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CASINO GGR TO DROP IN JUNE DUE TO A COMBINATION OF WET WEATHER AND THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S UNIVERSITY ADMISSION EXAMS, CITIGROUP SAYS

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ORGANIZED CRIME GANG ARRESTED FOR STREET HEIST

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MACAU PAYLOAD SPECIALIST SELECTED FOR MANNED SPACE MISSION

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AP PHOTO



Thailand A fire at Bangkok's Chatuchak Weekend Market yesterday killed hundreds of caged animals. The blaze swept through over 100 pet shops, taking an hour to control. No human casualties were reported. Authorities are investigating the cause and estimating damage. The market, a major tourist attraction, has faced accusations of trafficking endangered species.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

Lawmaker Song Pek Kei wants local teachers to go training abroad while demanding the gov't allow non-resident students to enroll in Macau schools

P3

AP PHOTO



Singapore Airlines has offered compensation to passengers of a flight that hit extreme turbulence, resulting in one death and dozens of injuries. The Boeing 777 jet encountered turbulence over the Irrawaddy basin on May 20. The airline provided \$10,000 to those with minor injuries and \$25,000 to those needing long-term medical care. Full fare refunds are also offered.

RENATO MARQUES



AP PHOTO



South Korean troops fired warning shots when North Korean soldiers briefly crossed the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Sunday. The North Koreans, carrying construction tools, returned immediately. The incursion occurred amidst rising tensions, including propaganda broadcasts and balloon launches by both sides. South Korea believes the crossing was unintentional due to unclear border signs in the wooded area.

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RENATO MARQUES

AL DEBATES IMPACT OF TEENS' EXCESSIVE USE OF SMARTPHONES

THE impacts of excessive use of smartphones by the younger generations were debated at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday.

By the initiative of the lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, the topic was brought to a plenary session solely dedicated to a Q&A between lawmakers and government officials.

In the inquiry, Leong said the excessive use of smartphones by young people is problematic and can result in an addiction that disturbs both their social and educational development.

Although noting that smartphones are considered a vital tool nowadays, Leong said, "Society and those in charge of education pay a lot of attention to the physical and mental health of young people, especially the so-called 'Cyber-Natives' who, with the widespread use of smartphones, have formed the habit of not letting go of their cell phones, ignoring the benefits of reading on paper, which has gone digital, and cell phone addiction is a danger to young people's learning, life and health."

The lawmaker added that in addition to paying attention and carrying out studies to understand the influences of cell phone addiction on the learning and lives of young people, the government must implement the principle of



Leong Sun Iok

"giving priority to prevention and importance to education," defining measures to prevent young people from becoming addicted to their cell phones and having access to harmful information.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, said the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) is developing leaflets and other forms of communication to teach parents how to control what kind of content their children access via their cell phones, as well as to block certain types of content.

The Secretary also said mobile service operators in Macau can provide paid filtering services that parents can use to prevent their children from accessing unwanted content.

She said the DSEDJ is organizing a series of outdoor activities to boost young peoples' interest in physical and recreational activities, to restrict the time they use their cell phones.

Lawmaker Leong found the Secretary's proposals too simple and ineffective noting that "just to create leaflets and information

disclosure will not make any difference."

He said the issue is very serious and can be aggravated in cases where the youngsters not only access "harmful content" but are also targets of threats and bullying.

Leong said the possibility of parents filtering their children's access to content on the internet should not be a paid service; she wants the government to study the possibility of providing these services free of charge.

Ao Ieong said that if parents

suspect their children are at risk of addiction, "they should bring them to a hospital or healthcare center to seek professional advice on whether their children need to receive counseling."

After the insistence of several lawmakers on the same topic that spread the debate, the Secretary also said the DSEDJ is reviewing the local basic academic curriculum to include topics such as the correct use of the internet in subjects such as Moral and Civic Education as well as general knowledge of Information Technology to increase students' internet literacy.

She said that when concluded, teaching staff should also attend training courses and receive guidance on how to proceed regarding matters related to the use of the internet.

Several lawmakers, including José Pereira Coutinho, noted that young people are using mobile phones to browse and acquire products and services and so are also subject to being targeted by scams and other problems.

Lawmakers noted that more than restricting or inspecting, the government should provide help to parents to educate their children on the risks of the internet.

Macau payload specialist selected for manned space mission

NADIA SHAW

MACAU has secured a spot among nine other astronauts selected to take part in the upcoming manned space missions for the country.

The selection process for the fourth group of reserve astronauts for China's manned space project began in the second half of 2022 and involved three stages: preliminary selection, reselection, and final selection. In this selection, Macau hit a significant milestone - producing its first payload specialist.

Yesterday, the China Manned Space Agency



(CMSA) announced the selected candidates.

A total of 10 reserve astronauts were selected, two payload specialists - one from Macau and another

from Hong Kong.

The other eight astronauts will act as spacecraft pilots.

This is the first time representatives from Macau

and Hong Kong have participated in the selection process, which received strong support and enthusiastic participation from their local communities.

The 10 candidates will be part of the fourth batch at the Astronaut Center of China in Beijing, and will undergo comprehensive systems training in the capital. Outstanding candidates may even have the chance to work at China's Tiangong space station.

In response to the milestone, the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region issued a statement yesterday to express its appreciation for the Central Government's encouragement and support in the country's space exploration efforts.

The SAR is aiming to build infrastructure for scientific innovation, and train more qualified professionals in science and research, thereby encouraging Macau's involvement "to deepen exchanges and cooperation in the field of

aerospace science and technology," according to its statement.

China is one of three countries with independent human spaceflight capability (alongside the United States and Russia). China has trained 39 astronauts across three generations, with 22 of them participating in 13 flight missions so far.

This latest group of astronauts is expected to play a significant role in China's continued space exploration endeavors.

China's ambitions include sending astronauts to the moon by 2030 and establishing a permanent presence on the moon with lunar bases. Chinese space officials and publications have identified human missions to Mars as a long-term goal for around 2050, with no specific timeline announced yet.

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AL PLENARY

Lawmaker Song unhappy with the quality of Macau teachers

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Song Pek Kei is unhappy with the quality of local teaching staff, which she says is also unbalanced with too many teachers in non-tertiary education and too few in the tertiary education level.

Song claimed the government, over the last few years, has invested a significant amount in the improvement of school facilities but not in teaching staff.

"According to data from the 2023-2024 academic year, 46 teachers have a doctorate (representing 0.5%), 1,562 have a master's degree (representing 19.9%), 6,084 have a bachelor's degree (representing 77.1%), and 175 do not have a degree (representing 2.2%). The number of teachers with master's and doctorate degrees did not increase much compared to the 2016-2017 academic year," said the lawmaker.

"Since teaching staff can directly affect the quality of teaching, what measures does the government have in place to encourage teachers to attend in-service training courses? It will take expe-



Song Pek Kei

riences from abroad as a reference and support schools in creating a paid leave regime for training to improve the quality of the teaching staff and [consequently] of the teaching?" Song questioned.

In response, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, said that since the 2020-2021 academic year, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEDJ), with the support of China's Ministry of Education, has launched 900 training sessions for teachers with 35,000 slots for different education levels.

She added that additionally, all

teachers can participate, by their initiative, in updating courses and training sessions which are included in their training hours, which she claims has been happening with most teachers.

Ao Ieong also said that DSEDJ has a sabbatical leave subsidy dedicated to the knowledge update and recycling which supports financially those who decide to suspend teaching to take part in these programs.

Addressing the fact of the high number of teachers in non-tertiary education, the Secretary noted that this is a consequence of

the low birthrate of Macau and that DSEDJ is adjusting the situation among different schools, according to the size and target market.

