The thief was also said to have been wearing different clothing from that of Mr Hain on the day of the robbery.

Speaking to reporters after his acquittal, Mr Hain said he planned a campaign for other victims of mistaken identity.

He said it was possible South African agents may have used a "double" to frame him because of his anti-apartheid activities.

"I think there is plenty of reason to suspect that there might have been a frame-up but it is nothing substantial," he said.

Peter Hain's family left South Africa ten years ago because of their opposition to apartheid.

Mr Hain has since been prominent in anti-apartheid activities in the UK.

Four years ago he was sent a letter bomb that failed to explode because of faulty wiring.

In the House of Commons six MPs, led by Liberal David Steel, called for the resignation of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Norman Skelhorn, over the Hain case.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

At the time of Peter Hain's acquittal there had already been several well-publicised cases of mistaken identity.

In 1974 the government had set up a committee, chaired by Lord Devlin, to examine the law and procedures relating to identification evidence.

A critical report by Lord Devlin published in 1977 recommended statutory safeguards but the government took no action.

However, the Court of Appeal laid down detailed guidelines for trial judges in cases depending largely on eye-witness evidence.

Peter Hain later wrote a book about his ordeal, the Putney Plot.

He left the Liberals in 1977 and joined the Labour party.

He has been the MP for Neath in south Wales since 1991 and a government minister since shortly after Labour's election win in 1997.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

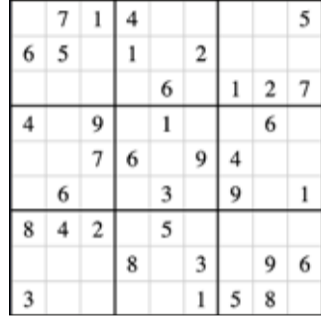
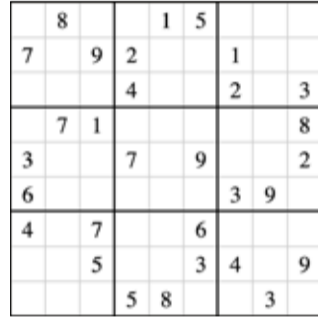


**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Pursue personal dreams over the next six months. Expand talents, capacities and skills, with this New Moon Solar Eclipse in your sign. Shine your light.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle under the Aries Eclipse. Dreams seem within reach. Enjoy a six-month creative, imaginative and organizational phase. possibilities.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 Connect and share support for big results. This six-month Eclipse phase benefits teamwork. Grow through friendships, social networks and community participation. Have fun together.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 This Eclipse phase illuminates professional opportunities. Develop interesting projects over the next six months. Pursue exciting possibilities. Your career, status and influence rise.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Educational opportunities arise under the Aries Eclipse. The next six-month phase favors study, investigation and exploration. Make connections, contributions and discoveries.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Find creative ways to grow your family nest egg. A lucrative six-month phase dawns with this New Moon. Launch valuable initiatives with your partner.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Collaboration comes naturally, especially over six months following tonight's Aries Eclipse. You're on the same wavelength. Take your partnership to the next level.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Energize your physical moves. This Aries Eclipse initiates six months of growing work, health and vitality. Put your heart into your actions. Practice makes perfect.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Enjoy yourself. Stir up some romance. This Solar Eclipse begins a six-month family, fun and passion phase. Get creative. It's all for love.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Realize domestic dreams and visions with upgrades over a six-month Eclipse phase. Clarify clutter. Improve the beauty and functionality of your home. Connect with family.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Creative projects flower. Profit through communications for six months. Possibilities spark in conversation over this Eclipse phase. Express, share and connect. Write your story.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Begin a lucrative Aries Eclipse phase. Discover fresh markets and rising prosperity. Strengthen financial foundations for growth. Rake in and preserve a healthy harvest.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

