



ALLEGATIONS HAVE SURFACED AGAINST A SUPERVISOR FROM A CASINO OPERATOR FOR SUPPOSEDLY GIVING OUT JOBS IN RETURN FOR KICKBACKS

P2

KOREAN AIR LAUNCHES NEW DAILY SEOUL-MACAU FLIGHT SERVICE

P3

UKRAINE IS RELEASING THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS SO THEY CAN JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST RUSSIA

P8



China-Norway

A Norwegian citizen has been arrested on suspicion of spying for China. Norway's NTB news agency reported yesterday, citing the Scandinavian country's domestic security agency. The person, who wasn't identified, was arrested Monday, according to NTB's report, based on information from the security agency, known by its Norwegian acronym PST. The suspect, who faced a court hearing yesterday in Oslo, is suspected of serious intelligence activities involving state secrets, NTB said.



South Korea Allegations of coaches verbally and physically abusing a young player at the Son Football Academy funded by English Premier League star Son Heung-min (pictured) are being investigated by prosecutors. Hundreds of South Korean children have attended the academy with the dream of following in the footsteps of Asia's biggest soccer star. Son's father, former professional player Son Woong-jung, is the director of the academy in Chuncheon, 80 kilometers east of the capital Seoul.



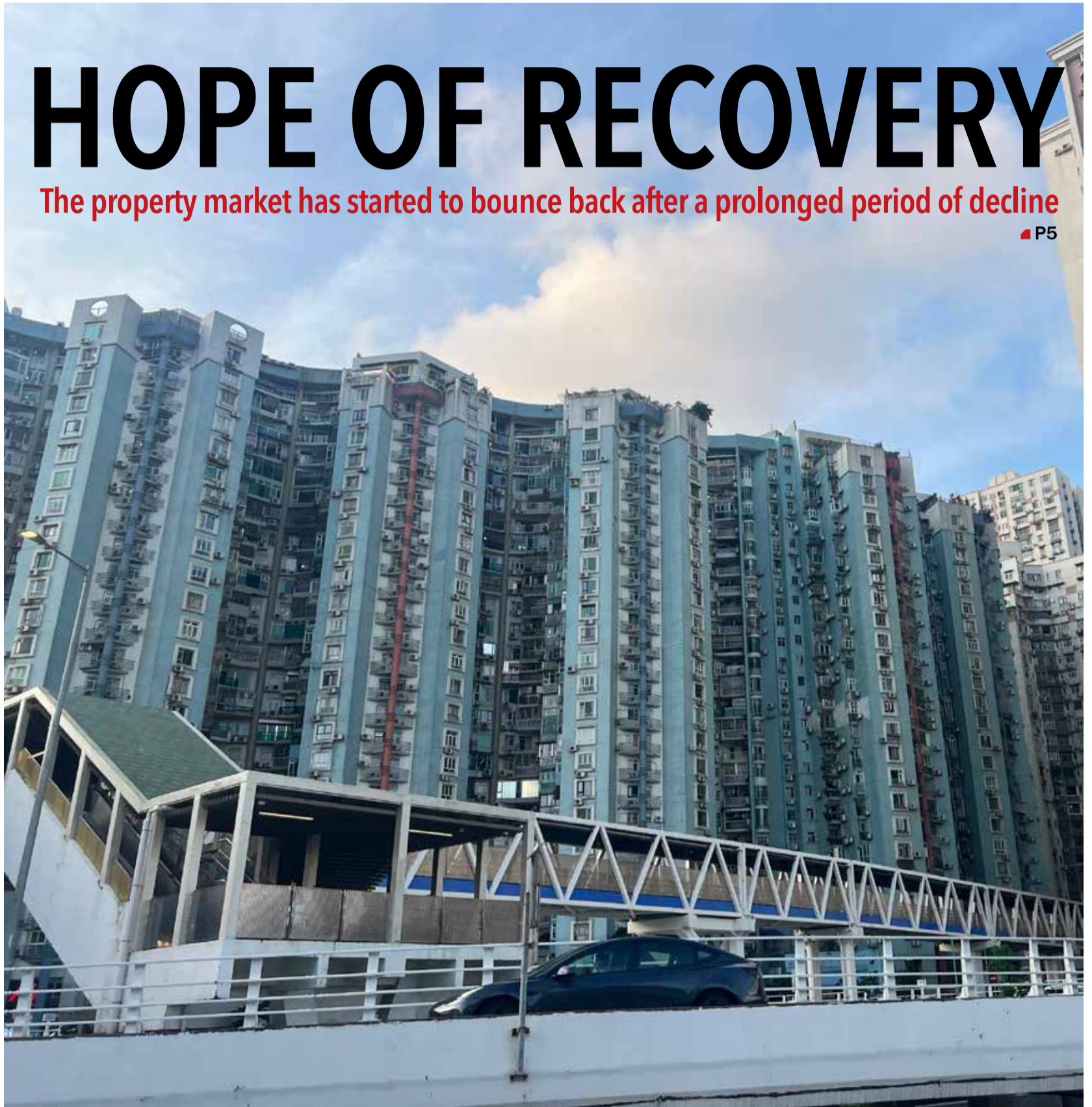
India Floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least 16 people over the last two weeks in India's northeast, where more than 300,000 have been displaced from their submerged homes, authorities said on yesterday. The Indian army and air force have been assisting with rescue efforts in Assam, one of the worst-hit states, where a military helicopter flew early Tuesday morning 13 fishermen to safety after being stranded for four days on a small island on the Brahmaputra, one of Asia's largest rivers, officials said.

More on backpage

HOPE OF RECOVERY

The property market has started to bounce back after a prolonged period of decline

P5



LYNZY VALLES

CRIME
HUSBAND ASSAULTS VICTIM IN BRUTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EPISODE

P3

GAMING
CASINO FACES HEADWINDS FROM CRACKDOWN ON MONEY EXCHANGERS

P2

ADVERTISING REVENUE RECOVERS TO 80% OF PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

The current revenue of the local advertising industry is estimated to have recovered to about 80% of 2019 levels, said Eric Ho, chairman of the Association of Advertising Agents. However, the association remains wary of the sector's recovery as "European and American brands switch to the Singapore market." Currently, the sector relies on the SAR government's increasing overseas promotion efforts in the second half of the year, as the city will hold a number of large-scale events and competitions that require advertising investment.

WOMAN ABANDONS NEWBORN BABY AT APARTMENT DOOR

A non-resident worker was arrested for allegedly abandoning her newborn baby girl at an apartment in Patane. The Judiciary Police said the baby was wrapped in a cloth and placed in a plastic bag that was hung on the apartment's door. After the suspect was found, she underwent a medical consultation, where it was confirmed that she had recently given birth. Doctors have also confirmed that baby was born just a day ago. The 36-year-old claimed she started working in Macau in August last year.

CPPCC MEMBERS DISCUSS THE SARS' ROLES IN CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN ECONOMY

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) held a virtual consultation session last week to discuss the roles of Hong Kong and Macau in China's development of new systems for a higher-standard open economy. The meeting was chaired by Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and chairman of the CPPCC National Committee. He called for actionable and targeted policy recommendations to support the implementation of national policies that aid the development of Hong Kong and Macau.

GAMING

CASINO REVENUE FACES HEADWINDS FROM CHINA'S CRACKDOWN ON MONEY EXCHANGERS

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAU'S June gross gaming revenue (GGR) fell 12.4% sequentially, impacted by a crackdown on illegal money exchange networks and the ongoing Euro 2024 soccer tournament, according to a Monday note from Seaport Global Securities LLC. The decline in revenue reflects the challenges facing the gambling hub as Chinese authorities intensify efforts to curb the use of cryptocurrency and money laundering.