Lawmaker Song wanted the government to solve an alleged problem with children of residents who are not residents and whom she claimed are unable to study in Macau. Ao Ieong denied that this was a legitimate issue, claiming that all children of those holders of permits to stay with a duration of over 90 days are entitled to study in Macau schools.

To the call for a special permit to allow non-resident students of non-tertiary level to be able to come to Macau to study, Ao Ieong said that the topic requires a social consensus to be reached. Song disagreed stating "The social consensus depends on the government."

As for tertiary education, the Secretary added that current government policies allow and facilitate the hiring of both local and non-local teachers for the local universities "in areas in which locals are rare." She also claimed that this applies to both public and private institutions.

CHINA SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS MACAU DRAGON BOAT RACE TITLES

After several intense rounds of competition, China's Nanhai Jiujiang team emerged victorious in both the Open and Women's categories of the Macao International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race (500m). In the Open final, Nanhai Jiujiang edged out the Thailand National Team and Macau Selection Team. In the Women's final, Nanhai Jiujiang held off a challenge from Indonesia's Rowing and Canoeing Association to claim the title. The Macao University Student Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race (500m) was won by Liaocheng University, followed by Nanyang Technological University of Singapore and Kasetsart University of Thailand.

REAL ESTATE LOANS ON THE RISE

The approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) both increased month-on-month in April 2024. Data from the Monetary Authority of Macao shows that in April 2024, new RMLs approved by banks rose by 53.7% month-on-month to MOP1.39 billion. Of which, new RMLs to residents, representing 99.0% of the total, grew by 52.4% to MOP1.38 billion; the non-resident component increased to MOP13.39 million. New CRELs increased by 73.5% month-on-month to MOP1.24 billion.

MGTO TO HOST ROADSHOW IN BANGKOK

The local government will host the "Experience Macao" Bangkok Roadshow at a shopping mall in Thailand for three consecutive days starting this Friday. A promotional and networking event on the latest Macau "tourism + convention and exhibition" offerings will take place Thursday. Data from the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) shows that Thailand ranked 8th among Macau's top ten tourist source markets and 5th among international tourist source markets from January to May this year, highlighting its significant potential as a key market in Southeast Asia.

AL PLENARY

Ao Ieong: Gov't improves support to special needs children

RENATO MARQUES

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong has said that the government has been working hard to improve support to children with special needs and that this can be seen in the services provided by the recently opened Center for Jointed Pediatric Evaluation (CACP).

According to the Secretary, in response to two inquiries from lawmakers Ngan Iek Hang and Ma Io Fong at the Legislative Assembly, the Center has enabled a significant reduction of the waiting time for several services and particularly for a first evaluation appointment.

"Currently, the waiting



The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Ao Ieong U, attends a plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, yesterday

time for a first appointment at the CACP is about four weeks. After assessment, children in need will receive occupational therapy or speech therapy according to the clinical

priority mechanism. For urgent cases there is no need to wait. For non-urgent and common cases, the waiting time for occupational therapy is around three to seven weeks

and around eight to nine weeks for speech therapy, which represents a significant reduction in waiting time compared to 12 to 18 months before the creation of the CACP," Ao Ieong said.

She said the health bureau has been committed to further reducing waiting times for medical treatment by extending their opening hours, increasing services on weekends as well as by acquiring early intervention services from other non-profit institutions which can provide them immediately.

The Secretary also noted the development of "speech therapy via Artificial Intelligence," a service launched a little over two years ago and which

allows children to receive training at home with the help of their parents.

She said this system is already implemented in several institutions that provide early intervention to children in need and that offer 3,000 slots for child rehabilitation.

"Until April this year, there were more than 1,600 children and more than 30,000 utilizations of this system," the same official said.

She also said that from the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year, the government will expand speech therapy services through the participation of parents and guardians together with the support of online language training and support measures to schools.

In the same academic year, she said the expected waiting time for physiotherapy or occupational therapy would be reduced from the current time of about six months to two to three months.



VICTORIA CHAN

CRIME

Drug trafficking bust nets over 100 grams and MOP400,000

STAFF REPORTER

AUTHORITIES have busted a drug trafficking operation, seizing over 119 grams of methamphetamine and arresting two Filipino suspects.

The suspects, identified as Pene, 42, and Bagaan, 37, were caught smuggling the drugs from Hong Kong into Macau on June 10, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

Pene, a non-permanent resident with a job in animal husbandry, was found with 88.8 grams of meth hidden in his underwear. Bagaan, a non-resident cleaner, had 30.6 grams concealed on his person.

The bureau had received intelligence a Filipino drug trafficking group was operating in the area. An investigation led them to the two men, who had traveled to Hong Kong to purchase the narcotics for resale in

Macau, primarily targeting the Filipino community.

The drug bust took a substantial amount of dangerous drugs off the streets and will help disrupt drug trafficking networks, protecting the community.

Both suspects have admitted to drug use and trafficking during questioning, though they have refused to provide further information. Urine tests confirmed the presence of methamphetamine.

Pene will be charged with drug trafficking and possession. Bagaan faces an additional charge of improper possession of drug paraphernalia. The case has been handed over to the Public Prosecutions Office.

Authorities said they will trace the source of the drugs and investigate any other individuals involved in the operation.

ORGANIZED CRIME GANG ARRESTED FOR STREET HEIST

STAFF REPORTER

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested four suspects from mainland China for gang-related theft.

The suspects aged 38, 49, 57, and 50 - all reportedly farmers from mainland China - allegedly targeted a male employee and his colleague in a meticulously planned street heist near a hotel in the central district, stealing a substantial amount of cash.

The incident occurred June 8 at approximately 5:30 p.m., when assailants with umbrellas attacked the two men near a hotel.

The victims were targeted as they made their way down the street, with the culprits using the opened umbrellas as a cover to execute their plan.

Despite failing to rob the victims on the spot, the criminals successfully pilfered MOP80,000 from the male employee's right pocket as he

entered the hotel.

Following a thorough investigation, the PJ's Crime Scene Investigation Division apprehended the four suspects allegedly involved in the crime.

It is alleged the suspects had been closely tailing the victims before carrying out their plan.

The first suspect created a diversion while the second discreetly stole the cash.

On June 10, the investigation team located the suspects in the same room, seizing the umbrella allegedly used during the crime and recovering MOP17,000, RMB1,900 and HKD1,100.

The four suspects have refused to cooperate with the investigation, displaying a high degree of counter-surveillance skills.

They are known to operate as a criminal gang, employing a systematic approach to their criminal activi-

ties. The investigation team believes the gang targeted the victims on the street and in hotels, coordinating their actions and quickly dispersing after the successful execution of their plan.

Police are urging citizens and tourists to be vigilant and safeguard their personal belongings to avoid falling victim to similar crimes. They have encouraged anyone who witnesses suspicious activities or who suspects theft on the streets or in hotels to promptly report it.

The police have said the four suspects are uncooperative, hindering the investigation.

However, they will charge the suspects with organized crime and domestic theft and seek justice through legal proceedings.

As the investigation continues, the authorities are determined to trace the whereabouts of the stolen funds and will explore all possible avenues.

EVENTS

CHILDREN'S ART FESTIVAL TO FEATURE OVER 45 ACTIVITIES

HOWARD TONG

THE 1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival this July will feature over 45 activities spanning more than 1,000 sessions, promising to be a "vibrant summer celebration of the arts."

The festival organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau will feature a vibrant lineup of performing arts, exhibitions, workshops and more - all aimed at encouraging children, youth and families to explore the arts.