<b>EASY</b> 	<b>EASY+</b> 
<b>MEDIUM</b> 	<b>HARD</b> 

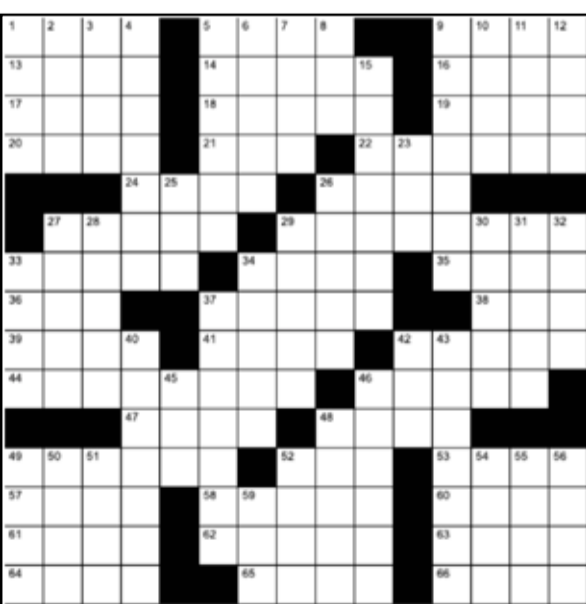
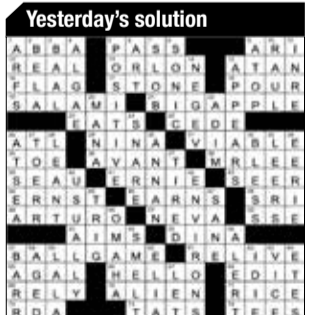
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	8	17	cloudy
Changchun	-5	12	cloudy
Chengdu	13	22	overcast
Chongqing	15	23	rain
Fuzhou	15	20	overcast
Guangzhou	20	25	cloudy
Guiyang	11	18	overcast
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	11	22	cloudy
Harbin	-5	11	fine
Hefei	9	22	cloudy
Nanjing	9	23	cloudy
Shanghai	10	21	fine
Taipei	17	21	rain
Wuhan	13	23	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	11	22	rain
Frankfurt	6	16	cloudy
Paris	5	13	cloudy
London	5	12	cloudy
New York	10	23	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Fall faller; 5- Fiddling emperor; 9- Milky Way maker; 13- \_\_\_ want for Christmas...; 14- Become accustomed (to); 16- Bones found in the hip; 17- Ego; 18- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 19- Droops; 20- Toward sunrise; 21- Deteriorate; 22- "Unto the Sons" author; 24- Paradise lost; 26- In this place; 27- Tire feature; 29- Usually; 33- Minuscule; 34- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 35- Medicinal amount; 36- Sought office; 37- Swiftly; 38- Ewe said it; 39- Broadway opener; 41- Mother of Helen of Troy; 42- "I'll \_\_\_ do us part"; 44- Drugstore; 46- Perjurers; 47- Ages; 48- Juniors, perhaps; 49- Climbed; 52- Part of UNLV; 53- Must've been something \_\_\_; 57- \_\_\_ breve; 58- Best of a group; 60- Middle of QED; 61- Author Urus; 62- Less common or less cooked; 63- Spotted; 64- Pigeon-\_\_\_; 65- Pops; 66- Monetary unit of Western Samoa;

**DOWN** 1- Use a surgical beam; 2- Zeno of \_\_\_; 3- \_\_\_ well...; 4- Ten plus five; 5- Approached; 6- Noted bankruptcy of 2001; 7- Corrosion; 8- Acapulco gold; 9- Deceive; 10- Caesar's wings; 11- Fixes illegally; 12- Manuscript enc.; 15- Went in; 23- Upper limb; 25- It breaks daily; 26- Old Testament prophet; 27- Instruct; 28- \_\_\_-car; 29- Destitute; 30- Like lungs; 31- Atty-to-be exams; 32- Slangy assent; 33- Ensnare; 34- Glasses, briefly; 37- Defame; 40- Erin; 42- Racket; 43- Least difficult; 45- A Stoooge; 46- Runners-up; 48- Satisfied; 49- Preservative; 50- 1963 role for Liz; 51- Balm ingredient; 52- Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 54- Calculus calculation; 55- Chinese weight; 56- Europe's highest volcano; 59- Young fellow;



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!**



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



**CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

✉ [hello@jmlproperty.com](mailto:hello@jmlproperty.com)  
 🌐 [www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)

📱 [jmlmacau](#) 📺 [jmlproperty](#)

