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THE TOURISM SECTOR IS POISED FOR A SIGNIFICANT BOOST WITH THE OPENING OF REGISTRATION FOR THE QIN'AO TOURISM GROUP, AVAILABLE BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE

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TOURISM: VISITOR SPENDING REBOUNDS IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

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AP PHOTO



Bangladesh's president Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved parliament, setting the stage for elections after the prime minister's resignation. Amidst calm streets in Dhaka, the opposition leader was freed from house arrest, enhancing the political reshuffle. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus (pictured) was suggested to lead an interim government, marking a significant political shift in the nation's trajectory.

AP PHOTO



Afghanistan The Taliban yesterday announced it would allow those with visas from the previous administration to stay, signaling tightened control over diplomatic interactions. This move affects Afghans needing consular services globally, as only certain Taliban-approved missions are recognized, complicating document renewal and certification processes for many.

AP PHOTO



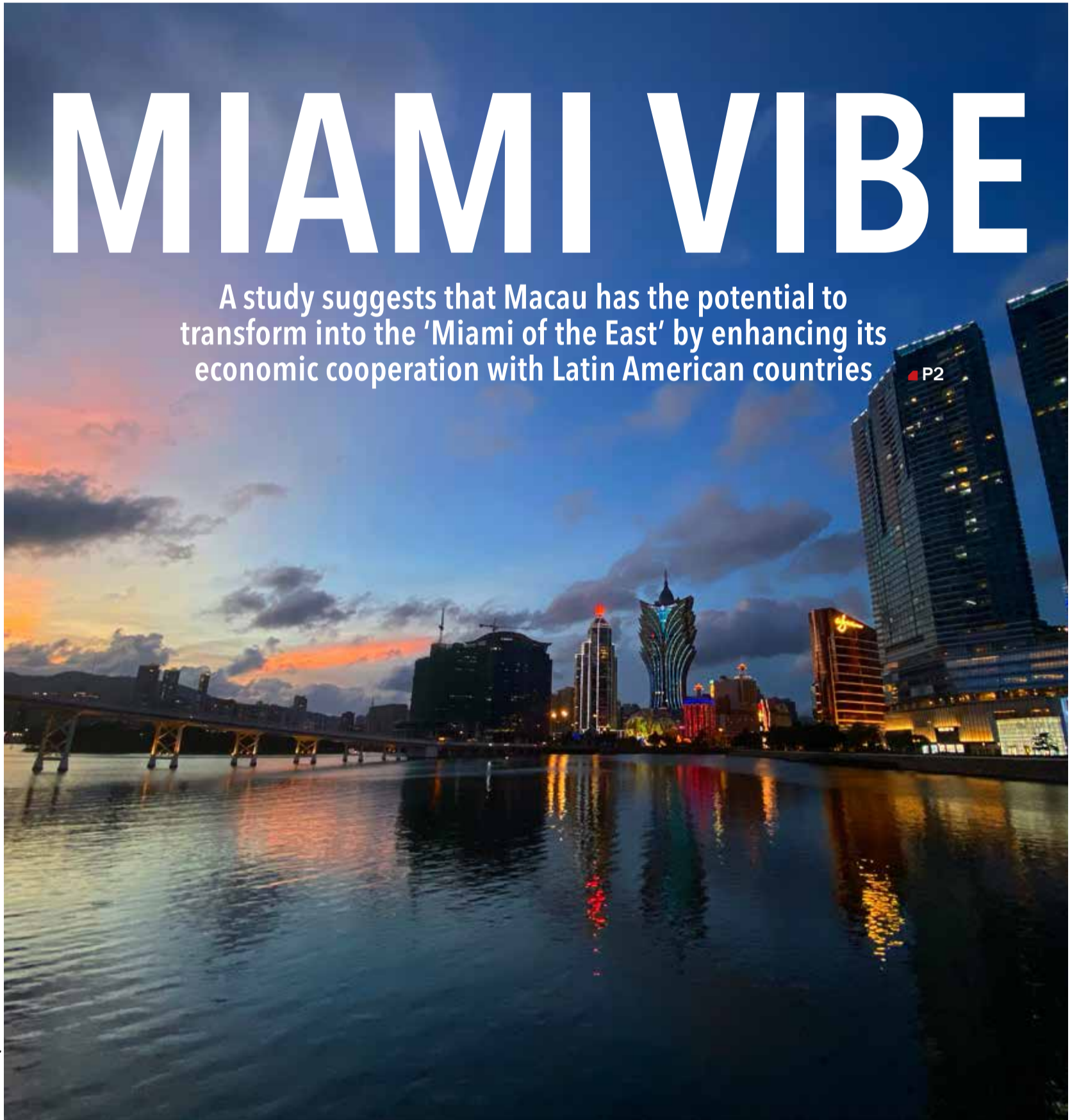
Jerusalem The UN fired staff linked to the Hamas-led attack on Israel, intensifying scrutiny on UNRWA's operations. Amidst ongoing war in Gaza, these dismissals underscore the challenges in managing humanitarian roles in conflict zones, highlighting the delicate balance between neutrality and ensuring staff integrity in crisis regions.

AP PHOTO



France Paris yesterday canceled a marathon swim trial in the Seine due to water quality concerns, reflecting ongoing environmental challenges. This decision underscores the complexity of hosting large-scale sporting events in urban settings, where maintaining athlete safety and environmental standards is paramount.

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TOURISM

QIN'AO TOUR GROUP REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ONLINE AND OFFLINE TRAVEL

NADIA SHAW

The tourism sector is poised for a significant boost with the opening of registration for the "Qin'ao Tourism Group," available both online and offline. In light of the recent announcement of the "group in and group out" policy, the initiative aims to attract tourists from various provinces in the mainland.

The Economic Development Bureau of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin has certified ten additional travel agencies, increasing the total agencies accredited to conduct these tours to 30.

A prominent addition to the initiative is Ctrip, a major player in the mainland travel industry, boasting an extensive network of over 6,500



offline stores nationwide, as well as an online platform. Allowing travelers to explore diverse itineraries with a simpler registration process, providing unique "one-trip, mul-

ti-destination" travel products to Macau and beyond.

Industry experts recommend that authorities enhance publicity efforts to raise awareness

among domestic tour organizers about these policies, enabling them to create itineraries and launch products that effectively attract tourists.

Paul Wong, President of the Macau Leisure Tourism Service Innovation Association emphasized the importance of promoting these policies to facilitate itinerary planning and product launches that can attract tourists to Macau.

"Notably, many of these agencies are based in Guangdong," he said in a local media report published yesterday.

The majority of accredited travel agencies managing "Qin'ao Tour Groups" are located in Guangdong Province, particularly in Guangzhou and Zhuhai. Wong believes Shenzhen has become a crucial tourist distribution center in the country. He advocates for collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and other institutions to effectively publicize these policies nationwide. Additionally, he suggests optimizing the review and approval standards for travel agency qualifications, as Hengqin and Shenzhen have emerged as new destinations for mainland group organizers.

Macau deemed to be 'Miami of the east'

NADIA SHAW

A recent study suggests that Macau has the potential to transform into the "Miami of the East" by enhancing its economic cooperation with Latin American countries. The research, titled "Macau: Rebuilding the Maritime Silk Road to Latin Countries," emphasizes the need for Macau to leverage its unique linguistic and cultural advantages to establish a China-Latin America Forum, facilitating trade and cultural exchange.



Authored by Wang Hai, a researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, the study highlights Macau's historical role as a pivotal international trade gateway.

In the 16th century, Macau served as a critical hub for trade between China and Latin

America, connecting various continents and allowing traditional Chinese products like silk, tea, and porcelain to reach global markets. This historical context underpins the potential for Macau to reclaim its status as a center for international trade.