"The Macau SAR Government always attaches great importance to local artistic education and promotion, offering a rich variety of artistic activities for families, and creating a favorable environment



for children and youth to learn about various arts," said Cultural Affairs Bureau director Deland Leong.

The festival has three key objectives: "provide high-quality, engaging performances and activities to develop children's aesthetic sensibilities and creativity; facilitate cultural exchanges by introducing

international children's arts programs and supporting local artistic development; and offer enriching, family-friendly experiences that integrate Macau's culture and tourism."

Notable performances include the Broadway musical "Annie," a Chinese children's drama "Lu Duan" by the Palace Museum, and

Spanish/Argentinian theater productions. Additionally, an interactive "Fantasy World of Pompidou Art" exhibition from the Pompidou Center in Paris will be featured, along with two overnight creative experience camps.

Beyond the stage, the festival will also engage young attendees through hands-

-on experiences. The immersive "Fantasy World of Pompidou Art" exhibition from the renowned Pompidou Center in Paris will spark creativity, while overnight "art camp" programs will let children explore multimedia workshops.

A robust film program, featuring both classic and contemporary titles, will take families on cinematic journeys. And on select weekends, a pop-up children's bookstore and a lively August "Children's Fun Day" art carnival will round out the festival.

"The 1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival will present a splendid artistic feast for children and youth in summer, thus creating an artistic journey for parents and children, and building a more harmonious, pleasant and sustainable society in Macau," added the director.

TOURISM

343,000 VISITORS DURING DRAGON BOAT HOLIDAY BREAK

THE Dragon Boat Festival holiday period saw a significant influx of visitors to Macau, according to the city's Public Security Police.

Between June 8 and June 10, 342,843 visitors entered Macau, representing a daily average of 114,280 arrivals.

June 9 saw the highest single-day visitor count, with 138,413 people arriving in the city.

June 10 was the actual Dragon Boat Festival public holiday, also known as Tuen Ng Festival, in Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China.

The local authorities did not provide any year-over-year comparison for the figures.

The Border Gate land crossing with neighboring Zhuhai in Guangdong province was the busiest entry point, accounting for 141,290 arrivals or 41.2% of the three-day total.

Another 80,086 visitors, or 23.4% of the total, crossed into Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. HT

PORTUGAL DAY

Ho Iat Seng praises Portuguese community's support in boosting local economy

LYNZY VALLES & NADIA SHAW

MACAU'S Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, praised the "exemplary" nature of Sino-Portuguese relations and the Portuguese community's unwavering support in driving the SAR's economic development during a reception celebrating Portugal and Camões Day Monday.

The event, hosted by Portuguese Minister of Justice Rita Júdice Alarcão and Consul General Alexandre Leitão brought together top officials from Portugal, Macau and mainland China.

In his address, Ho highlighted the strong ties between Macau and Portugal as "an exemplary model of cooperation and exchange between two countries with different social systems, historic backgrounds, and territorial dimensions."

He also noted the two sides have collaborated in each other's development across various fields, "including: trade, economy, scientific innovation, medicine, education and culture."

Ho emphasized the SAR's economic diversification, which has already shown "promising results," and expressed gratitude for the Portuguese community's support and cooperation with the Macau SAR Government's initiatives.

The Portuguese Consul General, Alexandre Leitão, commended the Portuguese community for its law-abiding nature, high productivity, and significant contributions to economic development.

He noted the number of people with Portuguese nationality in Macau has increased, making the city an attractive destination for those seeking work and a better life.



"The number of people with Portuguese nationality in Macau registered with the consulate has clearly increased...Macau continues to be an attractive city, where more and more people from outside come to work and enjoy life here... to create more opportunities and invest," Leitão said.

Encouraging mutual cultural exchange in the two communities, he added, helps maintain a deeper understanding and appreciation that will preserve the unique cultural heritage of Macau.

The visiting Portuguese Minister of Justice, Rita Alarcão Júdice, emphasized Lisbon's commitment to supporting the Portuguese community in Macau and the importance it places on its relations with China and Macau. She expressed the desire to "encourage more Portuguese to move to Macau and more Macau residents to visit Portugal."

The event marked the second ministerial-level visit by a member of Portugal's new cabinet this year, following Economy Minister Pedro Reis's participation in the Forum Macau Ministerial Meeting in April.

The visit underscored the

strong ties between Portugal and Macau.

Celebrations started at 9:30 a.m. with a ceremonial flag raising at the Portuguese Consulate, followed by the traditional pilgrimage to the Camões Grotto, honoring Portugal's national poet, before concluding with a reception in late afternoon.

This year, the celebration marks a significant milestone, as

it is the 500th anniversary of Camões' birth.

PSD-MACAU DEMANDS LEITÃO'S RESIGNATION

The Macau section of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) has called for the resignation of Leitão amid the controversial saga of the Portuguese School of Macau.

The party has accused him of orchestrating an attack on the Portuguese School of Macau Foundation, involving members and supporters of the Socialist Party.

In a letter to Lusa signed by António Sousa de Bessa Almeida, spokesperson for the PSD in Macau, the party called for the resignation before the celebration of Portugal Day, where the Portuguese Minister of Justice was present.

This comes after a wave of dismissals of several teachers was announced in recent weeks from the Portuguese school, which the PSD refused to believe is considered a "normal operation."

The allegations also include

innuendos about recently hired teachers who "are friends and the girlfriend" of the EPM director.

"In this communication we repudiate the recent statements made by the consul general of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, Alexandre Leitão, former socialist councilor of Coimbra, to TDM regarding the falsehood that the bodies of the Portuguese School of Macau Foundation are functioning normally, also denouncing the brazen assault by socialists including Alexandre Leitão on the Portuguese School of Macau Foundation without mandate or instructions from the Government of Portugal."

"Therefore, Alexandre Leitão must resign from the post of consul general of Portugal in Macau with immediate effect, remembering that the socialist era ended a few months ago," it added.

Over the weekend, the consul general has defended the school on internal hiring and restructuring allegations.

Speaking to TDM over the weekend, Leitão argued that there is a mandate for the Portuguese School of Macau Foundation, "there are corporate bodies, they have the responsibility to make decisions and they are responsible for the results. When we get to the moment of analyzing the results, we will be here, in the appropriate place, to ask questions, ask about the results and make the assessment that needs to be made."

AD MOST VOTED IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN MACAU CONSTITUENCY

THE Democratic Alliance (AD) emerged as the dominant political force in Macau during the European Elections, securing 31.33% of the votes. The center-right coalition, comprising of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Popular Party (CDS-PP), and the Popular Monarchist Party (PPM), collectively received 172 votes.

Official data reveals that the Socialist Party came in second with 129 votes, accounting for 23.5% of the total.

The far-right Chega party secured the third position with 66 votes, equivalent to 12.02%.

The Liberal Initiative obtained 10.92% of the votes with 60 votes, while LIVRE (Free) and Bloco de Esquerda (Left Block) received 33 and 28 votes respectively, falling below the 10% threshold.

Out of the 549 voters, the Communist CDU obtained 24 votes (4.37%) and the PAN received five votes. Additionally, there were nine blank or invalid votes.

According to Lusa News Agency, Macau's electoral universe shrank by over 17,000 voters, compared to previous European elections.

Data provided to the Times by the Portuguese Consulate General in Macau shows that there are a total of 53,318 registered voters in Macau for this election. This poll marks the inaugural opportunity for voters worldwide to cast their votes at the Consulate, provided they are registered.

At national level, PS won the elections in Portugal, grabbing 8 seats at the European Parliament, one more than the ruling AD. (See p8)

GAMING

Casino revenue faces June slump amid weather

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU'S casino gross gaming revenue (GGR) is expected to see a low point this year in June, due to a combination of exceptionally wet weather and the impact of China's university admission exams on fa-

mily leisure activities, according to a report by banking institution Citigroup.