 <p><b>Va Fat</b>                      HKD 3,780,000 2 bed 1 bath</p>	 <p><b>Tou Un</b>                      HKD 2,980,000 1 bed 1 bath</p>	 <p><b>Jade Garden</b>                      HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath</p>
---	--	--

FOOTBALL | EPL

# KLOPP AVOIDS DAMAGING DEFEAT BUT DROPS POINTS IN THREE-WAY RACE FOR TITLE

JAMES ROBSON,  
MANCHESTER

## LIVERPOOL 2, MAN U 2

**H**AVING ended Liverpool's quadruple challenge, Manchester United looked set to deliver a major blow to Jurgen Klopp's hopes of bowing out at the end of the season with a second Premier League title.

Time will tell how damaging a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford yesterday [Macau time] will be to the Merseyside club in the three-way fight at the top, but it could have been so much worse if not for Mohamed Salah's late penalty.

"We should have won the game, that is clear," Klopp said. "As far as I'm concerned, we have a point more than we did before."

It wasn't only the prospect of defeat at the home of Liverpool's fiercest rivals that felt so significant, but the nature of it.



Liverpool's manager Jurgen Klopp

Klopp's team had totally dominated by raining down shots on United's goal in a mismatched first half, but only managed to lead 1-0 at the break through Luis Diaz's goal.

The atmosphere totally changed when Bruno Fernandes struck a stunning equalizer from inside the center circle after a Liverpool mistake and Kobbie Mainoo curled a superb shot into the top corner to give United the lead.

After victories for Arsenal

and Manchester City on Saturday, Liverpool was heading toward a second defeat to United, after losing in the quarterfinals of the FA Cup last month.

That was until Aaron Wan-Bissaka's reckless lunge at Harvey Elliott led to referee Anthony Taylor pointing to the spot and Salah converting.

The draw moved Liverpool level on points with first-place Arsenal, but behind on goal difference. City is a point

behind in third in an ever-tightening title race.

"You shouldn't do what we do today constantly, that won't be enough. Definitely not," Klopp said.

Klopp said in January that he would step down at the end of the season. He has already led Liverpool to the English League Cup and the club is still in contention to win the Europa League. Klopp is hoping to win the Premier League title for a second time after ending the club's 30-year wait for the trophy in 2020.

United has been a bogey team for Liverpool this season — with two draws in the league and victory in the FA Cup.

Arsenal still has to travel to Old Trafford in the league, but Klopp predicted a similar performance by United would be punished by Mikel Arteta's league leader.

"I'm really sorry to say it, but we should have won both games and didn't. That's our

fault," Klopp said.

## UNITED FIGHTS

Erik ten Hag needed a performance from his players in front of new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe.

A desperately disappointing week had seen his team blow winning positions in stoppage time at Brentford and Chelsea to deliver blows to United's chances of qualifying for the Champions League.

While this was another late setback, United's response to being totally outplayed in the first half will have provided some encouragement to the manager.

Pressure is on Ten Hag to salvage a campaign that has failed to live up to expectations. Ratcliffe is overhauling United's soccer operations in an attempt to end its wait for the title, having last lifted the trophy in Alex Ferguson's final season in 2013. **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<sup>o</sup> 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues<sup>o</sup> 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata<sup>o</sup> 趙魯 Zhao Lu<sup>o\*</sup> 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

### 大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia<sup>o</sup>  
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<sup>o</sup>  
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

o 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)



AP PHOTO



ICE HOCKEY

# Canadian women blank Czechia 5-0 at Worlds; Sweden, Denmark also win

**K**RISTIN O'Neill had two goals and an assist in the first period and Canada breezed to a 5-0 victory over Czechia at the IIHF Women's World Championship yesterday [Macau time].

The victory sets up a showdown between Canada (3-0-0-0) and the United States (3-0-0-0) yesterday to close out the Group A preliminary round. Both teams have clinched spots in the quarterfinals.

Czechia (1-0-0-2) currently sits in third place in Group A. All five seeds in Group A and the top three in Group B advance to Thursday's quarterfinals. Czechia closes out the prelims against Switzerland today.