The crackdown, which began in early June, targets money changers and their networks, many of whom utilize cryptocurrency for money transfers, according to analyst Vitaly Umansky. The crackdown has also targeted loan sharking activities. "Many of these networks utilize cryptocurrency for money transfers – something that has gained wider



attention by authorities in China – along with loan sharking activities," Umansky wrote.

The crackdown is part of a broader effort by Chinese authorities to curb the use of cryptocurrency to move money out of the country. "This problem has been raised to a national level in conjunction with China authorities looking at the continued use of cryptocurrency to move money out of China, not necessarily tied

to Macau," Umansky said.

The Euro 2024 tournament, which began on June 14, has also negatively impacted Macau's GGR, according to Umansky. "Macau revenue has historically been negatively impacted by large football tournaments – UEFA [Euros], [FIFA] World Cup," he observed.

Despite the headwinds, Seaport forecasts Macau's July GGR to be around USD2.39 billion, a

9% increase from June. "July is typically a solid month with base mass visitors increasing later in the month and more so in August," Umansky said. "With the softness in base mass, the continuation of the Euro Cup and the crackdown on money movement activity, we are more conservative on July than normal."

However, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. expects Macau's July GGR to be slightly lower, at just under USD2.43 billion, a 20.7% decline relative to July 2019. This suggests that the challenges facing Macau's casino industry may persist in the near term.

While the crackdown on money changers has had a short-term impact on Macau's GGR, Umansky expects the situation to improve in the medium term. "We expect the crackdown to soften and liquidity in Macau to be not significantly impacted in the medium term," he said.

NADIA SHAW

THE Commission Against Corruption of Macau (CCAC) has alleged corruption at an unnamed integrated resort involving a supervisor responsible for personnel recruitment in the stewarding department. He is suspected of soliciting bribes from job seekers in exchange for securing employment at the resort, bypassing proper hiring procedures.

The CCAC's investigation revealed that the supervisor, whose identity has not been publicly disclosed, is accused of using his position to assist at least nine mainland Chinese residents obtain jobs at the unnamed resort. The supervisor allegedly identified potential job candidates through his girlfriend and a middleman, who were tasked with recruiting mainland Chinese residents interested in working at the resort.

Supervisor accused of awarding jobs in exchange for kickbacks

According to the corruption watchdog's findings, the girlfriend and middleman offered to help these individuals secure jobs, reportedly telling these job seekers they could get them hired at the resort in exchange for a "placement fee" of RMB15,000 to RMB25,000. Many of the job seekers who paid the fees were immediately hired without even having to interview, and some were found not to meet the minimum academic qualifications required for their positions, with some reportedly illiterate – a clear violation of the resort's entry requirements.

During the investigation, the bureau discovered that the supervisor

and his associates had taken steps to cover up their alleged wrongdoings. Investigators found evidence that records and documents related to the placement fees had been destroyed, in an apparent attempt to hide their involvement in the bribery scheme.

The CCAC has determined that the supervisor, his girlfriend, and the middleman committed passive bribery in the private sector, while the nine mainland Chinese residents who paid the placement fees are suspected of active bribery. The case has now been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further handling.

This is the second bri-



bery case involving a private enterprise that the CCAC has uncovered in recent times. The anti-corruption agency now urges the public to uphold integrity and comply with the law, and advises private

institutions to immediately report any illicit acts, such as bribery or bribe solicitation by their personnel, to the CCAC in order to safeguard a fair employment environment in Macau.

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

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

CRIME

Victim assaulted by husband in brutal domestic violence episode

VICTORIA CHAN

POLICE have arrested a man accused of brutally assaulting his wife in a disturbing case of domestic violence that occurred on the night of June 28.

According to the Judiciary Police (PJ) report, the victim, a woman who had been married to the suspect for over 20 years, alleged that the suspect had a history of assaulting her, with incidents dating back to 2022. Though the victim had filed a police report in 2023, she eventually withdrew her complaint. It is thought that she may have done so out of fear of further repercussions, the PJ stated.

On the night in question, the suspect was engaged in drunken behavior, when the suspect accused the victim of having an affair. This triggered a violent outburst, during which the suspect subjected the victim to a horrific ordeal. He allegedly stripped her clothes, beat her, forced her to kneel and pray, tied her up with a telephone wire, and covered her mouth with a cloth. The abuse lasted for over two hours, leaving the victim's head and body injured in multiple places.

The suspect was arrested Monday at his workplace in the Northern District. Authorities found evidence on the suspect's mobile phone, including images of the victim begging for mercy, which



VICTORIA CHAN

corroborated the allegations.

The suspect has been charged with violating Article 6 of the Criminal Code and the Penal Code, which carry increased penalties for domestic violence.

"This case is particularly brutal and will have serious physical and emotional consequences for the victim," said a police spokesperson, who declined to identify either the victim or the suspect to protect their privacy within their close-knit community.

The victim sought medical attention at Hospital Centre S. Januario following the incident. While the extent of her injuries

was described as "normal," the police noted that her head and multiple other body parts were harmed during the prolonged assault that lasted over two hours.

Last year, only 8% of all cases opened by the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) regarding suspicions of crimes related to the law on preventing and combating domestic violence have resulted in charges.

The number of suspected cases of domestic violence in Macau in 2023 totaled 40, including 26 cases in which the victims were the marriage partner, 11 where the victims were children, leaving

the other three to be related to other family members.

In 2023, the government has investigated a total of 1,781 notifications for suspected cases of domestic violence, which resulted in only 40 confirmed cases.

Experts urge victims to seek help and not hesitate to report abuse as the consequences can be severe and long-lasting.

Residents who are at risk of suffering from domestic violence are encouraged to call the Social Welfare Bureau's (IAS) hotline at 2823 3030. The hotline is available 24 hours a day and assisted by social service professionals.

PJ WARNS OF PHISHING SMS SCAMS

The Judiciary Police (PJ) is again urging the public to be cautious of phishing SMS messages that purport to be from local telecommunications companies. The messages said that rewards points must be redeemed as soon as possible and asked that the recipient to log into a fake website to provide personal and credit card information. The police said that a number of similar fraud cases have occurred in Macau recently, and that the fake websites appear very similar to official websites.

KOI KEI BAKERY RAISES EMPLOYEE PAY DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Local souvenir chain Koi Kei Bakery is increasing basic salaries for employees by MOP1,000 starting in July, according to an internal memo, as the retail sector faces challenges from declining tourism spending. The company, which operates 21 stores selling Macau and Chinese snacks, says it made the decision despite a 30% drop in average transaction value and the Statistics and Census Service reporting a 12.4% month-on-month and 32.3% year-on-year fall in retail sales for April. The pay boost follows an order requiring Macau's casino operators to stop providing free snacks, which is a move intended to help local small businesses who are hurt by the perks.

AVIATION

Korean Air launches daily Seoul-Macau route

NADIA SHAW

KOREAN Air has launched a new daily flight service between Seoul Incheon and Macau International Airport, becoming the sole full-service carrier connecting the two cities. The inaugural flight, KE169, arrived in Macau in the early hours on Monday.

The new Korean Air route, along with existing flights, has increased the total number of direct flights between Macau and Seoul to 35 per week, while there are also three weekly flights between Macau and Busan. This expanded air connectivity is expected to significantly boost mutual



Mascot Mak Mak welcomes passengers of Korean Air's inaugural flight from Seoul

visitation between Macau and Korea. "Korean Air's new flight service between Seoul and Macau is expected to elevate the city's

attraction for high-end Korean travelers and lead to a growing number of visitor arrivals from Korea, reinforcing Macau's status as

a world center of tourism and leisure," said the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) in a statement.

