

17
A-CHANGIN'
Advertise with us
+853 287 160 81

CTM 5.5G
is the first to launch 5.5G in Macau
Speed Power Up
Experience hassle-free travel
FREE upgrade automatically to all 5G customers

www.ctm.net.mo
MULTI-PLAYERS: 1000

THE SAR GOV'T ACCUSES TAIWAN'S OFFICE OF 'DEFAMING AND DISTORTING FACTS' FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

P3

MACAU DAILY TIMES HIT BY FAKE INTERVIEW SCAM INVOLVING LAWRENCE HO

P5

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES A BIG DRAW FOR CHINESE TOURISTS

P6



AP PHOTO



Vietnamese President To Lam was confirmed Saturday as the new chief of the Communist Party after his predecessor died July 19. Lam will be the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country's most powerful political role, state media said. It was unclear if Lam will stay in his role as president. The previous general secretary, Nguyen Phu Trong, dominated Vietnamese politics since he became party chief in 2011.

AP PHOTO



Bangladesh New protests erupted late last week, leaving two people dead and more than 100 injured — the latest in a wave of unrest that killed more than 200 people last month in violent demonstrations following weeks of rallies over controversial reforms in the job quota system. Over 2,000 protesters gathered in parts of the capital, Dhaka, to rally against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, some shouting “down with the autocrat” and demanding justice for victims.

AP PHOTO



Philippines A fire swept through a part of a small building in Manila's crowded Chinatown district late last week, leaving at least 11 people dead, police said, adding that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the blaze. About 14 firetrucks battled for more than two hours to control the blaze in an old five-story building in one of the world's oldest Chinatowns, a densely populated riverside section of the capital. Fire investigator Roderick Andres said the fire started in an eatery on the ground floor, and that several of its staff were among the dead.

More on backpage

CORPORATE SENSIBILITY

Lawmaker Leong Sun lok urges gaming firms to protect employees as manpower shortages, job instability have 'taken a toll' on them

P4

STATS
IPIM APPROVES 11 NEW TEMPORARY RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS IN H1

P3

GAMING
CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR AUGUST CASINO REVENUES

P4

MACAU CHINESE ORCHESTRA 2024-25 SEASON BEGINS NEXT MONTH

The Macau Chinese Orchestra (OCHM) will begin its 2024-25 Concert Season Sept. 1, with 14 performances at the Macao Cultural Centre. National Class One Conductor Zhang Lie has been appointed Music Director and Principal Conductor. The season opens with "Splendor of the Strings," showcasing renowned soloists and innovative compositions – promising a blend of Chinese and Western music. Tickets go on sale Aug. 6 and are available through the Macau Ticketing Network – with discounts available for early purchases and various cardholders.

NETWORK UPGRADE MAY BRING DSMG SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

The network system of the Government Information Bureau (DSMG) will undergo maintenance and upgrade Monday, Aug. 5, between 12 a.m. and 7 a.m., causing intermittent delays in certain information services. The 1311 telephone inquiry service will also experience intermittent interruptions during this period. Services are expected to return to normal once the maintenance and upgrade work is completed.

TAIPA GRANDE STATION RECORDS HOTTEST DAY OF 2024

The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) has issued an orange hot weather alert, warning residents of extreme heat in the coming days. The Taipa Grande meteorological station reported a scorching 34.6 degrees Celsius yesterday, marking the highest temperature of the year. Yesterday afternoon, the Outer Harbour station recorded an even hotter 37.1 degrees stressing the severity of the current heatwave. The SMG has warned temperatures may soar to 36 degrees or higher in some areas. Authorities have advised the public to take precautions against heatstroke, including avoiding direct sun exposure and staying hydrated.



May Labor Day demonstration, 2016

TRADE UNION REGISTRATION, TRANSITION STARTS 2025

RENATO MARQUES

The Legislative Assembly's new Trade Union Law, passed mid-April this year, has been partly regulated through a new Administrative Regulation, the Executive Council

(ExCo) announced late last week.

The regulation sets January 1, 2025, as the start of the official registration of trade unions.

Until now, the different groups performing similar ac-

tivities have been registered as traditional associations.

The new regulation defines the procedure for registering unions and the trade union federation as well as for registration cancellation, communication on board member

appointments, and the procedure for requesting exemption from the status of worker required for those performing such tasks.

The regulation also sets the rules for amending bylaws and other aspects related to union groups.

The regulation explains the procedure for communication to be made by unions and trade union federations regarding their affiliation with or withdrawal from external organizations or associations, as well as their participation in or co-organization of activities, among other particulars.

It establishes procedures for the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) to issue certificates as well as other procedures to consider during the transition period of the law.

The regulation starts March 31, 2025, along with Law No. 6/2024 (Trade Union Law).

At the ExCo's press conference Friday, Chan Weng Chi, Head of the Research and Information Technology Department of DSAL, confirmed existing groups and associations will have to move into the new system, establishing a legal union to continue to perform union activities.

Chan said that, during the transition period, there are about 400 affected groups and associations that should either apply to be recognized as a union or stop their activities.

SAFP authority on e-gov matters widened

RENATO MARQUES

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) will have, from Sept. 1, added powers to promote and monitor the development of electronic governance (e-gov) with the introduction of a recommendation mechanism, the Executive Council announced Friday in an amendment to the e-gov law.

In addition to issuing instructions to public services, the SAFP will also be responsible for issuing recommendations directly to public services in the event of



non-compliance with the law, regulations, or instructions within the scope of e-gov, becoming legally empowered to urge the other

services or departments to carry out the necessary corrections.

The new regulation also notes that if public services refuse to ac-

cept recommendations without a duly substantiated reason, the SAFP also has power to communicate this fact to the regulatory entity.

Additionally, the regulation improves the legal provisions relating to the electronic notification service, determining that public services must indicate, in the agreement for receiving electronic notification to be concluded with interested parties, the scope of the notification service.

In cases where the public services change the scope of their duties, they must disclose these changes to interested parties in advance so they can decide whether to continue using the electronic notification service.

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

Gov't accuses Taiwan's Office of 'defaming and distorting facts' for political purposes

RENATO MARQUES

THE government has responded to accusations from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Delegation that an official from the Office had seen a work visa being refused by local authorities due to the person having refused to sign an affidavit in which he would state that he would agree with the "One China" principle.

The government has issued a press statement expressing "its firmest condemnation and opposition to Taiwan distorting the facts and defaming Macau regarding the provisions for staff rotation at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Delegation in Macau."