Canada grabbed the lead just 2:07 into the match when Danielle Serdachny scored with an assist from O'Neill. O'Neill gave Canada a two-goal lead at the nine-minute mark with an assist from Sarah Nurse. O'Neill scored again, unassisted off a rebound, with 2:30 left in the period to make it 3-0.

Renata Fast had the lone score of the second period to push the lead

to 4-0. Jamie Lee Rattray and Nurse notched assists.

Laura Stacey made it 5-0 less than six minutes into the final period with assists from Jocelyne Larocque and Blayne Turnbull.

Ann-Renee Desbiens finished with 13 saves in goal for Canada. It was her sixth career shutout in the event. Desbiens has an 18-1 record for Canada with her only loss coming to the U.S. in last year's gold-medal match.

Klara Peslarova stopped 37 shots for Czechia.

## SWEDEN 6, JAPAN 2

Josefin Bouveng scored twice, including the finale in a three-goal third period, and added an assist as Sweden (3-0-0-0) remained unbeaten in the Group B preliminaries.

Japan (0-0-1-2) is in danger of missing the quarterfinals for the first time since 2017.

Sweden jumped out to a 2-0 lead after one period. Ebba Hedqvist used assists from Ida Karlsson and Sara Hjalmarsson to score 6:45 into the match and Bouveng added her first less

than two minutes later, scoring unassisted.

Japan bounced back in the second period to knot the score at 2-2. Haruka Toko had the first goal — with an assist from Shiori Koike — at 7:23. Makoto Ito found the net 49 seconds later.

Hilda Svensson gave Sweden the lead for good, using assists from Maja Nylen Persson and Hanna Olsson, to score with 1:24 remaining in the period.

Thea Johansson took a pass from Mira Hallin and scored 4:58 into the final period to give Sweden a two-goal lead. Sofie Lundin and Bouveng notched assists on a goal by Hjalmarsson that made it 5-2. Bouveng capped the scoring with 3:19 left to play, scoring unassisted. She leads all players with four goals so far in the event.

It was the 500th match in world championship history. Sweden also played in the first match of the competition, a 15-1 defeat at the hands of Canada.

Sweden closes out the preliminary round against Germany. Japan will square off against Denmark today.

## DENMARK 2, CHINA 1 (SO)

Frederikke Foss and Nicoline Jensen scored shootout goals and Emma-Sofie Nordstrom saved all three shots she faced to help Denmark pull out a win after a late rally by China.

Minghui Kong netted the equalizer for China (0-1-1-1) with 1:51 remaining in the third period, using assists from Xin Fang and Baiwei Yu to score for the second time in the tournament.

Denmark (0-1-0-2) took a 1-0 lead with 92 seconds remaining in the second period when Amanda Refsgaard used assists from Frida Kielsestrup and Nicoline Jensen to score her first goal of the event.

Jiahui Zhan had 10 saves in goal for China and Nordstrom stopped nine shots for Denmark in a scoreless first period.

Zhan finished with 33 saves for China. Nordstrom stopped 23 shots for Denmark.

China closes out the prelims on Tuesday against Germany. Denmark squares off against Japan today in its finale. The quarterfinals begin on Thursday. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

# GREAT TIMES

Experience the Ultimate Wood-Fire Grilling with Chef Dave Pynt's Takeover at Grill 58

**G**rill 58 at MGM COTAI is celebrated for its exceptional wood grilling and premium steak offerings. This April, the restaurant elevates its dining experience with the arrival of a stellar guest chef. Chef Dave Pynt, the mastermind behind Burnt Ends, one of Singapore's most sought-after dining destinations, is set to take over Grill 58 for three days from April 18 to 20 as part of MGM's guest chef series.



With its prestigious one MICHELIN star and No. 15 ranking on the Asia's 50 Best Restaurants list, Burnt Ends has set a high standard for modern Australian barbecue. Dave Pynt, chef-patron of the establishment, specializes in the craftsmanship of cooking with wood. His bold, unparalleled creations are a testament to his commitment to creating unique flavor profiles. With wood-fire grilling, roasting, baking and smoking, Chef Pynt brings out the true flavors of fresh, premium ingredients such as smoked quail eggs and caviar, king crab and Blackmore's striploin, unveiling the essence of local culinary excellence with his ultimate barbecue techniques.



Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to experience the culinary artistry of Chef Pynt as he brings his raw fire culinary magic to Grill 58. 10-course lunch and 13-course dinner tasting menus are available. For reservations, please call (853) 8806 2318 or visit mgm.mo.



**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**DITCHING THE LECTURING IN FAVOR OF LISTENING MAY OPEN THE WAY TO LESS STRAINED RELATIONS**

While it is undoubtedly an encouraging sign of serious shared interest in stabilizing their relations, as well as the pragmatism present in both sides' approaches to the rocky China-United States relationship, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's ongoing visit may also indicate bilateral ties are on the threshold of a challenging new stage.

If the consensus on stabilizing bilateral ties by keeping lines of communication open represents the first stage of a strategic reset, the two sides now face a new one that will put their claims of responsibly managing bilateral ties to the test. It is a test that will prove tough for both, because, increasingly, they are getting to the roots of the problems that have strained bilateral ties, where neither sees much room for compromise.

Before she embarked on the trip, on her way to China, and then in Guangzhou, Yellen's remarks centered on Chinese "manufacturing overcapacity", whose economic fallout she said would hurt the US, the rest of the world, and finally China itself. This line is expected to continue in Beijing until the end of her visit.

Yellen brought with her Washington's growing worries about alleged Chinese overproduction of electric vehicles, solar panels, semiconductors and other goods allegedly flooding global markets. Its request is Beijing shift away from what it claims is Beijing's subsidy-driven economic model and return to market-oriented reforms.

This will prove an extremely hard sell, because it is fundamentally at odds with Beijing's view, which is that it is Washington that is using subsidies and other measures to distort the market. Beijing sees no need for such a "return" considering its present path is a "higher degree of opening-up", which by its very nature requires further reforms. As for China's alleged "unfair trade practices", Washington is simply employing a double standard. Yellen's Chinese hosts have complained about US tariffs on Chinese imports, sanctions on Chinese companies, and especially the punitive moves against TikTok.

Yellen has won Chinese friends for repeatedly arguing against the "decoupling" of the two economies, which is why many have seen her as being the best messenger to convey Washington's appeal for a "level playing field".

Her July 2023 China visit led to the forming of economic and financial "working groups" in both governments. But things are different this time. While in Washington's eyes they are a growing threat, China-made EVs, power batteries and solar panels happen to be among the leading wave of the country's new quality productive forces. No country should seek to suppress another's development, as the Chinese leader has told his US audiences on multiple recent occasions.

The differences between the two sides are "not going to be solved in an afternoon or a month", as Yellen rightly said.

But continuous communication may provide "a structured way" in which the two sides can "continue to listen to one another and see if we can find a way forward that will avoid conflict".

That is certainly a foundation to build on that needs reinforcing with solid means of support.

**HUGE CROWDS AWAIT A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IN NORTH AMERICA**

Millions of spectators along a narrow corridor stretching from Mexico to the U.S. to Canada eagerly awaited today's celestial sensation — a total eclipse of the sun — even as forecasters called for clouds.

The best weather was expected at the tail end of the eclipse in Vermont and Maine, as well as New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

It promised to be North America's biggest eclipse crowd ever, thanks to the densely populated path and the lure of more than four minutes of midday darkness in Texas and other choice spots. Almost everyone in North America was guaranteed at least a partial eclipse, weather permitting.

"Cloud cover is one of the trickier things to forecast," National Weather Service meteorologist Alexa Maines explained at Cleveland's Great Lakes Science Center on Sunday. "At the very least, it won't snow."

The cliff-hanging uncertainty added to the drama. Rain or shine, "it's just about sharing the experience with other people," said Chris Lomas from Gotham, England, who was staying at a sold-out trailer resort outside Dallas, the biggest city in totality's path.

For today's [Macau time] full eclipse, the moon was due to slip right in front of the sun, entirely blocking it.

