



Advertise with us  
+853 287 160 81



**MACAU RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT SURGE IN JAYWALKING CASES, WITH 4,081 CASES FROM JANUARY TO MAY, A STAGGERING 4.5 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR**

P2

**NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL TO OPEN IN 2026 WITH 1,000 STUDENTS**

P4

**ANALYSIS: WITH ITS NEW PACT WITH NORTH KOREA, RUSSIA RAISES THE STAKES WITH THE WEST OVER UKRAINE**

P10



AP PHOTO



**South Korea** summoned the Russian ambassador to protest the country's new defense pact with North Korea on Friday, as border tensions continued to rise with vague threats and brief, seemingly accidental incursions by North Korean troops. Earlier Friday, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issued a vague threat of retaliation after South Korean activists flew balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border.

AP PHOTO



**Vietnam** is ready to hold talks with the Philippines to settle their overlapping claims to the undersea continental shelf in the South China Sea, official Vietnamese media said Friday, in a diplomatic approach that contrasts with China's increasingly assertive actions to fortify its claims in the contested waters.

AP PHOTO



**Japan's** space agency has suffered a series of cyberattacks since last year, but sensitive information related to rockets and satellites was not affected and it is continuing to investigate and take preventive measures, officials said Friday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi acknowledged that the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, has had "a number of" cyberattacks since late last year.

More on backpage

# TILES APPEAL

**Iat Fai building residents are requesting financial aid from the gov't to address its deteriorating condition, particularly concerning loose floor and wall tiles**

P2

RENATO MARQUES



**MACAU KART GP  
WINNERS CROWNED  
AFTER FOUR DAYS OF  
INTENSE RACING**

P7

## CANADIAN POPULATION REBOUNDS TO 90% OF PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

"Macau may be small in size, but the opportunities available here are immense," says Howard Stribbell, CanCham president, as the chamber focuses on facilitating networking and connections

P4





HOUSING DILEMMAS

# IAT FAI BUILDING RESIDENTS SEEK GOVERNMENT HELP

VICTORIA CHAN

RESIDENTS of Taipa's Iat Fai Building, part of the government's affordable housing projects, are urging the government to provide financial aid to address the building's deteriorating condition,

specifically concerning loose floor and wall tiles.

The Housing Bureau (IH) has reiterated its call to the building's maintenance company to promptly propose a repair solution. However, homeowners are concerned about the "inadequate

responses" from the relevant government departments.

The Iat Fai building's homeowners' association has reported a potential hazard of loose tiles in the outer walls and floors over the past six months.

With the building's warran-

ty period expired, residents have contacted the government seeking assistance. However, they feel the response they have received falls short of their expectations. It has left them uncertain about how to tackle the issue.

Lao, the president of the Homeowners Association of the Iat Fai Building, expressed frustration at the government's stance, highlighting the financial constraints the association faces.

"The government responded that our estate has passed the warranty period, so we would have to hold a meeting and handle the situation ourselves," he said.

"But our reserve fund can only be so much. How are we supposed to solve the issue? If we have to ask everyone to pitch in, it might not be a small amount. Not many people will be willing to contribute."

The IH responded to the residents' concerns in a statement on the weekend affirming it is monitoring the situation.

At the beginning of the year, the Bureau alerted the building's maintenance company to swiftly propose a repair plan. Following recent complaints from homeowners, the Bureau reissued the notice and conducted an on-site inspection. The maintenance company has

since removed the loose tiles.

In its statement, the IH not only emphasized the importance of property owners attending to the maintenance of common areas but also urged them to fulfill their legal responsibilities and obligations.

Furthermore, the authority stressed the need for property owners to conduct regular inspections, repairs and maintenance to ensure the overall safety and well-being of the building's occupants.

As the residents of Taipa's Iat Fai building continue to grapple with the deteriorating state of their homes, they hope the government will address their plea for financial assistance.

With loose tiles posing potential risks, the urgency to find a viable solution remains paramount, the association argued.

The residents are appreciative of the bureau's involvement and commitment to monitoring the situation, but are eager for the government to take further action to rectify the building's infrastructure issues.

In the face of limited resources, homeowners are left with uncertainty about how to proceed and fear the burden of funding repairs may fall on their shoulders.

CRIME

# Jaywalking cases and traffic accidents on the rise

NADIA SHAW

MACAU has witnessed a significant surge in jaywalking cases, with 4,081 instances recorded from January to May this year, a staggering 4.5 times higher than the same period last year.

This trend in pedestrian violations is part of a broader increase in traffic accidents, with 6,409 incidents reported during the same period, a nearly 25% increase year-on-year.

The rise in accidents has also led to an increase in fatalities,

with two deaths recorded during the period.

Total fines increased 22% to MOP82.14 million. Statistics from the Public Security Police have revealed that May alone saw 641 cases of pedestrians illegally crossing the road.

Moreover, the data reveals a range of other traffic violations in Macau.

From January to May, there were 962 cases of drivers using mobile phones while behind the wheel (1.2 times higher year-on-year).

Additionally, 423 cases were recorded of

drivers failing to wear seatbelts, a 1.3-fold rise.

While illegal parking cases decreased 3.3% to 268,000, there were still 14,000 instances of motorists disobeying traffic signs, a 2.5 increase from last year.

In addition to these violations, the police have also cracked down on taxi-related offenses, with 378 violations recorded from January to May, as cited by TDM.

This includes instances of overpayment (11 cases) and refusal of taxis (130 cases), as well as 49 cases of white-plate taxis.

PUBLIC HOUSING

# FIRST BATCH OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS TO MOVE INTO THEIR UNITS IN OCTOBER

NADIA SHAW

THE first batch of seniors is expected to move into their flats in October, with the remaining 700 units to be opened to tenants next year.

The senior housing project in Areia Preta consists of around 1,400 studio-style flats set in towers, along with community facilities.

Units will be allocated on a points-based system, and residents will be able to lease the flats for a three-year term, which is renewable,

However, concerns have been raised about the affordability of the housing.

One resident in his sixties expressed worries, stating, "Elderly people of that age don't have any income. Even if they do have income, it's miniscule," according to a TDM report.

The government has acknowledged the affordability issue, with Hon Wai, director

RENATO MARQUES



of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), stating the housing was aiming at providing a higher standard of accommodation to residents who were older aged but financially independent.

The IAS has received over 1,500 applications, and qualified applicants will be invited in order of point ranking to select their apartments.

Just last month, Macau's go-

vernment has significantly increased the number of units available in the first phase of a new housing project for seniors, nearly doubling the original quota in an effort to better accommodate the territory's growing elderly population.

The expansion adds over 1,500 units to the initial phase, increased from the original 759 units.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

## REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER\_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER\_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C,

MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



## TRANSPORT

# Lawmaker Ron Lam leads push for ride-hailing services

NADIA SHAW

**M**ACAU'S taxi system has long been criticized for its outdated technology and unreliable services.

Unlike neighboring Hong Kong and mainland China, Macau has yet to embrace ride-hailing platforms like Uber, Didi and Grab.

Macau's traditional taxi fleet has been dwindling, with only 1,501 taxis as of March 31, a decrease of 345 vehicles from the second quarter of 2021 during the pandemic.

To TDM, lawmaker Ron Lam has highlighted taxi shortages, particularly during peak hours, as a key issue that could be alleviated by the introduction of licensed ride-hailing services.

Lam has noted the situation is expected to worsen as hundreds of taxi licenses are set to expire, and the government has only authorized 500 new licen-

ses to begin operations next year (January).

The lack of modern transportation options has drawn criticism from both locals and visitors.

The inability of foreign tourists to effectively use the local radio taxi app due to its limited registration options and poor location services has been raised many times.

The MassPlus app, which is the primary platform for booking taxis, only allows registration using cell phone numbers from Macau, Hong Kong or mainland China.

This restriction significantly hinders international visitors in booking a ride in Macau, making it difficult for them to navigate the city efficiently.

Lawmaker Lam has emphasized that addressing these transportation challenges through the legalization and integration of ride-hailing services could significantly enhance Macau's

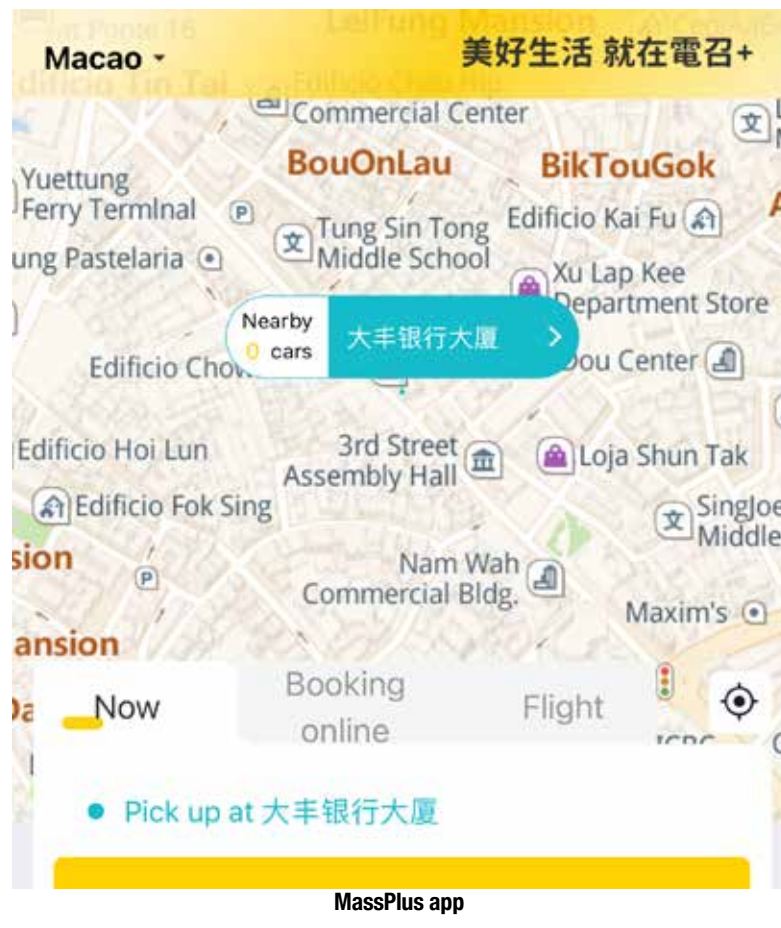
mobility infrastructure, providing a more efficient and reliable service for all.