The study argues that, "similar to Miami", which is recognized as a major gateway for Chinese businesses ente-

ring Latin America, Macau could play a crucial role in fostering economic ties between China and Latin-speaking nations. Wang notes that Macau's multicultural environment, free port system, and established foreign economic relationships position it uniquely to adapt to the demands of globalization.

To capitalize on these advantages, the re-

searcher proposes the establishment of a permanent economic and trade cooperation mechanism within Macau, which could serve as a bridge connecting China with Latin American countries. This forum would not only enhance trade but also promote cultural exchanges, technology transfer and tourism.

Wang emphasizes that Macau's strengths in communication and cultural diversity should be harnessed to create networks for various exchanges, including marketing goods, financing, and educational cooperation. By doing so, Macau could effectively facilitate the movement of people, goods, and information across borders, overcoming language and cultural barriers.

The study reiterates that Macau's historical significance and current capabilities make it an ideal candidate to become a central hub for economic and cultural cooperation between China and Latin America.

TOURISM

VISITOR SPENDING REBOUNDS IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

ACCORDING to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) published yesterday, total spending by visitors rose 15.8% in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2019. The increase comes as the city continues its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Total visitor spending, excluding gaming expenses, reached MOP37.79 billion in the first six months of the year, up 16.4% from the same period in 2023. Overnight visitors spent MOP30.45 billion, a 13.1% increase year-over-year, while same-day visitors spent MOP7.33 billion, up 32.4%.

Per-capita spending fell 18.9% to MOP2,260, due to a high base of comparison in early 2023 when pent-up demand was released. Spending on shopping accounted for 47.1% of the total, followed by accommodation (24.6%) and food & beverages (20.5%).

Visitors from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan saw per-capita spending declines of 25.5%, 8.7% and 9.1% respectively. But, compared to 2019,



spending by these visitors grew 44.4%, 17.5%, and 53%. Visitors from Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Japan and Malaysia all recorded 20-100% increases in per-capita spending as compared to 2019.

In the second quarter (Q2), total visitor spending edged down 0.2% year-over-year to MOP17.44 billion, while per-capita spending fell 14.8% to MOP2,223. However, both metrics were up over 11% compared to Q2 2019. NS

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TRANSPORT

Pedestrian link between Taipa and Hengqin LRT Lines completed

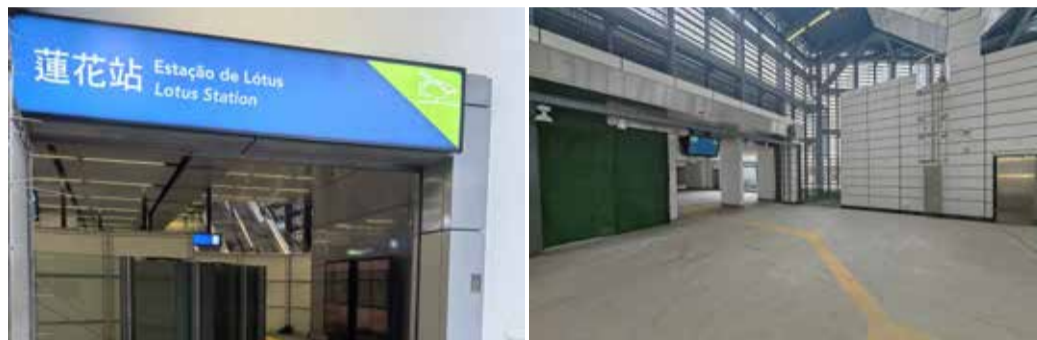
RENATO MARQUES

CONSTRUCTION of the pedestrian passageway that links the Taipa Line and the Hengqin Line of Light Rapid Transit (LRT) has been completed, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) has announced on its website.

The footbridge structure links the Lotus Station of the Taipa Line to the HE1 Station of the Hengqin Line to allow passengers to transfer between the two lines.

The structure is located on the previous site of the Lotus Border and is part of the larger multifunctional building that the government is constructing in the area.

The passageway will connect the two stations on the first floor on both ends



allowing the two lines to be connected on the same floor, facilitating the movement of citizens and tourists.

The DSOP noted that the other areas of the multifunctional building will be starting "in due time" according to the progress of the design works.

According to the same bureau, the construction of the Hengqin Line will be completed before the end of this year with the travel time between HE1 and HE2 Station, loca-

ted at the Hengqin Port, to be around 3 minutes.

The construction of the passageway started in October 2022 and needed to coordinate with the construction of the LRT Hengqin Line.

The Hengqin Line, measuring 2.2 kilometers, along with the Taipa Line extension to Seac Pai Van (Coloane), which spans 1.6 kilometers, is anticipated to commence operations soon, with the latter having been completed

in June.

To the Times last month, the Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, Limited said that the number of passengers using this transport system will increase after the opening of the Seac Pai Van and Hengqin Lines this year.

The company refused to forecast the expected number of passengers that will use the LRT on a monthly or daily basis after the opening of the two new lines.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR CE ELECTION COMMITTEE ENDS AUG. 9

The campaigning period for those seeking seats on the Chief Executive Election Committee will end at midnight on Aug. 9. The poll to choose members for the committee will be held on Aug. 11. A 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee will subsequently elect the sixth-term Chief Executive. The Electoral Affairs Commission noted that all candidates and relevant individuals from the seven sectors and sub-sectors have been campaigning during the official campaign period in accordance with the law.

POLICE ARREST WOMAN ON HKD365,000 FRAUD

Police authorities arrested a 31-year-old mainland Chinese woman suspected of fraud and overstaying her visa. The woman was accused of defrauding a man of HKD365,000. According to the report, the victim had met the woman in Cotai last month to exchange HKD350,000 in cash for a transfer to the victim's mainland account. However, the victim never received the promised payment. On Sunday, the victim agreed to meet the woman again at the entertainment center, where the police were alerted and apprehended her. The woman was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE URGES GOV'T TO REVIEW COTAI ARENA MEASURES

The Islands Social Advisory Committee held a meeting at which members discussed the upcoming Cotai outdoor arena scheduled for completion in January 2025. Concerns were raised that the first performance may be too rushed, and recommendations were made that the government allocate more time to plan and announce transportation and venue management details. They also urged the government to review laws, regulations and safety assessments, citing serious accidents at concerts in Hong Kong.

GAMING

Citi upholds GGR forecast for August at MOP20 billion

LYNZY VALLES

DATA from the first four days of the month indicates that gross gaming revenue (GGR) may reach MOP2.5 billion, representing a daily run-rate of MOP625 million, according to industry sources cited in a Citi Research report.

This marks a 7% increase compared to the daily average of MOP585 million recorded in the final 10 days of July.

The Public Security Police Force reported that the number of tourists entering the region surpassed 20 million from the beginning of the year to last Saturday - reaching that milestone two months earlier than in 2022.

This influx of visitors is translating to stron-

ger gaming revenues across both the VIP and mass market segments.

While VIP GGR saw a modest 3-5% monthly decline, mass market GGR gained 2-4% month-over-month, the report stated.

Importantly, the VIP hold rate also appears to be slightly above normal levels, further bolstering the overall figures.

Citi Research has conservatively maintained its forecast of MOP20 billion in Macau's August GGR, which would represent 82% of the same period in 2019 - before the Covid-19 pandemic devastated the gaming hub's economy.

Recently, analysts expressed cautious optimism for August's GGR after July's figures fell short of expectations,

as July recorded some MOP18.6 billion, reflecting a modest 5.1% increase from June but significantly below historical performance levels.