The same statement notes that "Following the 'Basic Law of the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China' and the principles and guidelines for handling Macau matters related to Taiwan, which were drawn up by the Central Govern-



ment after 1999, the Taiwanese institutions and their personnel in Macau must comply with the 'One China' principle."

"Therefore, it is completely legitimate and reasonable for the Macau SAR government to require

the Taipei Economic and Cultural Delegation in Macau and its staff to sign a 'Term of Commitment,' the local government said.

"However, the Taiwanese authorities distort reality and defame Macau, highlighting their political

objective, seriously damaging the relationship between Macau and Taiwan. The current staff problem of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Delegation in Macau results from the insistent and irresponsible actions of the Taiwanese autho-

rities, whose responsibilities must be assumed by the Taiwanese authorities."

According to Taiwan, the local government wanted the new appointee to the Taiwanese representation to sign a document, which "our side cannot agree to," the Mainland Affairs Council deputy head and spokesperson Liang Wen-chieh said in a press conference with the media in Taiwan, adding that it prevented the official from taking up the post in Macau.

At the same opportunity, Liang called on the local government "not to impose unnecessary obstacles" to new appointments taking up the post, the outlet Channel News Asia, reported.

In a heated speech, Liang said that if the Macau government continues to insist on such requirements for Taiwanese officials, the Taiwanese authorities "will prepare for the worst," he said, without specifying what actions Taiwanese authorities would be prepared to take.

GAMING

MGM Cotai to host major poker tournament series in September

NADIA SHAW

MACAU'S MGM China is set to launch its first significant poker tournament series, the "2024 MGM Poker Tournament Series," from Sept. 3 to 15 at MGM Cotai.

The event will feature a compact schedule of four tournaments, highlighted by the Millionaire Maker Poker Tournament, which guarantees a first prize of HKD1 million, according to media reports.

The high-stakes tournament series will kick off with two preliminary satellite events on Sept. 3, leading into daily single table satellites until Sept. 12.

The main events will commence Sept. 4, beginning with a HKD5,000 Mys-



tery Bounty Event. Other notable tournaments include a HKD6,800 Golden Lion Bracelet Event and a HKD88,000 High Roller event.

The Millionaire Maker Poker Tournament will feature a buy-in of HKD8,880 and will consist of five Day 1 flights, allowing players multiple opportunities to compete for the lucrative prize.

This series marks a renewed effort by gaming operators to enhance the poker scene, especially after the recent success of a smaller series held in March by Sands China at The Venetian Macao.

The "Macao Masters" marked the first official poker tournament in Macau in six years.

The four-day event features a

HKD3,000 buy-in and includes three Day 1 flights with unlimited rebuys. The top 30 chip stacks will advance to the final day on March 14.

The above-mentioned tournaments are significant as they reflect a revival in competitive poker in the region, which had been on hiatus since the 2018 Macau Millions.



STATS

IPIM APPROVES 11 NEW TEMPORARY RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS IN H1

RENATO MARQUES

IN the first half (H1) of the year, the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) processed 68 applications for temporary residency under the investment program as well as the Management and Specialized Technical Staff, according to an IPIM statement.

Among these applications were 32 for renewal of temporary residency, two for extension to the household and 34 new applications.

Of the 34 new applications only 11 were approved, the IPIM noted.

According to the detailed data disclosure, 54.5% of the new applications (six applications) approved were for the Education sector. Ano-

ther 18.2% (two applications) were for the Health and Social Work sector.

The remaining three applications approved by IPIM (9.1% each) were for different sectors including the Gaming and Entertainment, Finance and Wholesale and Retail Trading industries.

Of the 11 new applications approved, only one was for investment projects (the Wholesale and Retail Trading industry), while the other 10 were for Managerial and Specialized Technical Staff.

The second quarter of this year (Q2) only saw three applications approved, with the remaining eight approved in the first three months of the year.

CULTURAL CENTER'S MAIN THEATER IN USE 94% OF THE TIME

The Macao Cultural Centre's main theater has an annual average occupancy rate of 94% while the Black Box Theater has a rate of 71%, according to data from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). The statement comes after lawmaker Ella Lei's written enquiry, advocating for more cultural facilities to meet the needs of local arts groups and the public. In response, IC president Delan Leong said the government is "committed to optimizing the hardware and software facilities of Macau's cultural industry through multiple channels." This includes creating more performance spaces and opportunities for local artists and art groups.

GONGBEI PORT RECORDS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY ARRIVALS

According to statistics from the Gongbei Border Inspection Station, over 386,000 passengers passed through Gongbei Port yesterday, marking the highest single-day passenger flow in four years. The station reported that summer events, such as concerts and shopping festivals in Macau, have significantly increased travel between Zhuhai and Macau. From July 1 to yesterday, the cumulative passenger flow exceeded 10 million, a 12.4% year-on-year increase, with a daily average of 316,000 trips. Of these, 52,000 were made by travelers with tourist visas, a 15.5% year-on-year rise. Both figures are the highest for winter and summer holidays in the past four years.

NON-RESIDENTS' DEPOSITS INCREASE TO MOP344B

The broad money supply (M2) retreated 0.6% in June to MOP751.5 billion. Resident deposits decreased 0.6% to MOP730.5 billion, while non-resident deposits increased 4% to MOP343.6 billion. According to the Monetary Authority of Macao, total loans to the private sector fell 1.7% to MOP1,085.6 billion, with domestic loans to the private sector dropping 0.5% to MOP532.2 billion. Meanwhile, currency in circulation dropped 0.6% whereas demand deposits rose 3.7%. M1 thus increased 2.4% from one month earlier. On the other hand, quasi-monetary liabilities decreased 0.9%. Currency in circulation dropped 0.6% whereas demand deposits rose 3.7%.

LAWMAKER URGES GAMING OPS TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

STAFF REPORTER

MANPOWER shortages, frequent job changes, and the promotion of electronic gaming tables have resulted in heightened stress and physical and mental fatigue for gaming employees, according to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok in a written enquiry to the government.

He urged the government to promote the social responsibility of gaming companies in protecting employees and called on these companies to be more considerate of their workforce.

This included adapting to electronic trends, providing on-the-job training, hiring more staff, and improving salaries and other work benefits to boost morale and safeguard employees' well-being.

The lawmaker said the benefits of Macau's economic development are closely linked to the dedication of gaming employees.

However, he claimed increased customer flow has led to employees being frequently harassed by money changers and sub-agents.

Meanwhile, Leong has urged authorities to strengthen oversight of foreign employee recruitment and renewal processes, citing the recent case exposed by the anti-graft commission, where a manager of leisure companies solicited bribes from mainland residen-



ts seeking employment in Macau.