However, the government has been hesitant to introduce such services, citing concerns about the impact on the traditional taxi industry.

Earlier this year, the lawmaker has also expressed doubts about the local radio taxi's ability to cater to foreign visitors, due to its unreliable location platform and outdated means of communication.

To the Times, Lam commented on reports of the latest radio taxi app allegedly excluding non-mainland and non-Hong Kong visitors.

Despite being named 'MassPlus,' the app cannot be found when searching with that name on the Apple App Store. However, a search using the Chinese name yielded better results. Additionally, using 'Macau taxi' as the keywords led to the radio taxi app.



AD



# 國風雅韻

工銀e支付呈獻 ICBC ePay Presents

漢服造型大賽 National Essence: Hanfu Styling Contest

## 20/07/2024

澳門威尼斯人金光會展A及B館舞台  
Cotai Expo Halls A & B, The Venetian Macao

年滿18歲以上 澳門及大灣區人士  
MACAO AND GREATER BAY AREA RESIDENTS AGED 18 OR ABOVE

報名日期 REGISTRATION 17/06 - 05/07

(853) 2855 5000 Hanfu@macexpo.com.mo

主辦單位: Sands China

冠名贊助單位: ICBC 工銀澳門



立即報名! Apply Now!



# CANADIANS FIND A HOME IN MACAU WITH A THRIVING COMMUNITY DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

HOWARD TONG

**D**ESPITE its small size, the special administrative region of Macau has long been home to a thriving Canadian expatriate community.

From educators to entertainment professionals and business leaders, Canadians have carved out a unique niche in this bustling SAR.

Speaking at the "True North Splendour: Celebrating Canada Day in Style" event, Howard Stribbell, the president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Macao (CanCham Macao) said, "We're a small but mighty group."

"While Canadians aren't always the most boisterous bunch, we've made important contributions across various industries here," Stribbell told the Times.

The International School of Macao (TIS), which uses a Canadian curriculum and employs many Canadian teachers, serves as a cornerstone of the community.

"The school has really helped keep our population steady, even through the challenges of the pandemic," the CanCham president noted.

Beyond education, Canadians have also left their mark on Macau's entertainment scene.

Many artists and technicians from Cirque du Soleil's



Howard Stribbell, CanCham president

former Macau operations have put down roots in the city, getting involved in local theatrical productions like the "House of Dancing Water," which closed during the pandemic but is set to restart later this year.

Canadian companies have also played key behind-the-scenes roles, such as designing the water park systems for the Galaxy Water Park and providing technical systems for the Studio City Water Park, the

chamber president said.

Despite some pandemic-related departures, the Canadian community in Macau has proven remarkably resilient. CanCham is now focused on fostering connections, supporting educational initiatives, and nurturing the next generation of Canadian entrepreneurs in the city.

According to Stribbell, the city's Canadian community has made a significant recovery, reaching approximately

90% of the pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

While the pandemic affected all foreigners in Macau, the Canadian population was relatively less impacted due to the presence of TIS which constitutes the largest group.

However, there is still a decline of around 10% compared to the pre-pandemic levels.

"Macau may be small, but the opportunities here are huge," Stribbell said.

"We're excited to see what

the future holds for Canadians in this vibrant, multicultural hub."

Looking ahead, the chamber is focusing its efforts on three key priorities: facilitating networking and connections between Canadians and other expatriate communities, supporting education through initiatives, and nurturing the next generation of young entrepreneurs in Macau.

"One priority is networking, allowing people to connect together. The chamber is lucky to have a great community in Macau, and they work closely with the British chamber [of commerce], the Australian chamber, and the French chamber to dovetail on lots of events."

Secondly, the chamber focuses on education in Macau because of the Canadian international school by organizing events, like hosting the university fair at TIS.

"The third priority is focusing on the younger generation, the young entrepreneurs that are starting up in Macau. As a former head of school, the speaker gets excited to see TIS alumni graduate, go overseas, and then come back to Macau. Whether they are employed in Macau or they start their own businesses, the chamber wants to find ways to support them," said the president.

GBA

## New Neighborhood secondary school to open in 2026

**T**HE Hengqin School affiliated with Macau's Hou Kong Middle School is expected to officially open in September 2024.

Located in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the school will initially enroll students in its kindergarten and primary section for September this year.

The secondary school, however, is expected to be completed by 2026 and will have a projected enrolment of 1,000 students. According to preliminary plans, it will be a five-story building.



Chen said the secondary school plans to open six classes in each grade, with a total of 36 classes, and is expected to enroll 1,100 to 1,200 students, as cited in a TDM report. It

will primarily employ teachers from Macau.

Chan Hung told TDM, "since this is a school for Macau students, the majority of the enrolled students will be from Macau,

so the faculty will consist mainly of Macau teachers who are more familiar with the local situation."

Nevertheless, the school will also recruit teachers from mainland China and abroad, as it aims to be a more internationalized school that will implement the IB (International Baccalaureate).

The construction of the secondary school officially commenced May 27. The school will feature an outdoor playground, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, multifunctional classrooms and parking facilities for staff. NS

## ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO RAISE AWARENESS

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) has launched its annual "Anti-Narcotics Week" campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of drug consumption among the local community, particularly targeting the youth.

The week-long initiative, which runs until June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, will feature a series of events and activities aimed at educating the public about the harmful effects of drugs.

"In May and early June this year, we prepared several events for secondary school students, many of whom are going to study abroad," Sit Chong Meng director of PJ said.

"Through these events, we wanted to make the students aware of the harmful effects of marijuana and other drugs. A total of 2,800 students attended the events."

The campaign will include the setup of anti-drug promotion booths at the Nova Mall, where visitors can engage with information boards, participate in game booths, and learn more about the ongoing efforts to combat drug-related crimes in Macau.

The director said drug-related crimes in Macau have decreased significantly in recent years, with a more than 50% reduction over the past five years and an even more substantial 80% decrease compared to a decade ago. VC



info@jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty



Vai Cheong (Macau)  
2 bed 1 bath  
55.74 m<sup>2</sup> / 600 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD2,600,000



VA FAT (Taipa Village)  
2 bed 1 bath  
77.10 m<sup>2</sup> / 830 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD3,780,000



Nam Long (Taipa)  
2 bed 1 bath  
59.92 m<sup>2</sup> / 645 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD3,650,000



Jade Garden (Taipa)  
4 bed 3 bath  
379.04 m<sup>2</sup> / 4,080 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD 11,880,000



Grand Oasis Residence Amber (Coloane)  
Studio  
67.91 m<sup>2</sup> / 731 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD5,300,000

**BUY & RENT!  
MACAU & HK**

[www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)  
[www.ariapropertyltd.com](http://www.ariapropertyltd.com)

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

Call us!

(853) 2835 2699

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



Juliet Risdon  
(853) 6680 9804  
juliet@jmlproperty.com  
AI-1003469-6



Windy Lam  
(853) 6881 1007  
windy@jmlproperty.com  
AI-10010081-9



### INFLATION RATE UP 0.77% IN MAY

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Macau rose 0.77% in May from a year earlier, according to figures released Wednesday by the Statistics and Census Service. The price indices for education saw the largest increase of 5.06% year-over-year in May. Health costs rose 2.76% and clothing and footwear prices grew 2.60%. Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased 1.20% while housing and fuels grew 0.57%. Transportation costs fell 2.99% and recreation and culture dipped 0.91%. For the 12 months ending in May, average inflation was 1.03% led by gains in education, recreation and culture, and clothing and footwear prices.

### INTERNATIONAL GASTRONOMY HITS VISITOR TARGET ON FINAL DAY

Tourism officials say the 10-day International Cities of Gastronomy Carnival met its visitor goal on its last day. Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes told AP the event drew an estimated 100,000 people. She said most food stalls at the festival's Food Avenue were "hot sellers." The event featured food forums, demonstrations by 26 culinary capitals and collaborations between hotels and chefs. Senna Fernandes hoped participants got to know Macau better through community tours showcasing each area's culture. She said future festivals could introduce more food and discover cooperation opportunities within Macau's diverse communities.

### CANCER ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND 30% OF FATALITIES IN MACAU

Alvis Lo, the director of the Health Bureau, has stated that cancer accounts for around 30% of fatalities in Macau, according to the records of cause of death. During his speech at the Kiang Wu Hospital-organized Greater Bay Area International Oncology Summit Forum, Lo emphasized that tumors are classified as chronic diseases, and their management can be greatly improved through early detection and treatment. He also highlighted Macau's efforts in collaborating with different medical institutions to enhance healthcare services, such as the training of specialized doctors and advancements in medical technology.