In tandem with the new air link, the MGTO has partnered with Korean Air to offer special ticket promotions and launch promotional tourism and marketing campaigns to boost awareness. This includes hosting Korean media to showcase Macau's tourism offerings, and inviting Korean influencers to create video content that further promotes Macau.

Starting in September, Korean Air will add a new Macau-Lisbon route via Seoul.

The service will operate three times per week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, using a Boeing

787-9 aircraft, the local airport company stated.

The flights departing from Seoul will have a flight time of around 12 hours, operating between Incheon International Airport and Humberto Delgado Airport in Lisbon. Passengers from Macau will have the option to stopover in Seoul for up to six hours, allowing them to connect with Korean Air's new daily service between Seoul and Macau that launched on July 1. During the stopover, passengers' checked luggage will be automatically transferred to their final destination in Lisbon.

Currently, Macau International Airport offers 14 indirect flights to destinations such as Canada, the U.S., Germany, Australia, India, and Sri Lanka via carriers like Eva Air, Scoot, Air China, and AirAsia.

FUNDINGS

FDC TO SPEND MOP25 MILLION ON PROJECTS TO CELEBRATE 'DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY'

RENATO MARQUES

THE Cultural Development Fund (FDC) has announced it intends to spend some MOP25 million subsidizing projects that celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the People's Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of Macau's handover.

To encourage non-profit associations legally constituted in Macau to carry out artistic and cultural activities related to the "Double Anniversary," the entity is providing financial support to two major types of activities. The first includes cultural and artistic shows and performances, exhibitions or fairs, and competitions and festive activities relating to intangible cultural heritage, while the second type includes audiovisual production, film and television production, animation production, lectures, workshops, training courses and seminars, publications of books and periodicals.

The maximum subsidy is MOP500,000 or MOP1 million, depending on the type of ac-



tivity. Priority will be given to projects that achieve the highest scores at evaluation.

The deadline for receiving financial support is between July 2 and December 31, 2024. All projects must be completed by December 31, 2024. Applications will open from July 2 to July 19.

The Activities and Projects Assessment Committee will

evaluate applications based on the following criteria: the quality and improvement of content planning, budget rationale, the candidate's execution capacity, as well as the scale and influence of the activity. Additional points will be awarded for projects that were funded by the National Arts Fund of China or its extended projects.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tap Seac tunnel to close overnight Thursday and Friday

RENATO MARQUES

THE Tap Seac tunnel will close to traffic this Thursday (July 4) and Friday (July 5) between 2:30 a.m. and 6 a.m., the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a joint statement.

Repair works will be performed to the tunnel ceiling, which has been damaged for some time.

In the statement, the bureaus said that repairs will be performed in the early hours of the morning to minimize impact on traffic.

During the closure period, the night bus route "N2" to the Bacia Norte do Patane will be diver-



ted. This will affect the first bus on July 4 and all busses until the last of July 5. After stopping at Prace-ta 1 de Outubro, the bus will continue into the Estrada do Reservatório and then through the Avenida de Sidónio Pais, returning to its normal route at the

Avenida de Horta e Costa. During this period, the bus stops at Rua do Campo and Jardim Lou Lim Ioc will be suspended.

The bureaus warn road users to pay attention to the road closure, plan alternatives, and follow the traffic signage that will be

placed on site.

Falling pieces from the ceiling of the Tap Seac tunnel have long been reported, with several motorists and commentators on the internet warning that the damage could pose dangers to vehicles and people.



TRANSPORT

DSAT to evaluate taxi services

VICTORIA CHAN

IN a move to address the ongoing taxi shortage in Macau, the city's Transport Bureau (DSAT) has announced plans to launch a comprehensive study this year, focusing on the fleet's capacity and service levels provided by both regular and special taxis. However, one key passenger concern, the alleged rudeness of many taxi drivers, will not be part of the evaluation.

According to a written response from the bureau's director, Lam Hin San, to queries from lawmaker Ngan Iek Hang, service standards remain the responsibility of the taxi companies themselves. Taxi operators are legally required to provide training to drivers and monitor their behavior.

The DSAT has expressed support for the idea of taxi companies developing an online booking platform, either

independently or through collaboration. However, Lam emphasized that the authorities would not accept passengers being charged excessive fees.

Macau's current taxi fleet of 1,518 vehicles for a population of 700,000 is widely recognized as insufficient, leading to a drastic shortage of cabs and an inability to meet demand from both residents and the large numbers of tourists who swell the city's population on weekends. To alleviate the problem, officials launched a public tender late last year, which is expected to put 500 new taxis on the streets in the coming months, although they acknowledge this may not be enough.

The lack of ride-hailing services such as Uber, which terminated operations in Macau in 2017 after a protracted legal battle with local authorities, has further exacerbated the city's taxi shortage.

TRANSPORT

LRT PASSENGER NUMBERS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

RENATO MARQUES

THE number of passengers transported by the Light Rapid Transit System (LRT) is continuing to decline, the company's monthly statistical data release shows.

According to the same data, the LRT carried some 11,600 passengers per day on average in June, which is 200 less than in the previous month May 2024.

This is the fourth consecutive month in which the LRT has reported a decrease in passenger figures since February this year, when the daily average reached 16,700 passengers.

In a recent report by the Times based on interviews with LRT users, passengers addressed several important

flaws in the system that could be contributing factors to the lack of uptake by residents and tourists.

In the report, tourists were reportedly unimpressed with LRT services, the frequency of trains, and the lack of connections between the system and eventual destinations.

For the time being, the LRT system has only one line in operation that offers transportation within Taipa Island and to the Peninsula via an extension of the line into Barra via the Sai Van Bridge.

According to the company as well as transport authorities, two new lines should open to the public this year, one connecting the Taipa line to Seac Pai Van and another to Hengqin Port.

Property market shows signs of recovery following removal of cooling measures

NADIA SHAW

MACAU'S property market experienced a significant rebound in the second quarter of 2024 after the lifting of purchase and sale restrictions, according to a recent report by realtor Centaline.

The overall vacancy rate rose from 10.3% in the first quarter to 12.4% in the second quarter, mainly due to the increased adoption of remote work during the pandemic.

Residential transactions were dominated by first-hand properties, with developers offering 20% to 30% discounts on new developments to attract buyers. The average price per square foot fell to around MOP7,000, down 10% year-over-year.

The luxury housing market also saw an increase in transactions, with the number expected to double in the second half of the year compared to the same period last year.

The commercial property



Hengqin's Cultural and Creative Zone

market saw a rise in transactions, with shops in tourist areas – mainly in the Taipa Village.

Buyers were primarily food and beverage vendors, taking advantage of the continued recovery of inbound tourism in these high footfall areas. However, the industrial building market is expected to face downward pressure on prices due to declining demand.

Back in April, the SAR govern-

ment scrapped the housing market cooling measures amid calls from the property sector as demand continues to weaken

This comes after several calls from associations to adjust the measures regulating real estate demand in Macau, as well as the tax measures in these regulations, which are a decade old.

The government has abolished the special stamp duty, additional

stamp duty, and stamp duty on acquisition, as well as easing mortgage lending restrictions, increasing the maximum loan-to-value ratio to 70% for Macau residents and 90% for affordable housing purchases.

Looking ahead, developers expect to continue offering new developments at attractive prices in the second half of the year, with monthly residential transactions

estimated to remain between 350 and 450 in the third quarter. The property market in Zhuhai is also gradually recovering, with the city introducing measures such as lowering the down payment ratio and canceling the lower limit on housing loan interest rates.

In the mainland, Hengqin's Cultural and Creative Zone was the most popular area, with over 700 transactions – a 1,308% year-on-year increase. The central business district also remained in high demand, accounting for 28% of total transactions.