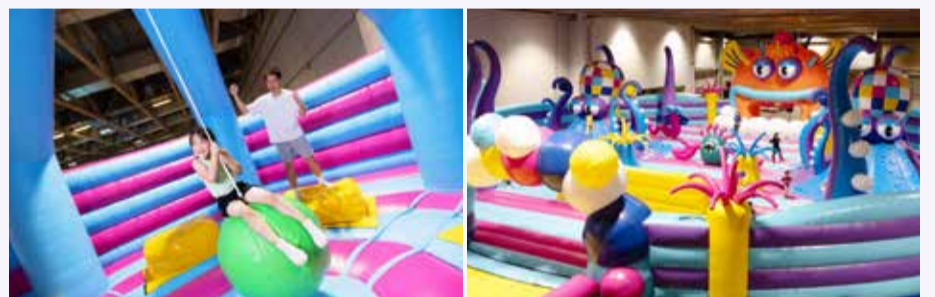
The casino industry experienced a disappointing month in July, with GGR failing to meet market expectations, according to analysts.

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 that GGR could hit approximately USD2.47 billion (MOP19.6 billion), a 6.7% rise from July and over 15% higher than August 2023.

BOUNCE THE CITY AT THE COTAI EXPO

MDT ticket giveaway



Bounce The City Macao, recognized as Asia's largest indoor inflatable park is open in Macau from July 27 to September 18.

Spanning an impressive 150,000 square feet, the park will showcase five distinct inflatable attractions, complemented by a vibrant foam party and dynamic DJ entertainment to enhance

the bouncing experience.

Each of the five colossal inflatable attractions presents unique challenges designed to assess your athletic abilities, with The Giant featuring a remarkable obstacle course that stretches nearly 900 feet.

Experience the excitement of Sport Slam, AirSPACE

Pink Alien, and City Xscape, where you will be taken on thrilling cosmic alien-filled journeys, as well as explore the underwater world at OctoBlast.

There are five 90-minute sessions available each day, allowing guests to enjoy bouncing and socializing on the colorful inflatables to their fullest.

Question for our readers

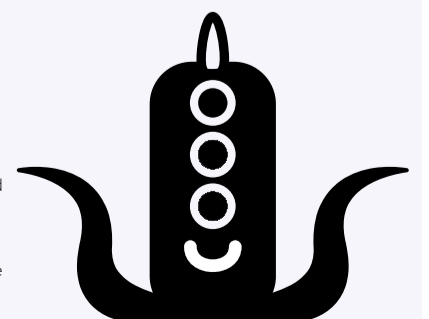
What is the size of the Bounce The City Macao park?

Please email answers to:

bouncethecity@macaudailytimes.com
Along with your name and cell phone number

Tickets-Giveaway

Four sets of three and two tickets each will be awarded to four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest, along with your name and cell number.
The contest will run for three days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday), each day with a different question to be answered.
Each 90-minute-session ticket is valued at MOP168 for a total prize value of MOP1680.



PSP DEPLOYS OVER 40 OFFICERS IN LATEST OPERATION THUNDER

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) is intensifying its efforts in "Operation Thunder 2024," aimed at enhancing public safety. On Aug. 5 and 6, 44 officers conducted inspections across multiple hotels and increased patrols in the Coloane area, focusing on intercepting suspicious individuals. During the operation, 117 individuals were checked, with no illegal activities reported. Vehicle inspections led to 29 stops, resulting in one prosecution for lack of insurance. PSP officials emphasize that car inspection operations are carried out to prevent and combat various illegal activities and criminal activities.

CORONAVIRUS CLUSTER HITS NURSING HOME, SIX RESIDENTS INFECTED

Six female residents at a nursing home have tested positive for Covid-19 after developing upper respiratory symptoms like fever and cough. The patients, all in stable condition, are being closely monitored by the Health Bureau (SSM). The cluster infection was detected through rapid antigen testing. The nursing home has implemented infection control measures and isolation protocols. Medical staff will provide remote and on-site support to ease pressure on caregivers and ensure infected residents receive early antiviral treatment to reduce severe illness risk. SSM is urging the elderly and those with chronic diseases to get vaccinated, maintain hygiene, and seek prompt treatment if symptoms develop.

HEALTH

MAN DIAGNOSED WITH VIBRIO VULNIFICUS INFECTION AFTER BEING PIERCED PREPARING FISH

RENATO MARQUES

A 72-year-old man has been diagnosed with an infection by *Vibrio vulnificus* bacterium after having been reportedly pricked by a fishbone while preparing a fish, the Health Bureau (SSM) has said in a statement.

According to SSM, the case occurred on the morning of July 30, "while the man was preparing a fish at home, he accidentally pricked himself with a fish bone on the middle finger of his right hand."

On the next day, the man realized that there was pain and swelling in the middle finger. He also had a fever and symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection, namely cough and phlegm.

He went to the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center and was diagnosed with cellulitis in the right middle finger and an upper respiratory tract infection. He was admitted to the hospital where he underwent decontamination of the injured parts and treatment with antibiotics.

On Aug. 2, after laboratory analysis of the secretions from the wound, it was confirmed that it was *Vibrio vulnificus*. The patient is currently hospitalized and in stable condition.

SSM noted that *Vibrio vulni-*

RENATO MARQUES



ficus is a bacterium that occurs naturally in warm seawater and can cause infections if a wound comes into contact with seawater containing this bacterium or if contaminated shellfish is con-

sumed.

Infections caused by *Vibrio vulnificus* through wounds can be mild, but can also cause necrotizing fasciitis, which manifests as extreme pain, redness,

swelling, and rapid tissue necrosis.

People with necrotizing fasciitis may need to have limbs amputated to save their lives, with approximately 20 to 30% of cases being fatal.

Although the cases of infections by this bacterium in Macau are rare, in recent times several cases put the population on alert.

Two cases were reported in late September last year in people who were reportedly infected after stepping on dead fish at the beaches of Coloane.

In late April this year, the SSM reported the death of a local 62-year-old man, caused by the ingestion of seafood that was contaminated with the bacterium.

According to the report, the man had eaten seafood that was not sufficiently cooked. He also had a medical history of several complicating liver-related illnesses.

The SSM recommends citizens avoid contacting sea water with wounded skin and use gloves when handling raw seafood.

Cooking seafood thoroughly, especially shellfish such as oysters, clams and mussels, is also essential to prevent infections with this bacterium.

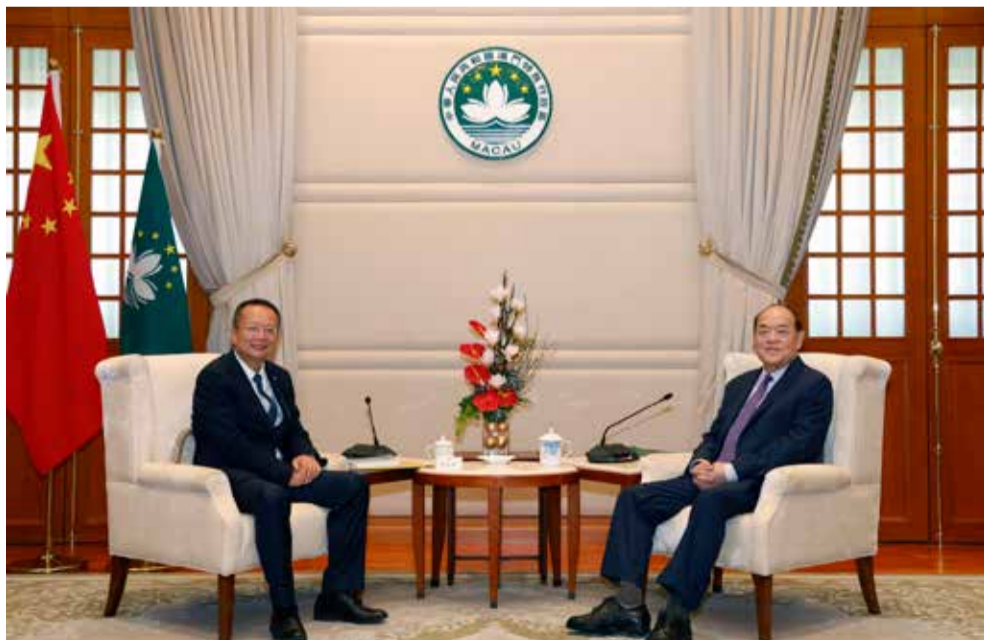
CE meets BOC Macau president to discuss Finance Sector and Cooperation Zone

RENATO MARQUES

THE Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, has returned from his extended leave and has recently met with the new president of the Macau branch of the Bank of China (BOC), Jia Tianbing.