### TOURISM

# MAY ARRIVALS RECOVER TO 79% OF PRE-COVID LEVELS

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE number of visitor arrivals in May increased by 21.6% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 2.69 million. This represents a recovery to 79.3% of the figure recorded in May 2019. Additionally, there was a month-on-month increase of 3.5%, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The growth in visitor arrivals was driven by a 27.2% increase in same-day visitors (1,430,741) and a 15.9% increase in overnight visitors (1,261,450) compared to the previous year.

In terms of visitor source, mainland China experienced a year-on-year increase of 25.9% in May, with a total of 1.86 million visitors.

Among them, those traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme saw a growth of 6.3%. Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area also increased by 30.3% compared to the previous year. However, there was a 3.3% decrease in visitors from Hong Kong (582,083) and a significant surge of 118.7% in visitors



from Taiwan (68,971).

The number of visitors from Hong Kong returned to the level seen in May 2019, while visitors from mainland China and Taiwan rebounded to 76.5% and 78.5% of their respective levels in the same month of 2019.

Meanwhile, international visitors recorded a substantial year-on-year increase of 74.4% in May, totaling 184,854.

This represents a recovery to 61.3% of the figure recorded

in May 2019. Among the Southeast Asian markets, the number of visitors from Indonesia rose by 15.6% compared to the same month in 2019. The figures for visitors from the Philippines (35,852) and Malaysia (15,094) returned to 73.8% and 80.2% of their respective levels in May 2019.

In the South Asian markets, the number of visitors from India (13,759) reached 65.7% of the level seen in May 2019. In the Northeast Asian marke-

ts, numbers of visitors from the Republic of Korea (33,999) and Japan (9,924) recovered to 51.7% and 29.4% of the corresponding levels in the same month of 2019.

During the initial five months of 2024, visitor arrivals increased by 50.2% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 14.17 million visitors.

This represents a recovery to 82.4% of the visitor level observed during the same period in 2019.

### STATS

# Record visitor numbers at Hengqin port

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE Hengqin Port has seen a significant surge in passenger flow.

The total number of entries and exits has exceeded 10 million as of June 22, marking a year-on-year increase of approximately 44.4%.

The Hengqin immigration inspection station of Zhuhai immigration station reported the milestone (10 million travelers) was achieved two months ahead of schedule when compared to last year.

The record for the highest single-day inbound and outbound passenger flow has been set three times during the year.

The station has predicted the peak passenger flow during the summer vacation is co-

ming, with mainland tourists expected to increase significantly, as cited by TDM.

The average daily passenger flow during the summer vacation is expected to exceed 60,000, and the annual passenger flow is expected to exceed 20 million.

Among the 10 million inbound and outbound tourists, there were about 4.1 million mainlanders going to work and school in Macau, an increase of about 50% from last year.

There were also about 2.47 million Hong Kong and Macau residents, an increase of about 20%.

Additionally, approximately 1.02 million vehicles passed through Hengqin Port, a year-on-year increase of approximately 9.3%.

The Vehicle Person-



nel Inspection and Release Hall, which opened April 9, has seen 215,000 inbound and outbound passengers, including 156,000 Hong Kong and Macau residents, accounting for

72.5% of the total.

This trend is expected to continue, driven by the growing popularity of Macau as a tourist destination and the increasing ease of travel through Hengqin Port.

The Hengqin master plan aims to accommodate up to 120,000 Macau residents on the island by 2035, further boosting the local economy and tourism industry.



MACAU KART GP

# Winners crowned after four days of intense racing in Coloane

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE winners of the 2024 Macau Kart Grand Prix have been revealed after four days of intense racing under the hot sun at the Macau International Karting Track in Coloane.

The results confirmed some who started as favorites, but also included some last-minute surprises and drama that added to the thrill of the races.

The four-day event saw Round 5 of the 2024 AAMC (Automobile General Association Macao-China) Karting Championship and Round 3 of the 2024 China Karting Championship (CKC), including eight racing categories.

One of the surprises occurred in the last race of the event yesterday afternoon.

The results of all the weekend sessions suggested local racer Tiago Rodrigues would win the final of the AAMC KZ class but that did not happen.

After a troubled race that had to be restarted, Rodrigues failed to come out smoothly and could not hold the pole position.

Immediately attacked by the Hong Kong racer, Liao Yan Yik, who had been second on the grid, Rodrigues lost the advantage but not the pace and attacked the top position until a major mid-race crash between Hong Kong racer Chan Cheuk Hin and local racer Leonardo Oliveira stopped the race.

The incident also damaged the tire barriers forcing the red flag to come out immediately.

Without any major harm suffered by the racers, the marshals quickly fixed the tire barriers and the race continued.

After some confusion on the actual placing of the karts at the restart, the race was finally back on but in the process, Rodrigues lost another place, being overtaken by Cheong Man Hei.

Rodrigues completed the podium in third position.

After the race he was unhappy



with the outcome as, like most people who watched the racing weekend, he felt the win should have been within his reach.

In the top category of the CKC, the Master, Singapore's Luke Armstrong, also performed a little stunt to take the win after starting the

final race in the middle of the pack.

Still, with a consistent pace, he kept climbing positions lap after lap and took the checkered flag with a comfortable lead over Chinese racer Cao Muhua who had started in pole position. Third was local veteran racer Pang Kam Kwan.

## OTHER WINNERS (CKC)

- Cadet Class**
1. Han Yuchen (CHN)
  2. Chang Shuo Ting (TPE)
  3. Wen Yubo (CHN)
- OK-N Class**
1. Liang Yan (CHN)
  2. Yu Haoxi (CHN)
  3. Tang Zixuan (CHN)
- Junior Class**
1. Fion Shi (USA)
  2. Zhu Pinmu (CHN)
  3. Aaron Mehta (SGP)
- Senior Class**
1. Tang Zixuan (CHN)
  2. Liao Yan Yik (HKG)
  3. Kimi Chan (HKG)

## OTHER WINNERS (AAMC)

- Mini ROK Class**
1. Tam Cheuk Yin (MAC)
  2. Wan Chio Ut (MAC)
  3. Wong Chi Him (MAC)
- ROK GP Junior Class**
1. Chen Cheok Lam (MAC)
  2. Cheang Wai Cheng (MAC)
  3. Chong Ian Ip (MAC)

GAMING

# MGM expands Cotai resort with hotel rooms and wellness focus

**M**GM China Holdings Ltd, has engaged consultants and designers to expand its MGM Cotai resort, according to a Bloomberg report.

The company plans to add hotel rooms and introduce "wellness" services at the property, Bloomberg re-

ported last week. During a press briefing at the time, Pansy Ho Chiu King, the chairperson of MGM China, outlined a series of non-gaming investment commitments, many of which are targeted at the MGM Cotai resort.

One of the key pledges

was the development of an "Urban Oasis," described as a "one-stop service combining wellness and medical offerings including medical hydrotherapy, diet therapy, leisure and health management, medical tourism and health assessments."

The casino operator also

confirmed plans to add an extra hotel tower to the existing 1,390-room MGM Cotai, which opened February 2018.

The Macau government has mandated casino concessionaires increase their non-gaming offerings as part of the new concession

terms that began January 2023.

Despite the government's shift in policy focus towards non-gaming tourism, MGM China has been able to improve its market share in Macau's gaming industry.

The company's market share in terms of gross ga-

ming revenue climbed to 17% in the first quarter of 2024, up from 15.2% a year earlier and 9.5% in 2019.

This growth has been attributed, in part, to the increased number of gaming tables allocated to MGM China under the new concession.VC

## CORPORATE BITS

### Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau hosts mass yoga session



Over 100 participants took part in a mass yoga session yesterday at Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau hotel celebrating International Yoga Day. Organized by the hotel with Yoga Light and the Yoga and Sports General Association

of Macau, China, the event saw a record 108 "Sun Salutation" sequences performed.

Rutger Verschuren, the area vice president of Artyzen Hospitality Group and general manager of Artyzen

Grand Lapa Macau, stated that the company is dedicated to promoting health and wellness. Partners said yoga is growing in popularity in Macau as a way to connect mind, body and cultures.

With Macau aiming to diversify beyond gaming, wellness events are seeing increased interest. Verschuren said the resort excites guests with diverse facilities and activities amid lush gardens.

Echoing the success, Ritesh Kumar of Yoga Light praised Artyzen's support, and Louise Shum of the sports association said more are experiencing yoga's benefits. The event highlighted Macau's travel offerings as partners spoke of using yoga to promote harmony.

### Sands Resorts wins multiple hospitality awards



Multiple Sands Resorts properties in Macau were recognized for excellence in hospitality at the 2024 Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards Asia Pacific. The Londoner Macao took the number one spot for the first time in the "Best Hotels in Macau" category. Sands Resorts Macao was also in the

Top 10 for "Best Integrated Resorts in Asia Pacific."

The awards celebrate the best in the hospitality industry as selected by Travel + Leisure readers. Sands Resorts Macao placed in the Top 10 of five categories including "Best Integrated Resorts Asia Pacific" and awards

for individual properties like The Londoner Macao, Four Seasons Hotel Macao, The St. Regis Macao, and The Parisian Macao. Resort amenities like pools, spas and general managers were also acknowledged.

Kris Kaminsky, senior vice president of Sands China Ltd., said he was thrilled with the recognition and praised the teams who "delivered industry-leading offerings and exceptional experiences." Ensuring memorable stays, The Londoner Macao incorporates five hotel brands with expanded lifestyle experiences, including extensive retail, entertainment, meetings and convention spaces.



EDUCATION

# VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENT BEATS UNIVERSITY COMPETITORS IN A MATH CONTEST

FU TING

A 17-year-old vocational school student from rural China became a celebrity on social media after reaching the final round of a math competition, beating many others from top universities and raising questions about the education system.