Macau buyers made up the majority at 39%, followed by local Zhuhai buyers at 28%. Buyers from outside the province accounted for 23%, as Hengqin's rapid development and eased purchasing restrictions attracted more outside investment.

Looking ahead, 11 new projects are expected to launch in the second half of the year, providing over 1.3 million square meters of new supply across commercial, office, residential and cultural sectors.

GBA

Wanda Commercial moving to Hengqin

CHINA'S largest commercial property developer, Dalian Wanda Commercial Management Group (Wanda Commercial), is set to move its office to the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Employees will relocate from Beijing to the Hengqin office by mid-July.

Wanda Commercial, a key subsidiary of Dalian Wanda Group, operates a vast portfolio of 125 Wanda Plazas, 81 hotels (68 five-star), 6,600 cinema screens, and 99 department stores nationwide. The company aims to become a leading multinational with 1 trillion yuan in assets, 600 billion yuan in annual revenue, and 60 billion yuan in net income by 2020.

While previous reports indicated Wanda Group's Beijing headquarters would move to Zhuhai,



the relocation currently only involves the commercial property management division. A Wanda employee said to Chinese digital news outlet, The Paper, "As far as I know, the office in Zhuhai is located in the ICC Hengqin International Business Center." The decision to move to the Hengqin International Business Centre is motivated by a desire to reduce operational costs.

Earlier in April, Wanda sold its Beijing headquar-

ters to alleviate liquidity pressure. Since 2023, the company has sold 14 malls, its Sunseeker yacht business, and flagship Beijing Wanda Plaza. Fitch Ratings recently reaffirmed Wanda Commercial's 'cc' Issuer Default Rating, constrained by tight liquidity. However, Zhuhai Wanda Commercial's new financing plan and asset disposals are expected to help address short-term maturities, though execution risks remain. NS

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
仁德醫療中心



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong
Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun
Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao
Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong
Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin
Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io
Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin
Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan
ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang
Cardiology : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin
General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio
Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations General Assembly adopted a Chinese-sponsored resolution with U.S. support urging wealthy developed nations to close the widening gap with poorer developing countries and ensure that they have equal opportunities to use and benefit from artificial intelligence.

The resolution approved Monday follows the March 21 adoption of the first U.N. resolution on artificial intelligence spearheaded by the United States and co-sponsored by 123 countries including China. It gave global support to the international effort to ensure that AI is "safe, secure and trustworthy" and that all nations can take advantage of it.

Adoption of the two non-binding resolutions shows that the United States and China, rivals in many areas, are both determined to be key players in shaping the future of this powerful new technology — and have been cooperating on these first important international steps.

The adoption of both resolutions by consensus by the 193-member General Assembly shows widespread global support for their leadership on the issue.

China's U.N. Ambassador Fu Cong told reporters Monday that the two resolutions are complementary, with the U.S. measure being "more general" and the just-adopted one focusing on "capacity building."

He called the Chinese resolution, which had over 140 sponsors, "great and far-reaching," and said, "We're very appreciative of the positive role that the U.S. has played in this whole process."

Fu said AI technology is advancing extremely fast and the issue has been discussed at very senior levels, including by the U.S. and Chinese leaders.

"We do look forward to intensifying our cooperation with the United States and for that matter with all countries in the world on this issue, which ... will have far-reaching implications in all dimensions," he said.

The Chinese ambassador, however, strongly criticized the U.S. Treasury Department's proposed rule, announced on June 21, that would restrict and monitor U.S. investments in China for artificial intelligence, computer chips and quantum computing.

"We are firmly opposed to these sanctions," Fu said. China doesn't believe the rule will be "helpful to the healthy development of the AI technology per se, and will, by extension, divide the world in terms of the standards, and in terms of the rules governing AI." He called on the U.S. to lift the sanctions.

The Chinese resolution calls on the international community "to provide and promote a



Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations

TECH

UN adopts Chinese resolution with US support on closing the gap in access to artificial intelligence

fair, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory business environment," from AI's design and development to its use. Fu said China doesn't think the U.S. actions foster an inclusive business environment.

Both the U.S. and Chinese resolutions focus on the civilian applications of AI, but Fu told reporters the military dimension of artificial intelligence is also very important.

"We do believe that it is necessary for the international community to take measures to reduce the dangers and the risks posed by the development of AI," he said.

China is actively participating in negotiations in Geneva on controlling lethal autonomous weapons, Fu said, adding that some countries are considering proposing a General Assembly resolution this year on the military dimension of AI — "and we are in broad support of that initiative."

Both the U.S. and Chinese resolutions warned of the dangers of AI while also touting its potential benefits in promoting economic development and the lives of people everywhere.

The U.S. resolution recognizes that "the governance of artificial intelligence systems is an evolving area" that needs further discussions on possible governance approaches. It calls on countries to ensure that personal data is protected, human rights are safeguarded, and AI is monitored for

potential risks.

Ambassador Fu, who headed the Foreign Ministry's arms control department from 2018 to 2022, said China put forward the resolution because of the widening gap in AI technology between the developed North and

developing South.

He said China also wanted to highlight the central role the United Nations should play in AI governance as "the most representative and most inclusive international forum."

The Chinese resolution re-

solves "to bridge the artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within countries," and promote international cooperation, including sharing knowledge and transferring technology to developing countries.

MDT/AP

GOV'T ADVOCATES FOR AI COOPERATION TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS

CHINA spoke on behalf of a group of countries at the 56th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council = on Monday, advocating for strengthened international cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) to promote women's rights.

Delivering a joint statement on behalf of over 80 countries, Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the UN office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, emphasized the tremendous potential of rapid AI technology development for promoting economic and social progress and advancing human civilization.

Highlighting women's significant role in driving social development and progress, the statement said that next year marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declara-

tion and Platform for Action, which should be used as an opportunity to promote gender equality to ensure women to become key participants in, strong contributors to and true beneficiaries of the development of new quality productive forces.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, regarded by UN agencies as the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights, was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

To this end, the statement put forward a four-point proposal.

It emphasizes upholding a people-centered approach, advocating for the principle of gender equality to promote the comprehensive, equal, and meaningful participation of women in AI governance.

Additionally, it calls for

adherence to the principle of non-discrimination, striving to achieve fairness and non-discrimination in AI systems.

The proposal also prioritizes ethics by enhancing standards and norms for AI in advancing gender equality.

Finally, it stresses the importance of maintaining international cooperation to bridge the AI gap and jointly address the challenges AI poses to women worldwide.

This is one of the statements initiated by China at the Human Rights Council on AI's role in advancing the rights of specific groups. China introduced an initiative at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council on promoting the rights of people with disabilities with AI, and another one at the 55th session on enhancing children's rights with AI. XINHUA

TENSIONS

N. Korea brags of new missile with 'super-large warhead.' Outsiders doubt the North's claim

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying "a super-large warhead," a claim quickly disputed by South Korean officials and experts who speculate the North likely fabricated a successful test to conceal a botched launch.

It's the second time that South Korea has questioned North Korea's claim on the development of new weapons in recent days, as the rivals are locked in heightened animosities over the North's testing activities.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Monday's test involved the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 missile, which can carry a 4.5 ton-class warhead. It said the test was meant to verify the weapon's flight stability and hit accuracy at the maximum range of 500 kilometers and the minimum range of 90 kilometers.

The test apparently refers to the two ballistic missile launches that South Korea said North Korea performed Monday.



A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said at a briefing later Tuesday that the second North Korean missile was found to have fallen on an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the North's capital. He said he could find few previous test-launches by North Korea that have aimed at ground tar-

get sites.

"Regarding the North Korean assessment, we're weighing a possibility of deception," Lee said.

The South Korean military has said the second North Korean missile possibly traveled abnormally during the initial stage of its flight. It said if the

missile exploded, its debris would likely have scattered on the ground.