Leong said there should be creation of more good jobs and promising positions for local residents to optimize the employment environment and increase the proportion of local mid- to high-level employees.

Although the economy is gradually recovering, shifts in consumption patterns among residents and tourists have led to uneven economic development, causing operational challenges for many businesses, according to the lawmaker. He said despite the government's introduction of

the "Weekend North District Consumption" earlier this year to stimulate the North District's economy, foot traffic in many local areas remains below expectations.

He recommended the government consider extending the scheme to other communities and leverage the influence of gaming companies to invigorate the community economy, particularly aiding small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

By doing so, the social responsibilities and economic contributions of gaming companies can be significantly

enhanced, he said.

The lawmaker said gaming companies currently offer membership cards to customers, allowing them to redeem points for meal vouchers and various gifts at affiliated merchants.

To further stimulate the community economy, he proposed the government negotiate with gaming companies to extend the use of member points benefits and coupons to a broader range of community merchants, including restaurants, retail shops, entertainment venues and service providers.

GAMING

Analysts show cautious optimism for August casino revenues

NADIA SHAW

ANALYSTS expressed cautious optimism for August's gross gaming revenues (GGR) after July's figures fell short of expectations.

The casino industry experienced a disappointing month in July, with gross gaming revenue (GGR) failing to meet market expectations, according to analysts.

The local Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau reported a GGR of nearly MOP18.6 billion (approximately

USD2.31 billion), reflecting a modest 5.1% increase from June but significantly below historical performance levels.

For August, Deutsche Bank forecasts GGR to reach nearly USD2.4 billion (MOP19.1 billion), reflecting a 3% increase in daily revenue compared to July.

Seaport Research Partners is slightly more optimistic, projecting GGR could hit approximately USD2.47 billion (MOP19.6 billion), a 6.7% rise from July and over 15% higher than

August 2023.

The analysts said the August calendar appears more favorable, featuring five weekends that could enhance visitation and spending.

Umansky said any increase in tourism, particularly from package tours, would be beneficial, as current visitation levels remain at about 25% of pre-Covid figures.

"August may be a test of the strength of the recovery," he said, as the market seeks to stabilize after two months

of weaker-than-expected performance.

Investment analysts, including Carlo Santarelli from Deutsche Bank Securities, characterized July revenue figures as "weak."

In a memo released last week, Santarelli said the daily GGR increase of 1.7% compared to June was 310 basis points below the average July uplift of 4.8% observed from 2013 to 2019.

Vitaly Umansky of Seaport Research Partners echoed this sentiment, saying month-

-on-month growth fell short of the typical range of 9% to 10%.

"July started weak and ended weak, with solid mid-month performance," Umansky said, highlighting the inconsistent revenue flow throughout the month.

The analysts attributed the underwhelming performance to several factors, including a nationwide crackdown on money changers in both Macau and mainland China, which has impacted money movement and visitation.

While July's GGR figures fell below expectations, analysts remain hopeful August will bring a rebound, driven by improved visitation and spending patterns.

Macau Daily Times hit by fake interview scam involving Lawrence Ho

PAULO COUTINHO

THE Macau Daily Times header was fraudulently used by hackers on Friday to attribute a fake interview to Lawrence Ho, CEO of Melco Resorts. Other outlets, namely NewsChannel and Bloomberg, also fell victim to this sham.

The fake message, in Chinese, reads, "Macau's Monetary Authority feels outraged by [Lawrence] Ho Yau Lung's live comments, which could threaten Macau's entire financial system," adding in a caption, "An interview with Ho that has shocked people."

The Times hereby states that this is a false report and such an interview was never conducted by the newspaper with Lawrence Ho containing the alleged comments.

In a statement Friday, Melco Resorts formally declared that the reports about Lawrence Ho are "entirely fictional" and that "all information mentioned is untrue." They urged the public to "remain vigilant and not to trust unverified information to avoid falling into fraudulent traps." Melco sternly



warned that those "who spread false information or engage in fraudulent activities" will face legal consequences.

Also Friday, the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) issued a warning to the public about false statements being spread online. They urged citizens to be cautious and avoid being deceived and su-

ffering unnecessary losses, stating they will report any illegal content to the police.

This is not the first time that the Times has been targeted by scammers. In late June, a similar attack was made using the Macau Daily Times brand identity and related to another fake interview with a Taiwanese celebrity, who allegedly

denied such an interview ever took place. Our publishing company is suing the perpetrators, having filed a complaint with the Judiciary Police weeks after the incident.

The Macau Daily Times remains committed to providing truthful and verified information. We urge our readers to stay vigilant and verify the sources of their news to avoid falling victim to fraudu-

lent activities. For official news and updates, always refer to our official webpage.

The Times cautions our readers to pay attention to any links that are based anywhere outside our official webpage (www.macaudailytimes.com.mo).

In any of these cases, the integrity of our website or social media accounts has not been violated.

PJ URGES PUBLIC TO ENHANCE PREVENTION MEASURES AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has issued an appeal from the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre, urging the public to enhance their prevention measures against cyber attacks.

According to the statement, in recent years, cybersecurity incidents have frequently occurred in Macau, neighboring regions, and other countries, resulting in negative impacts such as the disruption of online public services, data leaks, and the spread of false information. Safeguarding cybersecurity requires the cooperation of all sectors of soci-

ety, the center said. "Ensuring efficient cybersecurity is crucial to protect national security, social stability, and the legitimate interests of the entire population," the statement read. Therefore, the center calls on all sectors of society to remain constantly vigilant against risks and dangerous situations.

It also called on the public to implement appropriate security protection measures for websites and various types of online applications; and use complex passwords for business and private online accounts, and change them regularly.

GBA New rules simplify medicine exports to Guangdong

THE Guangdong Provincial People's Congress has introduced new regulations to facilitate the import of medicines and medical equipment from Hong Kong and Macau to cities in Guangdong.

The changes, set to take effect in December, aim to ensure consistent management, improve alert and recall systems, and clarify regulatory responsibilities for these, as cited in a China Daily report.

The regulations also seek to ease the financial burden on patients by enhancing insurance coverage for imported drugs and equipment.

Measures include incentivizing insurers to develop plans with optimized com-

pensation procedures and allowing the use of basic medical insurance funds to purchase health insurance.

Additionally, the regulations promote the inclusion of crucial Hong Kong and Macau-sourced medicines

and equipment in general health insurance plans.

As of June, Guangdong has approved 19 medical institutions to import 67 such products (including 34 drugs and 33 medical devices), benefiting over 7,000 patients.