Jiang Ping, who is studying fashion design, finished 12th in the Alibaba Global Math Competition, one of 802 who made it to the final round — an eight-hour test that takes place Saturday.

A video that included an interview with Jiang got more than 800,000 likes and 90,000 comments after it was posted on social media by Damo Academy, the organizer of the contest. Most expressed their amazement, while some questioned if it was real.

Jiang says in the video interview that she didn't think she deserved to join the competition, even though she enjoys working on advanced math as it "brings out my desire to explore."

Congratulations poured in. People visited her parents' home in a village in Jiangsu province on China's east coast with alcohol and money to show support. Her pictures were shown on the walls of shopping malls in her hometown, Lianshui. Zhejiang University and Jiangsu University praised her on their Weibo accounts.

While it was unclear how Jiang ended up in vocational school, her story still reminded



some in China of the inequality between rural and urban areas and how that can make it harder for even talented students to climb the economic ladder.

"While Jiang Ping is openly celebrated, many Chinese feel deep down inside that her story highlights the hopelessness of Chinese education," said Jiang Xueqin, a China-based education researcher. "The odds are fundamentally stacked against ordinary Chinese, without power, wealth, or 'guanxi,'" the Chinese term for connections.

Inequality in education appears to have worsened in recent years. Spending on education in rural areas was 17% less

than in cities in 2019 for the nine years of compulsory education in China, which does not include high school. It was only 2% lower in 2013, based on calculations from data in a Peking University report on the urban-rural gap in per capita expenditure.

Ministry of Education data show that 70% of students in China's vocational schools are from rural areas. The high percentage suggests that the education system works like a caste system, Jiang, the researcher said.

Jiang, the math whiz, is the only vocational school student among all the finalists. The others, who are mostly Chinese,

mainly come from top-tier universities such as Cambridge, MIT and Caltech, as well as China's top two, Tsinghua and Peking University. Winners will be awarded \$2,000 to \$30,000 in prize money.

The competition was started six years ago by Alibaba, a Chinese e-commerce giant. Jack Ma, then-executive chair of Alibaba Group, said the goal was to find students who enjoy math and encourage and support them.

Jiang did well enough on the entrance exam to go to high school, the Communist Party secretary of her vocational school told state broadcaster CCTV.

The secretary said she

applied to the vocational school instead of a high school because her older sister and good friends were students there. Other Chinese media said it was because she came from a poor family, and vocational school gave her a scholarship.

Attempts to reach Jiang were unsuccessful. A call to her school was unanswered and Damo Academy, an affiliate of Alibaba, didn't respond to an email.

Jiang says in the video interview that her plan is to get into a good university. It's not impossible, though vocational school students only have access to certain institutions. **MDT/AP**

## Beijing sanctions several Lockheed Martin units, three executives over arms deals with Taiwan

CHINA said Friday it has banned a number of business units of American aviation manufacturer Lockheed Martin Corp. and three of its executives over arms deals the company has signed with Taiwan, the self-ruling island it claims as its own territory.

The statement from China's Foreign Ministry said the company's cooperation with Taiwan had violated the country's sovereignty, standard terminology in its discussions of any outside dealings that



support the island's government.

The effects of the sanctions appeared largely

symbolic since military cooperation between the U.S. and China has been suspended since the Peo-

ple's Liberation Army's crackdown on student-led pro-democracy protests in Beijing and other cities in

1989.

Named under the sanctions were Lockheed Martin Missile System Integration Lab, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories and Lockheed Martin Ventures. Top executives James Donald Taiclet, Frank Andrew St. John and Jesus Malave were listed as banned from traveling to China.

China has been steadily growing its domestic aircraft industry, producing parts, planes and services for Airbus and producing its own commercial jets.

Foreign technology has played a large part in that process, but Chinese companies have increasingly developed the means to replace their overseas suppliers.

Taiwan relies heavily on U.S. suppliers for arms, even as it works to boost its own defense industries and increase mandatory military service for men from four months to one year.

That comes against the backdrop of China's rising threat to encircle or invade Taiwan to achieve what it calls a historical mission to annex the island. Taiwan was formerly a Japanese colony and separated from mainland China amid civil war in 1949. **MDT/AP**



DISPUTED SEA

# Philippines says it won't back down after clash with Chinese Coast Guard

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

**T**HE president of the Philippines said yesterday his country would not yield to "any foreign power" after Chinese forces injured Filipino navy personnel and damaged at least two military boats with machetes, axes and hammers in a clash in the disputed South China Sea, but added the Philippines would never instigate a war.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. flew with his top generals and defense chief to the western island province of Palawan, which faces the South China Sea, to meet and award medals to navy personnel who came under assault by the Chinese coast guard Monday as they attempted to deliver food and other supplies to an outpost on the hotly contested Second Thomas Shoal.

Videos and pictures of the chaotic faceoff made public by the military showed Chinese coast guard

personnel hitting a Philippine navy boat with a wooden bar and seizing a bag while blaring sirens and using blinding strobe lights. The Chinese government said that its coast guard had to take action after Filipino forces defied warnings not to stray into what China calls its own offshore territory, a claim long rejected by rival claimant governments and international arbitrators.

The violent confrontation sparked condemnation and alarm from the U.S., the European Union, Japan, Australia and other Western and Asian nations, while China and the Philippines blamed each other for instigating it. Marcos's key advisers said Friday that his administration has no plan to invoke the country's mutual defense treaty with the United States.

"We are not in the business to instigate wars," Marcos told Filipino forces. "In defending the nation, we stay true to our Filipino nature that we would like to settle all these issues peacefully."



Chinese Coast Guard hold knives and machetes as they approach Philippine troops on a resupply mission in the Second Thomas Shoal at the disputed South China Sea last week

In Monday's faceoff at the shoal, Marcos said "we made a conscious and deliberate choice to remain in the path of peace." The Filipino navy special operations group

personnel who came under attack used only their bare hands to push back the Chinese, some of whom pointed knives at them, said Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo

Brawner Jr.

"We stand firm. Our calm and peaceful disposition should not be mistaken for acquiescence," Marcos said. "History itself can tell that we have never, never in the history of the Philippines yielded to any foreign power."

Chinese officials in Manila and Beijing did not immediately comment on Marcos's remarks.

Marcos praised about 80 officers and personnel involved in Monday's supply mission, including one who lost his right thumb during the high seas confrontation, saying they "exercised the greatest restraint amidst intense provocation." He issued an appeal: "Continue to fulfill your duty of defending the nation with integrity and respect as you have done so far."

The territorial disputes, which involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have long been seen as a flashpoint that could pit the U.S. against China if high seas confrontations escalate into armed conflict. Washington has repeatedly warned that it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces are attacked, including in the South China Sea.

Indonesian forces have also opened fire on Chinese fishing boats in past confrontations in waters off the Natuna islands on the fringes of the South China Sea. **MDT/AP**

AD

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

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

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

We translate +10,000 words a day

**K** **KTRANZ**  
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

Email: sales@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

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





North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, and Russia's President Vladimir Putin shake hands after signing a comprehensive strategic partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, last week

## ANALYSIS

# WITH ITS NEW PACT WITH NORTH KOREA, RUSSIA RAISES THE STAKES WITH THE WEST OVER UKRAINE

**B**EHIND the smiles, the balloons and the red-carpet pageantry of President Vladimir Putin's visit to North Korea last week, a strong signal came through: In the spiraling confrontation with the U.S. and its allies over Ukraine, the Russian leader is willing to challenge Western interests like never before.

The pact that he signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un envisions mutual military assistance between Moscow and Pyongyang if either is attacked. Putin also announced for the first time that Russia could provide weapons to the isolated country, a move that could destabilize the Korean Peninsula and reverberate far beyond.

He described the potential arms shipments as a response to NATO allies providing Ukraine with longer-range weapons to attack Russia. He bluntly declared that Moscow has nothing to lose and is prepared to go "to the end" to achieve its goals in Ukraine.

Putin's moves added to concerns in Washington and Seoul about what they see as an alliance in which North Korea provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that would enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

## A LANDMARK PACT

The new agreement with Pyongyang marked the strongest link between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War.

Kim said it raised bilateral relations to the level of an alliance, while Putin was more cautious, noting the pledge of mutual military assistance mirrored a 1961 treaty between the Soviet Union and North Korea. That agreement was discarded after the Soviet collapse and replaced with a weaker one in 2000 when Putin first visited Pyongyang.

Stephen Sestanovich, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations noted that when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev signed the deal with Pyongyang in 1961, he also tested the world's biggest nuclear bomb, built the Berlin Wall and probably started thinking about moves that led to the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

"The question for Western policymakers now is whether Putin is becoming comparably reckless," Sestanovich said in a commentary. "His language in North Korea -- where he denounced the United States as a 'worldwide neocolonialist dictatorship' -- might make you think so."

South Korea responded by declaring it would consider sending arms to Ukraine in a major policy change for Seoul, which so far only has sent humanitarian assistance to Kyiv under a

longstanding policy of not supplying weapons to countries engaged in conflict.

Putin insisted Seoul has nothing to worry about, since the new pact only envisions military assistance in case of aggression and should act as a deterrent to prevent a conflict. He strongly warned South Korea against providing lethal weapons to Ukraine, saying it would be a "very big mistake."

"If that happens, then we will also make corresponding decisions that will hardly please the current leadership of South Korea," he said.

Asked whether North Korean troops could fight alongside Russian forces in Ukraine under the pact, Putin said there was no need for that.

## POTENTIAL WEAPONS FOR PYONGYANG

Last month, Putin warned that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to hit Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use its allies' arms to make limited attacks inside Russian territory.