The KCNA dispatch didn't say from where it launched the new missile and where it landed. Unlike previous weapons tests, North Korea also didn't publicize any photos of Monday's test. The fact that it tested both the

missile's maximum and minimum ranges suggested North Korea performed two launches.

KCNA, citing North Korea's Missile Administration, reported that North Korea will test-fire the missile again later in July to verify the performances of its simulated warhead at the medium range of 250 kilometers.

Some experts say test-firing missiles at ground targets could be related to efforts to test how powerful warheads are to destroy underground bunkers and structures.

But Shin Jongwoo, a Seoul-based military expert, said the lack of any photos on the launches means it's highly likely the North is trying to deceive the outsiders to cover up Monday's failed launches. He said North Korea likely launched an existing missile on Monday, not the new missile at it claimed.

Yang Uk, an analyst at Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said that Monday's tests reflected North Korea's push to acquire a variety of conventional weapons. But he also said if North Korea truly succeeded in hitting a ground target, it probably would have already published related images to brag about its achievements as it's done in the past.

Since 2022, North Korea has sharply accelerated weapons testing activities to enlarge its nuclear arsenal. The North Korea-claimed ranges of the newly tested missile imply it targets South Korea. Experts say North Korea would ultimately want to use an expanded weapons arsenal to increase its leverage in future diplomacy with the U.S. **MDT/AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police arrest 14-year-old boy suspected of stabbing a student at the University of Sydney

ROD MCGUIRK,
MELBOURNE

A 14-year-old boy dressed in military clothing was arrested after police alleged he stabbed a 22-year-old student in the neck yesterday at the University of Sydney.

The student was taken to hospital in a stable condition. The suspect was treated in hospital for cuts and was kept for a mental health assessment, said Mark Walton, acting assistant commissioner for the New South Wales Police.

"A motive or ideology importantly has not been determined at this time,"

Walton told reporters. The New South Wales Joint Counterterrorism Committee was investigating the matter, but there was no ongoing threat to the community, Walton said.

"The ideology that may be related to this young person's activity is unknown, but I would say it's likely to be categorized as mixed and unclear ideology. It's certainly not a religiously related ideology," Walton added.

Walton said the boy had worn a "camouflage defense force uniform" and left a kitchen knife at the scene.

The boy caught a bus



from the university to a nearby hospital for treatment before he was arrested, police said.

Investigators found no link between the university attack and a 16-year-

old boy charged with performing a terrorist act in the stabbing of a Sydney bishop on April 15 while a church service was being streamed online. Several of his teen as-

sociates have been charged with various offenses including conspiring to engage in or planning as terrorist act.

Police shot dead a 16-year-old boy who had stabbed a stranger in a parking lot in the Australian city of Perth on May 4. That boy had been involved in a deradicalization program for two years before his death, but authorities did not classify the knifing as a terrorist attack, partly because there was no continuing threat that required an elevated law enforcement response.

Walton said the boy accused of the university attack had previously

come to the attention of police and other government agencies, but would not elaborate.

No decision had yet been made on what charges would be laid.

"The internet is toxic and it's very easy for young people, especially, to self-radicalize, to move towards violence," Walton said.

The stabbing yesterday triggered a major police operation and a lockdown of buildings at Australia's oldest university.

The police operation has since ended and all areas of the campus were now accessible, a university statement said.

"The safety and well-being of our students, staff and members of the community are our priority and we continue to work with authorities," the statement said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



PUTIN'S WAR

Ukraine is releasing thousands of prisoners so they can join the fight against Russia

VASILISA STEPANENKO,
EVGENIY MALOLETKA &
DEREK GATOPOULOS,
DNIPROPETROVSK REGION

At a rural penal colony in southeast Ukraine, several convicts stand assembled under barbed wire to hear an army recruiter offer them a shot at parole. In return, they must join the grueling fight against Russia.

"You can put an end to this and start a new life," said the recruiter, a member of a volunteer assault battalion. "The main thing is your will, because you are going to defend the motherland. You won't succeed at 50%, you have to give 100% of yourself, even 150%."

Ukraine is expanding the draft to cope with acute battlefield shortages more than two years into fighting against Russia's full-scale invasion. And its recruiting efforts have turned, for the first time, to the country's prison population.

Although Ukraine does not announce any details of troop deployment numbers or casualties, front-line commanders openly acknowledge that they are

facing serious manpower problems as Russian continues to build up forces in eastern Ukraine and make incremental gains westward.

More than 3,000 prisoners already have been released on parole and assigned to military units after such recruitment was approved by parliament in a controversial mobilization bill last month, Ukrainian Deputy Justice Minister Olena Vysotska told The Associated Press.

About 27,000 inmates could potentially be eligible for the new program, according to Justice Ministry estimates.

"A lot of the motivation comes from (inmates) wanting to return home a hero, and not to return home from prison," Vysotska said.

Ernest Volvach, 27, wants to take up the offer. He's serving a two-year sentence for robbery, at the penal colony in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region. He works in the kitchen, larding dollops of food into tin bowls.

"It's stupid to sit here doing nothing," Volvach said, adding that since the start of the war he's wanted to "do something for Ukrai-

ne" and have the opportunity to enlist. "Now it's appeared."

Ukrainian soldiers on active duty are typically identified only by their first name, or a call sign, for security reasons. Many of the inmates at the Dnipropetrovsk penal colony also asked to be identified only by their first names to avoid difficulties if they enlist.

Another inmate, 30, who gave his name only as Volodymyr, makes rivets at a penal colony workshop. He said he plans to volunteer after his sentence ends in one year, but wouldn't do so now because there's effectively no home leave under the parole program.

Prisoners can get the conditional release after an interview, medical exam, and a review of their conviction. Those convicted of rape, sexual assault, murdering two or more people or crimes against Ukraine's national security aren't eligible.

Ukrainian officials are keen to draw a distinction between their program and recruitment in Russia of convicts to serve in the notorious Wagner mercenary group. Those fighters

typically have been funneled to the deadliest battles, the officials say, but the Ukrainian program aims to integrate the inmates into regular Ukrainian frontline units.

The country has a prison population of some 42,000, according to figures forwarded by the government to the European Union.

While recent reforms have reduced the number of prisoners and are credited with improving conditions at some facilities, the U.S. State Department noted credible reports of "degrading treatment or punishment" by prison authorities in its annual report on human rights last year.

After screening, paroled inmates are rushed to basic training at camps where they learn how to handle weapons and other combat fundamentals. Training is completed later once they join the individual units.

Paroled inmate Mykhailo joined an assault course and said it was hard to keep up with the physical demands after months of relative inactivity in prison - clambering in and out of armed personnel carriers and running through obstacle courses.

"I decided to sign up for the Ukrainian Volunteer Army because I have a family at home, children, parents," the 29-year-old said, speaking over the noise of gunfire at a shooting range. "I will be more useful in the war."

Vysotska, the deputy justice minister, said interest in the military parole program has exceeded early expectations, and that it could provide as many as 5,000 new recruits. "That would definitely help," she said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1988 US WARSHIP SHOOTS DOWN IRANIAN AIRLINER



An American naval warship patrolling in the Persian Gulf has shot down an Iranian passenger jet after apparently mistaking it for an F-14 fighter.

All those on board the airliner - almost 300 people - are believed dead.

The plane, an Airbus A300, was making a routine flight from Bandar Abbas, in Iran, to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The USS Vincennes had tracked the plane electronically and warned it to keep away. When it did not the ship fired two surface-to-air missiles, at least one of which hit the airliner.

Navy officials said the Vincennes' crew believed they were firing at an Iranian F14 jet fighter, although they had not confirmed this visually.