Analysts George Choi and Ryan Cheung, in their latest monthly survey of Macau's table game business conducted June 7, recommended that investors "treat this month's data point as the

floor for Macau's GGR run rate this year."

The analysts noted that total premium mass wagers in June were approximately 10% higher year-on-year, reaching HKD10.0 million (US\$1.3 million), compared to HKD9.1 million in June 2023. However, the number

of premium mass players observed was around 31% higher year-on-year, while the average wager per player declined by approximately 16% to HKD18,478.

Citigroup attributed the year-on-year drop in premium mass player quality to the high base in June

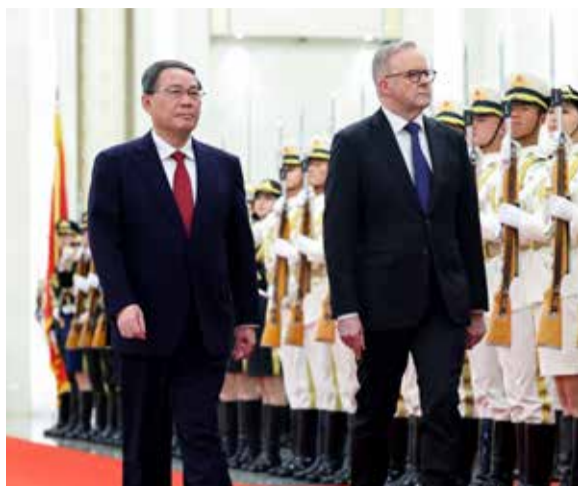
2023, when Sands China Ltd hosted 12 shows by renowned Cantopop singer Jacky Cheung, drawing a large number of high rollers to Macau.

The report also noted the number of June 2024 "whales" - players betting HKD100,000 or more per

hand - remained flat year-on-year at 16. However, the bank's "player of the month" was a gambler at a Horizon-branded room at Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd's Galaxy Macau resort on Cotai, who wagered HKD1 million, making them a "player of the year candidate."

Citigroup said the last time they witnessed a seven-figure bet was in November 2019, when a player bet HKD1.7 million.

XINHUA



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese walks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang during a ceremonial welcome at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, last November

DIPLOMACY

Chinese premier to visit Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang will visit New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia starting tomorrow, officials said.

Li will visit the three countries from June 13 to 20, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said yesterday.

Australia earlier announced that Li would land in the Australian city of Adelaide on June 15 and leave Perth on June 18.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Li are to hold an annual leaders' meeting at Parliament House in the Australian capital, Canberra, during the visit.

The New Zealand and Malaysian governments have yet to announce Li's itinerary in their countries.

Li's visit to Australia and New Zealand will be the first by a Chinese premier, the second most powerful official in China's leadership, in seven years. A Chinese premier hasn't visited Malaysia since 2015.

Li's Australian trip follows a visit by Albanese to Beijing last November, when leaders agreed to resume key bilateral dialogues and further several areas of cooperation.

China imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that cost Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year after Australia's previous government urged an international inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of those barriers have been removed since Albanese's government was elected in 2022.

Albanese said he would push for barriers to Australian lobster to be lifted and for imprisoned Australian democracy blogger Yang Hengjuno to be freed.

"Premier Li Qiang's visit to Australia is an important opportunity to engage directly on key issues for both our nations," Albanese said.

"Australia continues to pursue a stable and direct relationship with China, with dialogue at its core," he said.

New Zealand officials say their discussions with Li will focus on their aim to double the value of the nation's exports to China in a decade.

New Zealand has traditionally sought to balance its trade relationship with China with the interests of its Western allies in the Five Eyes intelligence sharing partnership, who have more assertively decried China's growing influence in the region. Malaysia has similarly resisted taking sides in the U.S.-China rivalry. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Top Canadian judge will step down from top court following other resignations

A former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada is stepping down from Hong Kong's top court, city officials said Monday, the latest overseas judge to resign from the court amid concerns about judicial independence.

Hong Kong's judiciary confirmed said Beverly McLachlin will complete her term as a non-permanent overseas judge at Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal, without giving more details.

Canadian media outlets reported McLachlin noted in her statement that she has reached 80 years of age and will retire from that position when her term ends in July. She said she intended to spend more time with her family and she continues to have confidence in the members of the court and their independence, the reports said.

Also Monday, a British judge who resigned from the same court last week said he stepped down because the rule of law in the city is in "grave danger."

Jonathan Sumption, who had served as a non-permanent overseas judge on Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal, said that



judges are being intimidated by a "darkening political mood" in the Asian financial hub in an article published by the Financial Times on Monday.

McLachlin and Sumption were the latest of several overseas judges who have quit Hong Kong's highest court in recent years.

The city government expressed its strong disagreement with Sumption's comments in a lengthy statement yesterday. It insisted the city's courts are not under any political pressure from Chinese authorities or the local government when handling cases, and said the rule of law in the

financial hub has not declined.

Andrew Cheung, chief justice of the city's top court, said in a statement that any suggestion that judicial decisions has or could be compromised is a serious allegation and should not be lightly made. He said there is tension between protecting fundamental rights and safeguarding national security, but the city's judiciary is committed to both causes.

"It is one thing to disagree with a court's decision, but it is quite another to suggest that fundamental rights have been compromised because of poli-

tical concerns," he said.

Hong Kong's leader, John Lee, doubled down in his weekly news briefing, saying the professional duty of judges is to interpret and apply law in accordance with legal principles and evidence, regardless of their political views about a certain law.

Lee said Sumption in 2021 wrote about people's confusion between democracy and the rule of law and his latest statement appears to be contradictory to his previous stance.

Lee also said some British officials and politicians have attempted to "weaponize" the U.K. judicial influence to target China and Hong Kong and the city should not allow that.

"It is sad and disappointing that our judges are abandoned by a few overseas counterparts and have been so unfairly treated," he said.

Another judge, Lawrence Collins, resigned last week, telling The Associated Press that his departure was "because of the political situation in Hong Kong. But he said he continues

"to have the fullest confidence in the court and the total independence of its members." **MDT/AP**

CRIME

FOUR US COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS TEACHING AT BEIHUA U ATTACKED IN PUBLIC PARK

FOUR instructors from Iowa's Cornell College teaching at Beihua University in northeastern China were attacked in a public park, reportedly with a knife, officials at the U.S. school and the State Department said.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese authorities about these reports.

Cornell College President Jonathan Brand said in a statement that the instructors were attacked while at the park with a faculty member from Beihua, which is in an outlying part of the industrial city of Jilin.

The State Department said in a

statement it was aware of reports of a stabbing and was monitoring the situation.

Details on the extent of the instructors' injuries and whether the attack was targeted or random were unclear Monday. Cornell spokesperson Jen Visser said in an email that the college was still gathering information on what happened.

Chinese news media outlets had not reported it. Some social media accounts posted foreign media reports about the attack, but a hashtag about it was blocked on a popular portal.

The attack happened as both

Beijing and Washington are seeking to maintain people-to-people exchanges to help bolster relations amid tensions over trade and such international issues as Taiwan, the South China Sea and the war in Ukraine.

Visser, the Cornell spokesperson, said the private college in Mount Vernon, Iowa, partners with Beihua University. A college news release from 2018, when the program started, says Beihua provides funding for Cornell professors to travel to China to teach a portion of courses in computer science, mathematics and physics over a two-week period **MDT/AP**

PHILIPPINE WORLD

A growing Filipino diaspora means plenty of celebration worldwide for Independence Day

IN the Philippines — where Spanish and later U.S. colonial rule persisted for nearly four centuries — June 12 is the real Independence Day. That date in 1898 was the pivotal moment when the island nation first made a bold move for autonomy.