He followed up on that warning Thursday with an explicit threat to provide weapons to North Korea.

"I wouldn't exclude that in view of our agreements with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," Putin said, adding that Moscow could mirror the arguments by NATO allies that it's up to Ukraine

to decide how to use Western weapons.

"We can similarly say that we supply something to somebody but have no control over what happens afterward," Putin said. "Let them think about it."

Sue Mi Terry, senior fellow for Korea studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, warned that Moscow could share weapons technologies with Pyongyang to help improve its ballistic missile capabilities, noting there is evidence of this happening already, with Russia possibly providing help to North Korea with its successful satellite launch in November, two months after Kim last met Putin.

"This is deeply concerning because of the substantial overlap between the technologies used for space launches and intercontinental ballistic missiles," Terry said in a commentary. "Russia can also provide North Korea with critical help in areas where its capabilities are still nascent, such as submarine-launched ballistic missiles."

While raising the prospect of arms supplies to Pyongyang that would violate U.N. sanctions, Putin also said Russia would take efforts at the world body to ease the restrictions — an apparent signal that Moscow may try to keep arms supplies to Pyongyang under the radar and maintain a degree of deniability to avoid accusations of breaching the sanctions.

Russia and North Korea have rejected assertions by the U.S. and

its allies that Pyongyang has given Moscow ballistic missiles and millions of artillery shells for use in Ukraine.

## GOING 'TO THE END' IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE WEST

By explicitly linking prospective arms shipments to Pyongyang to Western moves on Ukraine, Putin warned Kyiv's allies to back off as he pushes his goals in the war — or face a new round of confrontation.

"They are escalating the situation, apparently expecting that we will get scared at some point, and at the same time, they say that they want to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia on the battlefield," Putin said. "For Russia, it will mean an end to its statehood, an end to the millennium-long history of the Russian state. And a question arises: Why should we be afraid? Isn't it better, then, to go to the end?"

Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center in Berlin, said Putin's statement reflected an attempt to discourage the U.S. and its allies from ramping up support for Kyiv as Russia pushes new offensives in several sectors of the front line.

"The situation is becoming increasingly dangerous, and Russia believes that it should quickly rap the West over its knuckles to show that its deeper engagement in the war will have a price," he said in remarks carried by Dozhd, an independent Russian broadcaster.

He noted that Putin's statement that Moscow wouldn't know where its arms end up if sent to Pyongyang could have been a hint at North Korea's role as an arms exporter.

## TREADING CAUTIOUSLY WITH CHINA

Putin's visits to North Korea handed a new challenge to Pyongyang's top ally, China, potentially allowing Kim to hedge his bets and reduce his excessive reliance on Beijing.

China so far has avoided comment on the new pact, but many experts argue that Beijing won't like losing sway over its neighbor.

Ever since Putin invaded Ukraine, Russia has come to increasingly depend on China as the main market for its energy exports and the source of high-tech technologies in the face of Western sanctions. While forging a revamped relationship with Pyongyang, the Kremlin will likely tread cautiously to avoid angering Beijing.

"Whether this upgraded Russia-North Korea relationship will be without limits depends upon China," which will watch events closely, said Edward Howell of Chatham House in a commentary. "Beijing will have taken stern note of Kim Jong Un's claim that Russia is North Korea's 'most honest friend.' Despite the likely increase in cooperation in advanced military technology between Moscow and Pyongyang, China remains North Korea's largest economic partner." **MDT/AP**



DIPLOMACY

# US envoy visits Hanoi days after Putin, saying US-Vietnam trust is at 'all-time high'

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL,  
HANOI

A senior U.S. diplomat held talks in Vietnam on Saturday and said that the trust between the two countries was at an "all-time high," just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to Hanoi.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink insisted that his trip was unrelated to Putin's visit on Thursday. Vietnam had elevated the United States to its highest diplomatic status, comprehensive strategic partner, last year, putting it at the same level as China and Russia. The elevation of the U.S. ties suggested that Vietnam wanted to hedge its friendships as Western companies look to diversify their supply chains away from China.

Kritenbrink was speaking at a briefing for selected media in Hanoi. A recording of the interaction was reviewed by The Associated Press.

Putin's trip to Hanoi had triggered a sharp rebuke from the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, which said that "no country should give

AP PHOTO



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink

Putin a platform to promote his war of aggression and otherwise allow him to normalize his atrocities," referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year.

The American East Asia envoy echoed those concerns but

said that he made it clear to Vietnamese officials that the "main reason" for his trip was the partnership between the U.S. and Vietnam. He met Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son.

"Only Vietnam can decide how best to safeguard its sovereignty

and advance its interests," he said, while stressing the economic relations between Vietnam and its largest export market, the U.S. Trade between the two countries was \$111 billion in 2023 — compared to just \$3.6 billion between Vietnam and Russia.

Russia remains important for Vietnam, not just because it is an old ally from the Cold War era, but also because it continues to be its biggest defense supplier and Russian oil exploration technologies help maintain Vietnam's sovereignty claims in the contested South China Sea.

Kritenbrink said that China's increasingly assertive actions in pressing its claims to virtually the entire South China Sea were a cause of "great concern" for the region and the world.

The territorial disputes, which involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have long been seen as an Asian flashpoint that could pit the U.S. against China if the high seas confrontations escalate into an armed conflict.

Vietnam said Friday that it was ready to hold talks with the Philippines to settle their overlapping claims to the undersea continental shelf in the South China Sea in a diplomatic approach that contrasts with China.

"We think that China's actions, particularly its recent actions, around the Second Thomas Shoal, vis-à-vis the Philippines have been irresponsible, aggressive, dangerous, deeply destabilizing," Kritenbrink said. He stressed that defense treaties between the U.S. and its ally the Philippines were "ironclad."

The Philippines said Friday it has no plan to invoke its mutual defense treaty with the U.S. after the Chinese coast guard reportedly rammed, boarded and used machetes and axes to damage two Philippine navy boats in a chaotic faceoff that injured Filipino navy personnel. **MDT/AP**

TENSIONS

# US aircraft carrier arrives in S. Korea as a show of force against nuclear-armed N. Korea

KIM TONG-HYUNG,  
SEOUL

A nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier arrived Saturday in South Korea for a three-way exercise involving Japan as they step up military training to cope with North Korean threats, which have escalated following a security pact with Russia.

The arrival of the USS Theodore Roosevelt strike group in Busan came a day after South Korea summoned the Russian ambassador to protest a major deal between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week.

The agreement pledges mutual defense assistance in the event of war. South Korea says the deal poses a threat to its security and warned that it could consider sending arms to Ukraine to help fight off the Russian invasion as a response — a move that would surely ruin its relations with Moscow.

Following a meeting between their defense chiefs in Singapore earlier in June, the United States, South Korea and Japan announced the Freedom Edge drills.

The Roosevelt strike group will participate in the exercise that is expected to start within June.

AP PHOTO



The Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is anchored in Busan, South Korea, Saturday

South Korea's military didn't immediately confirm specific details of the training.

Rear Admiral Christopher Alexander, commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine, said the exercise is aimed at

sharpening tactical proficiency of ships and improving interoperability between the countries' navies "to ensure we are ready to respond to any crisis and contingency."

South Korea's navy said in a statement that the

arrival of the carrier demonstrates the strong defense posture of the allies and "stern willingness to respond to advancing North Korean threats." The carrier's visit comes seven months after another U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, came to South Korea in a show of strength against the North.

Following completion of the exercise, the Roosevelt strike group will leave for the Middle East to "continue promoting regional stability, deter aggression, and protect the free flow of commerce in the region," Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen.

Pat Ryder said in a statement.

The Roosevelt strike group also participated in a three-way exercise with South Korean and Japanese naval forces in April in the disputed East China Sea, where worries about China's territorial claims are rising.

In the face of growing North Korean threats, the United States, South Korea and Japan have expanded their combined training and boosted the visibility of strategic U.S. military assets in the region, seeking to intimidate the North. The United States and South Korea have also been updating their nuclear deterrence strategies, with Seoul seeking stronger assurances that Washington would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear capabilities to defend its ally from a North Korean nuclear attack. **MDT/AP**





Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

# Democrats wrestle with whether to attend Netanyahu's address to Congress as many plan to boycott

FARNOUSH AMIRI,  
WASHINGTON

**T**HE last time Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the U.S. Congress, nearly 60 Democrats skipped his speech nine years ago, calling it a slap in the face to then-President Barack Obama as he negotiated a nuclear deal with Iran.

With Netanyahu scheduled to address U.S. lawmakers on July 24 and his government now at war with Hamas in Gaza, the number of absences is likely to be far greater.

Congressional Democrats are wrestling with whether to attend. Many are torn between their long-standing support for Israel and their anguish about the way Israel has conducted military operations in Gaza. More than 37,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 that triggered the war, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run territory. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its figures.

While some Democrats are saying they will come out of respect for Israel, a larger and growing faction wants no

part of it, creating an extraordinarily charged atmosphere at a gathering that normally amounts to a ceremonial, bipartisan show of support for an American ally.

"I wish that he would be a statesman and do what is right for Israel. We all love Israel," former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said recently on CNN about Netanyahu. "We need to help them and not have him stand in the way of that for such a long time."

She added, "I think it's going to invite more of what we have seen in terms of discontent among our own."

Tensions between Netanyahu and Democratic President Joe Biden have been seeping into the public, with Netanyahu last week accusing the Biden administration of withholding U.S. weapons from Israel — a claim he made again Sunday to his Cabinet. After the prime minister leveled the charge the first time, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We genuinely do not know what he's talking about. We just don't."

