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NEWS

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MGTO HAS UNVEILED A MOP27 MILLION INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN TO REVITALIZE TOURISM AND ATTRACT GLOBAL VISITORS

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CHINA CONDUCTS MILITARY PATROLS NEAR BORDER WITH WAR-RIDDEN MYANMAR

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AP PHOTO



Pakistan Two separate bus accidents yesterday [Macau time] resulted in at least 36 fatalities. The first accident involved a bus carrying Shiite pilgrims, with 12 confirmed dead. Later, another bus plunged into a ravine, killing 24 passengers in Punjab.

AP PHOTO



Middle East A Greek-flagged oil tanker remains ablaze in the Red Sea after multiple attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels, reported yesterday. Despite the severe damage, no major oil spill was detected, mitigating immediate environmental disaster risks in the region.

AP PHOTO



Middle East After a short-lived calm following a heavy exchange of strikes between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, fighting resumed yesterday. State media and witnesses reported that Israeli strikes targeted the Lebanese border village of Tair Harfa and in the area of the coastal city of Sidon yesterday.

AP PHOTO

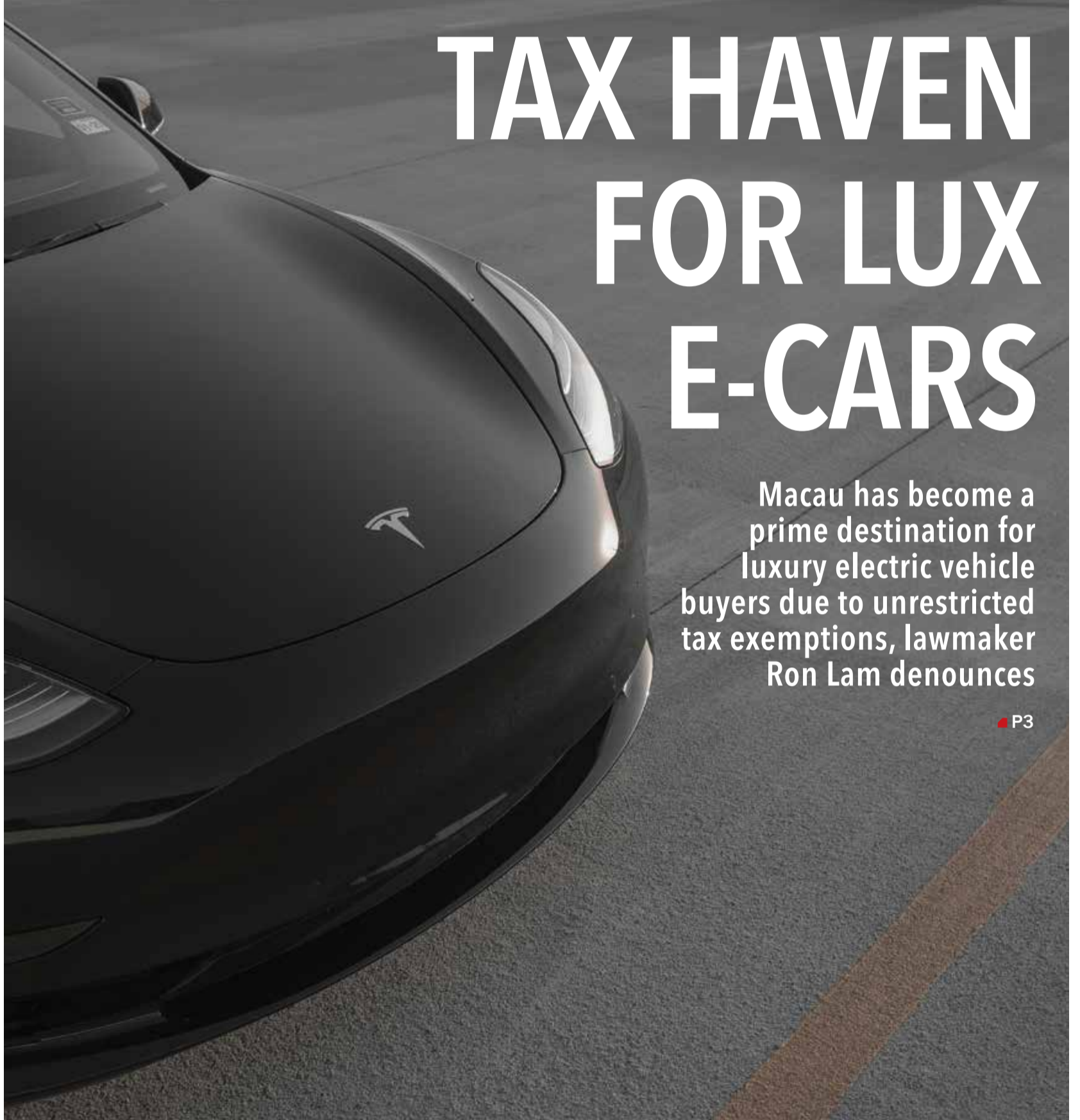


Germany A Syrian man was detained yesterday [Macau time] in German soil under suspicion of murder and terrorist affiliations after a deadly knife attack in Solingen. The attack, which resulted in three deaths and several injuries, was reportedly motivated by Islamic State ideology.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described Russia's extensive overnight assault involving over 100 missiles and drones as "vile." The attack targeted Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, causing significant damage and resulting in multiple casualties across several regions yesterday.



