



iPhone 15 Pro. Capture more than ever before.

iPhone 15 Pro

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

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

CTM

HEALTH BUREAU REPORTED 1,700 INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES IN 2023, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEARS

P3

NEW CIVIL CODE ENFORCES DIGITALIZATION, STREAMLINING OF LIFELINE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

P2

POLICE CLASH WITH PRO-PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AS PROTESTS ESCALATE ACROSS EUROPE

P8



AP PHOTO



Serbia Chinese leader Xi Jinping's visit to European ally Serbia yesterday falls on a symbolic date: the 25th anniversary of the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during NATO's air war over Kosovo. U.S. jets dropped five bombs on the Chinese Embassy compound in the Serbian capital on May 7, 1999, setting it ablaze and killing three Chinese nationals. Twenty other people were injured in the incident, which has burdened relations between the two powers ever since. [More on p6](#)

AP PHOTO



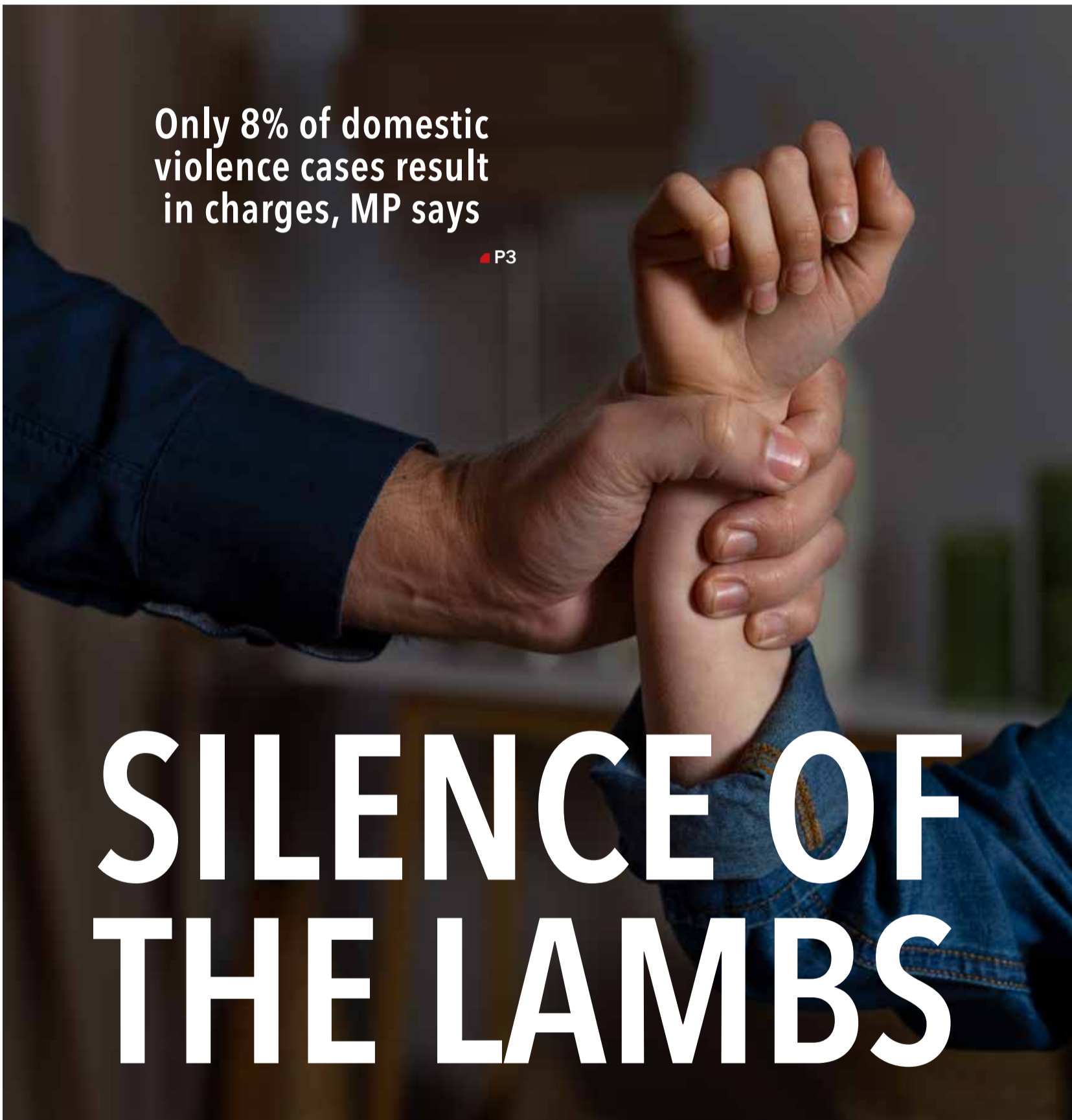
India Millions of voters across 93 constituencies casted ballots yesterday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi mounted an increasingly shrill election campaign, ramping up polarizing rhetoric in incendiary speeches that have targeted the Muslim minority. In recent campaign rallies, Modi has called Muslims "infiltrators" and said they "have too many children," referring to a Hindu nationalist trope that Muslims produce more children with the aim of outnumbering Hindus in India. [More on p7](#)

AP PHOTO



Vietnam yesterday celebrated the 70th anniversary of the battle of Dien Bien Phu in which the French colonial army was defeated by Vietnamese troops, marking the end of the French occupation of Indochina. Vietnamese troops led by General Vo Nguyen Giap, surprised French forces with heavy artillery fire at their mountainous garrison in northwestern Vietnam. When Dien Bien Phu fell in 1954, it spelled the end of almost a century of French colonial rule.

More on backpage



Only 8% of domestic violence cases result in charges, MP says

P3

SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

GOLDEN WEEK

MACAU HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE PEAKS AT 95% FOR LABOR DAY

P2

CRIME

TWO ROBBERIES IN COTAI HOTEL ROOMS BY SAME PERPETRATOR

P4

NEW CIVIL CODE

DIGITALIZATION AND STREAMLINING OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND DEATH REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

RENATO MARQUES

THE new bill promoting amendments to several procedures of the Macau Civil Code is ready to be voted on in the final reading at the Legislative Assembly (AL). The announcement was made yesterday by the president of the Third Standing Committee of AL, Vong Hin Fai, after a final meeting from this committee, leading to a final review and signing of the legal opinion before the bill advances to a plenary session.

The bill aims to promote amendments to several procedures, particularly by digitalizing and simplifying processes related to birth registration, marriage and divorce proceedings, and

death certification.

Due to its complexity and significant impact on people's lives, the bill underwent almost a year of scrutiny following its initial reading on June 7, 2023. Vong noted that the committee required several extensions of the time to analyze the bill, as authorized by the president of the AL.

After extensive deliberation and presentation of an alternate version by the government, the committee finally approved the bill last week. It is anticipated that the bill will come into effect by July this year.

The current version of the Civil Code has been in effect for 23 years, having been implemented on November 1, 1999.



MOST SIGNIFICANT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Digitalization of birth registration procedures

- Birth registration can be initiated through an electronically submitted declaration.
- Hospitals should communicate all birth data to the Civil Registration Office electronically.
- The traditional birth book has been eliminated and replaced with a birth certificate issued free of charge.

Digitalization of marriage applications

- Marriage applications can be submitted electronically.
- Documentation has been simplified, particularly for Macau residents who are engaged.
- The need for a birth certificate is replaced by data collection from the Identification Services Bureau.
- For non-residents, an original birth certificate is no longer required and a declaration made by them will substitute.
- Some foreign countries' requirements for a certificate of non-impediment to marriage may be replaced by a declaration from the engaged parties that they have no legal impediments to marriage.

Authority for notaries to celebrate marriages

- Private Notaries will be able to perform marriages in locations other than the Civil Registration Office, according to the same rules that apply to religious ministers.

Broadening of situations where divorces by mutual consent can be done by Civil Registration Office

- A simplified divorce process has been introduced for couples with underage children who file for divorce by mutual consent. The courts will no longer be involved in such cases. Instead, the power to declare the divorce will be granted to the Civil Registration Office. However, the parents must submit a custody proceedings document to the Public Prosecutions Office. The document will be evaluated to ensure the rights of underage children are safeguarded. Based on this evaluation, the Public Prosecutions Office will either authorize or refuse the divorce.