The plane blew up six miles from the Vincennes, the wreckage falling in Iranian territorial waters.

Iranian ships and helicopters have been searching for survivors but none have so far been found. Iranian television broadcast scenes of bodies floating amid scattered debris.

Iran has reacted with outrage, accusing the United States of a "barbaric massacre" and vowed to "avenge the blood of our martyrs".

President Reagan said the Vincennes had taken "a proper defensive action" and called the incident an "understandable accident", although he said he regretted the loss of life.

The president promised a full investigation into how a passenger jet came to be mistaken for a fighter jet, which is two-thirds smaller.

Last May the patrol frigate USS Stark was almost sunk by an Iraqi fighter-bomber, killing 37 sailors. Vigilance was tightened after the incident.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Most of those on board the Iranian Airbus were Iranians on their way to Mecca. The victims also included 66 children and 38 foreign nationals. An official inquiry carried out by the US attributed the mistake to human error.

However, the Iranian government has always disputed the American version of events.

It took four years for the US administration to admit officially that the USS Vincennes was in Iranian waters when the skirmish took place with the Iranian gunboats.

Subsequent investigations have accused the US military of waging a covert war against Iran in support of Iraq.

The US government has never admitted responsibility or apologised for the tragedy.

Some believe the Lockerbie bombing, carried out six months later in December 1988, was masterminded by Iranians in revenge for the Airbus tragedy, although a Libyan man was convicted and jailed in 2001.

In February 1996 the US agreed to pay Iran \$61.8 million in compensation for the 248 Iranians killed, plus the cost of the aircraft and legal expenses. It had already paid a further \$40 million to the other countries whose nationals were killed.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, favor creativity, romance and fun. Discuss passions, hobbies and games with beloved people. Express your heart.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Strengthen communications at home. The next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, are especially good for family meetings and discussions. Enjoy creative domestic projects.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
For the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, it's easier to learn, express and get your message out. Communications channels are wide open.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Negotiations come naturally. Communications get profitable over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Wheel and deal. Craft win-win scenarios. Discuss possibilities.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're especially clever and confident, with Mercury in your sign for three weeks. Whistle your own tune. Articulate and develop creative personal projects.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Complete or abandon old projects over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Clean messes. Write down dreams. Keep a diary. Envision and articulate plans.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Communication empowers teamwork, with Mercury in Leo. Social participation opens new possibilities with friends and allies over five weeks. Connect and collaborate for common gain.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Brainstorm lucrative projects and ventures with professional mentors. A rise in status is possible through communication over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo.

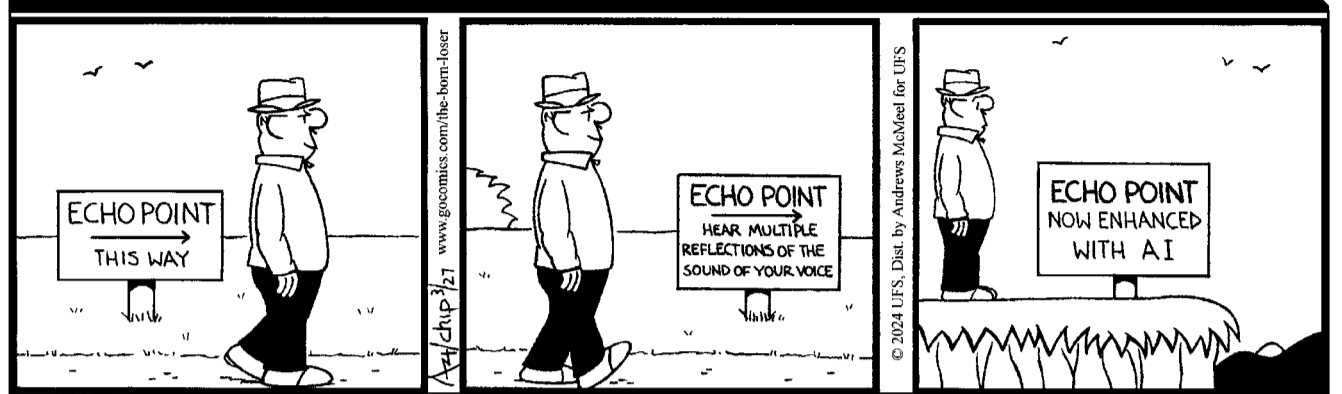
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Educational opportunities arise over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Expand your investigation. Travel beckons, but take care. Long-distance communication opens new doors.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Tally shared resources. Profitable collaborations arise in conversation over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Collaborate to grow financial strength for a common venture.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Partnership is key. It's easier to communicate and delegate over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Learn from experts. Generate new possibilities together.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Research and learn new tricks. With Mercury in Leo, you're especially clever and creative with your work, health and fitness. Genius sparks in conversation.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	27	overcast
Changchun	16	29	cloudy
Chengdu	21	32	cloudy
Chongqing	23	33	fine
Fuzhou	28	36	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	33	rain
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	27	35	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	34	cloudy
Harbin	15	29	fine
Hefei	24	29	cloudy
Nanjing	25	28	rain
Shanghai	26	34	overcast
Taipei	26	32	cloudy
Wuhan	22	30	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	sunny
WORLD			
Moscow	19	32	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	17	showers
Paris	16	20	cloudy
London	12	19	cloudy
New York	21	28	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Anarchist Goldman; 5- Kick off; 10- Makes lace; 14- Bank offering; 15- Chest or closet material; 16- Med. care providers; 17- Europe's highest volcano; 18- Field of play; 19- Baseball stats; 20- Interests; 22- Dirties; 23- Cries at the bullfight; 24- Oscar Madison, for one; 26- Teheran native; 29- Collecting; 33- Grasps; 34- Alpaca's cousin; 35- New beginning?; 36- Jazzy Fitzgerald; 37- "The ___ has landed."; 38- Ms. Bombeck; 39- In the style of; 40- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 41- Pittsburgh product; 42- Practice; 44- Golden-touch king; 45- Letterman rival; 46- Black-and-white treat; 48- Great reviews; 51- Work boot feature; 55- Mtn. stat; 56- Prepares for publication or release; 58- A Chaplin; 59- Author Wiesler; 60- Fortuneteller's card; 61- Little pest; 62- Helsinki resident; 63- Apparel; 64- Longings;

DOWN 1- Util. bill; 2- Marquand sleuth; 3- Jazz flutist Herbie; 4- South American boa; 5- Frighten; 6- Slender gulls; 7- Citrus coolers; 8- Wasn't colorfast; 9- Singing syllable; 10- Pulsates; 11- Prefix with dexterity; 12- Work like a dog; 13- Flat sound; 21- Yalies; 22- Cubs slugger Sammy; 24- Little; 25- Weak, as an excuse; 26- Do ___ a Waltz?; 27- Esther of "Good Times"; 28- God of Islam; 29- Pond scum; 30- How some losses are shown; 31- Where Hercules slew the lion; 32- Scores; 34- Cow catcher; 37- Merit; 38- Cause of a disease; 40- Scottish refusals; 41- Hook's helper; 43- Cricket team; 46- Preminger et al.; 47- Takes five; 48- Coral formation; 49- ___ want for Christmas...; 50- Blood vessel; 51- Kingly address; 52- Sound quality; 53- ___ even keel; 54- Consumes; 56- Airport abbr.; 57- ___ es Salaam, Tanzania;

Yesterday's solution

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!

jml property 置業物業 買賣租賃

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com
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



GRAHAM DUNBAR,
FRANKFURT

PORTUGAL 0(3), SLOVENIA 0(0)

NO one does high drama in international soccer to such an operatic extent as Cristiano Ronaldo.

Portugal is heading to a blockbuster quarterfinal with France at the European Championship after its star captain generated compelling viewing on center stage of the victory over Slovenia early yesterday (Macau time).