The meeting, held at the government's headquarters, was to discuss the development of the territory's financial sector, supporting the diversification of the local economy, and the construction of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Welcoming Jia and his delegation, the CE expressed his gratitude for



the long-term support for Macau's socio-economic development, which has

helped keep the financial market in the region stable.

Ho noted that the central government has launched several measures

that have benefited Macau and the region and that this has contributed to continuous development.

Remarking on the "1+4" strategy for local economic diversification, the CE noted that the financial sector is an important pillar of the strategy and contributes to the security and stability of the banking system.

The CE said he hopes the BOC Macau will continue assisting the innovation and implementation of the financial sector in Macau and the In-depth Cooperation Zone, supporting the construction of the Zone.

In turn, Jia recalled that

the bank was established in Macau approximately 74 years ago and has always pursued national importance to realize its goal of "being rooted in Macau and serving the benefit of Macau".

As chairman of the Macao Association of Banks, he also pledged to continue cooperating with industry to enhance the quality and efficiency of high-end financial services, providing more comprehensive, high-quality, and professional financial services to local businesses and residents.

Jia also pledged to support local integration into the national context, promote diversified development of the local economy, and create a development environment based on the principle of "one country, two systems" with Macau characteristics.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Presents "70 Years Back in Time – Rachmaninoff" Concert



Sands China successfully held the highly anticipated **70 Years Back in Time – Rachmaninoff** concert at The Venetian Theatre July 6, co-organised in collaboration with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macao Orchestra. The event is the most recent highlight of the **Sands China Performing Arts Programme**, showcasing exceptional musical talents while bringing classical music to the forefront of Macao's cultural scene.

The concert featured the prominent music director and principal conductor of the Macao Orchestra, Lio Kuokman, along with world-renowned French pianist Lise de la Salle. Together, they captivated the audience with three iconic compositions by Russian maestros Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Sergei Rachmaninoff. Under Lio's baton, the Macao Orchestra embarked on a musical journey, commencing with Rimsky-Korsakov's enchanting **Capriccio Espagnol**, fully displaying the unique charm of the various orchestral instruments.

The orchestra then presented Rachmaninoff's **Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** and **Symphonic Dances**, masterpieces that ingeniously intertwine renowned melodies from both past composers and Rachmaninoff himself.

In addition to the concert, Sands China hosted an exclusive piano masterclass on July 4, where de la Salle generously shared her experiences and insights as a performer. A total of 80 aspiring music enthusiasts had the unique opportunity to attend the masterclass, and selected participants had the privilege of receiving one-on-one guidance from one of the most accomplished musicians in the international music scene today.

Dr. Wilfred Wong, executive vice chairman of Sands China Ltd., said: "Music has the power to transcend boundaries, touch our souls, and connect us on a profound level... We are particularly pleased to have hosted a piano masterclass with Lise de la Salle, as we believe in fostering and nurturing emerging talent. By providing aspiring pianists with this invaluable chance to learn closely from such an accomplished musician, we can empower the next generation of artists and inspire them to pursue their dreams... Our goal is to broaden the scope of arts by creating a vibrant atmosphere for art appreciation in Macao, thus laying a solid foundation for the development of local creative and cultural industries."



MENINGOCOCCAL

Calls for students going abroad to vaccinate against disease

STAFF REPORTER

STUDENTS in Macau and Hong Kong who plan to go abroad to pursue further studies are advised to vaccinate against meningococcal, a life-threatening disease.

Experts warn that young children and adolescents are particularly susceptible to these dangerous bacterial infections, which can progress rapidly and prove fatal.

A recent survey by The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong found that parents' awareness and understanding of meningococcal prevention measures are alarmingly low.

"More than 80% of invasive meningococcal cases result in death within just 24 hours of the initial infection," said society president So Yiu-wah.

"The speed at which these infections can overwhelm the body is what makes them so deadly, especially for vulnerable younger populations," he added.

With frequent cross-border travel, the risk of exposure is heightened.

Experts recommend that anyone planning to travel or study abroad take steps to protect themselves.

The society said several popular destinations for Hong Kong students, including the

United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and New Zealand, are experiencing an increase in cases of meningococcal disease, which is caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria.

According to the survey, parents in Hong Kong are dangerously unaware of the severity of meningococcal disease and how to prevent it.

The study found that 30% of parents mistakenly believe the illness can be treated with basic painkillers like paracetamol. Furthermore, one-fifth of respondents did not even know the disease was preventable through vaccination.

For the doctors, these findings show a profound lack of understanding about how life-threatening meningococcal infections can be, especially for young children and teenagers.

"The number of invasive meningococcal infection cases in the UK increased sharply after the Covid-19 pandemic, with about 80% being meningococcal B and half of the victims aged between 15 and 24 [...] this is concerning," he said, as cited in multiple reports.

"Parents are sending their children aged between 15 and 18 abroad to study, and they are a high-risk group and should take precautions as soon as possible."



The Drum Tower, viewed from the Jingshan Mountain, is part of the Beijing Central Axis

WORLD HERITAGE

Xi stresses preserving China's cultural, natural heritage

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has urged further efforts to preserve the country's cultural and natural treasures and renew their glamour in the new era.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on strengthening the protection,

preservation and utilization of cultural and natural heritage.

The instruction was made after one cultural heritage and two natural heritages of China were inscribed on the World Heritage List

by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in July 2024.

UNESCO announced the inscription of Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the

Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital, Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand, and Lakes, and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase II) on its list at the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi, India.

The inclusion of these heritage items has positive significance for the building of Chinese modernization that features material and cultural-ethical advancement and harmony between humanity and nature, Xi said, noting that it also adds new luster to world civilizations.

Xi called for efforts to take this UNESCO inclusion as an opportunity to further strengthen the comprehensive and systematic protection of cultural and natural heritage and make good use of them to better meet the people's needs.

He also urged enhanced international exchange and cooperation in this field, and efforts to make greater contribution to the practice of the Global Civilization Initiative and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Currently, China is home to a total of 59 World Heritage Sites. XINHUA

OBITUARY

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Tsung-Dao Lee dies at age 97

CHINESE-AMERICAN physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, died Sunday at his home in San Francisco at age 97, according to a Chinese university and a research center.

Lee, whose work advanced the understanding of particle physics, was one of the great masters in the field, according to a joint obituary released Monday by the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Beijing-based China Center for Advanced Science and Technology.

Lee, a naturalized U.S. citizen since 1962, was also a professor emeritus at Columbia University in New York.

Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the atomic bomb, once praised Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time, whose work showed "remarkable freshness, versatility and style."



Dr. Tsung Dao Lee (third from left) poses for a photo with other Nobel Prizes, namely, famous writer and philosopher Albert Camus (who received the prize in literature), in Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 10, 1957

Lee was born in Shanghai on Nov. 24, 1926, the third of six children to a merchant father, Tsing-Kong Lee, and a mother, Ming-Chang Chang, who was a devout Catholic, according to the newspaper Wenhui Daily.

He went to high school in Shanghai and attended National Chekiang University in Guizhou province and National Southwest Associated University in Kun-

ming in Yunnan province.

After his sophomore year, he received a scholarship from the Chinese government to attend graduate school in the United States.

Between 1946 and 1950, he studied at the University of Chicago under Enrico Fermi, a Nobel laureate in physics.

In the early 1950s, Lee worked at the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, at the University of California

at Berkeley and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.