Digitalization of procedures related to death

- Death registration and certification are to be made electronically via information from the hospitals and without the need for intervention from family members.
- Improved interagency communication between public services will facilitate updates on death registration and certification data.
- Bureaucratic obstacles and fees relating to mortuary transfers and cremation will be eliminated.

Civil Registration Office will no longer assess causes of death

- Responsibility for assessing non-natural causes of death will be transferred automatically to the police forces for investigation and autopsy, removing this duty from the Civil Registration Office.

GOLDEN WEEK

MACAU HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE PEAKS AT 95% FOR LABOR DAY

MACAUI achieved an average hotel occupancy rate of 89.2% during the five-day Labor Day holiday season in mainland China, starting on May 1, according to the Macao Government

Tourism Office (MGTO). The highest occupancy rate was recorded on May 2 at 95.1%.

During the holiday period, Macau welcomed a total of 604,395 visitor arrivals, with approximately 80.6 percent

(487,000 arrivals) coming from mainland China. Hong Kong accounted for around 12.9%, with approximately 78,000 arrivals, while Taiwan and international markets constituted 1.3% (8,000 arri-

vals) and 5.3% (32,000 arrivals) of the total, respectively.

Additional data released by the Macau Hotel Association provided a more detailed overview of hotel occupancy in March. Across three-star to

five-star hotels, the average occupancy rate reached 89.3 percent, with five-star properties achieving 90.7% occupancy. The average room rate in March for these hotels was MOP1,431.2, while five-

-star properties surpassed pre-pandemic levels with an average rate of MOP1,634.0. In March 2019, the average rate for five-star hotels was MOP1,608.6, according to the association's data. **HT**

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 Torrao, 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 Goldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement_advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RENATO MARQUES

PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS OFFICE

Only 8% of MP cases on domestic violence resulted in charges

ONLY 8.04% of all cases opened by the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) regarding suspicions of crimes related to the law on preventing and combating domestic violence have resulted in charges, official statistics published by the MP show.

According to the judiciary body, since the law came into force, a total of 734 suspected breaches of the domestic violence law provisions have been opened and investigated, resulting in a total of 59 formal charges.

Over the past seven years (2017-2023) an average of 105 cases were opened per year, while only 8 resulted in formal charges.

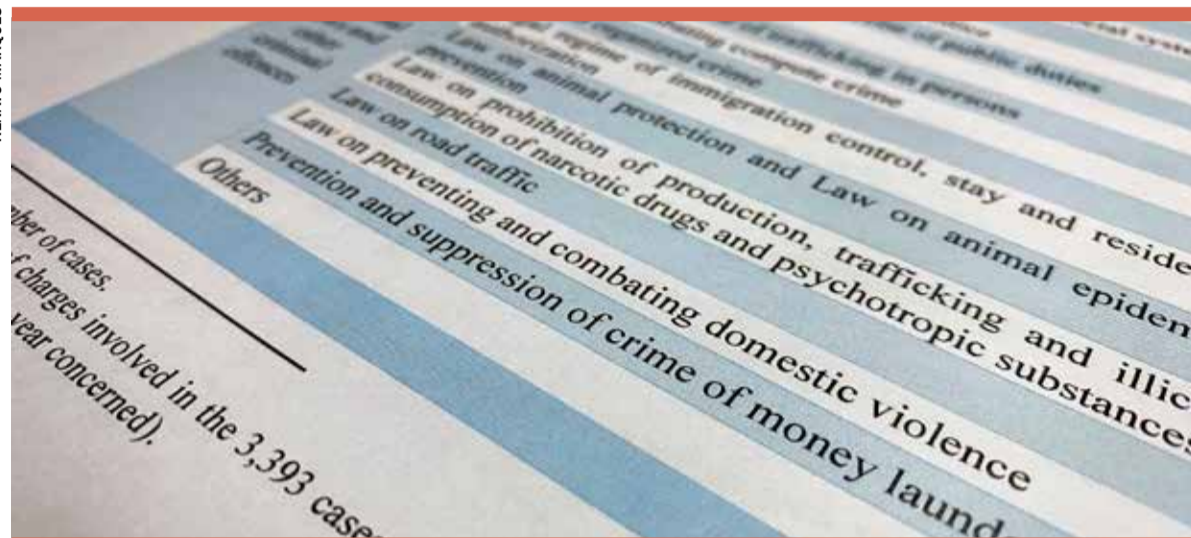
The discrepancy between the number of cases open and the number of charges over this type of crime has motivated several inquiries to the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak.

More than once, Wong has justified the numbers by saying that besides the cases in which the MP did not find enough evidence for the accusations against the suspects and those in which the alleged victims have not pressed charges, there were several cases

initially classified as "domestic violence," which resulted in severe injuries and even death. These last cases were ultimately charged under the criminal provisions for aggravated bodily harm or murder because those crimes have a more severe penal framework than those for domestic violence, he said.

Nevertheless, in the activity report for the year 2023, the MP praised the drop in the number of cases opened for domestic violence, noting a drop of 7.63% when compared year-on-year with 2022 (- 9 cases). The MP added that this "highlights the effectiveness of the implementation of specific prevention and combat measures, as well as the reinforcement of law enforcement by police services and administrative services."

According to the annual report from the Social Welfare Bureau



(IAS), the number of suspected cases of domestic violence in Macau in 2023 totaled 40, including 26 cases in which the victims were the marriage partner, 11 where the victims were children, leaving the other three to be related to

other family members.

The same IAS report also noted that the type of domestic violence acts involved 23 acts of physical violence, eight cases of psychological violence, five cases of sexual abuse, and four other cases invol-

ving multiple offenses.

In 2023 IAS investigated a total of 1,781 notifications for suspected cases of domestic violence, which resulted in only 40 confirmed cases; that is, only 2.25% of the suspected cases.

STATS

Smoking cessation services see 31% increase in past year

STAFF REPORTER

THE Health Bureau (SSM) reported a significant increase in the number of people seeking smoking cessation services in 2023, underlining the city's efforts to tackle the health risks associated with tobacco use.

According to the bureau, 1,726 individuals received smoking cessation counseling and assessment at specialized clinics last year, a 31% jump from the previous year. While the success rate of these programs was deemed satisfactory, the au-

thorities did not provide specific figures.

The World Health Organization's designation of the first Tuesday in May as World Asthma Day serves as a timely reminder of the importance of quitting smoking and avoiding secondhand smoke exposure, both of which are crucial factors in preventing asthma and acute asthma attack.

Macau's healthcare landscape reflects the impact of these efforts, with data from 2022 showing that approximately 2,500 people, or 0.4% of the population, visited public

hospitals, health centers, and Kiang Wu Hospital for asthma-related complications, a figure consistent with previous years.

Notably, the 60-74 age group accounted for the highest proportion of patients, at 26.9% of the total.

As the city continues to prioritize public health, the surge in participation at smoking cessation clinics underscores the community's growing awareness and commitment to addressing the respiratory health challenges posed by tobacco use.



澳門國際機場專營股份有限公司
CAM - Soc. do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L.
Macau International Airport Co. Ltd.

Open Tender Notice

1. Company:	CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd.
2. Scope of Services:	Provision of Management and Maintenance Services of the Installation, Systems and Equipment owned by Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Electrical & Mechanical Systems
3. Request for Tender Document:	The interested Bidders shall call the Senior Secretary of the Engineering and Maintenance Branch (E&M) of the Airport Operations Department of CAM at (853) 88982386 and collect the tender document at the following location until 13 May 2024 before 13:00 (Macau Local Time). <u>Location for collecting the tender document</u> CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Macau International Airport Engineering and Maintenance Branch E&M Building 1st Floor, Office 41020 Taipa, Macau For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Engineering and Maintenance Branch at (853) 88982386.
4. Location for Submission of Proposals:	CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Av. De Wai Long CAM Office Building, 4 th Floor Reception Taipa, Macau Attention: Mr. Chu Tan Neng – Executive Director
5. Tender closing time and date:	At 12:00 (noon) on 5 June 2024 (Macau Local Time)
CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.	