Ahead of this year's holiday in Manila, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called on Filipinos in a video message to display the country's flag everywhere "as we continue to fight for independence. Independence in different aspects of our being Filipinos, but more than this independence in our territory, our sovereignty."

Since 2023, the Philippines has faced increasingly tense territorial confrontations with Beijing in the South China Sea.

The much-awaited annual celebration would be festive with an array of activities, which started Monday at the capital's historic Rizal Park, Marcos said. There's a bazaar along with government stalls offering services to the public. The festivities include a cooking competition, a chili pepper-eating contest, free showing of movies about Filipino heroes, free nightly concerts and an obstacle-course race. A parade of 22 floats representing different provinces will be staged on Independence Day to be capped by a musical concert, he said.

The revelry surrounding Philippine Independence Day stretches far beyond the Southeast Asia archipelago, from the United Kingdom to the United Arab Emirates and to Macau and Hong Kong.

Millions of Filipinos across cities in the U.S., Europe and Australia will be able to find parades, street fairs, galas and other gatherings close to home. Some are even flying in well-known talent from the Philippines. The occasion's growing reach and inclusive ethos demonstrate how much the Filipino diaspora continues to assert cultural pride and flourish around the globe.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The fight for independence dates back to 1565 when Spain colonized the Philippines, naming it for King Philip II. It wasn't until 1896 though that talk of revolution catalyzed action. Andrés Bonifacio, a leader of the Katipunan, a brotherhood of anti-Spain revolutionaries, and others tore up their "cedulas," residential tax



A Philippine Independence Day parade in New York, last week

certificates for people considered Spanish subjects.

"It's like tearing your passport or whatever identifies you as a citizen of a nation," said Richard Chu, a history professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who was born in the Philippines. "So, they tore that up symbolically as a break and declared independence — or at least (were) fighting for independence from Spain."

Emilio Aguinaldo, also a member of the Katipunan, saw an opportunity for liberation when the U.S. declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898, over its treatment of Cuba. On June 12, he proclaimed independence and a year later, even became the first president of the Philippine Republic. But, the U.S. refused to recognize the country as a stand-alone territory, igniting the Philippine-American War, which lasted until April 1902.

78 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

The Philippines finally became independent on July 4, 1946. So, the Fourth of July was the traditional holiday until President Diosdado Macapagal changed it in 1964 to June 12.

As a child in the '70s, Chu remembers watching preparations in Rizal Park. Festivities started in the morning with the senior Marcos raising the flag as cabinet and military officers looked on. The parade was more of a "military parade followed by people from different government agencies."

"It's supposed to be a festive

celebration and every other city or major town would have its own Independence Day celebrations," Chu said.

Independence Day may evoke mixed feelings for some who don't have the same nationalist fervor or agree with its government's policies. This is one reason Chu doesn't feel an urgent need to mark the holiday. At the same time, he likes being with other Filipinos in his community.

"If I lived in Boston, I probably would participate just because of the festivities, like the food vendors and maybe some popular Filipino American scenery," Chu said. "I am proud to be Filipino for sure."

FESTIVITIES IN THE US

New York City held a parade and a street fair along Madison Avenue on June 2. The same weekend in Seattle there was a two-day Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival. There have been large fiestas and smaller picnics in Texas, California and Colorado, among other states.

In Phoenix, the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team is holding its first-ever Filipino Heritage Celebration at today's game against the Los Angeles Angels.

Amilyn Pierce, who is part Filipino and the Diamondbacks' vice-president of government affairs, credits a team business consultant who is also Filipino, Hunter Fitton, with pitching the Independence Day event. He pointed out high presence of Filipinos in

the state. He also recruited local Filipino dance groups and food trucks. Diamondbacks caps with the Philippines flag also sold out.

"I was surprised to find that out that there was such a huge Filipino community," Pierce said. "I just really love that the team has made it a priority to reach outside of maybe what someone might think is the normal or the stereotypical demographic."

CELEBRATIONS IN EUROPE

Across countries in Europe, there are large gatherings with longstanding reputations. Given that the Filipino diaspora is one of the largest diaspora populations in the world, it's not surprising how many celebrations there are, said Chu, the Amherst professor.

In the Netherlands, the Kalayann Fiesta Foundation Netherlands held an Independence Day Picnic over the weekend. Ice Seguerra, a popular Filipino actor and singer-songwriter who is a transgender man, was the guest performer.

Journey Torres, who immigrated to the Netherlands from the Philippines in 1999 when he was 8, recalls going to a Philippine Independence Day event in Amsterdam two years later. He described it as having the atmosphere of a small "family barbecue party." There weren't many other Filipinos then. But by the 2010s, jobs and cultural exchange programs brought more. The event gained more notoriety with Filipinos coming

from Germany and Belgium.

"Now there are also busses that goes from Belgium to the Netherlands," Torres said. "I believe it's one of the first Philippine Independence Day celebrations that was organized here in mainland Europe."

The Philippine Independence Day Association in Rome has been organizing events for over 15 years in hotels, parks and piazzas. They seem to keep getting bigger and drawing Filipinos from all over Italy, said Jaiane Morales, the event's programming deputy.

This year's daylong fete, which was Sunday, took place inside a concert hall but with Pinoy food stalls outside that, among other fare, served the traditional Filipino ice cream dessert of halo halo as well as the Italian classic gelato. The goal is to have a feast of food and "Filipiniana costumes," Morales said.

The theme of the event's talent show, "Balik Saya" or "returning joy," is meant to foster meaningful connection abroad. Millions of Filipinos have departed the Philippines, a leading source of global labor, in search of jobs and better opportunities to earn and provide for loved ones they've left behind.

"If they are missing their families at home, then this is one way of easing that loneliness," Morales said.

FROM MACAU TO HONG KONG

The Philippine Consulate General in Macau will commemorate the 126th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day today with a reception to be held at the Artyzen Grand Lapa. The celebration will gather invited Filipino community members in the city, and will be hosted by the Consul General.

On Sunday, the Filipino community in Hong Kong celebrated Independence Day with a vibrant event on Chater Road in Central. The celebration, titled "Kapangyawan Friendship Festival," was organized by the Philippine Consulate General to promote closer ties between the Philippines and Hong Kong.

The festivities featured a colorful cultural parade led by officers of the Consulate, exciting street performances, and lively line dances. The celebration continued with the Philippine Association of Hong Kong's Independence Day Ball, held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui. Titled "Hiraya," meaning "I hope" or "Imagination," the charity event attracted around 300 attendees.

The gala event raised funds for four beneficiaries: the Bayanihan Trust, Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge, Wimler Foundation, and FullPhils. The celebration showcased the vibrant culture and strong community spirit of the Filipino diaspora in Hong Kong, while fostering closer ties between the two nations.

MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Winners and allies: Giorgia Meloni and Marine Le Pen

EU ELECTIONS

Italy's Meloni fortified by a vote that shook French, German leaders

ITALIAN Premier Giorgia Meloni hosts this week's summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations as the most stable European Union leader.

Meloni's German and French counterparts were shaken by European parliamentary elections that fortified Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy as the strongest in Italy, setting her up as a possible bridge maker, if not kingmaker, in Europe.

Meloni's solid results create a rare stability in Italian politics, as far-right parties rattled both French President Emmanuel Macron, who called snap elections after his party was eclipsed by Marine Le Pen's National Rally, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, whose authority suffered a jolt after the far-right Alternative for Germany finished second, beating his Social Democrats.