Winning a penalty shootout 3-0 after a 0-0 game against the 57th-ranked team in world soccer might not sound much.

But there were tears, lots of them, from Ronaldo; an apology in prayer-form to his fans, who responded with adulation; extravagant arm gestures of anger, frustration and exasperation; chances wasted and denied to make more tournament history; a renewed duel with an old rival goalkeeper; and ultimately redemption and victory.

Ronaldo's mother was in the stadium and TV pictures showed her crying, too, after he missed his penalty.

"Sometimes it's hard and difficult to score penalties," Ronaldo told Portuguese broadcaster RTP after the match, getting emotional again. "I've scored more than 200 penalties in my career. Sometimes it's a mess."

Still, the last act of the show gave Portugal what it needed.

"We showed the enthusiasm that we still have to play, to have fun, to give joy to the fans and that's it, this is our life," he said after it was all over, close to midnight in Frankfurt.

The 39-year-old Ronaldo

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

EPIC PENALTIES DRAMA FOR RONALDO ENDS WITH PORTUGAL BEATING SLOVENIA IN A SHOOTOUT

went into the game without a goal at Euro 2024.

The moment when he surely had to become the oldest player ever to score at a Euros finals tournament came in the first period of extra time, the 105th minute, after missing five or six of the kind of chances he has thrived on now for 20 years at this level.

Portugal had been awarded a penalty kick and Ronaldo stepped up to take what could have been the decisive goal.

Instead, Slovenia goalkeeper Jan Oblak, a long-time adversary from their time playing Spanish league soccer in Madrid, dived left to push aside the well-struck shot against a post and away to safety.

Tears welled in Ronaldo's eyes and soon flowed during the break before the second period of extra time began. Teammates consoled him, kissed his forehead and urged him to keep going.

Extra time also finished 0-0 and when the penalty shootout started, Slovenia's first kick was saved by Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa.

Up stepped Ronaldo, facing a massed stand of about 10,000 Portugal fans. He placed it perfectly low beyond Oblak diving to his right.

Ronaldo looked apologetically to the fans and put his

hands together as if in prayer. The fans responded with a bellowing and forgiving shout of "Siuuuu" — their soccer icon's trademark goal scream.

"I was certain that he had to be the first penalty taker and show us the way to victory," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said. "Life gives you difficult moments and the way he reacted makes us very proud."

Costa answered the rest of those fans' prayers with as good a penalty shootout as any goalkeeper could have.

He saved all three of Slovenia's kicks from Josip Ilcic, Jure Balkovec and Benjamin Verbi. Then he was in tears, too.

Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva also scored for Portugal to seal the shootout 3-0 with two kicks to spare.

"I was sad and now I'm overjoyed. This is what football gives you," Ronaldo said in translated comments in a post-game interview. "You cannot explain it."

Portugal will face France in the quarterfinals on Friday in Hamburg, a rematch of the 2016 final that Portugal won in Paris after Ronaldo went off injured early.

"We all know that Cris is the hardest worker. I understand how frustrated he is," Costa said. "For me, it's an honor to play on the same team."

The personal duel between Ronaldo and Oblak had been memorable merely in regulation time.

It was an intensely frustrating first 90 minutes for Ronaldo with three free kicks, two mistimed jumps for headers and a golden chance to score with his first clear shot in open play.

That was in the 89th, when he ran clear on goal with the ball passed perfectly into his stride. The left-foot shot was low and powerful but Oblak's block was better.

The best of Ronaldo's free kicks was a powerful line drive right at Oblak in the 55th that the tall goalkeeper squatted to push away with strong hands.

The intense drama for the Portugal superstar almost overwhelmed the troubled evening for Slovenia's emerging star.

Benjamin Šeško had chances to win the game, in the 62nd and 115th minutes, going one-on-one with Costa after racing

past 41-year-old defender Pepe.

The first was a weak shot that screwed wide, and the second was powerful and accurate but saved by the goalkeeper's outstretched boot.

So it went penalties. Just as it had in the Euro 2012 semifinals, when Spain beat Portugal before Ronaldo — as the fifth scheduled taker — even had the chance to step up.

Just as it had when Ronaldo's Real Madrid and Oblak's Atletico Madrid met in the 2016 Champions League final. Back then, Ronaldo placed the fifth and decisive spot-kick past Oblak to win the title.

Portugal is still competing to win back the European title it also won in 2016, at the expense of an admirable Slovenia squad that was effectively unbeaten after drawing all four of its games at Euro 2024.

"His emotions show respect for Slovenia," coach Matjaž Kek said of Ronaldo, "and that is what I am content with."

MDT/AP

SCOREBOARD

Round of 16	Switzerland	2	0	Italy
Round of 16	Germany	2	0	Denmark
Round of 16	England	2	1	Slovakia
Round of 16	Spain	4	1	Georgia
Round of 16	France	1	0	Belgium
Round of 16	Portugal	0(3)	0(0)	Slovenia

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

Mbappé and France into quarterfinals after Kolo Muani's late goal beats

STEVE DOUGLAS,
DUESSELDORF

FRANCE 1, BELGIUM 0

ANOTHER frustrating match for Kylian Mbappé. Another underwhelming performance by France at the European Championship.

Didier Deschamps isn't concerned — his team is into the quarterfinals.

"It's beautiful," the France coach said after Les Bleus relied on the ninth own-goal scored at Euro 2024 to squeeze past Belgium 1-0 in the round of 16 yesterday (Macau time).

A heavyweight match between neighbors and teams ranked No. 2 (France) and No. 3 (Belgium) failed to live up to its billing, and the nature of the only goal proved to be fitting.

Randal Kolo Muani, on as a second-half substitute, turned in the area and sent in a shot in the 85th



Antoine Griezmann of France celebrates in the Belgium goal after Randal Kolo Muani of France, shot at goal to cause Belgium's Jan Vertonghen to score an own goal during a round of sixteen match between France and Belgium

minute that deflected off Belgium defender Jan Vertonghen and looped over stranded goalkeeper

Koen Casteels.

"I was lucky enough to get my shot on target," he said of his deci-

sive intervention. "It was blocked but it went in. We're very, very happy and very, very proud."

UEFA thought differently about the destination of Kolo Muani's shot and put it down as an own-goal, the latest in a tournament full of them.

It's the second own-goal earned by France while there has also been a penalty by Mbappé. It means a France player has yet to score from open play.

"Even if today that goal was enough to get us to the quarterfinals, we have the capability to score more," Deschamps said.

France will play Portugal or Slovenia in the last eight on Friday.

Mbappé, again wearing a mask to protect his broken nose sustained against Austria in France's opening match, had five of France's 20 shots but none were on target. He played mostly on the left wing and was well-marshalled by a Belgian defensive set-up that included Kevin De Bruyne — the team's most creative player — deployed as a deep-lying midfielder. **MDT/AP**

AD



BENFICAMACAU ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER

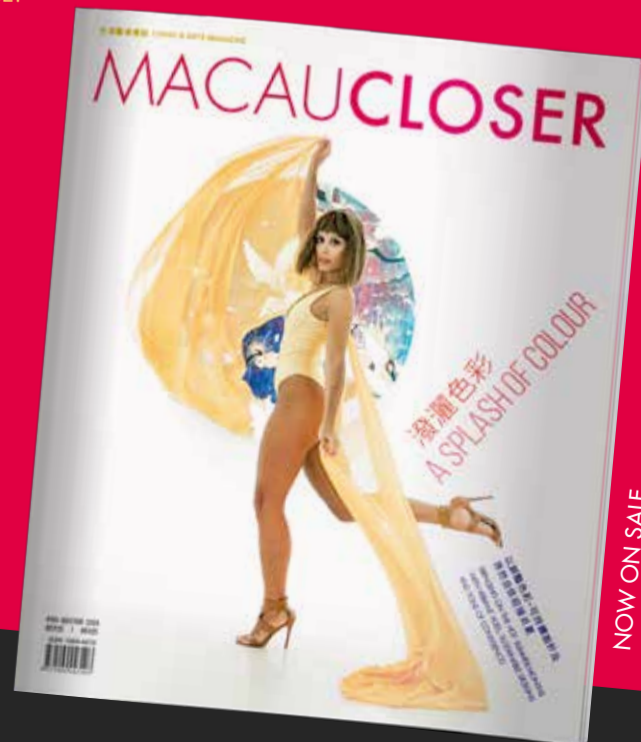
NEW WEBSITE >>



潑灑色彩

A SPLASH OF COLOUR

以鮮豔色彩、可持續設計及昂然自信迎接炎夏
BRINGING ON THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS WITH
VIBRANT HUES, SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS AND TONS
OF CONFIDENCE!