His research in elementary particles, statistical mechanics, astrophysics and field theory, among others, was standing out.

In 1953, he joined Columbia University as an assistant professor. Three years later, at age 29, he became the youngest-ever full professor there. He developed a model for studying various quantum phenomena known as the "Lee model."

In 1957, Lee was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics together with Chen-Ning Yang for work exploring the symmetry of subatomic particles as they interact with the force that holds atoms together. At 31, Lee was the second-youngest scientist to receive the distinction.

He won many other accolades including the Albert Einstein Award in Science, the Galileo Galilei Medal and the G. Bude Medal, as well as honorary doctorates and titles from organizations around the world.

As China became more open to international exchanges in the 1970s, Lee returned to his home country on repeated visits to give lectures and encourage the development of sciences, according to state media. MDT/AP

SPACE

CHINA LAUNCHES ROCKET CARRYING NEW CONSTELLATION OF SATELLITES

CHINA says it launched a rocket yesterday carrying a constellation of a reported 18 satellites as part of efforts to assert its presence in space.

The satellites were carried aboard a Long March-6 carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province early yesterday afternoon.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the rocket had reached its pre-programmed orbit without incident.

China's space program has launched numerous crewed missions, put a space station into orbit with a revolving crew of three astronauts aboard and sent a rover to the Moon that has brought back rocks and soil.

It has also launched the Beidou System of satellites for national security, communications and scientific purposes, seen as an alternative — or possible competitor — to the GPS system widely used for navigation that is mainly helmed by China's strategic rival, the United States. MDT/AP

INDIA

Modi has pushed hard for solar, but as its billions demand more power, coal always gets the call

SIBI ARASU, BENGALURU

INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in the midst of a monthslong reelection campaign this April when he took to social media to trumpet a “remarkable feat!” and a “historic milestone” for his country: crossing 1 billion metric tons of coal and lignite production. It was proof, Modi said, of India’s “commitment to ensuring a vibrant coal sector.”

A month later, for the third year in a row, his government ordered some coal plants to run at full capacity to meet high electricity demand during the increasingly hot summer months.

Even though India has been significantly increasing its renewable energy capacity in recent years, when demand for electricity surges, it still goes back to its most trusted source of power: coal.

For the first six months of this year, India has responded to major energy demand from its growing population and greater cooling needs because of extreme heat, in part due to climate change, by relying on its coal-fired plants. The country also plans to add more coal plants.

India’s coal demand rose nearly 10% in 2023, or about 105 million



AP PHOTO

metric tons, in the biggest jump by percentage for any country, according to the International Energy Agency. Demand in China rose 6%.

“We know the Indian government is serious about its climate commitments,” said Carlos Fernández Alvarez, the lead author of the IEA report. But he acknowledged the “huge need to ensure people have electricity” in India, and added: “We don’t believe that India will be a front runner in the coal transition.”

More than 70% of India’s electricity needs are still met by coal even though renewable energy such as wind and solar power is growing.

India last year became the world’s most populous nation with 1.4 billion people. Electricity demand is projected to grow by at least 6% annually for the next few years, according to the IEA.

WHY COAL STILL RULES IN INDIA

India has millions of people mired in poverty, but millions more who are being lifted from poverty as the country’s economy develops. And many of those will be able to afford some relief.

“Even if someone gets a fan or an air cooler to make their life a little more comfortable, cumulatively

you will see the need for a lot more electricity,” said Charith Konda, an energy analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. He said 7% growth in annual demand “is the bare minimum” he expects.

While renewables are growing, India needs to add a lot of battery storage so that power can replace coal for nighttime needs, Konda said.

Electricity demand isn’t the only force guaranteeing coal’s durability in India. Konda pointed to millions of jobs in coal, including allied sectors such as the railways that control the trains used for transporting

coal. One indicator of coal’s heft: At the height of summer in 2022, the government canceled nearly 2,000 passenger trains so coal freight trains could reach power plants faster.

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR CLEAN POWER TO BECOME THE MAINSTAY IN INDIA

India grew its renewable energy capacity by 25 times over the past decade, and now has 195 gigawatts of wind and solar power installed.

But it needs to grow faster still. Peak electricity demand reached an all-time high of 250 gigawatts in May, according to a report by the India Energy and Climate Center at the University of California, Berkeley. That demand could go past 300 gigawatts in the next three years, according to the report, which said that would mean power shortages at night.

The country has set an ambitious clean energy goal of 500 gigawatts by the end of this decade.

“In 2015-16, we saw a few years of really good growth of renewable power. Since then, it’s kind of plateaued,” said Ashish Fernandes of the think tank Climate Risk Horizons.

Fernandes and other experts say India needs to install at least 50 to 60 gigawatts of clean power each year to meet growing demand. In the last two years, due to a mix of policy decisions, politics and supply chain issues, less than 15 gigawatts of wind and solar have been installed annually.

And storage has to be integrated into the system, said Konda, the energy analyst. India has a little less than 4 gigawatts of storage. The government last year announced a \$452 million plan to support companies installing more. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Hiroshima governor says nuclear disarmament must be tackled as a pressing issue, not an ideal

HIROSHIMA officials urged world leaders yesterday to stop relying on nuclear weapons as deterrence and take immediate action toward abolishment — not as an ideal, but to remove the risk of atomic war amid conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and rising tensions in East Asia.

They commented as Hiroshima remembered its atomic bombing 79 years ago at the end of World War II.

The memorial comes days after Japan and the U.S. reaffirmed Washington’s commitment to “extended deterrence,” which



AP PHOTO

A man places incense in front of the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

includes atomic weapons, to protect its Asian ally. That is a shift from Japan’s past reluctance to openly discuss the sensitive issue

as the world’s only country to have suffered atomic attacks.

Hiroshima Gov. Hi-dehiko Yuzaki said nu-

clear-armed nations and supporters of atomic deterrence “deliberately ignore ... the fact that once people invented a weapon,

they used it without exception.”

“As long as nuclear weapons exist, they will surely be used again someday,” Yuzaki said in his address at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

“Nuclear weapons abolition is not an ideal to achieve far in the future. Instead, it is a pressing and real issue that we should desperately engage in at this moment since nuclear problems involve an imminent risk to human survival,” he said.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said Russia’s war on Ukraine and the wor-

sening conflict between Israel and Palestinians are “deepening distrust and fear among nations” and reinforcing a view that use of force in settling conflict is unavoidable.

The atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroyed the city, killing 140,000 people. A second bomb dropped three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000 more. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and Japan’s nearly half-century aggression in Asia.

About 50,000 people at the ceremony observed a minute of silence with the sound of a peace bell at 8:15 a.m., the time when a U.S. B-29 dropped the bomb on the city. Hundreds of white doves, considered symbols of peace, were released. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado holds a national flag while waving to supporters as she arrives for a rally in Caracas

VENEZUELA

Top prosecutor announces criminal probe against opposition leaders González, Machado

REGINA GARCIA CANO & JOSHUA GOODMAN, CARACAS

VENEZUELA'S top prosecutor yesterday [Macau time] announced a criminal investigation against the opposition's presidential candidate Edmundo González and its leader Maria Corina Machado over their call on the armed forces to abandon their support for President Nicolás Maduro and to stop repressing demonstrators.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab's statement tied the investigation directly to a written appeal the two members of the opposition sent hours earlier about Maduro and the demonstrators who have come out in force to defend their votes in the July 28 election.

Saab, in a written announcement posted on the social media site X, said the duo "falsely announced a winner of the presidential election other than the one proclaimed by the National Electoral Council, the only body qualified to do so" and they openly incited "police and military officials to disobey the laws."

González's and Machado's written appeal shows the alleged commission of various crimes including usurpation

of functions, dissemination of false information to cause fear and conspiracy, Saab said.