"I am proud that this nation presents itself at the G7, and in Europe, as the strongest government of all," Meloni told supporters early Monday. "This is something that has never happened in the past, and which is happening now. It is a satisfaction, and also a great responsibility."

Though the leader of a far-right party, Meloni continues to hew to the center, particularly on foreign policy, which has made her a reassuring trans-Atlantic partner as wars rage in Ukraine and Gaza.

She will solidify the role this week, leading the G7 meeting in the southern Puglia region

from June 13-15, focusing on global conflicts, the spread of AI and on Africa, with a view in particular to Italy's longstanding concern about uncontrolled migration and human traffickers.

"Meloni is the moderate face of this right-wing bunch," said analyst Matteo Villa of the IPSI think tank in Milan. "Meloni is poised as a moderate center-right party now that has much consensus that can act as a bridge between the far right and the center right. Meloni is narrating herself as a much more moderate leader."

While Meloni won office with a campaign she promised a full naval blockade of charity ships rescuing migrants from drowning in the Mediterranean, Villa noted that she moderated her policy in office and has instead directed the rescue ships to northern ports far from the search-and-rescue area. Such a policy is still protested by charities but is far from a blockade.

"These policies have changed, they have become more pragmatic," Villa said.

As a result, Meloni is winning support from voters that don't necessarily identify as far-right.

Brothers of Italy won 28.8% of the Italian vote in two days of polling in Italy that boosted their majority from national elections less than two years ago. The results also confirmed Meloni's dominance in the governing coalition with right-wing anti-migrant Lega, led by Matteo Salvini, and the

center-right Forza Italia party, led by Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani since founder Silvio Berlusconi's death last year. Forza Italia won 9.6% of the vote, and Lega plunged to 9%.

The opposition Democratic Party also was strengthened, finishing with 24% of the vote and significantly narrowing the gap with Brothers of Italy. The result re-establishes the Democratic Party as the main opposition party, as the 5-Star Movement, which launched 15 years ago as a protest movement and headed the government in 2018-21, continued its downward trajectory to 10% of the vote.

"We continue like a hammer every day to nail the Meloni government on social and wage issues that it ignores," PD leader Elly Schlein said Monday. "Of course, we will do so by working stubbornly, in a united way, to build an alternative that this country needs to this right."

"Giorgia Meloni, we are coming," Schlein said.

MACRON'S PARTY DEBACLE

The surge of the far right in France in elections for the European Parliament was widely expected. What came next was not.

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a snap legislative election, saying he could not ignore the new political reality after his pro-European party was handed a chastening defeat and projected to garner less than half the support of Marine Le Pen's

National Rally.

He hopes that voters will band together to contain the far right in national elections in a way they didn't in European ones.

But Sunday's decision to dissolve parliament and send to the polls voters who just expressed their discontent with Macron's politics was a risky move that could result in the French far right leading a government for the first time since World War II.

Macron, who has three years left on his second and final presidential term, would then have to find a way to work with a prime minister from a party that deeply opposes most of his policies.

Despite the rise of the far-right across the 27-union block, the majority of MEPs belong to the pro-European main groups of center-right (PPE) and center-left (S&D) that have been in charge of the EU since its establishment.

On the other hand, the social media played an outsized role in the victories of a few candidates, prompting chatter in the political classes about its apparent role as an equalizer for unknown hopefuls as voters in dozens of democracies go to the polls this year, including in Britain, France and the United States.

Voters in the parliament's 27 countries in recent days also elected candidates who are in prison, have been kicked out of their delegation and withdrew from the election only to win seats, anyway. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1986 LABOUR EXPELS MILITANT HATTON



Derek Hatton, the controversial deputy leader of Liverpool Council, has been thrown out of the Labour Party for belonging to the left-wing Militant faction.

Mr Hatton, who refused to attend his disciplinary hearing in London, condemned the move as "disgraceful and scandalous".

Labour leader Neil Kinnock missed Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons to lead the charges against Mr Hatton at a meeting of the party's national executive, winning the vote to expel the radical socialist by 12 to six.

The decision came after a day of frantic legal attempts by Militant supporters to prevent the hearing from going ahead.

They failed, and the outspoken 38-year-old was found guilty of membership of the Militant Tendency and of manipulating the rules of the district Labour Party.

Speaking after the vote, Mr Kinnock said party members had a duty to uphold Labour's constitution.

"When it can be demonstrated that people are contradicting that constitution in serious forms then they have to be dealt with," he said.

But a defiant Mr Hatton insisted his expulsion would not be recognised by rank-and-file party members, and vowed to continue his fight against spending cuts in Liverpool.

"Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country are saying they are sick and tired of Neil Kinnock and other members of the national executive committee taking on socialists in the party," he said.

"They are sick and tired of Neil Kinnock being more concerned about the millionaire tendency who control the press, than he is about the rank and file of the labour and trade union movement".

Further disciplinary hearings are due to take place, in what supporters of Militant are describing as a "witch-hunt" of socialists within the party.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Militant, a faction inside the Labour Party advocating Trotskyist policies, emerged in the 1970s. In 1982 it was judged to have broken party rules, paving the way for the purge of 1986.

A year earlier Labour leader Neil Kinnock used his conference speech to launch a furious attack on Militant, and particularly Liverpool Council, which had clashed with the Conservative government over its budget.

Mr Kinnock feared the Labour-controlled council was harming the party's image and his attempts to win a general election.

After his expulsion from Labour, Derek Hatton pursued a career in the media, hosting a Liverpool radio phone-in and appearing on various TV talk shows. He also became an after-dinner speaker and at one time even modelled menswear.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Relax. Have fun with creative projects. Avoid traffic, noise or risky situations. Words get farther than actions today. Revise work carefully. Connect with someone beloved.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Home draws you in. Avoid stressful situations. Savor domestic comforts and projects. Clean and organize. Cook up something interesting. Savor the results.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Capture creative ideas onto paper or screen. Put them into words, sketches and soundbites. Share and network to discover collaboration, resources and connection.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Grab lucrative opportunities to address short-term cash flow needs. Simplify plans and expenses. Dig for resources and find them. Stash some away for later.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're in the spotlight... smile for the cameras. Notice doubts and let them go. Patiently persist. Focus on personal advancement. Follow your own drummer.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Your creative imagination runs wild. Don't worry about the future. Focus on present practicalities, here and now. Discover inventive solutions. Savor delicious rituals.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Grow stronger together with friends and allies. Connect and coordinate strategies. Teamwork propels an idea farther and faster. Set the pace and gather accomplishments.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Stay flexible with professional projects. Don't push something that's not ready. Strengthen basic support structures. Communication gets farther than action.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Explore your own backyard. Avoid traffic, crowds or chaos. Discover new sides of familiar places. Study and investigate a puzzle. Connect the dots.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Study lucrative opportunities with your partner. Coordinate now for action later. Work together to get farther, faster. Navigate around changes. Update financial plans and structures.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Connect with your partner. Let petty grievances go. Look for common ground. Cooperation and collaboration provide synergy, fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Listen for possibilities.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Maintain healthy physical practices despite your busy schedule. Slow to avoid accidents or mistakes. Nurture yourself for strength and endurance. Rest and recharge.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