AD

AIRPORT SEES 109,000 PASSENGERS DURING GOLDEN WEEK

During the Labor Day Golden Week, Macau International Airport (MIA) recorded a total of 908 flights and over 109,000 passengers passing through between May 1 to May 5. The busiest day was May 1, with 201 flights and 26,314 passengers. In comparison to the previous year, there was a 59% increase in flight activity and a 66% rise in passenger numbers. Furthermore, when compared to the same holiday period in 2019, there was an 85% rebound in both flight and passenger traffic, with an 80% surge in passenger figures.

INTERNATIONAL CITY OF FOOD CARNIVAL TO FEATURE 100 STALLS

The Macau International City of Food Carnival will be held June 14 to June 23 at Macau Fisherman's Wharf. One of three highlight events, the "International Food Avenue," will feature 100 food booths showcasing Asian cuisine. The week-long festival's three highlights include the food avenue, a culinary arts showcase and international food forum. In addition to delicacies from China's six recognized "food cities," the food avenue will host representatives from Asian destinations like Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. Of the 100 booths, 54 are reserved for Macau vendors, with the remaining spots allocated to mainland cities, Asian food capitals and casino firms.

MOBILE PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS UP 13% IN 2023

Data from the Monetary Authority of Macao shows that the volume of transactions in Macau using mobile payment instruments witnessed a 12.9% surge in 2023 compared to the previous year. The number of mobile payment transactions exceeded 300 million, totaling 28 million patacas, marking an 8.8% increase from the previous year and setting a new record high. On average, each transaction amounted to 93.6 patacas. As of the end of the previous year, the number of mobile payment terminals in the SAR surpassed 102,000.

IC DEVELOPING SPECIALIZED WEBSITE FOR FILM AND TELEVISION SECTOR

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is currently in the process of creating a dedicated website for the film and television industry. This platform is designed to bring together information about filming locations and requests in Macau, as well as provide details about the region's film production companies and institutions. The IC has also mentioned that they have invited film industry professionals from overseas to conduct training programs on film and television production. Additionally, the authorities have launched a film production commissioning program and organized the Macau International Short Film Festival.

ECONOMIC HOUSING

WONG KIT CHENG CALLS FOR GOV'T TO IMPLEMENT LONG-TERM RENTAL CONCESSIONS ON SENIORS' RESIDENCE

STAFF REPORTER

LAWMAKER Wong Kit Cheng proposes extending rental concessions beyond the initial discounted period to provide long-term financial stability, following the government's announcement and clarification on the seniors' public housing.

While praising the increased unit numbers to meet more seniors' needs, Wong, also the vice chairwoman of the Women's Federation, said retired residents have dwindling incomes and rely mostly on savings and pensions, as cited in a report by the Macao Daily.

Additionally, exploring options for utilizing existing properties for income generation, creating senior-specific job opportunities, and offering exclusive discounts for elderly shoppers within the housing complex could further improve living standards for residents.

Her comments came as the Macau government formally laid out the user fee structures, selection process and move-in timeline for the long-awaited public housing units earmarked for elderly residents.

Apartment selection for the first batch of over 1,500



qualified applicants will take place in July through the online "Government Electronic Application System for Elderly Apartments." Those who are not tech-savvy will get assistance from social groups, and priority may be given to residents with urgent housing needs.

Fees for the units range from 4,328 to 5,344 patacas monthly for the initial three-year contract, in line with estimates announced last year. The four housing areas have monthly costs ranging from 5,410 to 6,680 patacas depending on floor levels.

The first 759 units will be ready for occupation later this year.

However, Wong hopes the timeline can be expedited for needier second-batch resi-

dents, given actual circumstances.

However, the lawmaker said that the recent clarification of the government on the elderly's public housing will allow seniors to "have peace of mind and get ready in advance" for the housing opportunity.

Selection notifications will be sent in June via the online housing portal. After choosing a unit, residents must sign the standard three-year contract within a specified period, detailing usage terms and fees.

Development of the senior public homes has been anticipated as Macau's aging population confronts housing affordability. Officials now aim to start intakes before the end of the year to help address the community's needs.

CRIME

Two hotel room robberies in Cotai committed by the same perpetrator

HOWARD TONG

TWO hotel room robberies occurred in the Cotai District within the span of an hour yesterday. Three mainland women were victimized by an individual armed with a fruit knife, resulting in the theft of over MOP34,000 worth of cash and belongings.

Tragically, one of the women was also subjected to sexual assault. Local authorities swiftly responded, and within 12 hours of the incidents, the unemployed 25-year-old suspect from mainland China was apprehended in Tanzhou, Zhongshan.

The first robbery took place in the early morning, where the victim and the perpetrator initially encountered each other in the hotel lobby. Subsequently, they proceeded to a hotel room to engage in conversation. At that point the suspect brandished a fruit knife, threatening and assaulting the woman, and then making off with HKD4,000.

The victim reported the crime once the assailant had left. Less than an hour later, the police received another report of a robbery at a different hotel. Two mainland women disclosed that they had exchanged money for gambling with an individual they had just met in their hotel room. The perpetrator, wielding a knife, coerced them to surrender their possessions.

Despite their resistance, the women were subjected to physical violence, resulting in injuries. They were ultimately robbed of HKD5,000 and a gold bracelet valued at approximately MOP25,000. Through investigation, the police established that both robberies were committed by the same individual. In an attempt to evade capture, the suspect changed his attire and fled to the mainland via a border port on the morning of the incidents.

A police spokesperson highlighted the successful arrest of the suspect in Tanzhou, Zhongshan on the same day, with assistance from the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department. This accomplishment underscores the efficiency of the emergency police notification mechanism between the two regions, as well as the resolute determination and capabilities of the authorities in combating cross-border crimes and ensuring public safety.

CRIME

BANNED MAN CAUGHT TRYING TO ENTER MACAU WITH FORGED PASSPORT

STAFF REPORTER

A man in his 20s, who was previously banned from entering the region, attempted to use a stolen passport to enter Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint. The suspect, who has not been identified,

claimed to have found the passport on the mainland in late April and intended to use it to gamble in Macau.

However, authorities noticed that the photo in the passport did not match the suspect's appearance. Upon further questioning, the suspect pre-

sented a different identity document. A background check revealed that the individual had been banned from entering the region for three years due to his involvement in a fraud case that is still under investigation.

The suspect confessed to offering

a RMB100 bribe to the driver of a seven-seater vehicle at the Zhuhai Bridge Port, in exchange for the driver helping him to bypass customs. The driver refused and later informed the authorities that he had been instructed by his company to pick up passengers at a designated location for customs clearance. The driver, a Macau resident, is now under investigation for potentially providing unlicensed transport services.

AP PHOTO



ENTERTAINMENT

Disney's streaming business turns a profit, tops expectations

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

THE Walt Disney Co. swung to a loss in its second quarter because of restructuring and impairment charges, but its adjusted profit topped expectations and its streaming business turned a profit. Theme parks also continued to do well and the company boosted its outlook for the year.

While Disney said yesterday that it foresees its overall streaming business softening in the current quarter due to its platform in India, Disney+Hotstar, it expects its combined streaming businesses to be profitable in the fourth quarter and to be a meaningful future growth driver for the company, with further improvements in profitability in fiscal 2025.

The direct-to-consumer busi-

ness, which includes Disney+ and Hulu, posted quarterly operating income of \$47 million compared with a loss of \$587 million a year earlier. Revenue rose 13% to \$5.64 billion.

Disney+ core subscribers climbed by more than 6% in the second quarter.

"Looking at our company as a whole, it's clear that the turnaround and growth initiatives we set in motion last year have continued to yield positive results," CEO Bob Iger said in a prepared statement.

It's the first financial report since shareholders rebuffed efforts by activist investor Nelson Peltz to claim seats on the company board last month, standing firmly behind Iger as he tries to energize the company after a rough stretch.

Thomas Monteiro, senior analyst at Investing.com, said

that some Disney investors may have been expecting more from the quarterly report, but that "the company has tilted its operation back to its core business model, which is more conservative by nature."

Monteiro was focused on the company's efforts to turn its streaming division profitable.

"The big surprise of the day came on the streaming front, which finally managed to bring profits - way ahead of predictions - amid Hollywood's massive strike period," Monteiro said. "This indicates that perhaps the more global, low-production-cost Netflix-like model is probably the way to go in an operation that needs to rethink its growth expectations as a whole."