The armed forces are traditionally the arbiter of political disputes in Venezuela. But they've shown no signs of ditching Maduro even in the face of credible evidence presented by the opposition that it trounced the self-proclaimed socialist at the polls by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

González and Machado called on rank and file members of the security forces to rethink their loyalty to Maduro.

"We appeal to the conscience of the military and police to put themselves on the side of the people and their families," the two wrote in a long message.

"We won this election without any doubt. It was an electoral avalanche," the two continued. "Now it's up to all of us to respect the voice of the people."

Authorities have declared Maduro the victor in last Sunday's election but have yet to produce voting tallies to prove he won. The opposition claims to have collected records from more than 80% of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide showing it won.

Maduro announced Saturday that the government has arrested 2,000 opponents and at a rally in Caracas he pledged

to detain more people and send them to prison. The post-electoral uprising has also claimed at least 11 lives, according to Foro Penal, a Caracas-based human rights group.

The Venezuela-based human rights organization Provea, in a report issued yesterday analyzing the post-election climate, concluded that the government's response in silencing people's discontent has been "through the disproportionate use of force" that has resulted in the deaths of protesters and "the open coordinated action between security forces and groups of armed civilians in favor of Nicolás Maduro to calm the protests" which has led to an increase in arbitrary arrests.

The organization reported that based on figures announced by the Attorney General's Office last week, the number of arrests against real or perceived government opponents is equivalent to about 42% "of the total number of arbitrary arrests recorded by Provea between April and August 2017, the most important cycle of protests in the country since 1989."

González and Machado in their missive called on Venezuelans with family members serving in the security forces to urge their loved ones

not to attack protesters and not obey illegal orders. It said it would offer "guarantees" to soldiers who follow the constitution even while promising there would be no impunity for those behind abuses and following illegal orders.

Both González, a former diplomat, and Machado — who was barred by the government from running — have gone into hiding, saying they fear they will be arrested or killed. Maduro and his cadres have threatened to lock them both up.

As Venezuelans fight Maduro on the streets, pressure is also building internationally for the Venezuelan government to publish the full breakdown of the electoral results.

But so far, Maduro has instead asked the country's supreme court — which like all institutions in Venezuela is packed with loyalists — to review any claims of irregularities.

"Respect for popular sovereignty is what moves us to defend the transparency of the (election) results," Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said in a press conference alongside fellow leftist President Gabriel Boric of Chile.

Boric, who cast doubt on Maduro's victory claim in an unexpectedly strong statement within hours of Venezuela's July 28 election, told reporters that he and Lula discussed the situation in Venezuela, without elaborating. The leaders did not take questions and their carefully worded statements signaled how leftist leaders in the region are gingerly trying to show respect for Venezuela's sovereignty while voicing doubts about the official results.

A few of Maduro's staunch allies — including Russia, China and Cuba — have applauded his victory. Also yesterday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held a telephone call with Maduro and reiterated his congratulations and "condemned any foreign interference in Venezuela's internal affairs," Pezeshkian's office said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1972 ASIANS GIVEN 90 DAYS TO LEAVE UGANDA



The Ugandan leader, Idi Amin, has set a deadline for the expulsion of most of the country's Asians.

General Amin said all Asians who are not Ugandan citizens — around 60,000 — must leave Uganda within 90 days.

The military ruler's latest statement amended his original expulsion order two days ago when he said all the country's 80,000 Asians had to go.

Asians, who are the backbone of the Ugandan economy, have been living in the country for more than a century.

But resentment against them has been building up within Uganda's black majority.

Expulsion surprises Britain

General Amin has called the Asians "blood-suckers" and accused them of milking the economy of its wealth.

Up to 50,000 Asians in the former UK colony are British passport holders.

In a broadcast, General Amin said he would be summoning the British High Commissioner in Kampala to ask him to arrange for their removal.

The expulsion order has taken Britain by surprise.

General Amin overthrew Uganda's elected leader in a military-backed coup last year but the British authorities had regarded him as a man they could work with.

Currently around 1,000 Asians from Uganda settle in the UK each year under an enlarged quota allocation introduced last year.

But a growing number have been attempting to circumvent the system and enter Britain illegally.

Right-wing MPs have warned that letting more Ugandan Asians into the UK could raise racial tensions.

They are urging the government not to take them in.

Conservative MP Ronald Bell said Uganda's Asians had no real links to Britain.

Speaking on behalf of the Monday Club's Immigration Committee, Mr Bell said: "They were either born in India or have retained close connection with India.

"They have no connection with Britain either by blood or residence."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Britain was unable to negotiate a compromise with Idi Amin and eventually about 50,000 Asians were forced to leave Uganda. Most of those with British passports — around 30,000 — came to the UK. Many arrived virtually penniless having been expelled without compensation for businesses and property. Some were also robbed by troops en route to the airport. There were many objections to their arrival — Leicester Council even took out newspaper advertisements warning them not to come to the city. Idi Amin's rule was one of Uganda's most brutal periods. He was overthrown in 1979 and lived in exile in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2003.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Keep equipment repaired. Delays, misunderstandings or mistakes could frustrate your work and health over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Slow down to finish faster.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Clarify misunderstandings right away. Romantic overtures could backfire over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Find your sense of humor and reconnect.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Review heirlooms, papers, photos and possessions. Get nostalgic. Clean, sort and organize at home, with Mercury retrograde. Maintain equipment. Repair domestic infrastructure.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Take extra care with communications, with Virgo Mercury stationing retrograde for three weeks. Clarify misunderstandings immediately. Launch creative projects later.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Monitor cash flow. Allow extra time for travel, transport, payments and collections, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Review financial records and budgets.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Consider consequences before speaking, with Mercury retrograde in your sign. Review what works and doesn't. Reaffirm commitments. Edit communications carefully.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Avoid misunderstandings, with Mercury retrograde. Revise and refine plans. Anticipate mechanical or digital delays or breakdowns. Review lessons from the past. Private rituals soothe.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Nurture friends and connections. Team practice makes perfect over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Have patience and humor with communication snafus. Repeat the message.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Guard against communication breakdowns. Review professional data closely, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Misunderstandings could cause delays.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Make educational plans and itineraries for later, with Mercury retrograde. Expect travel and shipping delays. Keep confidences and secrets. Explore your own backyard.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Strategize with your partner to secure what you've gained. Review financial statements and accounts for errors over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Develop shared goals. Support each other. Resolve misunderstandings with your partner, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Adapt around barriers. Regroup and go again.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

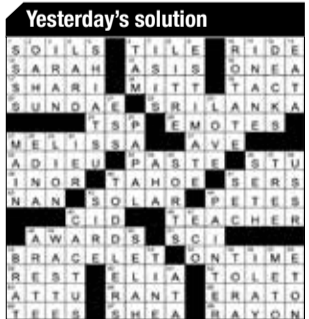
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	32	cloudy
Changchun	21	30	cloudy
Chengdu	26	33	rain
Chongqing	28	39	fine
Fuzhou	27	37	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	37	fine
Guiyang	22	30	cloudy
Haikou	26	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	29	42	fine
Harbin	20	30	cloudy
Hefei	27	38	fine
Nanjing	29	40	fine
Shanghai	28	37	cloudy
Taipei	25	31	rain
Wuhan	29	39	cloudy
Hong Kong	29	33	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	16	23	rain
Frankfurt	17	28	thunderstorms
Paris	16	26	overcast
London	14	22	cloudy
New York	19	22	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Woody plant; 5- The Supremes, e.g.; 9- Chinese weight; 13- Hawaiian dances; 15- Tombstone lawman; 16- Name on a razor; 17- ___ a customer; 18- Fit to ___; 19- Ale, e.g.; 20- AAA suggestion; 21- Deep unconscious state; 23- Souvenirs; 25- Land measure; 26- Natural ability; 27- Kelp; 30- Call ___ day; 31- Communion table; 32- Mall-goer, often; 37- Become closer to; 38- King with a golden touch; 40- Ancient letter; 41- Lacking social engagement; 43- Bing Crosby's record label; 44- Fleming who created Bond; 45- Athletic shoe; 47- Baby; 50- Not as much; 51- "Casablanca" star; 52- Must've been something ___; 53- Face on a fiver; 56- Greek vowels; 57- This ___ outrage!; 59- Ascended; 61- Café au ___; 62- High-ranking NCO; 63- Govt. security; 64- General ___ chicken; 65- Baseballer Slaughter; 66- A long way off.