The invitation from House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., to Netanyahu came after consultation with the White

House, according to a person familiar with the matter who was granted anonymity to discuss the sensitive subject. As of now, no meeting between the leaders during Netanyahu's Washington visit has been scheduled, this person said.

Netanyahu said in a release that he was "very moved" by the invitation to address Congress and the chance "to present the truth about our just war against those who seek to destroy us to the representatives of the American people and the entire world."

Republicans first floated the idea in March of inviting Netanyahu after Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the highest-ranking Jewish official in the United States, gave a speech on the Senate floor that was harshly critical of the prime minister. Schumer, D-N.Y., called the Israeli leader "an obstacle to peace" and urged new elections in Israel, even as he denounced Hamas and criticized Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Republicans denounced the speech as an affront to Israel and its sovereignty. Johnson spoke of asking Netanyahu to come to Washington, an invitation that Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem

Jeffries of New York ultimately endorsed, albeit reluctantly. Pelosi, who opposed the invitation to Netanyahu in 2015 when she was Democratic leader, said it was a mistake for the congressional leadership to extend it again this time.

Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, who attended the 2015 address as a House member, said he saw no reason why Congress "should extend a political lifeline" to Netanyahu.

Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said it would be "healthy" for members of both parties to attend. "I think that a lot of Americans are getting a one-sided narrative, especially the younger generation, and I think it's important they hear from the prime minister of Israel, in terms of his perspective," said McCaul, R-Texas.

Interviews with more than a dozen Democrats revealed the breadth of discontent over the coming address, which many feel is a Republican ploy intended to divide their party. Some Democrats say they will attend to express their support for Israel, not Netanyahu.

New York Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he has an "obligation" to attend because of that position.

"It should not have taken place," he added. "But I can't control that. And I have to do my job."

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., who leads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has signaled he will be there. Cardin said that what he's looking for in Netanyahu's speech is a "type of message that can strengthen the support in this country for Israel's needs," but also lay the groundwork for peace in the region.

Other Democrats are waiting to see whether Netanyahu will still be prime minister by the time he is supposed to speak to Congress.

There have been open signs of discontent over the handling of the war by Netanyahu's government, a coalition that includes right-wing hard-liners who oppose any kind of settlement with Hamas.

Benny Gantz, a former military chief and centrist politician, withdrew from Netanyahu's war Cabinet this month, citing frustration over the prime minister's conduct of the war. On Monday, Netanyahu dissolved that body. Meantime, a growing number of critics and protesters in Israel have backed a cease-fire proposal that would bring home hostages taken by Hamas. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1983 US ASTRONAUT SALLY RIDE RETURNS



America's first woman in space has returned safely to Earth in the Challenger space shuttle after a successful six-day flight.

Sally Ride, aged 32, captured the media's attention over the weeks leading up to blast-off on 19 June as the public realised history was in the making.

Ms Ride, a former tennis champion, decided to become an astronaut in 1977 after she saw a Nasa advertisement in the campus newsletter while studying English and physics.

She was one of more than 1,000 women and almost 7,000 men to apply for just 35 places on the 1978 training programme and it was there that she met her husband, fellow astronaut Steve Hawley.

Before blast-off last week, flight commander Robert Crippen said she had been chosen to fly purely on her skills and not for her gender.

As flight engineer, Ms Ride's main tasks were to monitor the controls and make sure nothing went wrong on ascent and descent.

Up in space she also had to control a 50ft retractable arm - which she helped to design - to retrieve a satellite package of experiments.

It was the first time a satellite had been grabbed from space and paves the way for repairing satellites in orbit.

"She is flying with us because she is the very best person for the job. There is no man I would rather have in her place," he said.

This was also the first time the shuttle carried five crew members, instead of the usual three. Along with Sally Ride and Robert Crippen were Rick Hauck, John Fabian and Dr Norman Thagard.

Ms Ride is the third woman to travel into space. Today she received a telegram congratulating her achievement from the world's first female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova.

America's first female in space would have received a much larger public welcome today had it not been for poor visibility that forced Challenger to change its point of arrival.

The crew of STS-7 were due to complete their mission at Cape Canaveral, in Florida. But cloud cover meant a change of plan and a landing at Edwards Air Force base in California, some 3,000 miles away.

Nasa had hoped for a Florida landing to reduce the expense and time taken to transport the shuttle back to Cape Canaveral for its next mission.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two years later, tragedy struck when the Challenger space shuttle exploded on 28 January 1986, killing all on board including Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first schoolteacher in space.

Sally Ride is the only person to have worked on investigations into both the Challenger and Columbia shuttle disasters.

She remained an astronaut until 1987, when she resigned from Nasa and took up an academic post at Stanford University.

Two years later she moved to the University of California in San Diego to become professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute.

She has written several children's books about space exploration.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Unexpected professional opportunities may be worth the extra trouble. Investigate the possibilities. Keep quiet about the finances. Let people know what you need.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Your journey could take an unplanned deviation revealing beautiful discoveries. Take notes and pictures. Take advantage of spontaneous opportunities.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Changes necessitate budget revisions. Financial discussions with your partner can be productive. Collaborate for a lucrative opportunity. Teamwork makes it possible.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Collaboration requires patience but rewards are high. Brainstorm and discuss ideas. Romance sizzles when least expected. Take advantage of an unscheduled opportunity. Get creative.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 A surprise benefits your work, health and fitness. Disciplined action can accomplish dreamy results. Get expert feedback. Sometimes the best action is stillness.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Relax and have fun. Enjoy unexpected encounters with love, beauty and artistry. Get creative with a passion project. Clean messes. Prioritize romantic opportunities.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Save money and cook at home. Grab a lucky opportunity to realize a domestic dream. Clean and organize. Enjoy the fruit of your labors.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Articulate a dream or vision. Apply yourself with focus and determination. Don't share unfinished work. Aim for perfection. Edit and polish communications before sending.

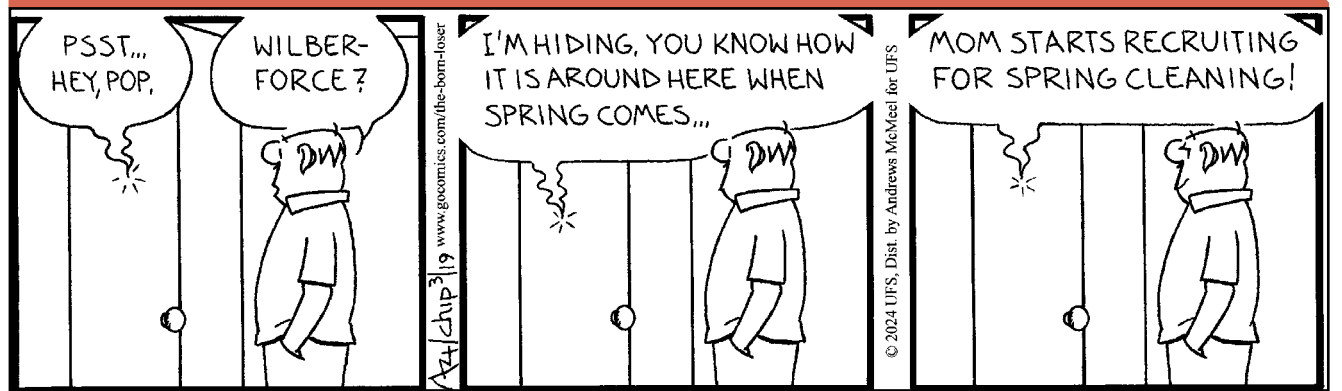
**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 Discover a windfall. Focused attention generates more silver for your savings. Get advice from an experienced friend. Take advantage of a profitable opportunity.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 Consider personal options. Reject outlandish schemes in favor of practical solutions. Do the homework before making your pitch. Dress for the role you want.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Prioritize peace and quiet. Favor privacy over publicity. You could get grumpy without downtime. Slow to consider where you've been and what's ahead.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Make an unexpected social connection. You can always include another into your circle. Collaborate to advance to the next level together. Develop a friendship.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

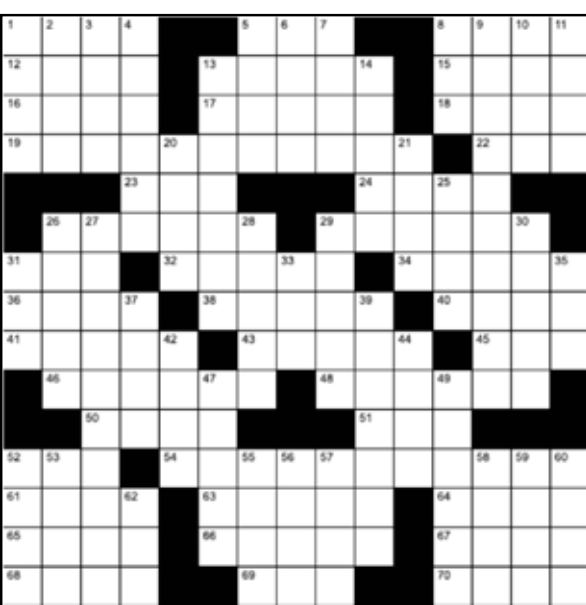
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	33	fine
Changchun	14	18	thunderstorms
Chengdu	24	33	rain
Chongqing	25	28	rain
Fuzhou	27	36	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	33	rain
Guiyang	19	23	rain
Haikou	26	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	19	28	rain
Harbin	14	18	rain
Hefei	21	31	overcast
Nanjing	21	31	thunderstorms
Shanghai	23	30	overcast
Taipei	26	31	rain
Wuhan	24	30	rain
Hong Kong	29	32	showers
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	12	22	sunny
Frankfurt	16	27	sunny
Paris	18	28	showers
London	14	27	sunny
New York	20	29	sunny