Revenue at Disney's domestic theme parks rose 7%, while its

theme parks overseas reported a 29% increase.

But Disney acknowledged wrestling with higher costs at its theme parks during the quarter due to inflation.

The company said that there was increased spending by guests at Walt Disney World due to higher ticket prices, while Disneyland guests boosted their spending due to an increase in ticket prices and hotel room rates.

Overseas, Hong Kong Disneyland benefited from the opening of World of Frozen, a section of the park that includes rides based on the popular "Frozen" movies, in November.

For the period ended March 30, Disney lost \$20 million, or a penny per share. That compares with a profit of \$1.27 billion, or 69 cents per share, a year ago.

Restructuring and impairment charges surged to \$2.05 billion from \$152 million in the prior-year period.

Adjusted earnings, which stripped out the charges and other items, were \$1.21 per share, easily beating the \$1.12 per share that analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research predicted.

Disney said that due to its second-quarter performance, it now has a full-year adjusted earnings per share growth target of 25%. It previously predicted growth of at least 20%.

The Burbank, California, company's revenue rose to \$22.08 billion from \$21.82 billion a year earlier, but was slightly lower than Wall Street estimates of \$22.13 billion.

Content sales and licensing revenue tumbled 40% because Disney didn't release any significant movie titles during the second quarter as compared with the prior-year period, which included the release of "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania." The year-ago results were also helped by the ongoing performance of "Avatar: The Way of Water," which was released in December 2022.

Shares dropped 5% before the market open.

In February The Walt Disney Co. said that it was making "significant cost reductions" and reduced its selling, general and other operations expenses by \$500 million in its first quarter. The company cut thousands of jobs in 2023.

In March allies of Gov. Ron DeSantis and Disney reached a settlement agreement in a state court fight over how Walt Disney World is developed in the future following the takeover of the theme park resort's government by the Florida governor.

Last month character performers at Disneyland in California and the union organizing them, Actors' Equity Association, said they had filed a petition for union recognition. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

City of Dreams restaurants pamper moms with special Mother's Day menus



The Tasting Room - Prime Steak & Grill and L'ATTITUDE at City of Dreams are celebrating Mother's Day with indulgent brunch and lunch

menus, along with special gifts for moms.

The Tasting Room will offer a brunch menu on May 12 featuring Wagyu steak

and seafood. Each reservation will receive a spa voucher, cake, champagne and chocolate. The first 10 Melco Style members to book will receive roses, the gaming operator said in a statement.

L'ATTITUDE's lunch set menu from May 11 to 12 includes scallops, chicken consommé and filet. Each table will receive a spa voucher, cake, champagne and chocolate.

Nüwa Spa is also inviting guests to reconnect mind and body through specialized Five-Element treatments and wet facilities.

'Broth by André Chiang' debuts signature soups



Renowned chef André Chiang unveiled his latest pop-up project, "Broth by André Chiang," starting May 11 at Mizumi in Wynn Macau. The new personalized hot pot experience focuses on homemade broths as the

"true soul" of the dish, as cited in a statement.

Chiang's eight Asian-inspired broths were meticulously prepared with bone stock and highlight cooking techniques from China, Japan and France. Signature

varieties include a sauerkraut broth with Taiwanese sorghum spirit and a Sichuan green peppercorn soup with kombu and black chicken. A Japanese sukiyaki is reimagined with French truffle and butter.

Unlike traditional hot pots where broths play a secondary role, Chiang has designed a new sequence elevating broths to the spotlight. Guests sample broth flights before choosing one for their seafood and vegetable hot pot. Tableside meat preparation in specialty bouillons and a final noodle course in pure dashi broth conclude the experience celebrating flavor and comfort in Asian soups.

OPINION

SINO-FRENCH TIES BRIDGING EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES

Wang Yiwei, China Daily*

Pandas are a rare species found only in China. But the West first learned about the panda through French missionary Armand David more than 150 years ago. This symbolizes the long history of the exchange of knowledge between the East and the West, which enriched both Oriental and Occidental societies.

In general, three factors characterize the centuries-old cultural exchanges between China and France (and the rest of Europe). The first is complementarity. China's agricultural civilization (embodied by the "Four Great Inventions") inspired Europe to seek technological innovations and break free from feudalism, leading to the Age of Enlightenment and the shaping of modern European society.

Sixty years ago, with the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France, began the normalization of relations between China and the West, which in turn enabled China to learn and adopt advanced European technologies such as French civil nuclear energy, aerospace and high-speed trains that contributed to China's modernization.

The second factor is asymmetry. Chinese and French societies appreciate and learn from each other, whether actively or passively, showcasing a diverse, non-equivalent, and asymmetrical relationship.

The third factor is practicality. As French historian Alexis de Tocqueville critiqued Voltaire's fascination with China, the shaping of their respective images stemmed from necessity, and was aimed at addressing deficiencies and forming a certain imagination of the other.

More important, late leader Deng Xiaoping's experience of studying and working in France could have infused in him the idea of reform and opening-up. In the new era of digital and ecological civilizations, the dialogues between Chinese and French societies have entered a phase of competitive and cooperative exchanges. So what's the new significance of the dialogues between Chinese and French societies?

The dialogues between the two societies transcend the distinctions between the East and the West, form and function, understanding the essence and its utility to make common achievements. Through their cooperation and competition in new energy and the digital economy, China and France promote the digital sovereignty and strategic autonomy of the European Union, advocate for a multipolar digital world and oppose digital imperialism. And while Beijing (as the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics) embodies the modern Olympic spirit, joint Sino-French development efforts in Africa are facilitating collaboration in Belt and Road projects.

Sino-French complementarity and dialogue are especially evident in fields such as climate change and artificial intelligence, and are helping shape a new era of "Chinoserie" (Chinese style). Both China and France (and many other EU members) are supporters of multilateralism and the international order centered on the United Nations. And being the world's second-largest maritime nation, France is a natural "blue partner" in building a maritime community with a shared future.

The two sides are also using their interactions and exchanges to build a better future for humankind, thus initiating a cultural renaissance — from the European Community and a community with a shared future for mankind to modern European society, which France played a key role in shaping, and Chinese modernization. China embraced Marxism from Europe and continues to contribute to the industrial digital civilization, leading the field in ecological civilization with the implementation of concepts such as "new quality productive forces".

As long as China and Europe engage in mutually beneficial cooperation, the rise of bloc confrontations can be avoided, and as long as they improve mutual understanding and pursue mutual benefit, they can check the "de-globalization" trend. This profound understanding underscores the increasingly prominent strategic significance of China-EU relations in the face of a world fraught with complexity.

China and Europe should support each other and strengthen the development of Chinese modernization and European integration, including aligning the Belt and Road Initiative with the EU's "Global Gateway" plan. As two major forces, markets and civilizations, China and Europe play a crucial role in shaping a new human, digital and ecological civilization.

For China, the EU is a very crucial valued partner. This is due to the alignment of China's vision of modernization, including a low-carbon lifestyle and the green economy, with the aspirations of Europeans to develop a better world. This fact has remained unchanged since the launch of reform and opening-up in China more than four decades ago.

*The author is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Global and Area Studies, Renmin University of China and the Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based think tank



French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron, President Xi Jinping, and his wife Peng Liyuan watch folklore dancers at the Tourmalet pass, in the Pyrenees mountains

EUROPEAN TOUR

Xi visits Pyrenees mountains, in a personal gesture by Macron

FRANCE'S president is hosting China's leader at a remote mountain pass in the yesterday for private meetings after a high-stakes state visit in Paris dominated by trade disputes and Russia's war in Ukraine.

French President Emmanuel Macron made a point of inviting Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Tourmalet Pass near the Spanish border, where Macron spent time

as a child visiting his grandmother. It is meant to be a reciprocal gesture after Xi took Macron last year to the residence of the governor of Guangdong province, where the Chinese president's father once lived.

Snow coated nearby slopes after new snowfall overnight, and security was tightened around the area. The winding roads up to the pass were blocked by authorities yesterday for dozens of kilometers.

The mountain meetings come after a grandiose state visit by Xi on Monday that included a ceremonial welcome at the monument housing Napoleon's tomb and a state dinner at the Elysee Palace with celebrities and magnates.