DOWN 1- God of thunder; 2- Litter's littlest; 3- Gen. Robert ___; 4- Devour; 5- Joined; 6- Pro ___; 7- Indignation; 8- Performs surgery; 9- Put off, as an agenda item; 10- Dined at home; 11- Build; 12- Metallica drummer Ulrich; 14- Football, most places; 22- Metal-bearing mineral; 24- Joie de vivre; 25- Cognizant; 26- ___yellow ribbon...; 27- Beach blanket?; 28- Zeno of ___; 29- Rat ___; 32- NFL scores; 33- Zones; 34- Oozy dirt; 35- Suffix with exist; 36- Back; 38- In the ___; interim; 39- "___ She Lovely?"; 42- Perjurer; 43- Barren place; 45- Biases; 46- Can be used to catch fish or surf!; 47- Smidgens; 48- Marsh of mystery; 49- Observes Ramadan; 51- Waist band; 52- "Othello" villain; 53- Starting; 54- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 55- Cabinet dept.; 58- Taxpayer's ID; 60- One ___million;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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OLYMPICS 2024 | ATHLETICS

Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis breaks pole vault

EDDIE PELLIS, SAINT-DENIS

THE pole vaulter they call "Mondo" really can put on a show.

With the rest of the action at the Olympic track wrapped up for the evening and the crowd of 80,000 at the Stade de France still on their feet, Armand Duplantis rested the pole on his right shoulder and took a deep breath. Then, he lifted up that long piece of carbon fiber and took off down the runway and into the night sky.

Another Olympic gold medal already was his. When he came crashing down into the padding on the other side of that sky-high, pink-tinted bar, so was another world record.

Duplantis, the Louisiana-born 24-year-old who competes for his mother's native Sweden, cleared 6.25 meters (20 feet, 6 inches) to break the world record for the ninth time — but the first time on his sport's grandest stage.

His next move was a sprint to the stands to hug his girlfriend and celebrate his record and second Olympic gold with all those friends and family wearing yellow and blue. The country's king and queen were



Armand Duplantis, of Sweden, competes in the men's pole vault final yesterday, in Saint-Denis

on hand, as well, to witness Sweden's latest history-making leap into the pole vault pit.

"It's hard to understand, honestly," he said. "If I don't beat this moment in my career, then I'm pretty OK with that. I don't think you can get much better than what just happened."

It felt only right that the Duplantis drama came with Noah Lyles in the building.

A night after the American sprint star electrified track with a .005-second victory in the men's 100 meters, Lyles was on hand to receive his gold medal and watch Duplantis electrify field to the tune of 6.25 me-

ters — about the height of a typical two-story building.

The drama played out over a half hour at the end of the night, long after a slow-and-strange women's 5,000 meters had wrapped up and after Keely Hodgkinson had captured the first track medal for Britain at this meet in the 800, the evening's last race.

That usually signals a time for folks to start heading for the exits.

But Mondo's encore was worth staying for, and most everyone did.

"Mondo is an extraordinary jumper because of four factors," said American Sam Kendricks, who finished second. "One, he's got a great

coach for a long time. He's had a lot of time to do it. He's got great equipment and understanding of the event. He's a fan of sport, and he's got God's hand on his back."

By winning a second straight gold medal and breaking the record for the ninth time — each time by one centimeter — Duplantis is now next to, if not above, Sergei Bubka as the greatest ever in this event.

Duplantis is in the conversation with America's Ryan Crouser, a world-record holder and three-time gold medalist in shot put, as among the most dominant athletes on the field side of this sport.

And when it comes to delivering great theatre, as he showed once again, Duplantis is in a class of his own.

After he sealed the victory over Kendricks, then captured the Olympic record by clearing 6.10 meters, Duplantis had the bar moved to one centimeter higher than the world-record height.

Following his first miss, he used a break while Lyles was receiving the gold medal for his 100-meter victory, to study video on a tablet with his parents, who met decades ago while they were both on the LSU track and field team.

Another miss ensued, then another long break.

The fans clapped in rhythm and sang along to the French song "Alleur de Feu" — "Light the Fire" — getting ready for Mondo's leap into history.

A home-grown talent, Duplantis learned this sport on a pole vault pit his parents dug in their back yard in Lafayette, Louisiana.

During long afternoons of jumping in that pit, Duplantis often envisioned himself going for a world record on his last jump at the Olympics.


Maybe not in the equation — the parties that world record and Olympic title would set off. An hour after the stadium cleared, the song "Dancing Queen" by the Swedish group ABBA was playing loud and proud outside the stadium.

"For it to actually happen the way that it did and for me to put the right jump together at the right time, it's just, like, how do you explain it?" he said. "It's bigger than words for me."

CHEBET OF KENYA WINS WILD WOMEN'S 5,000M


Duplantis was the closing act on a night that included an upset by Kenya's Beatrice Chebet in the wo-

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world record in gold-medal performance in Paris

men's 5,000 meters. One of the world's best distance runners, Chebet's Kenyan teammate Faith Kipyegon, ended up with silver, but only after winning an appeal of her initial disqualification for trading elbows with world-record holder Gudaf Tsegay.

The appeal left Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands with the bronze medal. Hassan will also race in the

10,000 and marathon, trying to duplicate her three distance medals from the Tokyo Games.

LYLES RETURNS TO THE TRACK

Lyles returned to the track the day after his memorable win in the 100 meters to start the quest for his second gold, this one in the 200.

He won his opening heat in 20.19

seconds, then stuck around to receive his gold medal.

He said he did it all on only a little more than 4 hours of sleep.

"I had to stop watching the race," he said of his decision to call it a night at 2:45 a.m. after his win. "Throughout the day, it's kind of just been meandering trying to get the body started, jump starting it."

BACK TO BACK FOR US DISCUS THROWER VAL ALLMAN

Val Allman won her second straight Olympic gold with a throw of 69.50 meters to easily top China's Feng Bin.

The medals from Allman and Kendricks gave the U.S. 11 so far in the meet, including three golds.

Hodgkinson brings first gold of

Olympic track to Britain

Keely Hodgkinson captured Britain's first gold medal of the track meet, winning the 800 meters in 1:56.72.

This gold goes with the silver she took behind Athing Mu in 2021. Mu did not qualify for the Olympics after getting tripped up during the U.S. trials. MDT/AP

OLYMPICS 2024

With Russians absent, China leads in artistic swimming

WITH longtime powerhouse Russia not competing at the Olympics after the invasion of Ukraine, artistic swimming opened Monday at the Paris Games with a rare dose of unpredictability.

China led after the team technical routine with 313.5538 points, followed by Spain (287.1475), Italy (277.8304) and France (277.7925).

Russia began a run of dominance at the 2000 Sydney Games, winning every Olympic gold since then in the sport formerly known as synchronized swimming — 12 straight victories in all.

But the country has been largely shunned on the international sports stage since launching its war on Ukraine. Russia has not entered an artistic swimming team at a

major competition since the Tokyo Olympics.

Men were eligible for the team event for the first time at these Games, but none of the 10 teams picked a male swimmer.