Separately, Guangdong has also passed regulations to lower the thresholds for entrepreneurship and employment for Hong Kong and Macau residents in the nine GBA cities within the province.

CORPORATE BITS

Studio City launches 'Flavors of Malaysia' buffet



Studio City launched "Flavors of Malaysia" Seafood Barbecue Buffet at its Spotlight restaurant throughout August.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the buffet offers guests

an authentic taste of Malaysian cuisine, featuring a variety of delectable Malay delicacies.

Muzambli Markam, Consul General of Malaysia in Hong Kong and Macau, said in his

remarks: "I am glad to see the traditional Malaysian gastronomy being brought to Macau by Studio City and showcasing the rich Malaysian culture with the authentic flavors of Malaysia to all residents and tourists from around the world."

This year, Melco properties have earned the greatest number of stars in the MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau 2024.

The Malaysian seafood barbecue buffet also features a vibrant dessert selection, including durian-based crepes, tarts, puffs, and ice cream, as well as classic Malaysian treats like "Ais Kacang" and Cendol.

Grand Coloane to host pool party



Grand Coloane Resort is gearing up to host a pool party on August 24, promising a day of entertainment

and culinary delights for guests.

The highlight of the event will be a series of live

performances, including a lively band and fire shows.

Adding to the excitement, the resort will also host a swimwear fashion show.

In the afternoon, the resort will offer "Mermaid Experience" sessions, allowing guests to channel their inner sea nymphs, as well as a SUP (stand-up paddleboard) workshop for those seeking a more active aquatic adventure.

As the sun sets, guests can indulge in an international specialties dinner buffet while being serenaded by the talented DJ Luna, MOJO Band, and DJ Ice.



Olympic Games a big draw for Chinese tourists

THE Paris 2024 Olympic Games are definitely the main event attracting crowds of Chinese tourists who are flocking to France this summer,

and the impact of this for France's tourism and economic growth may continue in the post-Olympic era, said tourism experts.

Travel portal uzai said that

tour bookings to France have seen a notable growth on the platform during the Olympics, and thousands of its customers will head to Paris to experience the sports gala.

Han Jie, chairman of CYTS Aoyou Company, a travel agency headquartered in Beijing, said that tour bookings to France started increasing from mid-June, and the number of tour groups to France saw a year-on-year growth of 60 percent this summer. He said that the first tour group for the Olympics had arrived in Paris on Tuesday — four days after the Games opened.

“The sports gala is definitely one of the most important driving forces for the tourism boom to France and Europe, which is also a chance to boost the Chinese people's understanding of culture and tourism resources in France,” he added.

Trip.com said that as of late July, tour bookings to Paris during the Olympics by tourists from the Chinese mainland grew 114 percent year-on-year and their hotel bookings in the city surged 194 percent on the platform.

However, the soaring prices of flight tickets and hotels may hamper the trips of some would-be tourists. Figures from travel portal Qunar show that hotel bookings in Paris, from late July to the end of August, doubled from those in the previous year on the platform while the price per night increased 31 percent on average.

“We drew up an economical spending plan of about 20,000 yuan (\$2,773) per person earlier this year, but the budget will double I think,” said Li

YanJun, a 32-year-old communication engineer from Beijing, who landed in Paris with his wife on Thursday to start a five-day visit to the city.

Most of the couple's spending is on flight tickets and hotel accommodation. “The round-trip ticket is around 8,000 yuan per person and the room was about 2,300 yuan per night. We plan to cut expenses on food and shopping. It was my wife's wish to watch the Olympic Games when I proposed to her.”

Tourism experts and industry insiders said that France is a traditional popular destination for Chinese travelers. They said that France's Olympic-related tourism boom will also create spillover effects for other European countries.

“We've seen some of our customers avoiding France during the Olympics due to the high prices and opting for Germany, Switzerland and Italy as their summer trip destinations,” said Qi Chunguang, vice-president of travel portal Tuniu. He said that there are many inquiries about tours to Paris and France after the Olympics.

Han, from CYTS Aoyou, suggested that would-be travelers avoid the peak season to France or Europe, to ensure a more economical trip. “The tourism boom will continue after the Olympics ends as European countries are traditionally top travel choices for Chinese tourists.” **CHINADAILY**

HONG KONG

Gov't to expand market outreach in H2

HONG KONG will continue to expand its market reach in the second half of this year to deepen ties with investors in Europe, the United States, Australia, and the Middle East, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Financial Secretary Paul Chan said yesterday.

Hong Kong's overall economic situation is stable, with a 3.3 percent year-on-year growth in GDP in the second quarter, Chan noted in his blog. While changes in consumer spending patterns and a relatively strong Hong Kong dollar put some pressure on private consumption, companies can meet the challenges and seize new opportunities by creating new business models and promoting high-quality products and services, he said.

In the first half of this



year, about 700,000 of the 21 million visitors to Hong Kong were MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) overnight visitors, recovering to 80 percent of the pre-pandemic level, the fastest recovery among all overnight visitors, Chan noted, adding that the group stayed in Hong Kong longer and spent 20 to 30 percent

more per capita than overall visitors.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has secured and bid for more than 60 major international conventions and exhibitions to be held in Hong Kong from this year to 2026, expected to attract at least 220,000 participants, Chan said.

“Hong Kong has outstanding international

advantages and extensive business and personal connections with different places. It has always played a unique role in international trade and economics. Hong Kong should make good use of this advantage and function, and continue to contribute to the country and achieve better development for itself,” Chan said. **MDT/XINHUA**

BEIJING

DIGITAL ECONOMY GROWTH OUTPACES GDP IN H1

BEIJING Municipality's digital economy continued to grow rapidly in the first half of this year (H1), achieving an added value growth of 7.8 percent year on year. This growth rate is 2.4 percentage points higher than the city's GDP growth rate during the same period.

The sector contributed over 60 percent to the city's economic growth, and the added values in the information service and electronic manufacturing industries rose 12.4 percent and 20.1 percent year on year, respectively, the latest data released by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics showed.

The application scenarios for digitalization are continuously expanding. By the end of June, the total mileage of autonomous driving tests had exceeded 28 million km.

Additionally, the city boasted 74 internet hospitals and 254 medical institutions providing online diagnostic and treatment services.

According to the bureau, the number of patents for inventions authorized to major enterprises in the digital economy grew by 38 percent in the first half of the year, and the investment in core industries of the digital economy increased by 32.5 percent in the city. A total of 122,000 5G base stations have been built, meaning 55 5G base stations per 10,000 people in the city.