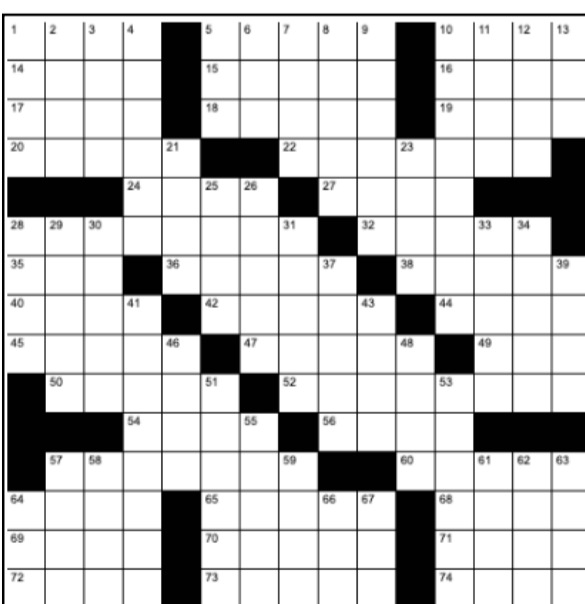
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	38	cloudy
Changchun	18	27	rain
Chengdu	19	33	cloudy
Chongqing	22	32	cloudy
Fuzhou	25	33	rain
Guangzhou	26	32	thunderstorms
Guiyang	19	26	showers
Haikou	26	35	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	22	31	cloudy
Harbin	16	26	thunderstorms
Hefei	21	35	fine
Nanjing	23	33	cloudy
Shanghai	21	29	overcast
Taipei	25	31	overcast
Wuhan	23	34	fine
Hong Kong	29	31	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	17	25	thunderstorms
Frankfurt	7	19	cloudy
Paris	9	19	cloudy
London	9	17	cloudy
New York	19	27	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Honey producers; 5- Challenger; 10- Baseball glove; 14- Prefix with present; 15- Low-budget prefix; 16- Vicinity; 17- Trig ratio; 18- Slightest; 19- Few and far between; 20- Necklace fastener; 22- Bipartite philosophy; 24- And here it is!; 27- French state; 28- Dire warning; 32- Select group; 35- Rage; 36- Course with pluses and minuses; 38- Compile, accumulate; 40- Kingly address; 42- Uproar; 44- Literary lioness; 45- Retains; 47- Cowboy display; 49- ___ the ramparts we watched...; 50- One on slopes; 52- Large handkerchief; 54- Gin flavoring; 56- Dates; 57- Duple; 60- Killed; 64- Female servant; 65- Phase; 68- Sea-going eagle; 69- Major ending?; 70- Printer refill; 71- Suffix with exist; 72- Contented sighs; 73- Entrap; 74- Bosc;

DOWN 1- Pear variety; 2- Runner Zatopek; 3- Sicilian resort; 4- Middy nap; 5- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 6- Hotshot; 7- Highway; 8- Follow; 9- Revolve; 10- Bordering on the sea; 11- Some nest eggs; 12- School period; 13- ___ kwon do; 21- Inner surface of the hand; 23- In ___ land; 25- Unwilling to listen; 26- Pianist Rubinstein; 28- Hazard; 29- Great Lakes tribesmen; 30- Jeter of the Yankees; 31- Pulsate; 33- Claw; 34- Ruhr Valley city; 37- Fountain treats; 39- Franklin D.'s mother; 41- Serial parts; 43- Russo of "Ransom"; 46- Ego; 48- Lofty poems; 51- Perches; 53- Out, in bed; 55- Singer John; 57- Toodle-oo!; 58- Accompanied by; 59- Comedian Carvey; 61- "Judith" composer; 62- Machu Picchu resident; 63- At no time, poetically; 64- Oh, give ___ home...; 66- Neth. neighbor; 67- Before, to bars;



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



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VA FAT (Taipa Village)
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77.10 m² / 830 ft² | HKD3,780,000



Nam Long (Taipa)
2 bed 1 bath
59.92 m² / 645 ft² | HKD3,650,000



Jade Garden (Taipa)
4 bed 3 bath
379.04 m² / 4,080 ft² | HKD 11,880,000



Grand Oasis Residence Amber (Coloane)
Studio
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BOXING

Ricky Hatton, Michael Moorer strike different tones in leading their class into Hall of Fame

RICKY Hatton laughed his way through his Hall of Fame induction speech, marveling at the places boxing took him and the thousands of his fans that would always follow.

"I had some wars, didn't I?" Hatton said last weekend. "When I think back at the Kostya Tszyu fight, Floyd Mayweather fight, Manny Pacquiao fight and my toughest fight, my divorce."

Michael Moorer took a more serious tone with a plea for safer conditions for boxers during and after their careers.

Hatton and Moorer, both champions in two weight classes, were the headline names when the International Boxing Hall of Fame class of 2024 was inducted during a ceremony at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, New York.

Moorer won the light heavyweight title in just his 12th pro fight and later moved up to become the first southpaw heavyweight champion. Noting the size of present-day heavyweights who sometimes weigh more than 250 pounds, with former champion Tyson Fury fighting above 270, Moorer called for the advent of a super heavyweight division.

Moorer, who went 52-4-1 with 40 knockouts, said he has undergone 28 surgeries and been left without the ability to smell or taste. He said it was imperative for



Ricky Hatton (left) of England, lands a left to the face of Juan Urango, of Colombia, in the seventh round of their IBF Jr. welterweight title boxing match in Las Vegas, in 2007

boxing's sanctioning bodies, managers and promoters to prioritize the welfare of fighters.

"The toll on a fighter's body persists long after they hang up their gloves," Moorer said. "I am just one of the many retired fighters who have been left to deal with a long list of injuries without any meaningful insurance assistance."

Ivan Calderon and Diego Cor-

rales, who died in 2007 two years after rallying in a memorable 10th round to beat Jose Luis Castillo in boxing's "Fight of the Year," were the other headline fighters in the class that will be enshrined in the hall's museum in Canastota, New York.

Calderon, a two-division champion from Puerto Rico who still works with fighters from there,

noted the presence of the heads of three boxing organizations, who were also Latin American.

PACQUIAO LOOKING FOR COMEBACK

Manny Pacquiao said earlier this week that a title fight against Mario Barrios is in the works, with details still being negotiated.

Pacquiao, a former world

champion who retired in 2021, spoke in Japan to promote a three-round boxing exhibition on July 28 against Japanese MMA fighter Chihiro Suzuki.

"We're still in under negotiation," the 45-year-old Pacquiao said of the possible Barrios fight for the WBC welterweight title. "And, we're talking about that. The fight is not materialized yet. But that negotiation is ongoing."

He hinted any eventual fight would be in November or December. But he said his mind was on Suzuki.

"I just want to say to everybody. This is not an exhibition. This is a fight, a three-round fight," Pacquiao said. Pacquiao lost in the run for the presidency of the Philippines in 2022.

His career boxing record is 62 wins (39 KOs), 8 losses and 2 draws.

Suzuki knows he is up against a legend. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

The Conversation

Rafaela Dancygier, Princeton University



EMIGRATION: THE HIDDEN CATALYST BEHIND RADICAL RIGHT'S RISE IN EUROPE

Earlier this spring, the European Parliament voted to overhaul its immigration policy to more evenly distribute responsibility among member states for managing the arrival of migrants and asylum-seekers. The agreement includes provisions for payments to third countries to block asylum-seekers and preliminary plans for mass deportations. Clearly, the EU's dominant parties are responding to the rise of anti-immigrant, populist right-wing parties, which made significant gains in the June 2024 EU Parliament elections.

While the strategy of appearing tough on immigration might seem attractive to established parties, as scholars of comparative politics and political behavior, we believe it won't return many votes. A commonly overlooked factor in the rise of the radical right is emigration, or the movement of people out of a region or country.