The team competition continued yesterday with the free routine, followed by the acrobatic routine today [Macau time] to decide the gold. MDT/AP



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OPINION

The Conversation

Jorge Heine, Boston University



VIETNAM'S LATE TRONG LEFT A LEGACY IN 'BAMBOO DIPLOMACY'

As a rule, the U.S. secretary of state does not attend the funeral of the general secretary of a Communist party. Yet that is exactly what Washington's top diplomat, Antony Blinken, had planned to do for the last rites of Nguyen Phu Trong, the longtime leader of Vietnam, who died in office on July 19, 2024, aged 80. Ultimately, Blinken couldn't make it to the funeral, but he did visit Hanoi a day later. There, he paid his respects to the Vietnamese government and to the family of Trong, whose 13-year rule saw the country make enormous strides, including a drastic decline in the nation's poverty rate – from 14% of the population in 2010 to 4% in 2022.

The passing of leaders provides an opportunity to draw a balance of their performance in office. Trong can be proud of his record – Vietnam has made much economic and social progress and looks set to continue along that route. Moreover, the legacy of Trong's set of foreign policy principles – known as “bamboo diplomacy” – serves as a model for smaller states as they navigate the complexities of shifting geopolitics and growing tensions between the U.S. and China.

Vietnam was already on an upward trajectory when Trong came to power in 2011 as the most powerful figure in the country's ruling Communist Party. After decades of stagnation and abject poverty, the opening up of Vietnam's economy under the “Doi Moi” – or renovation – reforms of 1986 led to what the World Bank refers to as a “development success story.” The reforms helped Vietnam transition from being one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income nation over a 40-year period.

Under Trong's watch, the country of close to 100 million people has seen average annual growth of 5.8% – one of the highest in Asia and the world. Despite its “sandwich” position in the current great power competition, Vietnam under Trong managed to maintain good relations with Beijing, Moscow, and Washington.

Yet Trong's achievements weren't foregrounded in some of the reports of his death. International coverage of the occasion was prone to fall back on the clichés that Western media too often bestows upon developing country leaders. “Hardliner” and “Marxist-Leninist ideologue” were the terms used to describe him in rather one-dimensional reports. To his credit, Blinken described Trong as “a visionary leader” in his tribute. Other U.S. politicians haven't always looked upon Trong in such a positive light. During Trong's historic visit to the White House in 2015, the Obama administration was slammed by lawmakers for accommodating the figurehead of “an authoritarian one-party system” responsible for a “deplorable human rights situation” in Vietnam.

Trong was a remarkable man with an enviable record. In contrast to other Vietnamese officials, he was modest and unassuming, lived in ordinary, government-provided housing, drove an old, battered Toyota Crown and was steeped in the mores of Vietnam's collective leadership traditions.

Trong was especially successful in attracting U.S. companies eager to diminish their dependence on their operations in China, and to rely on “friend-shoring” – that is, investment that goes to countries seen as friendly. Amazingly, he was able to do the same with China. This careful cultivation of ties with both Washington and Beijing was the root of “bamboo diplomacy,” the foreign policy strategy that Trong will be best remembered for. The strategy – which Trong outlined in 2016 in a speech which noted that, like bamboo itself, a successful foreign policy needed “strong roots, stout trunk and flexible branches” – was triggered by the growing tensions between China and the United States. [Abridged]

Vice President Kamala Harris, a daughter of immigrants who rose through the California political and law enforcement ranks to become the first female vice president in U.S. history, formally secured the Democratic presidential nomination yesterday [Macau time] – becoming the first woman of color to lead a major party ticket.

More than four years after her first attempt at the presidency collapsed, Harris' coronation as her party's standard-bearer caps a tumultuous and frenetic period for Democrats prompted by President Joe Biden's disastrous June debate performance that shattered his own supporters' confidence in his reelection prospects and spurred extraor-

dinary intraparty warfare about whether he should stay in the race.

Just as soon as Biden abruptly ended his candidacy, Harris and her team worked rapidly to secure backing from the 1,976 party delegates needed to clinch the nomination in a formal roll call vote. She reached that marker at warp speed, with an Associated Press survey of delegates nationwide showing she locked down the necessary commitments a mere 32 hours after Biden's announcement.

Harris' nomination became official after a five-day round of online balloting by Democratic National Convention delegates ended Monday night.

AP PHOTO



Paris 2024: Women's high jump gold medalist Yaroslava Mahuchikh, of Ukraine

HIGH JUMPER MAHUCHIKH, OTHER MEDAL-WINNING UKRAINIANS PUT ATTENTION ON WAR

HANNA ARHIROVA, PARIS

YAROSLAVA Mahuchikh, the Ukrainian world-record high jumper, may have just won Olympic gold, but she and other winning athletes from Ukraine are not resting in Paris — they're trying to shine the spotlight on the war tearing apart their country.

“The Olympic Games are about peace,” she said. “But Russia didn't stop, and during these Games, there were massive attacks on Ukrainian cities.”

These missile strikes forced Mahuchikh to spend the last two and a half years mostly abroad as she focused on her main goal — the Olympic gold, which she won Sunday.

She trained far from her family, including in Portugal, Estonia, Belgium and Germany. She occasionally comes to her hometown of Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, but every time she left the country, she didn't know when she would return.

“To achieve such high results on the international stage, you need to train abroad,” Mahuchikh said. “And it is very sad, and I really want us to be able to train fully at home for the

next Olympic cycle.”

Despite the hardships, she succeeded, saying that the war gave her motivation and a greater purpose to represent her country. But the success was bittersweet.

When she broke a 37-year-old world record last month, jumping 2.10 meters (6.88 feet), her joy was brief.

“We were happy on the first evening, but the next day ... unfortunately, we have a very aggressive enemy,” she said. “Russia struck Ohmatdyt. And honestly, there was no joy anymore,” referring to the missile attack in Kyiv last month that hit the largest children's hospital in Ukraine.

Sunday was a successful day for Ukraine at the Olympics, with three athletes from the country scoring medals in athletics. Fellow high jumper Iryna Gerashchenko won bronze, and Mykhaylo Kokhan scored the bronze in the hammer throw.

Russian athletes, competing as neutrals because of the war on Ukraine, also have won medals at the Paris Games. The first was silver for tennis players Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider in women's doubles

Sunday.

Neutral athletes from Belarus, a key Russian ally, also won gold and silver medals in the men's and women's trampoline competitions, respectively, on Friday, and Belarusian rower Yauheni Zalyaty won a silver Saturday.

Mahuchikh and other Ukrainian athletes have spoken out against the presence of Russian competitors at the Paris Games.

The three Ukrainian athletes who have won medals came to the Ukrainian house dubbed Volia Space on Monday. They said that they were short on sleep because while the attention lasts, they are trying to give as many interviews as possible, raising awareness about the war.

“It is very important to win and keep winning,” Mahuchikh said. “It is difficult for Ukrainian athletes to focus solely on sports, our thoughts are at home with our families.”

The 22-year-old athlete said there are still many things that could be conquered.

“Next is only the number of awards and to jump higher and higher,” she said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



France A ransomware attack targeted Paris' museum network, affecting data systems integral to venues hosting Olympic events. Despite the cyber intrusion, the Olympics proceeded without disruption, highlighting the resilience of French cybersecurity measures amid global sporting events.

AP PHOTO



USA A judge yesterday [Macau time] ruled Google illegally maintained its search engine monopoly, potentially reshaping the internet landscape. This landmark decision emphasizes Google's dominant market position and its impact on competition and innovation, setting the stage for significant legal and operational changes within the tech giant.

AP PHOTO



USA Michael Bloomberg (pictured) made a substantial donation to historically Black medical schools which marks a significant investment in diversifying the medical profession. This initiative aims to enhance health equity and address systemic disparities, demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering inclusive educational opportunities.

AP PHOTO



UK The UK prime minister yesterday announced a specialist police unit to address widespread rioting, aiming to enhance public order and quick justice. This response to civil unrest involves tackling misinformation and ensuring robust legal actions against those disrupting peace, illustrating the government's firm stance on maintaining law and order.