This robust growth in the digital economy reflects Beijing's commitment to advancing technological innovation and digital transformation, positioning the city as a leading force in the new economy. **MDT/XINHUA**

ADVERTORIAL



German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, left, meets with his Philippine counterpart Gilberto Teodoro, Jr. in Manila, Philippines, yesterday

DEFENSE

Germany, Philippines agree to finalize a pact to address security threats

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

GERMANY and the Philippines agreed yesterday to rapidly finalize a defense pact that would allow joint military training and possible sale of German weapons to address security threats, including China's growing aggression in the South China Sea, which Manila's defense chief said was "the sole cause of tensions" and conflicts in the disputed waters.

China has long claimed much of the entire seaway, a key global trade and security route, and vowed to defend its territorial interests at all costs.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the proposed Arrangement on Defense Cooperation that he and Defense Minister Boris Pistorius discussed in talks in the capital, Manila, could be concluded as early as this year given current security concerns. Both underscored the need for countries to press diplomatic efforts under the U.N. Charter to attain "just and lasting peace" from Ukraine to Asia's flashpoints.

Without mentioning China by name, both defense chiefs expressed in a joint statement their strong opposition to "any unilateral attempt to advance expansive claims, especially through force or coercion." They also "reaffirmed their staunch commitment to freedom of navigation, overflight and other peaceful uses of the seas consistent with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea."

The Philippines and its longtime treaty ally, the United States, and other Western countries have frequently accused China of undermining those international principles with Beijing's increasingly hostile actions, including the use of powerful water cannons, military-grade laser and blocking and other dangerous maneuvers against Philippine ships in the disputed South China Sea. Meanwhile, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos's administration has moved to expand security alliances with friendly Asian and Western governments.

Beijing has accused Washington of instigating trouble and threatening the stability of the region by boosting the deployment of U.S. forces, warships and jets and working with countries like the Philippines to try to contain China's rise.

Responding to a question at a news conference with Pistorius, Teodoro said: "There is only one cause of conflict in the South China Sea...It is China's illegal and unilateral attempt to appropriate most, if not all, of the South China Sea as their internal waters."

"That is the sole cause of tensions," he added.

"The Philippines is not provoking China. We do not seek war, yet we are mandated not only by our constitution but as an obligation to our countrymen to protect whatever areas whether be jurisdiction or rights that rightfully belong to the exclusive benefit of Filipinos," Teodoro said. **MDT/AP**

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Facilitates Sustainable Development and Green Skills Education



With a commitment to advancing sustainable development, technological innovation, and green technology education in Macau, MGM joins hands with the Macao Science Center (MSC) to launch the three-year "Sustainable Development Innovation & Technology and Green Skills Education Campaign" (Campaign), to organize a series of science popularization activities themed on science and green development. This partnership aims to enhance the participants' knowledge, skills, values, and perspectives in this field, as well as drive their contribution to a sustainable and resource-efficient environment.

The Campaign's inaugural project "Shaping a Green Lifestyle Together" is a national youth science popularization competition – organized by the China Green Building Council of the Chinese Society for Urban Studies – specifically for Form 2 to 5 students nationwide. This competition allows the participants to embrace real-life and experiential learning revolving around the plastic waste issue, learning how to transform recycled plastic bottles into inventive tools. Meanwhile, these participants will have a deeper understanding of applying "4R" (reduce, reuse, recycle, and replace) green concepts in their daily lives, which also encourages them to adopt a green, low-carbon, and healthy lifestyle.



MGM also hosted a "plastic upcycling" workshop for local students at the Macao Science Center, where plastic bottle caps were creatively upgraded and transformed into unique living goods. This hands-on experience not only enriched their knowledge on the current trends of solid waste management in Macau, but also emphasized the significance of minimizing unnecessary waste and pollution in daily life.

Beyond offering various upcoming science popularization activities, MGM and MSC will also co-establish Macau's first educational space focused on youth green skills, providing a platform to nurture the city's future green professionals. Through these efforts, we aspire to raise students' and public awareness of the current environmental situation, which helps elevate Macau into an eco-friendlier and more sustainable society.



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



US arrests at Mexico border are expected to drop 30% in July to a new low for Biden's presidency

ELLIOT SPAGAT, SAN DIEGO

ARRRESTS of migrants for illegally crossing the border to the United States from Mexico plummeted about 30% in July to a new low for Joe Biden's presidency, U.S. authorities said, raising prospects that a temporary ban on asylum may be lifted soon.

The U.S. Border Patrol continued making arrests on last day of July. But the monthly tally was expected to be around 57,000 when all are tallied, down from 83,536 arrests in June, the previous low mark of Biden's presidency, according to two U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because figures had not been released publicly. It would be the lowest monthly tally since 54,771 arrests in September 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic slowed movement across borders in many countries, including to the United States.

Even before Biden's Democratic administration invoked powers to suspend asylum on June 5, border arrests had fallen



by about half from a record-high of 250,000 in December amid increased Mexican enforcement. Since June 5, arrests have fallen by half again, helping the White House fend off attacks by former President Donald Trump and other Republicans that Democrats, including Vice President Kamala Harris, have allowed the border to spiral out of control.

A volley of ads launched last week underscores the prominence of immigration as a campaign issue in November's election.

The Trump campaign launched its first television ad of the general election cycle, dubbing Harris the "border czar"

for an early assignment as vice president to address root causes of immigration in Central America and blaming her for a surge in illegal crossings under Biden's watch. After displaying headlines about crime and drugs, the video brands Harris as "Failed. Weak. Dangerously liberal."

A Harris ad, posted online, highlights Trump's opposition to a failed border bill earlier this year that would have, among many other provisions, increased funding for Border Patrol agents and fentanyl detection. "There's two choices in this election: the one who will fix our broken immigration system and the one who is trying

to stop her," the narrator says.

Neither ad mentions the drop in border arrests this year, but the latest declines may play in Harris' favor as many Republicans attack the Biden administration's new asylum restrictions as too little, too late.

The asylum halt would end if daily arrests drop below 1,500 over a seven-day average, a scenario that Customs and Border Protection officials are preparing for with arrests now hovering around 1,600 to 1,700 day. The halt would be reinstated if arrests reach a seven-day daily average of 2,500, a threshold of "emergency border circumstances" that was immediately met when the restrictions took effect in June. Immigrant advocacy groups are challenging the asylum measures in court.