Xi is on a trip to Europe aimed at reinvigorating relations at a time of global tensions. He heads next to Serbia and Hungary. MDT/AP

CRIME

Knife attack at Zhenxiong hospital kills two people and injures 21

A knife attack at a hospital in southwestern China yesterday killed two people and injured 21 others, authorities said.

No motive was given for the attack at Zhenxiong County People's Hospital in Yunnan province. The suspect is a male from a village in the same county, a Zhenxiong police statement said. The injured were

being treated, it said.

A witness told Red Star News, an online outlet, that he had narrowly escaped the attack and that a doctor or doctors were among the injured. Video from the witness showed people who were bleeding and had fallen to the ground, and one older person trying to help another, the Red Star social media post said. Earlier media reports

said 23 people had been injured, but the police statement said the total was 21. A video posted online by Guizhou Province Television showed a man being taken away by police.

Zhenxiong county is 360 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of the Yunnan provincial capital, Kunming, and near the border with Sichuan province.

Knife attacks have happened before in China, often at kindergartens. A man with a knife killed six people and wounded one other last July at a kindergarten in Guangdong province in the country's southeast.

A man injured 15 people, six seriously, in a knife attack at a Shanghai hospital in 2022. He was sentenced to death last year. MDT/AP

INDIA | ANALYSIS

Why voters in south are more resistant to Modi's Hindu-centric politics

SIBI ARASU AND
KRUTIKA PATHI, CHENNAI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has wielded near-total control over Indian politics since coming to power 10 years ago, with one exception: He has failed to win over the country's wealthier southern region.

Five states across southern India account for roughly 20% of the country's population and 30% of its economy. They are the heartbeat of India's manufacturing and high-tech sectors. They are ethnically diverse and proudly multilingual. They empower women with educational and employment opportunities and have a long history of progressive politics.

Not one of them is controlled by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party — a stark rejection of its Hindu-nationalist agenda that enjoys wide support in northern India.

The BJP is expected to win India's election when results are announced in June, delivering Modi another five years as prime minister. But the odds are also high of strong resistance in the south. That would deny Modi his ambition of uniting all of India behind him and limit how far he can push the BJP agenda of promoting one religion and language over others.

"If you conceive of a Hindi-speaking, unified civilization as the reason you exist, then that becomes a significant barrier for you to cross," data scientist and political analyst Neelakantan R.S. said.

Voters and leaders of India's southern states have different needs than their counterparts in the north, which is more rural and populous. One thing they want is greater recognition from the Modi government of the key role their region plays in advancing the country's economy.

They feel their outsized contribution to India's tax base is betrayed by Modi's preferential treatment for poorer northern states, which receive a disproportionate amount of government funds for development projects and social welfare programs.

Modi's injection of religion into politics only exacerbates tensions with many southern voters.

Despite the strong opposition, Modi is campaigning aggressively in the south. His goal is for the BJP to win enough seats in the lower house of parliament to secure a two-thirds majority. That much power could embolden the party

AP PHOTO



A boy holds a placard at a rally for Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party leader and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, M. K. Stalin, in the southern Indian city of Chennai

to try changing the constitution to serve its Hindu-centric goals, political analyst Kavitha Muralidharan said.

"A super majority is what they need to launch a full-scale, pan-India, Hindutva experiment," Muralidharan said, referring to the century-old ideology guiding Modi.

MODI'S SOUTHERN STRATEGY

Modi has made some 20 trips this year to five southern states: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. They control roughly a quarter of the 543 seats in the lower house of parliament — and if the BJP can win just a few more than the 29 seats it won from these states in 2019, its super majority is within reach.

But experts are skeptical this will happen because southern voters have deep connections to regional political parties that have dominated for decades and are the BJP's toughest electoral opponents nationwide.

Modi is heavily focused on the southernmost state, Tamil Nadu, where the BJP did not win any of its 39 seats up for grabs in the 2019 election.

On a recent visit there, Modi wore the region's traditional white silk garment -- a veshti -- wrapped around his lower body, and he used artificial intelligence software to have his speeches translated in real-time from Hindi to Tamil.

"As the world's oldest language, Tamil fills us with immense pride," Modi said recently, making an apparent effort to tamp down

rumors that the BJP wants to impose the Hindi language on the state.

Still, Dileep Kumar, a computer engineer in Bengaluru, said voters in Tamil Nadu are wary. "I can't go and say to a Hindi guy, brother, please quit your Hindi and start talking in Tamil. That's not going to work, will it?" he said.

One BJP candidate running for parliament in the state's capital of Chennai believes the party has its best shot in years at gaining support.

"His frequent visits are helping us," Tamilisai Soundararajan said. "People here were electrified when they saw the prime minister."

But the incumbent she's up against is doubtful. Hindu-centric politics won't resonate in a place with a long history of social justice and equal rights movements, said Thamizhachi Thangapandian, a retired college professor who is a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party, the BJP's strongest rival in Tamil Nadu.

The beat of drums and firecrackers welcomed Thangapandian as she greeted voters recently riding an open-roofed tuk-tuk through Chennai's alleyways. The achievements of her party blared through a set of speakers, including a reference to keeping out the "religion crazy" BJP.

Modi routinely mentions on the campaign trail the recent construction of a Hindu temple atop a razed mosque, but the issue doesn't animate voters in southern India like it does elsewhere.

Southern India is home to

some of the country's most visited temples and has millions of Hindu devotees. What sets it apart, experts say, is that religion hasn't been weaponized for political gain.

"People are religious here," said Muralidharan, the political analyst. "But it doesn't convert into a frenzy."

The BJP's religious zealotry makes leaders in the region nervous because of its potential to create a "disturbance to the peace" in a place with a global reputation as a good place to do business, said G Sundararajan, a robotics entrepreneur in Chennai, where Hyundai and Foxconn (the maker of Apple iPhones) have located factories.

"Investors prefer Tamil Nadu precisely because its peaceful, has a large educated labor force and support from local government," he said.

Modi tempers his Hindu-nationalist rhetoric while visiting the south, focusing his speeches instead on economics. For example, he has promised to build a high-speed rail line that would run through southern India and to help develop fisheries and auto manufacturing.

TENSION OVER REDISTRIBUTING WEALTH

The economy of southern India is more industrialized than the north, its cities are more urbanized, and its youth are more educated.

Southern Indian cities have also become a magnet for global technology companies seeking to

diversify beyond China, including Apple and Google. The vast potential for India's economy, now the world's fifth-largest, is a point of pride for Modi.

But political leaders in southern India feel short-changed by Modi.

Tamil Nadu, India's second-wealthiest state, receives far less in return for every rupee in taxes it pays compared with poorer northern states like Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, which receive government investments equal to two or three times the amount they pay in taxes.

This tension over the redistribution of wealth from south to north existed long before Modi came to power. But the BJP has made it worse.

Southern leaders believe Modi's priorities lie in the north, where he derives the bulk of his support. They worry that the BJP government will snatch away even more decision-making power from states if their majority grows, said Muralidharan.

Southern leaders have protested against the Modi government for holding up development funding, for misusing federal agencies to target political opponents in the region, and for not sending enough emergency relief after natural disasters.

And they believe their fight against the BJP and Modi is existential.

"In southern India, the threat of being reduced to a vassal state is a serious problem," said Neelakantan, the political analyst. **MDT/AP**

FOR PALESTINE

Police break up pro-Palestinian student protest in Berlin as demos spread across Europe

MIKE CORDER & BARBARA, AMSTERDAM

BERLIN police yesterday broke up a protest by several hundred pro-Palestinian activists who had occupied a courtyard on Berlin's Free University earlier in the day. The protesters had put up about 20 tents and formed a human chain around the tents.

Police called on the students via loudspeakers to leave the campus.

Most protesters had covered their faces with medical masks and had draped kufiyahs around their heads, shouting slogans like "viva, viva Palestina."

In recent days, students have held protests or set up encampments in Finland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France and Britain, following earlier protests that have roiled U.S. campuses.

Dutch police arrested about 125 activists as they broke up a pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the University of Amsterdam, as protests that have roiled campuses in the United States spread across Europe.

Students held protests or set up encampments in Finland, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and in Britain. There have also been demonstrations in recent days at campuses in France.