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Pierce with a knife; 5- Accomplished; 8- Surgery reminder; 12- Trompe l'...; 13- Public transports; 15- Sitarist Shankar; 16- Nothing, in Nogales; 17- Blow one's top; 18- Belinda Carlisle's "Should \_\_\_ You In?"; 19- Leaping insect; 22- George's lyricist; 23- Common article; 24- Coral habitat; 26- Pants measurement; 29- Consecutively; 31- 6, on a phone; 32- Decorate; 34- Sophia of the screen; 36- Farm unit; 38- Agitates; 40- Ginger cookie; 41- Words on a Wonderland cake; 43- \_\_\_ a time; 45- Discount rack abbr.; 46- Black eye; 48- Stage plays; 50- Londoner, e.g.; 51- \_\_\_ snail's pace; 52- Foofaraw; 54- Doubling of a part on itself; 61- Handle roughly; 63- Free of frost; 64- Stepped; 65- Singer Murray; 66- Ruhr Valley city; 67- Suffix with exist; 68- Miami's county; 69- Cigarette ingredient; 70- Org.;

**DOWN** 1- Album unit; 2- Shred; 3- Verdi heroine; 4- Explosions; 5- Hard, in Havana; 6- The jig \_\_\_; 7- "Pirates of the Caribbean" star; 8- \_\_\_ Lanka; 9- State in the W United States; 10- State firmly; 11- Hayworth or Moreno; 13- Decapitates; 14- Severe; 20- Queens stadium; 21- Actual; 25- Cupid, to the Greeks; 26- Early Peruvians; 27- Headed toward the Arctic; 28- Engine; 29- How some losses are shown; 30- Has on; 31- Fannie follower; 33- \_\_\_ Tin Tin; 35- "Car Talk" airer; 37- Kuwaiti bigwig; 39- Muslim opponent of the Crusaders; 42- Novelist Bagnold; 44- Cheerio!; 47- Chopin piece; 49- Country singer Kathy; 52- Diary of \_\_\_ Housewife; 53- Comedian Carvey; 55- Nuisance; 56- Actress Kudrow; 57- Cake decorator; 58- Coffee dispensers; 59- Fabled fliers; 60- Paradise; 62- Majors in acting;



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!**

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

**jml property**

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



CIARÁN FAHEY, LEIPZIG

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

# MBAPPÉ WATCHES FROM SUBS' BENCH AS FRANCE AND NETHERLANDS PRODUCE FIRST 0-0

**K**YLIAN Mbappé watched from the substitutes' bench as France and the Netherlands finished 0-0 in a heavyweight European Championship clash on Friday.

Antoine Griezmann missed France's best chances while Xavi Simons had a goal ruled out for the Dutch in the first goalless draw of the tournament.

It leaves both teams on four points in Group D after their second match. It also ensured Poland was the first team eliminated. Poland was beaten by Austria 3-1 earlier Friday and is assured of finishing bottom of the group, even if it beats France in its final group game.

France's buildup was dominated by speculation on whether Mbappé would play after the team captain broke his nose in their opening 1-0 win over Austria.

Mbappé trained wearing a face mask on Thursday and coach Didier Deschamps was optimistic he'd be available. But Deschamps evidently decided it was not worth the risk to play Mbappé in a game his team had no need to win.

"Kylian is doing well. He's getting better with each day. If it was a decisive game I would have thought twice about him playing," Deschamps acknowledged. "It's a risk for him. With each day that that passes, we are getting to a

point where it's better for him. I thought the wiser decision was to keep him on the bench."

France enjoyed its best period of pressure after the break, when Aurélien Tchouaméni headed over, goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen denied Griezmann from close range, and Ousmane Dembélé went close.

Then Xavi fired the ball in at the other end in the 69th on a rebound after Mike Maignan saved Memphis Depay's effort. It set off wild Dutch celebrations that sent beer cups and their contents flying into the Leipzig sky. But the fans' elation was quickly deflated because Denzel Dumfries, who was offside, was adjudged after a lengthy VAR check to have obstructed Maignan from attempting to save Xavi's shot.

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman thought otherwise and felt the goal should have been allowed.

Griezmann had the best of France's early chances, forcing a save from Verbruggen before he and Adrien Rabiot somehow con-

trived to miss when it seemed easier to score. Rabiot had only the goalkeeper to beat but he attempted a pass instead to Griezmann, who fell over trying to hit it from close range.

The French team, which needed an own goal to beat Austria, has yet to score at Euro 2024.

"We weren't efficient enough. We had five or six goal-scoring opportunities and we weren't able to find the back of the net, and if we're not able to find the back of the net, we're not walking away with three points," Deschamps said. "I'm happy despite the fact we weren't efficient enough."

The Dutch fans outnumbered their French counterparts. Thousands of orange-clad fans brightened Leipzig's city center earlier, though the French fans in blue were in no way discouraged from creating their own party. One French supporter brought a live rooster to the stadium on the eve of the match. It was unclear if the animal had a ticket for the game.

MDT/AP

## SCOREBOARD

<b>Germany</b>	<b>5</b>	1	Scotland
Hungary	1	<b>3</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>3</b>	0	Croatia
<b>Italy</b>	<b>2</b>	1	Albania
Poland	1	<b>2</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
Slovenia	1	1	Denmark
Serbia	0	<b>1</b>	<b>England</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>3</b>	0	Ukraine
Belgium	0	<b>1</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
Austria	0	<b>1</b>	<b>France</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>3</b>	1	Georgia
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>2</b>	1	Czech Republic
Croatia	2	2	Albania
<b>Germany</b>	<b>2</b>	0	Hungary
Scotland	1	1	Switzerland
Slovenia	1	1	Serbia
Denmark	1	1	England
<b>Spain</b>	<b>1</b>	0	Italy
Slovakia	1	<b>2</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
Poland	1	<b>3</b>	<b>Austria</b>
Netherlands	0	0	France
Georgia	1	1	Czech Republic
Turkey	0	<b>3</b>	<b>Portugal</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>2</b>	0	Romania

AD



**BENFICAMACAU ACADEMY**  
澳門賓菲加體育學校



**FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS**



CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER

仁德醫療中心



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

**Cardiology** : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed



EURO 2024

# No goals but lots of selfie-seekers for Ronaldo in chaotic Portugal win over Turkey

STEVE DOUGLAS, DORTMUND

PORTUGAL 3, TURKEY 0

**B**Y the end, it was hard to know what Cristiano Ronaldo was more frustrated about.

Failing to score for the second straight game at the European Championship or having to fend off repeated attempts for selfies by his adoring fans.

In what proved to be a wild and potentially dangerous match for the five-time world player of the year, Ronaldo had no goals, one assist and no less than four selfie-seeking field invaders for company in Portugal's chaotic 3-0 win over Turkey that secured his team a spot in Euro 2024's round of 16 on Saturday.

Ronaldo, one of the world's most popular and well-known sport stars, was the center of attention as always at Westfalenstadion.

Just not how he might have expected.

"That's the price you pay for being so recognized in the world of football," said Bernardo Silva, Ronaldo's Portugal teammate.

Making a record 27th appearance at the Euros, Ronaldo did get his first goal involvement of this tournament when he set up



the third by Bruno Fernandes in the 55th minute with an unselfish pass across the face of the six-yard box after being played clean through.

Ronaldo, the most prolific scorer ever in men's international soccer with 130 goals, rarely passes up such opportunities to add to his remarkable tally.

Perhaps he just wanted another record. This was his eighth assist at a European Championship, more than anyone else.

"It was a pure moment of Portuguese football," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said in praise of Ronaldo, his captain. "It should be shown in every

academy in Portugal and world football, because it showed that the team is the most important thing."

Then things got a bit silly — and potentially unsafe — for the former Real Madrid, Manchester United and Juventus striker.

Ronaldo was fine posing for a photograph with a young boy who evaded stewards to get on the field in the 69th minute and whipped out his cell phone. That fan sprinted off before finally being grabbed and escorted away by security.

However, Ronaldo certainly wasn't amused when two other fans with phones at the ready

tried the same trick in the final few minutes of a game that flew out of control. He threw his arms up in disgust the first time and appeared to actively try to avoid the next one as he defended a corner.

It wasn't clear if those fans got their wish before being taken away.

After the final whistle, there were more security breaches as a fan wearing a red Portugal jersey attempted to get close to Ronaldo while holding a phone. He was soon tackled to the ground. Then two more supporters were prevented from confronting Ronaldo as Portugal's players walked off the field,

having just come from saluting their law-abiding fans in the stands.

"It's a concern," Martinez said, "because today we were lucky that the intentions of the fans were good."

"If those intentions are wrong, the players are exposed. I don't think that should happen on a football pitch."

Ronaldo missed out on a chance to score a record-extending 15th European Championship goal against a Turkey team that was its own worst enemy at times.

Not least in the 28th minute when, trailing 1-0 to Silva's strike seven minutes earlier, Turkey center back Samet Akaydin delivered a back-pass that rolled to the side of his goalkeeper and straight into the net. Remarkably, it was a sixth own-goal already at these Euros — and certainly the most embarrassing, with Akaydin later being taken off injured to complete a miserable evening for the defender.

Portugal backed up its opening 2-1 victory over the Czech Republic and has qualified with a game to spare from Group F, guaranteeing a last-16 match in Frankfurt on July 1. Martinez may choose to rest Ronaldo and more of his key players for Portugal's final group match, against Georgia in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday.

Turkey stayed on the three points it had from beating Georgia 3-1 in their first game, but the pressure has been firmly ramped up on coach Vincenzo Montella, who faced intense questioning of his tactics from his country's media after the match.