Under the halt, U.S. authorities deny a chance at asylum to anyone who crosses the border illegally. Unaccompanied children are exempt, and others may seek asylum-like forms of protection that allow them to stay in the United States with a higher bar and fewer benefits, like the United Nations Convention Against Torture. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1962 MARILYN MONROE FOUND DEAD



Screen icon Marilyn Monroe has been found dead in bed at her Los Angeles home.

The 36-year-old actress' body was discovered in the early hours of this morning by two doctors who were called to her Brentwood home by a concerned housekeeper.

The doctors were forced to break into Miss Monroe's bedroom after being unable to open the door. She was found lying naked in her bed with an empty bottle of Nembutal sleeping pills by her side.

The local coroner, who visited the scene later, said the circumstances of Miss Monroe's death indicated a "possible suicide".

Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jeane Mortenson on 1 June 1926 in Los Angeles.

Her mother, Gladys Baker, had mental problems which resulted in Norma Jeane spending most of her childhood in foster homes and orphanages.

She wed her neighbour, Jimmy Dougherty in 1942, but the marriage failed in 1946 due to Norma Jeane's new-found fame as a photographic model.

In 1944 while her husband was serving in the South Pacific with the Merchant Marines, Norma Jeane was discovered by photographer David Conover.

By 1946 she had signed her first studio contract with 20th Century Fox and changed her name to Marilyn Monroe.

Since 1947 she has appeared in 30 films, including *The Prince and the Showgirl*, *Bus Stop*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Some Like It Hot*, for which she won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Comedy.

Her 1954 marriage to baseball star Joe DiMaggio lasted just nine months and on 29 June 1956 the star married playwright Arthur Miller.

But that marriage ended in 1961. Miss Monroe's romantic life has long been the subject of speculation and she has been linked with President Kennedy.

Millions of fans around the world will be deeply shocked by the star's premature and tragic death.

Courtesy BBC News

NIGERIA

Leader calls for end to hardship protests, blaming 'political agenda' for violence

NIGERIA'S leader yesterday called for an end to mass protests over economic hardship, saying the rallies have turned violent and blaming "a few with a political agenda" for driving them.

The protests, which began last week, have been accompanied by reports of looting and vandalism, as well as accusations that security forces have used excessive force. Amnesty International has reported the deaths of nine protesters

in clashes with police, while another four were killed by a bomb. The Nigerian police denied the Amnesty report.

"I have heard you loud and clear," President Bola Tinubu said in his first public remarks on the demonstrations. "I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, and I want to assure you that our government is committed to listening and addressing the concerns of our citizens."



But, he said, "a few with a clear political agenda to tear this nation apart" would be resisted by security forces.

The protests reflect

frustration with the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation and accusations of misgovernment and corruption in Africa's most populous country, a

top oil producer where public officials' huge earnings contrast with high poverty and hunger levels.

Tinubu's aides have said the protests are politically motivated. His election last year was disputed by the opposition, after he won with 37% of the vote, the smallest margin of any Nigerian president ever. The election also recorded the lowest turnout since 1999, when the country returned to democracy. **MDT/AP**

IN CONTEXT

Marilyn Monroe was buried in the Corridor of Memories at Westwood Memorial Park in Los Angeles. Two months before she died Monroe had been fired by Fox Productions for repeatedly failing to turn up on the set of the film *Something Has Got To Give*.

The production was never completed even though Monroe was re-hired by the film company on 1 August.

During the months before her death she had been seeing Joe DiMaggio and the pair had agreed to re-marry on 8 August 1962.

For 20 years after her death flowers from DiMaggio were delivered weekly to Monroe's crypt.

There has been much speculation about Marilyn Monroe's death and the causes of it. Many have suggested that it was highly unlikely she committed suicide but perhaps accidentally took an overdose of drugs.

Others have suggested that a third party may have administered the drug.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Enjoy yourself. Stir up some romance. The New Moon begins a two-week family, fun and passion phase. Get creative. It's all for love.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Realize domestic visions with upgrades over a two-week New Moon phase. Get creative. Improve the beauty and functionality of your home. Nurture your family.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Profit through communications. Possibilities spark in conversation over this two-week New Moon phase. Creative projects flower. Express, share and connect. Write your story.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Begin a lucrative New Moon phase. Discover fresh markets and rising prosperity. Strengthen financial foundations for growth. Rake in and conserve a healthy harvest.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Pursue personal dreams. Expand talents, capacities and skills over two weeks, with the New Moon in your sign. Grow and develop. Shine your light.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle with tonight's New Moon. Dreams seem within reach. Enjoy a two-week creative, imaginative and organizational phase. Imagine possibilities.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Connect shared support for big results. This New Moon phase benefits team efforts. Grow through friendships, social networks and community participation. Have fun together.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 This New Moon illuminates professional opportunities. Develop interesting projects over the next two weeks. Pursue exciting possibilities. Your career, status and influence rise.