THE BUZZ

AP PHOTO



**BRAZIL SUPREME COURT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF MUSK**

DAVID BILLER,  
 RIO DE JANEIRO

Accusading Brazilian Supreme Court justice included Elon Musk as a target in an ongoing investigation over the dissemination of fake news and opened a separate investigation yesterday [Macau time] into the executive for alleged obstruction.

In his decision, Justice Alexandre de Moraes noted that Musk on Saturday began waging a public "disinformation campaign" regarding the top court's actions, and that Musk continued the following day — most notably with comments that his social media company X would cease to comply with the court's orders to block certain accounts.

"The flagrant conduct of obstruction of Brazilian justice, incitement of crime, the public threat of disobedience of court orders and future lack of cooperation from the platform are facts that disrespect the sovereignty of Brazil," de Moraes wrote.

Musk will be investigated for alleged intentional criminal instrumentalization of X as part of an investigation into a network of people known as digital militias who allegedly spread defamatory fake news and threats against Supreme Court justices, according to the text of the

decision. The new investigation will look into whether Musk engaged in obstruction, criminal organization and incitement.

Musk has not commented on X about the latest development.

Brazil's political right has long characterized de Moraes as overstepping his bounds to clamp down on free speech and engage in political persecution. In the digital militias investigation, lawmakers from former President Jair Bolsonaro's circle have been imprisoned and his supporters' homes raided. Bolsonaro himself became a target of the investigation in 2021.

De Moraes' defenders have said his decisions, although extraordinary, are legally sound and necessary to purge social media of fake news as well as extinguish threats to Brazilian democracy — notoriously underscored by the Jan. 8, 2023, uprising in Brazil's capital that resembled the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection in the U.S. Capitol.

On Saturday, Musk — a self-declared free speech absolutist — wrote on X that the platform would lift all restrictions on blocked accounts and predicted that the move was likely to dry up revenue in Brazil and force the company to shutter its local office.

"But principles mat-

ter more than profit," he wrote.

He later instructed users in Brazil to download a VPN to retain access if X was shut down and wrote that X would publish all of de Moraes' demands, claiming they violate Brazilian law.

"These are the most draconian demands of any country on Earth!" he later wrote.

Musk had not published de Moraes' demands as of yesterday and prominent blocked accounts remained so, indicating X had yet to act based on Musk's previous pledges.

Moraes' decision warned against doing so, saying each blocked account that X eventually reactivates will entail a fine of 100,000 reais (\$20,000) per day, and that those responsible will be held legally to account for disobeying a court order.

Brazil's attorney general wrote Saturday night that it was urgent for Brazil to regulate social media platforms. "We cannot live in a society in which billionaires domiciled abroad have control of social networks and put themselves in a position to violate the rule of law, failing to comply with court orders and threatening our authorities. Social peace is non-negotiable," Jorge Messias wrote on X. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Mexico's first presidential debate yesterday [Macau time] ahead of June 2 elections, former Mexico City Mayor and frontrunner Claudia Sheinbaum appeared comfortable with her polling lead, remaining calm amid ex-Senator Xóchitl Gálvez's personal attacks. In the debate, candidates responded to questions about health, education, corruption, transparency, vulnerable groups and violence against women.

AP PHOTO



Ecuador The global condemnation of Ecuador's government for its decision to break into the Mexican Embassy snowballed Sunday with more presidents and other leaders expressing disapproval, shock and dismay. The criticism came as Mexico's ambassador and other personnel arrived in Mexico City yesterday [Macau time] after departing Ecuador's capital, Quito, on a commercial flight.

AP PHOTO



Poland An exit poll released after Poland's local and regional elections showed Prime Minister Donald Tusk's pro-EU party trailing the conservative opposition party that governed Poland for eight years until December. But the socially liberal mayor of Warsaw, a Tusk ally, easily won another term in the capital. Sunday's elections were the first electoral test for Tusk's coalition government nearly four months since it took power.

Mozambique A makeshift ferry sank off Mozambique's northern coast on Sunday, killing 94 people including children, local media reported. The overcrowded boat was carrying 130 people and many of those who drowned were children, according to TV Diário Nampula, a local online outlet. The boat was operating between Lunga and the Island of Mozambique in Nampula province in the north of the country when it capsized, the report said. Rescue efforts continued yesterday.