Amsterdam police said on the social media platform X that their action was "necessary to restore order" after protests turned violent. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Video from the scene aired by national broadcaster NOS shows police using a mechanical digger to push down barricades and officers with batons and shields moving in, beating some of the protesters and pulling down tents. Protesters had formed barricades from wooden pallets and bicycles, NOS reported.

The demonstrators occupied a small island at the university son Monday, calling for a break in academic ties with Israel over the war in Gaza.

After clearing the Amsterdam protest by early afternoon yesterday, police closed off the



Police arrests some 125 activists as they broke up a pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the University of Amsterdam

area by metal fences. Students sat along the banks of a nearby canal. The school said in a statement that police ended the demonstration at its Roeterseiland campus overnight "due to public order and safety concerns."

"The war between Israel and Hamas is having a major impact on individual students and staff," it said. "We share the anger and bewilderment over the war, and we understand that there are protests over it. We stress that within the university, dialogue about it is the only answer."

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters occupied a courtyard at Berlin's Free University yesterday. The protesters put up about 20 tents and formed a human chain around the encampment after the school's administrator said they were considering evacuating the protesters.

Police were called in and have been monitoring the protests. Most protesters had covered their faces with medical masks and had draped kufiyahs around their heads, chanting slogans like "viva, viva Palestina."

In Finland, dozens of protesters from the Students for Palestine solidarity group set up an encampment outside the main building at the University of Helsinki, saying they would stay there until the university, which is Finland's largest academic

institution, cuts academic ties with Israeli universities.

In Denmark, students set up a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Copenhagen, erecting about 45 tents outside the campus of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The university said students can protest but called on them to respect the rules on campus grounds.

"Seek dialogue, not conflict and make room for perspectives other than your own," the administrators said on X.

It said the administration "cannot and must not express an opinion on behalf of university employees and students about political matters, including about the ongoing conflict" in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

On their Facebook page, members of the activist group Students Against the Occupation said their attempts to talk to the administration over the past two years about withdrawing the school's investments from companies with ties to activities in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories have been in vain.

"We can no longer be satisfied with cautious dialogue that does not lead to concrete action," the group said.

In Germany, pro-Palestinian activists occupied a courtyard at the Free University in Berlin, German news agency dpa re-

ported.

Around 80 to 100 people were involved in the protest at the university, known as FU. Several tents could be seen in photos posted on Instagram by a group named the Student Coalition Berlin, dpa reported. The university's administration said it had ordered the removal of the protesters.

In Italy, students at the University of Bologna, one of the world's oldest universities, set up a tent encampment over the weekend to demand an end to the war in Gaza as Israel prepared an offensive in Rafah, despite pleas from its Western allies against it. Groups of students organized similar protests in Rome and Naples, which were largely peaceful.

More than a dozen tents were set up in a piazza named for a university student who fought against fascist rule during World War II. Some were decorated with Palestinian flags and a banner read "Student Intefadeh" or Student Uprising."

In Spain, dozens of students have spent over a week at a pro-Palestinian encampment on the University of Valencia campus. Similar camps were set up Monday at the University of Barcelona and at the University of the Basque Country. In Paris, student groups called for gatherings in solidarity with Palestinians later yesterday. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2000 SNEAK PREVIEW OF NEW TATE MODERN



The Tate Modern art gallery in London has opened its doors to the world's media ahead of the official opening by the Queen on May 11.

The world's largest modern art gallery is housed in a conversion of the former power station on Bankside which cost £134m and took four years to reconstruct.

The new museum will have enough space to display works long hidden from public view due to lack of space - international modern art from 1900 to the present day by the artists such as Dalí, Picasso, Matisse, Rothko and Warhol as well as contemporary work by Dorothy Cross, Gilbert & George and Susan Hiller.

The existing Tate Gallery further down the River Thames at Millbank has been renamed Tate Britain.

The BBC Arts correspondent, Rosie Millard, visited the gallery and described it as vast, with a cathedral-like quality which has earned it the nickname Cathedral of Cool.

Three giant towers loom up inside the former power station's 115ft-high turbine hall - retaining all the atmosphere of its industrial heritage.

From the former turbine hall visitors are swept up by escalator to some 84 galleries on three levels. The exhibits are illuminated by natural light from a translucent roof.

The Tate Modern is defying the traditional way of displaying art - it is not exhibited in chronological order or within the context of particular historical movements, but by themes such as landscapes or still life.

The aim, say the Tate Modern's curators, is to challenge people and make them look at art in a different way.

Director Lars Nittve believes all the effort has been worthwhile. "This gallery is unique in the world," he said. "For the first time, people will be able to see most of the Tate's 20th Century art collection. Before only a fragment of it could be displayed."

But art critic and broadcaster David Lee was not entirely impressed. "We need the Tate Modern and this is something we can build on, but I was a bit disappointed by the minimalism and austerity of it all."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Tate Modern, which also has branches in Liverpool and St Ives, Cornwall, has turned out to be a great success.

A year after it was officially opened by the Queen on 11 May 2000, some five million visitors had poured through its doors.

The two Swiss architects behind the conversion of Tate Modern from a power station, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, went on to win the prestigious Pritzker prize.

Spanish museum boss Vicente Todolí took over as the gallery's director in May 2002 after Lars Nittve decided to return to his native Sweden.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

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

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

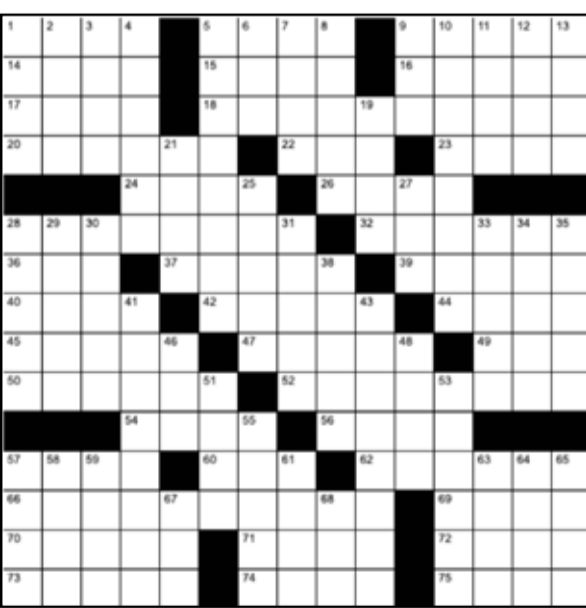
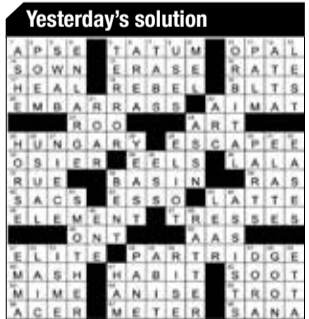
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	30	fine
Changchun	8	25	fine
Chengdu	18	25	rain
Chongqing	21	25	rain
Fuzhou	20	27	overcast
Guangzhou	22	28	rain
Guiyang	16	21	showers
Haikou	24	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	16	26	fine
Harbin	6	26	fine
Hefei	14	26	fine
Nanjing	16	23	fine
Shanghai	16	24	fine
Taipei	21	26	rain
Wuhan	16	30	fine
Hong Kong	23	27	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-2	6	rain and snow
Frankfurt	8	21	overcast
Paris	9	20	fine
London	11	21	cloudy
New York	16	28	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Ancient Athens's Temple of ___; 5- Consumer; 9- Indian state; 14- Greet the judge; 15- "Hud" star Patricia; 16- Cursed; 17- Carbonized fuel; 18- Oral religious instruction; 20- Workroom; 22- Horned viper; 23- Scottish boys; 24- ___ about (approximately); 26- Travel on water; 28- Cartographer; 32- Steeples; 36- Simian; 37- Hawaiian state birds; 39- ___ a customer; 40- Open infection, painful; 42- Ship floors; 44- Ancient France; 45- Antipasto morsel; 47- Ralph of "The Waltons"; 49- Old vitamin bottle abbr.; 50- Surprisingly; 52- Person who makes scents; 54- Numbered rds.; 56- Complete collections; 57- ___-bitsy; 60- "The X-Files" extras; 62- African fly; 66- Advocating government by the people; 69- Expensive; 70- Hotelier Helmsley; 71- Rolling in dough; 72- London gallery; 73- Perimeters; 74- Deuce beater; 75- Mine finds;