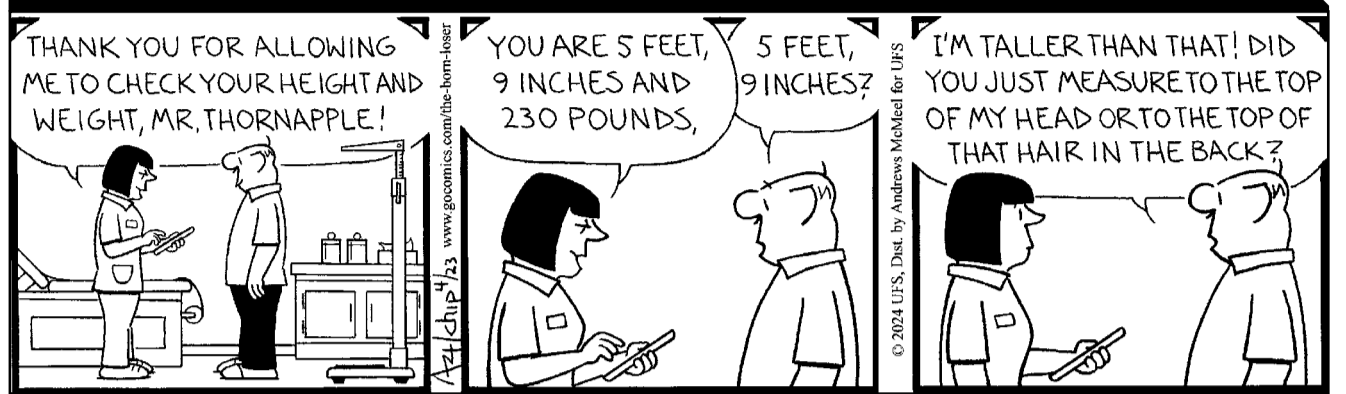
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Educational opportunities arise after tonight's New Moon. The next two-week phase favors study, investigation and exploration. Consider new perspectives. Make connections, contributions and discoveries.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Find creative ways to grow your family nest egg. A lucrative two-week phase dawns with tonight's New Moon. Launch valuable initiatives with your partner.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Collaboration comes naturally, especially over two weeks following tonight's Leo New Moon. You're on the same wavelength. Take your partnership to the next level.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Energize your physical moves. The New Moon tonight initiates two weeks of growing work, health and strength. Put heart into your actions. Practice makes perfect.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	33	cloudy
Changchun	23	28	thunderstorms
Chengdu	24	33	cloudy
Chongqing	27	36	cloudy
Fuzhou	28	38	fine
Guangzhou	27	36	cloudy
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	26	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	30	41	thunderstorms
Harbin	22	28	rain
Hefei	27	38	fine
Nanjing	31	39	fine
Shanghai	29	39	cloudy
Taipei	26	32	fine
Wuhan	29	37	fine
Hong Kong	30	34	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	16	24	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	27	cloudy
Paris	17	31	sunny
London	17	26	cloudy
New York	24	33	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- "Chicken of the sea"; 5- Heidi's home; 9- Wraparound dress; 13- Till stack; 14- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 15- Drew on; 16- Frees (of); 17- Twice, a comforting comment; 18- Nevada city; 19- In and of ____; 21- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 22- Scottish Celt; 23- Nevada senator Harry; 25- Toledo's lake; 27- Literate; 31- Kiss; 35- Ah, mel; 36- Arctic transport; 38- Battery terminal; 39- Sun. talk; 40- Belief; 42- Old California fort; 43- Cross the goal line; 46- Blood fluids; 47- Sleep like ____; 48- Furry swimmers; 50- Baseball; 52- Holy smokes!; 54- Shred; 55- School founded in 1440; 58- Buck's mate; 60- Sisters' daughters; 64- Booty; 65- Map feature; 67- Witty Bombeck; 68- Actress Heche; 69- Big rigs; 70- Follow; 71- Perjurer; 72- New driver, often; 73- Folklore fiend;

DOWN 1- Actress Spelling; 2- Troop group; 3- Actor Beatty and others; 4- States; 5- Shade of blond; 6- Fibbed; 7- European capital, in song; 8- Scoffs; 9- Physician; 10- Out of port; 11- Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"; 12- Billy ____ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 14- Initially; 20- Bruce ____ is a famous kung-fu movie star; 24- Strikes out; 26- "____ Believer" (Monkees hit); 27- Cowboy's tool; 28- Vote in; 29- Fortuneteller's deck; 30- Supergiant star in Cygnus; 32- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 33- PC storage medium; 34- Barrier; 37- Clear of vermin; 41- Abilities; 44- Go in again; 45- Unit of energy; 47- Go along with; 49- One who enjoys inflicting pain; 51- China's Chou En-____; 53- Gift recipient; 55- Airline to Israel; 56- Singer Tennille; 57- A Chaplin; 59- Salinger girl; 61- Jutting rock; 62- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 63- Shopaholic's delight; 66- Ich bin ____ Berliner;

Friday'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!

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

Hoi Wan Retail (Taipa)
 HKD 12,980,000

Tou Un (Taipa)
 HKD 2,750,000 1 bed 1 bath

Jade Garden (Taipa)
 HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

info@jmlproperty.com



jmlmacau



jmlproperty



Vai Cheong (Macau)
2 bed 1 bath
55.74 m² / 600 ft² | HKD2,600,000



VA FAT (Taipa Village)
2 bed 1 bath
77.10 m² / 830 ft² | HKD3,980,000



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



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



Tou Un (Taipa)
1 bed 1 bath
44.121 m² / 475 ft² | HKD2,750,000

**BUY & RENT!
MACAU & HK**

www.jmlproperty.com
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

Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting clinches first Olympic medal amid outcry tied to gender misconceptions

ALANIS THAMES, VILLEPINTE

BOXER Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan clinched her first Olympic medal yesterday in front of a crowd that chanted her name, one day after fellow boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria secured one as well following days of online abuse and intense scrutiny about their participation at the Paris Games.

Lin defeated Svetlana Kamenova Staneva of Bulgaria 5:0 in a women's 57-kilogram quarterfinal, advancing to the semifinals and ensuring she will win at least a bronze medal.

Lin and Khelif have been at the center of a clash over gender identity and regulations in sports, as critics have brought up their disqualification from the world championships last year after the banned International Boxing Association claimed they failed unspecified eligibility tests for women's competition.

Lin, who will face Esra Yildiz



AP PHOTO

Kahraman of Turkey at Roland-Garros on Wednesday, said her goal is to keep going and become to be a gold medalist. She did not mention any of the online scrutiny of the past few days and said that she shut down her social media before her first Olympic fight.

"I want to thank all the supporters from Taiwan," she said.

Staneva appeared to walk past Lin immediately after the fight, but after the referee announced the de-

cision and lifted Lin's hand as the winner, Staneva went over and sat on the rope on her opponent's side and opened the rope for Lin to step out.

Staneva, a 34-year-old amateur boxing veteran, lost a close fight to Lin in the semifinals of the 2023 world championships in India. The victory was changed to a no contest by the IBA, which claimed Lin had failed the unspecified eligibility test.

The IBA has been banned from

Olympic participation since 2019 following years of criticism from the International Olympic Committee, including concerns over its administration of competitions and financial transparency. The IBA has declined to disclose any details about its tests, calling the information confidential.

Both Lin and Khelif have drawn support from their countries amid the outcry, which has included comments from former U.S. Pre-

sident Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others making false claims about them being men or transgender.

Khelif was showered with cheers throughout her emotional win over Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary on Saturday night. Many supporters at North Paris Arena were wrapped in Algerian flags and screaming her name. She wiped away tears when it was over and wept as she exited the arena.

Lin bowed to the crowd before and after yesterday's bout, looking up at cheering supporters before embracing her coaches and exiting the ring.

She also got support from former Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen on social media Friday when Lin beat Sitora Turdibekova of Uzbekistan 5:0 in her first fight.

"When I met boxer Lin Yu-ting, I saw an athlete who is fearless in the face of challenges, whether they come from inside or outside the ring," Tsai wrote. "Today, when she represents Taiwan on the Olympic stage, we will be behind her & all the Taiwanese Olympians making us proud."