Our research found a relationship between out-migration and increased votes for populist radical right parties in 28 European countries during the mid-2010s. Younger generations leave the countryside for metropolitan areas seeking better opportunities, a trend especially prevalent in Spain and Italy. Similarly, counties across the United States are experiencing population loss due to low fertility and out-migration. While the economic ramifications of this population flight are well-known, its impact on voters is less explored.

The case of Sweden illustrates how out-migration can benefit radical right populists. From 2000 to 2020, Sweden's immigrant population increased from 11% to nearly 20%, while over half of all municipalities experienced population decline. Long dominated by centrist and center-left politics, Sweden is now witnessing a partisan shift. The Social Democratic Party has seen a gradual decline, while the anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats have gained significant ground, now holding a fifth of the seats in Parliament.

Our research found growing support for the Sweden Democrats in areas relatively unaffected by immigration. In fact, municipalities that lost population saw the radical right score big gains.

Two key forces explain these dynamics. First, people who move to urban areas are more likely to lean left, leaving a greater proportion of conservatives behind. Second, the political leanings of voters in depopulating regions shifted from center-left to populist right. As communities lose working-age populations, they experience declines in public services, leading to a sense of status loss among those who stay. Our interviews with Social Democratic Party leaders revealed a "collective depression" in these areas.

Disillusionment with established parties provides fertile ground for radical right parties. While centrist politicians may adopt anti-immigrant stances in response, this strategy risks alienating their base and proving ineffective in the long run. The Sweden Democrats' success is partly a protest against the political establishment. Without clear solutions to local economic and quality-of-life declines, radical right parties may face voter discontent once in office.

Ironically, the forces increasing the appeal of anti-immigrant ideologies—falling birth rates, labor shortages, and a lack of new businesses and services—are most feasibly addressed by increasing immigration. By tightening borders, centrist parties may condemn industrialized nations to a political doom loop. Instead, they should focus on addressing population decline and restoring public services in peripheral areas.

There are examples of this approach. Swedish governments have expanded support for local services in vulnerable areas. In 2021, Spain announced an \$11.9 billion plan to address rural connectivity and smart cities. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development is investing over \$100 billion to support rural areas from 2021-2027.

As Europe and the U.S. prepare for crucial elections, understanding the interplay of demographic shifts and political dynamics is critical. Emigration, often overshadowed by immigration rhetoric, is a key factor shaping the rise of the radical right.

[Abridged]

GERMANY'S 2006 WC PATRIOTIC FERVOR UNLIKELY TO REPEAT AT EURO 2024

When Germany hosted the 2006 World Cup, it unleashed an unexpected burst of national pride across the country. For many Germans, it was the first time they felt they could wave the flag unburdened by the country's dark past.

As Germany gets ready to host another major soccer tournament, the European Championship, such scenes of patriotic fervor are hard to imagine happening again.

While the national team could yet coax reluctant Germans to celebrate, the country itself is going through difficult times politically, with a far-right surge making many uncomfortable about public displays of national pride.

Even with Germany's opening game on Friday against Scotland just days away, there are few German flags hanging from balconies or windows, few national colors on show.

"It's not going to be like 2006, because we've moved on 18 years and there are conflicts everywhere," said Stephan Uersfeld, a sports columnist.

Germany was one of the countries where the far-right made significant gains in elections to the European Parliament on Sunday. Alternatives for Germany, or AfD, came second.

In 2006, the country wasn't as polarized. Germans still refer to the World Cup that year as a "Sommermärchen," or summer fairy-tale.

THE BUZZ

AP PHOTO



Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima and his wife Mary disembark from a plane upon his return from South Korea in Lilongwe, on June 9

MALAWI'S VICE PRESIDENT, NINE OTHERS DIED IN A PLANE CRASH, THE PRESIDENT SAYS

GREGORY GONDWE & GERALD IMRAY, BLANTYRE

MALAWI'S vice president, Saulos Chilima, was among 10 people killed when a small military plane crashed in a mountainous region in the north of the country, the president said yesterday. Chilima was 51.

President Lazarus Chakwera announced in a live address on state television that the wreckage of the plane had been located after a search of more than a day in thick forests and hilly terrain near the northern city of Mzuzu. Chakwera said there were no survivors of the crash.

Former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, the ex-wife of former President Bakili Muluzi, was also on the plane, the president had said. There were seven passengers and three military crew members onboard.

The group was traveling to Mzuzu to attend the funeral of a former government minister. Chilima had just returned from an official visit to South Korea on Sunday.

Hundreds of soldiers, police officers and forest rangers had been searching for the plane after it went mis-

sing Monday morning while making the 45-minute flight from the southern African nation's capital, Lilongwe, to Mzuzu, around 370 kilometers to the north.

Air traffic controllers told the plane not to attempt a landing at Mzuzu's airport because of bad weather and poor visibility and asked it to turn back to Lilongwe, Chakwera said in an address late Monday night. Air traffic control then lost contact with the aircraft and it disappeared from radar, he said.

The president described the aircraft as a small, propeller driven plane operated by the Malawian armed forces. The tail number he provided shows it is a Dornier 228-type twin propeller plane that was delivered to the Malawian army in 1988, according to the ch-aviation website that tracks aircraft information.

Around 600 personnel were involved in the search in a vast forest plantation in the Viphya Mountains near Mzuzu, authorities said, including around 300 police officers, 200 soldiers and local forest rangers.

Chilima was serving his second term as vice president. He was also in the role from 2014-2019 under former President Peter Mutharika. He was a candi-

date in the 2019 Malawian presidential election and finished third, behind the incumbent, Mutharika, and Chakwera. The vote was later annulled by Malawi's Constitutional Court because of irregularities.

Chilima then joined Chakwera's campaign as his running mate in an historic election rerun in 2020, when Chakwera was elected president. It was the first time in Africa that an election result that was overturned by a court resulted in a defeat for the sitting president.

Chilima had previously been facing corruption charges over allegations that he received money in return for influencing the awarding of government procurement contracts for the Malawian armed forces and the police, but prosecutors dropped the charges last month. He had denied the allegations, but the case led to criticism that Chakwera's administration was not taking a hard enough stance against graft.

The search for the plane lasted more than 24 hours and provoked an international response. Chakwera had said the U.S., the U.K., Norway and Israel had offered assistance in the search operation and had provided "specialized technologies."

MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



India-Britain Oxford University will return a 500-year-old bronze statue of Hindu poet-saint Tirumankai Alvar to India. The Ashmolean Museum's research revealed it was looted from a Tamil Nadu temple. The statue, purchased at Sotheby's in 1967, requires Charity Commission approval for repatriation. This follows global efforts by countries to reclaim looted cultural artifacts, such as Nigeria and Greece.

AP PHOTO



USA Palestinian chef Michael Rafidi of Washington, D.C.'s Albi, and Senegalese restaurant Dakar NOLA in New Orleans won James Beard awards. Rafidi, using ancient techniques, dedicated his win to Palestine. Dakar NOLA was honored as Best New Restaurant. The awards recognize culinary excellence and have emphasized diversity and ethical standards in the post-pandemic era of the James Beard Foundation.

AP PHOTO



Czech Republic Authorities suspect Russia's involvement in last week's failed arson attack on Prague buses. A 26-year-old suspect from Latin America was arrested and charged with terrorism. Prime Minister Petr Fiala (pictured) suggested the attack was part of Russia's hybrid war against Czechia, a strong supporter of Ukraine. Increased security measures have been implemented to prevent similar incidents.

AP PHOTO



Switzerland Nearly 90 countries will attend a Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit this weekend, excluding Russia. President Viola Amherd stated the summit aims to chart a path to peace, based on Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's proposals. High-level attendees include French President Macron, German Chancellor Scholz, and U.S. Vice President Harris. Extensive security measures are in place, including 4,000 military personnel.