"We were punished harshly tonight," Montella said. **MDT/AP**

JAMES ELLINGWORTH,  
DUESSELDORF

**S**PAIN is already qualified for the Euro 2024 round of 16 as Group B winner and is the only team yet to concede a goal. If it's to qualify, Albania is likely to need a win that would rank among all-time great upsets. The kickoff in Duesseldorf — at the same time as group rivals Croatia and Italy meet in Leipzig — is 3 a.m. local time (1900 GMT).

Here's what to know about the match:

**MATCH FACTS**

— Spain's slick, confident performance in its 1-0 win over defending champion Italy means that the team — European champion in 1964, 2008 and 2012 — is once again being hailed as a favorite for the tit-

EURO 2024

## Spain aims to keep its winning run going and end Albania's faint chances

le. Germany and Portugal were the only other teams to win their opening two games.

— The one possible negative from Spain's win over Italy was that it took an own goal from Italian defender Riccardo Calafiori. No Spain player has scored since Dani Carvajal just before half time in the opening 3-0 win over Croatia.

— Albania scored the opening goal in both of its games — breaking a record with one after just 23 seconds — but ended up with just one point after a 2-1 loss to Italy and a dramatic

2-2 draw with Croatia.

— It's theoretically possible that a draw might be enough to qualify Albania for the round of 16 as one of the third-place teams with the best record but it would need several other results to go Albania's way. To begin with, even if Albania and Spain were to draw, a win for Croatia over Italy would eliminate Albania.

— Albania forward Mir-lind Daku is awaiting the outcome of an UEFA investigation into "alleged inappropriate behavior" over chants he led following the Croatia game.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

— By completing the group stage without conceding a goal, Spain can emulate a feat only two teams managed at Euro 2020. They were Italy and England, who went on to meet in the final where Italy won on penalties.

— Spain won all eight of the games it's ever played against Albania but needed

a 90th-minute goal from Dani Olmo to win their most recent encounter 2-1 in a 2022 friendly.

**WHAT THEY'RE SAYING**

— "We have proved we know what we're doing, we have proved we can play against the strongest teams, teams that put pressure on us. So if you ask me if I think the team is ready to win this

competition, my answer is yes." — Spain defender Aymeric Laporte.

— "We should enter the pitch to give 100%, the maximum. Spain is a team who likes to play the ball, to control it very well. We should be careful and play with counterattacks and exploit any chance we might have." — Albania winger Arber Hoxha. **MDT/AP**

**UPCOMING GAMES**

Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Tue Jun 25	03:00	Albania	Spain	H8, D 4.8, A 1.48
	03:00	Croatia	Italy	H 3.38, D 3.4, A 2.4



OPINION

China Daily

Li Zhenguang, China Daily

'DIE-HARD' SEPARATISTS HAVE NOWHERE TO GO

On Friday, Chinese authorities issued guidelines for imposing criminal punishments on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists for engaging in or inciting secession. The guidelines, jointly released by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and the ministries of public security, state security, and justice, will come into effect upon publication.

These guidelines serve as a timely warning for Lai Ching-te, the island's leader who took office on May 20. His inaugural speech almost amounted to an open declaration of "Taiwan independence". Lai's actions and statements as a "pragmatic advocate for Taiwan independence" underscore his reckless indifference toward the welfare and interests of Taiwan residents.

His reckless remarks on "Taiwan independence" are highly detrimental to cross-Straits relations, which reveal the fantasies and subversive thoughts of both Lai and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

Hence, it is imperative for the mainland to take action to prevent Taiwan seeking "legal independence".

Lai has been issuing pro-independence statements for years but earlier he represented only the DPP and himself.

But as the leader of Taiwan island his statements carry a totally different meaning. His blatant "Taiwan independence" remarks seriously challenge the 1992 Consensus that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China, and show that he and the DPP are trying to change the status quo across the Strait.

It's a historical fact that both sides of the Strait belong to one China. This fact is enshrined in the existing laws and regulations on both sides and is recognized by the international community.

His ridiculous claim that "Taiwan is a sovereign country" is a dangerous attempt to construct an unfounded entity.

Neither within the international community nor within the United Nations has there been a "Taiwan state". Taiwan has never been nor will it ever be a country. There is no historical or legal basis for that.

Lai's intent to confront the Chinese mainland by portraying it in fact is the primary enemy of the island and raising cross-Straits tensions. By projecting cross-Straits cooperation as a threat, Lai has not only sown discord among Taiwan residents but also jeopardized their fundamental interests.

Lai has described the mainland's military drills and "coercion" as the greatest strategic challenge to global peace and stability, and made confrontation with the mainland as a central policy in order to arrogantly "seek peace through strength".

His animosity toward the mainland is palpable, as he portrays cross-Straits exchanges and cooperation as threats and "infiltration" by the mainland, inciting hatred and hostility against the mainland among Taiwan residents.

Using the "national security law", he is coercing the island's residents and opposition parties to adhere to the DPP's anti-mainland stance.

This approach is diametrically opposite to the wishes of the majority of Taiwan residents, who desire peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation across the Strait.

Lai's moves are not in line with the aspirations of Taiwan residents, and undermine their welfare and security. By instilling fear among Taiwan residents and coercing them into taking forward his agenda, Lai is threatening the very fabric of Taiwan society. Hence, his policies pose an unprecedented risk to the lives and well-being of Taiwan resident.

Lai's stance on "Taiwan independence" is the biggest threat to peace and stability across the Strait.

The pursuit of independence by Lai and the DPP will lead to a conflict. That's why to counter Lai's provocations, which include his attempts to seek help from outside forces to realize his evil goal of "Taiwan independence", the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command conducted drills code-named Joint Sword-2024A around Taiwan on May 23, sending a clear message that the PLA will not allow any force to separate Taiwan from the motherland.

[Abridged]

A family of six was found dead by rescuers in Fujian province, state media reported Saturday, adding to the extreme weather deaths after downpours caused landslides in the area, even as authorities extended a warning of more severe weather ahead. The six people, who had previously been reported missing, were found dead in a temple near their home by rescuers after days of searching in Fujian's Shanghang county, according to the state-backed Hongxing news. They had gone to the temple seeking shelter, as it was on higher ground, but the building

was toppled by a landslide, killing the family. Authorities on Friday had said 47 people were dead in neighboring Guangdong province, which has seen historic flooding caused by the rains. The weather damaged more than a hundred bridges and flooded farmland, and destroyed roads connecting rural townships. The heaviest rains were from Sunday into Tuesday last week, toppling trees and collapsing homes, and authorities estimated billions of dollars in damage.



Buildings of the Olympic Village

PARIS 2024

US OLYMPIC AND OTHER TEAMS WILL BRING THEIR OWN AC UNITS TO PARIS, UNDERCUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

EDDIE PELLIS, EUGENE, ORE.

THE U.S. Olympic team is one of a handful that will supply air conditioners for their athletes at the Paris Games in a move that undercuts organizers' plans to cut carbon emissions.

U.S. Olympic and Paralympic CEO Sarah Hirshland said Friday that while the U.S. team appreciates efforts aimed at sustainability, the federation would be supplying AC units for what is typically the largest contingent of athletes at the Summer Games.

"As you can imagine, this is a period of time in which consistency and predictability is critical for Team USA's performance," Hirshland said. "In our conversations with athletes, this was a very high priority and something that the athletes felt was a critical component in their

performance capability."

The Washington Post reported earlier this month that Germany, Australia, Italy, Canada and Britain were among the other countries with plans to bring air conditioners to France.

Olympic organizers have touted plans to cool rooms in the Athletes Village, which will house more than 15,000 Olympians and sports officials over the course of the games, using a system of cooling pipes underneath the floors.

The average high in Paris on Aug. 1 is 26 degrees Celsius (79 degrees Fahrenheit). The objective is to keep the rooms between 23-26 degrees (73-79 degrees Fahrenheit). The rooms will also be equipped with fans.

"I want the Paris Games to be exemplary from an environmental point of view," Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo

has said about the plans for the Olympics.

According to the International Energy Agency, fewer than 1 in 10 households in Europe has air conditioning, and the numbers in Paris are lower than that. The study said that of the 1.6 billion AC units in use across the globe in 2016, more than half were in China (570 million) and the United States (375 million). The entire European Union had around 100 million.

The Olympics mark the most important stop on the athletic careers of the 10,500-plus athletes who will descend on Paris, which has led some high-profile countries to undercut environmental efforts for the sake of comfort.

"It's a high-performance environment," Australian Olympic Committee spokesman Strath Gordon explained to The Post. MDT/AP



New Zealand's government will overhaul the tighter gun laws introduced after a deadly mass shooting by a white supremacist five years ago, because they put excessive burdens on gun owners who feel vilified by law enforcement and the public, the lawmaker leading the changes said. "What's happened is a massive change with massive penalties and targets on people who didn't do anything wrong," Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee — a lobbyist for gun owners before she entered Parliament in 2020 — said.



India and Bangladesh on Saturday moved to bolster their defense relationship and signed agreements for expanding cooperation in maritime security, ocean economy, space, and telecommunication sectors, as New Delhi tries to present itself as a regional power and a counterweight to China. The agreements were signed during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, the first foreign leader to visit New Delhi since Narendra Modi became the country's prime minister for a third term two weeks ago.



Russia-Ukraine At least three people were killed in a Russian bombing attack on Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, on Saturday afternoon, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Another 38 people were wounded in the attack, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said. Four aerial bombs were launched against the city, damaging residential buildings, shops and public transport stops, said Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. He said that four of the wounded were in serious condition.