NOW ON SALE

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

AT THE VERY HEART OF ITS NAME, COOPERATION IS THE DEFINING HALLMARK OF THE SCO

Over the past more than two decades since it was founded, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has withstood severe tests and made big strides in consolidating unity among its members, increasing mutual trust and boosting development.

Despite the sniping of Western countries in their attempts to distort perceptions of the organization as part of their zero-sum game, cooperation is the name of SCO's game. It has created a new model of cooperation based on partnership and dialogue, rather than being a clique for confrontation.

By transcending differences among countries in ideology, social system and development path, the SCO has become an effective mechanism for addressing common challenges, including terrorism, drug trafficking, cybercrime and transnational organized crime, in the region and beyond.

The "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations, and pursuit of common development has continuously served as the bedrock for the organization's dynamic development and growth. It is essential that the growing SCO "family" stick to these tenets so that the organization can continue to safeguard common interests and effectively respond to common challenges.

From an organization primarily focused on countering the security challenges from terrorism in the Central Asian region, the SCO has matured into a powerful international structure with 35 statutory bodies and 45 expert mechanisms for multilateral interaction.

Its viability and importance have been fully demonstrated and all 14 states that are SCO dialogue partners have already declared their intention to become members of the organization as soon as possible. Belarus is due to become the newest member at this year's summit.

At the upcoming summit in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, the leaders of the member states will once again discuss a wide range of political, economic and cultural challenges that the region faces and witness the signing of a series of documents, including the SCO Development Strategy through 2035.

As a founding member of the SCO, China has always regarded its involvement as an important part of its neighborhood diplomacy, and President Xi Jinping is once again attending the SCO summit.

Eleven years ago, Xi put forward the notion that the world is increasingly becoming a community with a shared future, as all of humanity is living in the same global village facing the same challenges. Since then, the SCO has been at the forefront of efforts to transform the notion of a community with a shared future into reality.

It is expected that the focus of the discussions at the summit will be cooperation in the field of security, which remains a high-priority area of activity for the SCO. Certainly, the SCO can and should set an example for the effective implementation of the principle of indivisible security. Strengthening trade and economic cooperation will also be at the top of the agenda, with the emphasis on making cooperation in these areas more resistant to the West's efforts to curtail it.

To this end, a practical road map for gradually increasing the share of national currencies in the mutual settlements of the SCO member states and how to better synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with the respective development strategies of member countries, not least by accelerating the development of transport connectivity between the SCO member states, are expected to be key topics for discussion.

Apart from attending the SCO summit, Xi is also scheduled to pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, which will bring China's bilateral ties with these two Central Asian countries to a higher level and strengthen China's interaction with the region as a whole.

In an increasingly turbulent world, instilling greater certainty and stability into regional peace and development will inject a breath of fresh air into the current suffocating atmosphere in the turbulent international arena that is helping to stave off confrontation and enmity.

A driver whose car struck pedestrians waiting at a crowded intersection in South Korea's capital, killing nine people, will be investigated on allegations of accidental homicide, police said yesterday.

The car hit several people Monday night in central Seoul, after reportedly going in the wrong direction and colliding with two other cars. Six other people were injured, including the driver who was detained.

The driver told investigators that his car accelerated abruptly and unintentionally. Police said his car would be sent to the country's

forensic agency for an examination.

Police said yesterday that tests showed the driver wasn't under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They'll consider seeking a formal arrest warrant to extend his detention if it's needed for an investigation.

Police refused to disclose the identity of the driver, citing privacy regulations, but South Korean media reported he was a bus driver in his late 60s from Ansan, a city just south of Seoul, who has 40 years of driving experience.



HAITI

GANG VIOLENCE HAS DISPLACED 300,000 CHILDREN, THE UN SAYS

CORAL MURPHY
 MARCOS, SAN JUAN

GHaiti has displaced more than 300,000 children since March, the U.N. children's agency said Tuesday as the Caribbean country struggles to curb killings and kidnappings.

Children are more than half of the nearly 580,000 people who have become homeless in the last four months. The spike in violence began in late February after a series of coordinated attacks on key government infrastructure eventually led Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign in April.

"The humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before our eyes is taking a devastating toll on children," Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director, said in a statement. "Displaced children are in desperate need of a safe and protective environment, and

increased support and funding from the international community."

Gangs now control at least 80% of the capital Port-au-Prince and the key roads leading in and out of it, with more than 2,500 people killed or injured across the country in the first three months of the year, according to the U.N.

Many children are living in makeshift shelters, including schools that are in poor hygienic conditions, placing them at risk of disease. School closures are also leading to a higher dropout rate.

The agency said children in Haiti are being forced to join violent gangs to survive as they often lack access to food, health care, clean water and sanitation. Displaced children and teenagers in Haiti also face a higher risk of sexual assault, exploitation, abuse and family separation, according to UNICEF.

The announcement

comes days after hundreds of Kenyans arrived in Haiti to help rescue the country from the tight hold of armed gangs. The deployment received mixed reactions after a U.N. peacekeeping mission years ago introduced cholera in the country and was tainted with sexual allegations.

On Monday, U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Jonathan Finer met with Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille to discuss the initial deployment of the U.N.-backed mission to Haiti. Finer reminded Conille of the United States' strong support for accountability and oversight mechanisms as part of mission.

Haiti is also bracing for a strong hurricane season, which started earlier than usual. A tropical storm watch was in effect for Haiti's southern coast as Hurricane Beryl moved into the Caribbean Sea. **MDT/AP**



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán was in Kyiv yesterday for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Orbán's press chief confirmed to Hungarian news agency MTI that the prime minister had arrived in the Ukrainian capital in the morning for the talks. Bertalan Havasi said the main topic of the meeting will be the opportunity for building peace as Ukraine fights off Russia's invasion. Officials in Kyiv did not confirm Orbán's arrival.



USA Donald Trump's lawyers yesterday (Macau time) asked the New York judge who presided over his hush money trial to set aside his conviction and delay his sentencing, scheduled for next week. The letter to Judge Juan M. Merchan cited the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling earlier Monday and asked the judge to delay Trump's sentencing while he weighs the high court's decision and how it could influence the New York case, according to the letter obtained by The Associated Press.



Israel The army ordered a mass evacuation of Palestinians from much of Khan Younis recently, a sign that troops are likely to launch a new ground assault into the Gaza Strip's second-largest city. The order suggests Khan Younis will be the latest target of Israel's raids into parts of Gaza it had previously invaded in the war, as it pursues regrouping Hamas militants. Much of Khan Younis was destroyed in a long assault earlier this year, but large numbers of Palestinians had moved back to escape another Israeli offensive in Gaza's southernmost city, Rafah.