DOWN 1- Pendulum paths; 2- Urban uprising; 3- Son of Rebekah; 4- Rarely; 5- Raw; 6- Ocean; 7- I could ___ horse; 8- Like non-oyster months; 9- Volcano output; 10- Abnormal protuberance; 11- Slammin' Sammy; 12- Like the Gobi; 13- Shambles; 19- Tax experts; Abbr.; 21- ___ instant; 25- Continue a subscription; 27- Wall St. event; 28- Person who dresses stones; 29- Speed skater ___ Anton Ohno; 30- Risk; 31- Summary; 33- Give guns again; 34- Chopin composition; 35- Word with panel or energy; 38- Berlin's "Blue ___"; 41- Each person; 43- Elastic; 46- Body shop fig.; 48- Newts; 51- Clairvoyant; 53- Familiar with; 55- Kick off; 57- Not working; 58- Prepared to drive; 59- Problem with L.A.; 61- Paint can direction; 63- Shred; 64- Fill to excess; 65- "___ Tu"; 1974 hit; 67- ___ in Charlie; 68- Rocks;



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!**



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



CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

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

AP PHOTO



OLYMPICS

FROM MARSEILLE TO MONT-BLANC: THE JOURNEY OF THE TORCH TO PARIS

JEROME PUGMIRE,
MDT/AP SPORTS WRITER

THE Olympic torch will finally enter France when it reaches the southern seaport of Marseille today. And it's already been quite a journey.

After being lit on April 16 in Ancient Olympia, the torch was carried around Greece before leaving Athens aboard a three-mast ship named Belem, headed for Marseille.

The Belem was first used in 1896, the same year the modern Olympics came back. It will be accompanied by more than 1,000 boats as it parades around the Bay of Marseille, before arriving at the Vieux-Port, or Old Port, and docking on a pontoon resembling an athletics tracks.

Torch bearers will carry the flame across Marseille the next day, the last stretch running on the roof of the famed Stade Vélodrome, home to Marseille's passionate soccer fans.

After leaving Marseille, a vast relay route will be undertaken before the torch's odyssey ends with the opening ceremony of the Games on July 26 in Paris.

Here's a look at where the

torch goes before reaching Paris:

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

The torch is due to reach the famed and visually stunning site of Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy on May 31.

Located in an area of raised land surrounded by water, the island fortress looks like it was created for a Game of Thrones film set. But it's real, and very old.

So old that it already existed during the Hundred Years' War between England and France, from 1337 to 1453. An English attack was even fended off. Later it became a prison, and in 1979 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Every year swarms of tourists are in awe of its raw and haunting beauty.

ACROSS THE OCEANS

The torch travel route is even more unique considering it takes a detour through France's overseas territories called the Relais des Océans, or Ocean Relay. Riding the waves of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean, it will be in French Guiana on June 9 before hitting New Caledonia on

June 11.

Next is the island of Réunion at Saint-Denis — coincidentally the same name as the Paris suburb with the Olympic village — before reaching Paapeete in the surfing realm of Tahiti, then Baie-Mahault in Gadeloupe and finally Fort-de-France in Martinique.

The torch comes back to France on June 18 in the southern city of Nice.

FROM SEA BREEZE TO HEAVY CHEESE

Just five days after landing on French shores, the torch heads up the Alpine mountain pass of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc for Olympic Day on June 23.

The Haute-Savoie region is known for its outstanding Chamonix ski resort, which hosts World Cup races, for sweeping views across glacier fields to nearby Italy, and — some would say more importantly — as a producer of fine cheese.

A Cheese Olympics, should it be invented, would feature a sturdy crew of eight competitors from Savoie: Abondance, Beaufort, Chevrotin, Emmental, Reblochon, Tome, Tomme and the heavy-duty Raclette.

HEADING FOR PARIS

After leaving fromage-friendly Savoie, torch bearers will digest in the Doubs region of eastern France, and then visit the Alsace city of Strasbourg in the northeast.

Three days later the torch will reach Verdun, the site of one of the most horrific battles of World War I. From February to December 1916, more than 700,000 French and German soldiers were killed or wounded at the Battle of Verdun.

BASTILLE DAY ARRIVAL

The torch is to arrive on the streets of Paris on July 14 — hardly surprising, considering it's Bastille Day, France's national day.

The torch will stay the following day in Paris, then exit again before snaking back to the French capital via Versailles — home to the resplendent Royal Palace — and the suburbs of Nanterre on July 24 and Seine Saint-Denis on July 25.

From there, it's to travel a very short distance back to Paris on July 26 for the grandiose opening ceremony where athletes will parade on more than 80 boats at sunset on the Seine River.

FINAL DESTINATION?

After the nearly four-hour ceremony ends shortly after 11 p.m., the cauldron will be lit at a location that is being kept top-secret until the day itself. Among reported options are such iconic spots as the Eiffel Tower and the Tuileries Gardens outside the Louvre Museum.

FLAME PROTECTION

A total of 10,000 people will carry the torch along its route. Local police forces on each section of the relay will help to ensure security is high, providing a security bubble around the torch and its carrier.

ECO-FRIENDLY

The torches have a lower environmental impact than those used at previous Games. They burn biogas instead of propane and are recharged when fuel runs out.

Around 2,000 torches will be used compared to more than 10,000 before, according to Georgina Grenon, the director of environmental excellence at Paris 2024. The torches are made with recycled steel and not new aluminum.
MDT/AP

FOOTBALL

Coach Menotti, who led Argentina to its first world title in 1978, dies at 85

DÉBORA REYS, BUENOS AIRES

CÉSAR Luis Menotti, the charismatic coach who led Argentina to its first World Cup title in 1978, has died, the Argentine Football Association said this week. He was 85.

“Goodbye, dear Flaco!” the association’s statement added, using Menotti’s nickname which means “the thin one.”

The association did not give a cause of death. Local media reports said Menotti was admitted to a clinic in March with severe anemia. He reportedly underwent surgery for phlebitis in April and subsequently returned home.

Passion for soccer and a sharp ability to explain its mechanics were Menotti’s hallmark characteristics as a trainer, and he was considered one of the most emblematic and influential coaches in Argentine soccer.

Menotti was a political activist



Cesar Luis Menotti

and an affiliate member of the Argentine Communist Party, a boxing fan and an admirer of the works of Latin American writers Mario Benedetti, Gabriel García Márquez, Jorge Luis Borges, Mario Sábato and Joan Manuel Serrat, among others.

“Once I was interviewed by Borges, and when I asked him if it bothered him that I smoked, he told me: ‘What intoxicates me is

not the cigarette, but the stupid conversations,’” Menotti recalled in one of his last interviews.

“So, I asked about everything ... but not about soccer, because I know about soccer!” he added.

He launched his career as a player for Rosario Central (1960-1963 and 1967), then went to Racing Club (1964) and Boca Juniors (1965-1966), all Argentine clubs. Menotti played for the New

York Generals in the U.S. (1967), followed by Brazil’s Santos (1968) and Italy’s Juventus (1969-1970).

At Santos, he played alongside Pelé, whom he never hesitated to qualify as the best player among legends.

Menotti coached Argentina’s national team between 1974 and 1983. He was convinced the side did not get the recognition it deserved when it won the World Cup in 1978 because the country was ruled by a military junta responsible for widespread human rights violations. His detractors would often recall a photo in which Menotti, after the World Cup victory, shook hands with Jorge Rafael Videla, head of the military junta.

On the eve of the World Cup, Menotti left a 17-year-old Maradona off the squad — a decision the coach later said soured their relations for years.

Menotti coached Mexico’s national team in 1991-1992. He also led Barcelona (1983-1984), where

he had Maradona on his squad; Atletico Madrid (1987-88); Uruguay’s Penarol (1990-91); Italy’s Sampdoria (1997) and Mexico’s Tecos (2007) — his last coaching job.

For years, Menotti often had a cigarette hanging between his lips, but he mostly quit the habit in 2011 following a three-day hospitalization stemming from his tobacco addiction.

He also was known for wearing hair long but neat. He said he didn’t rely on hairdressers. “I cut my own hair. I take the scissors, I cut the ends.”

Menotti began leaving his hair long in the early 1970s. “One day I said to myself: ‘I won’t cut my hair until we lose.’ And we went 10 games undefeated, so it all started as a joke,” he said.