Lin is competing in her third Olympics and is a two-time world champion with the IBA (2018 and 2022). She's competed in elite-level amateur boxing for a decade. Neither Lin nor Khelif, who's 25 and a six-year veteran, had been sanctioned before last year's world championships. **MDT/AP**

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

MACAU
澳門

BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校

FOOTBALL | **BASKETBALL** | **DAILY TRAININGS**

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

WORRIES THAT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST IS ON THE BRINK OF SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL NOT UNFOUNDED

China is among those countries that have expressed their concern at the latest turn of events in the Middle East.

In a routine news conference, responding to a question about the killing of Hamas' top political leader Ismail Haniyeh in a targeted missile strike on Wednesday in Teheran, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "We are greatly concerned about the incident, firmly oppose and condemn the assassination, and are deeply worried that this incident may lead to further instability in the region."

While falling short of admitting culpability for Haniyeh's execution, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country "will exact a very heavy price from any aggression against us on any front" after Iran accused Israel of carrying out the strike and vowed "a harsh and painful response".

Iran naming Israel as the perpetrator is not surprising given that Netanyahu has repeatedly stated Israel's objective is to completely eliminate Hamas, that Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders were on Israel's most wanted list after the group waged surprise attacks on southern Israel that sparked the war in Gaza, and that Tel Aviv and its ally Washington have orchestrated previous extraterritorial hits on leaders of Hamas and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in recent years.

With Israel's onslaught against the Palestinians continuing in Gaza, Haniyeh's assassination will, no doubt, fuel more hatred between Hamas and Israel and trigger more anti-Israel sentiment among Hamas sympathizers, thus giving greater momentum to the vicious circle of violence that has convulsed the region.

With Haniyeh's killing triggering fears that it presages a dangerous escalation of the animosities in the Middle East, a region already deeply mired in the months' long Israel-Hamas conflict, it is only natural that members of the international community are urging that there be no further reckless moves that could ignite a broader conflict in the region.

Saying that China is deeply worried the incident may lead to further instability in the region and beyond, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman called for a comprehensive and permanent cease-fire in Gaza as soon as possible to avoid any further escalation of conflict and confrontation.

The Israel-Hamas conflict has already spilled over to other parts of the region, involving more regional actors, including the Houthi group in Yemen and Hezbollah in Lebanon. If Iran steps in to avenge the death on its soil, it could also drag the United States directly into the conflict, which has already killed more than 39,445 Palestinians in Gaza and displaced approximately 2 million people.

Yet for the warmongering Israeli leader, dragging the US into a direct conflict with Iran may seem attractive as a way to help him out of the current quagmire of the prolonged war with Hamas and the rising opposition to it both at home and abroad.

With the backing of the US, Israel is already striking out in all directions, creating more obstacles to international efforts to broker peace.

A day before Haniyeh's assassination, Israel claimed a strike in the Lebanese capital of Beirut that killed Fouad Shokor, Hezbollah's top military commander. As such, if Washington continues to give tacit consent to Israel and allow it to attack whoever and wherever it wants, it is tantamount to handing it a match to light the fuse of an all-out regional war.

Further instability in the Middle East serves no country's interest, including Israel and the US. Key players in the region should exercise the utmost restraint to stop the vicious circle of tit-for-tat retaliations, so as to prevent the situation from spiraling out of control.

[Abridged]

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered humanitarian assistance to help North Korea cope with damages from recent floods, both countries said, in another sign of expanding relations between the two nations.

In a message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday, Putin "extended deep sympathy and support" and conveyed his willingness to provide immediate disaster aid to help North Korea recover from the floods, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday.

Russia's state news agency Tass carried a similar report, saying that Pu-

tin told Kim in the message: "You can always count on our assistance and support."

During a meeting in Pyongyang in June, Kim and Putin signed a pact stipulating mutual military assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

Kim expressed his gratitude to Putin over the offer for aid, saying he "could deeply feel the special emotion towards a genuine friend in the most difficult period."

AP PHOTO



IRAN SAYS A SHORT-RANGE PROJECTILE KILLED HAMAS' HANIYEH AND REITERATES VOWS OF RETALIATION

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guard said a short-range projectile was behind the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and accused the United States of supporting the attack which it blamed on Israel, state TV reported Saturday.

The televised statement, which reiterated a call for retaliation, said a rocket with a seven-kilogram warhead was used to target the residence of Hamas' political leader in the capital Tehran on Wednesday, adding it caused heavy devastation. It didn't share details of the residence's location.

Haniyeh was in Iran to attend the inauguration of newly elected Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

"The action was designed and carried out by the Zionist regime and supported by the U.S.," said the Guard's statement. It added that "the warmongering and terrorist Zionist regime will receive harsh punishment in the suitable time, place, and capacity."

Israel has not confirmed or denied its role in the killing of Haniyeh, but Israel earlier pledged to kill him and other Hamas leaders over the group's Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war in Gaza.

The assassination has sparked fears of a wider regional conflict and of a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran if Tehran retaliates.

President Joe Biden

was asked Saturday night in Wilmington, Delaware whether he thought Iran would stand down. He responded: "I hope so. I don't know."

In April, Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel, which said it intercepted 99%. The barrage came less than two weeks after a suspected Israeli strike in Syria killed two Iranian generals, and it marked the first time Iran had launched a direct military assault on Israel despite decades of enmity dating back to the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran does not recognize Israel and supports anti-Israeli militant groups including Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accused South Korea's "rubbish" media of tarnishing the North's image by allegedly exaggerating the death tolls from recent floods that hit the country's northwest region, and hinted that he would refuse Seoul's offer for aid. Kim made the comments Friday during a visit to an air force helicopter unit, where he praised the troops for helping rescue people from the floods. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday.

AP PHOTO



Russia A total of 10 people died after an apartment block in the country's Ural Mountains partially collapsed following a gas explosion earlier this week, Russia's Emergency Ministry said on Saturday, announcing the completion of a search and rescue operation after two days. Five of those killed were children, the ministry said. Another 15 people, including seven children, have been rescued, according to officials.

AP PHOTO



Germany 22 people were injured by an explosion in the paddock area of Germany's famous Nuerbergring racetrack, police said Saturday. Police said the accident, which they believe was caused by the explosion of a compressed air canister on Friday night, injured one person severely, three seriously and the others slightly, German news agency dpa reported. Police were still on the scene to investigate the cause on Saturday.

AP PHOTO



UK Police warned yesterday that efforts to deal with the violence that has erupted across towns and cities in recent days in the wake of a stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and several wounded means that other crimes may not be investigated fully. The warning comes a day after dozens of people were arrested as far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters across the U.K.