In his later years, Menotti said he didn’t fear death. “It’s the only thing I’m sure of. I don’t know anyone who hasn’t died at some point,” he said in 2014. **MDT/AP**

AD

仁德 CENTRO MÉDICO 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 lo

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

LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER

NOW ON SALE

法朵驕女
FADO FEMININITY

MARTA PEREIRA DA COSTA
秀麗今年澳門文學節
MARTA PEREIRA DA COSTA COMES TO HONG KONG
FOR 17th YEARS MACAU LITERARY FESTIVAL

創刊17周年
17 YEARS OF PUBLISHING

OPINION

THE CONVERSATION

Virginia Raguin, College of the Holy Cross



ARTISTS CREATED IMAGES OF CHRIST FOCUSED ON REFLECTING DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

In 1915, Norwegian artist Emanuel Vigeland, one of the most respected Scandinavian artists of his time, created an image of Christ with golden hair and fair skin.

Vigeland was well aware of a widely popular Bible illustrated by French artist James Tissot showing Christ as Middle Eastern with dark hair and brown skin. Tissot had spent many years in the Holy Land in the late 19th century, researching the “historical Jesus” as part of a new group of artists looking for historical accuracy.

Vigeland, however, was seeking a different tradition, one that saw a picture of Christ not as a photographic truth but as an image that communicated to the Norwegian community that Jesus was a brother.

Vigeland shows a handsome youth in front of a landscape of the New Jerusalem as described in the Bible. He used the elegant style of the day, art nouveau, to appeal to his modern community, helping the Norwegian onlooker bond with the image.

Sometimes, cultural pressures prevented people from representing Christ at all. In ancient Rome, early Christians often favored symbols or monograms of Christ’s name, possibly because they did not want to confuse Christ’s image with that of the emperor.

Figural representations became more popular in the fourth century, but symbols were still used. A stone sarcophagus in the Vatican Museums, for example, shows events leading up to Christ’s death. In the center, however, Christ’s triumphant resurrection from the dead shows only his cross surmounted with the monogram of Christ. It consists of the first two capital letters, and – called chi and rho – of the Greek word for Christ X.

The monumental Hagia Sophia in Constantinople – now Istanbul – was originally constructed as a cathedral. Built in 537 by the emperor Justinian, it was at first without figural imagery. About 300 years later, several pictures in mosaic were added – one attesting to the cathedral’s tradition of deep theological study.

It copies a revered icon housed in the monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, Egypt. The icon, most likely created in Constantinople as a gift to the monastery by Justinian, shows unusual asymmetry to signify Christ’s dual nature as both God and man. The two sides of Christ’s face are not the same, and the differences were meant to demonstrate his human nature and his divinity. Although different, both were truly joined in one body.

These were commissioned by the cathedral’s scholars in keeping with representing Christian mysteries and preserving tradition.

An Ethiopian book of the Gospels depicted Christ as eternally young, even as he wields all power on heaven and earth. In a way, it is similar to Vigeland’s image of the youthful ruler.

Christianity came to Ethiopia in the fourth century. From that time, Ethiopia continued to use abstracted forms to convey the mystery of Christ who lived and died yet also lives eternally. The manuscript’s illustration of the Ascension – Christ’s return to his father in heaven after his resurrection – depicts him as a child, holding a book in a circle of red.

He is surrounded by the winged symbols of the four Evangelists: Matthew (man), Mark (lion), Luke (bull) and John (eagle). Below, Christ’s disciples point upward to verify his ascension into glory. Their bold colors and powerful abstraction prefigure the paintings of Picasso – a demonstration that art, like Christ, can be both deeply of its time and beyond.

[Abridged]

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN DENIES MURDERING HER FORMER HUSBAND’S RELATIVES WITH POISONOUS MUSHROOM LUNCH

THE BUZZ

A woman accused of serving her ex-husband’s family poisonous mushrooms pleaded not guilty in an Australian court yesterday to three charges of murder and five charges of attempted murder. Erin Patterson, 49, appeared briefly in Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court by video link from a Melbourne prison, where she has been held since her arrest in November last year. She is accused of killing her former parents-in-law, Don and Gail Patterson, both 70, and Gail Patterson’s sister, Heather Wilkinson, 66. All three died in a hospital days after consuming a meal at Pat-

erson’s home in July.

She pleaded not guilty to all charges and will appear at Victoria state’s Supreme Court in Melbourne for the first time on May 23.

Proceedings have been fast-tracked after Patterson dispensed with a committal hearing where a magistrate would have examined the prosecution’s case to ensure there is sufficient evidence to warrant a jury trial.

She has not applied to be released on bail during any of her four court appearances.

AP PHOTO



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CHANGING NAME TO MORE INCLUSIVE SCOUTING AMERICA

JAMIE STENGLE, IRVING (TEXAS)

THE Boy Scouts of America is changing its name for the first time in its 114-year history and will become Scouting America. It’s a significant shift as the organization emerges from bankruptcy following a flood of sexual abuse claims and seeks to focus on inclusion.

The organization steeped in tradition has made seismic changes after decades of turmoil, from finally allowing gay youth to welcoming girls throughout its ranks. With an eye on increasing flagging membership numbers, the Irving, Texas-based organization announced the name change yesterday [Macau time] at its annual meeting in Florida.

“In the next 100 years we want any youth in America to feel very, very welcome to come into our programs,” Roger Krone, who took over last fall as president and chief executive officer, said in an interview before the announcement.

The organization began allowing gay youth in 2013 and ended a blanket ban on gay adult leaders in 2015. In 2017, it made the historic announce-

ment that girls would be accepted as Cub Scouts as of 2018 and into the flagship Boy Scout program — renamed Scouts BSA — in 2019.

There were nearly 1,000 young women in the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts in 2021, including Selby Chipman. The all-girls troop she was a founding member of in her hometown of Oak Ridge, North Carolina, has grown from five girls to nearly 50, and she thinks the name change will encourage even more girls to realize they can join.

“Girls were like: ‘You can join Boy Scouts of America?’” said Chipman, now a 20-year-old college student and assistant scoutmaster of her troop.

Within days of the announcement that girls would be allowed, Bob Brady went to work. A father of two girls and a proud Eagle Scout himself, the New Jersey attorney eagerly formed an all-girls troop. At their first weekend gathering with other troops, the boys were happy to have the girls involved but some adult leaders seemed concerned, he recalled.

Like other organizations, the scouts lost members during the pan-

demic, when participation was difficult. After a highpoint over the last decade of over 2 million members in 2018, the organization currently services just over 1 million youths, including more than 176,000 girls and young women. Membership peaked in 1972 at almost 5 million.

The move by the Boy Scouts to accept girls throughout their ranks strained a bond with the Girl Scouts of the USA, which sued, saying it created marketplace confusion and damaged their recruitment efforts. They reached a settlement agreement after a judge rejected those claims, saying both groups are free to use words like “scouts” and “scouting.”

The Boy Scouts’ \$2.4 billion bankruptcy reorganization plan took effect last year, allowing the organization to keep operating while compensating the more than 80,000 men who say they were sexually abused as children while scouting.

The organization won’t officially become Scouting America until Feb. 8, 2025, the organization’s 115th birthday. But Krone said he expects people will start immediately using the name. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Malaysia will not interfere in business relations between arms manufacturers and other countries, its defense minister said yesterday, after protesters demanded that the government expel companies that supply weapons to Israel from an international exhibition. More than 1,300 companies from 60 nations are participating in Defense Services Asia and the concurrent National Security Asia exhibitions that started Monday. The events are hosted and co-organized by Malaysia’s Defense Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry.

AP PHOTO



Russia Vladimir Putin began his fifth term yesterday as Russian leader at a glittering Kremlin inauguration, setting out on another six years in office after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands. At the ceremony inside the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of hand-picked dignitaries looked on.

AP PHOTO



Brazil A mayor in the south asked residents to ration water yesterday in a state capital where some 80% of the population is without running water, a week after massive flooding that has left at least 90 people dead and more than 130 missing. Efforts were continuing to rescue people stranded by the floods in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, as more rains were forecast for the region into next week. The capital, Porto Alegre, has been virtually cut off, with the airport and bus station closed and main roads blocked due to the floodwaters.