TAX HAVEN FOR LUX E-CARS

Macau has become a prime destination for luxury electric vehicle buyers due to unrestricted tax exemptions, lawmaker Ron Lam denounces

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TOURISM

MGTO UNVEILS MOP27 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS

NADIA SHAW

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has unveiled an international promotional campaign to revitalize tourism and attract global visitors.

Launched yesterday, the "Experience Macao Limited Edition" campaign partners with the city's six gaming operators to blend an online interactive game with exclusive travel experiences, highlighting the best of Macau.

During an online-offline press conference at the Macao Grand Prix Museum yesterday, the bureau announced that the campaign is part of MGTO's broader strategy of "going global, bringing in," which emphasizes market diversification.

In the first half of the year, MGTO officials visited several countries in Northeast and Southeast Asia to promote Macau as a premier travel destination.

The second half of the year will see intensified efforts as the campaign rolls out, featuring a daily online quiz game where participants can win exclusive prizes, including hotel stays and round-trip airfares to Macau.

"Our goal is to invigorate tourism and economic development by tapping into international markets and showcasing the unique experiences Macau has to offer," said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of MGTO.

The official said this project is a new bid to directly target consu-



mers through both online and offline methods, with a view to expanding Macau's customer base.

The MGTO director said the campaign's total budget is MOP26.9 million, with MOP2.9 million coming from the government and the remaining MOP24 million being borne by the six gaming concessionaires.

She also expressed her hope that the number of international tourists in 2025 will approach the 3 million-mark seen in 2019.

The authorities will continue to promote and participate in tourism exhibitions in the global market to attract international tourists.

EXCLUSIVE PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

The "Experience Macao Limited Edition" campaign invites

international visitors to engage with Macau's culture and attractions through an interactive online game.

Participants can register on the campaign's website and answer three questions about Macau each day.

Correct answers enter participants into a lucky draw for a chance to win one of 100 exclusive travel experiences, which include stays at top hotels, visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites, and dining at the finest Michelin-starred restaurants.

In addition to the 100 prizes, there is a special incentive for social media engagement.

The winner of the most popular Instagram post, tagged with the specified official campaign hashtags, will receive a 30-day Ultimate Experience Macao Limited Edition Prize, which includes extensive travel perks and activities throughout the city.

Participants can register on the campaign's website and answer three questions about Macau each day.

PROMOTION THROUGH K-POP

A notable highlight of the campaign is its collaboration with Cho Mi-yeon, a member of the popular K-pop girl group (G)I-DLE.

Mi-yeon visited Macau several weeks ago to film the music video, featuring iconic landmarks aiming to attract a younger audience and generate buzz on social media for this campaign.

The promotional campaign will use a multichannel approach, engaging audiences through various platforms, including social media, online advertisements, and collaborations with influencers and key opinion leaders outside mainland China (KOLs).

GOV'T AIMS FOR 33 MILLION VISITORS THIS YEAR

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Fernandes revealed the number of tourists this summer exceeded expectations, with the average daily number of tourists exceeding 100,000. Over the past weekend, the average daily tourist count was 160,000.

Fernandes is confident the total passenger volume this year could reach the target of 33 million, with hopes for even higher numbers.

She said the composition of tourists will gradually change, and the authorities will step up efforts to attract international tourists next year.

Regarding group tourists during the summer vacation, Fernandes stated that data is still being compiled. However, reports from travel agencies indicate an increase in group visitors. She believes this uptick is linked to the Macao Week promotional activities organized by the bureau in mainland China to attract group tourists to Macau.

The official added that several major events and activities, including activities organized by cultural, sports and integrated resort and leisure enterprises, are planned for the second half of the year, which are expected to continue drawing tourists.

ENVIRONMENT

Incineration plant in Pac On completed

THE expansion of the Macau Refuse Incineration Plant has been completed, with the third phase of the project set to begin operations later this year, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPB) has announced.

The expansion, carried out at the original site of the Macau Refuse Incineration Plant, includes the construction

of several key new facilities.

This includes the third phase of the incineration plant itself, a brand new Special and Hazardous Waste Treatment Plant, and a new administrative building and processing station.

In its statement, the DSPB noted the project faced several challenges, including delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and adverse weather conditions, which impacted the installation



of major equipment. The commissioning of the third phase will increase the plant's total daily treatment capacity by 1,300 tons.

The new phase utilizes German Marin reverse-acting grate stoker incineration technology, which can generate over 200 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year when operating at full capacity.

The Special and Hazardous Waste Treatment Plant, using rotary kiln incineration technology, has a daily treatment capacity of 12 tons.

To promote sustainability, the new administrative building incorporates green building elements, such as photovoltaic curtain walls, vertical green walls, a rooftop photovoltaic system, and a rainwater collection and reuse system.

The building has been recognized with a one-star green building certification.

Additionally, the third phase will house an environmental education exhibition room, raising public awareness on solid waste treatment and recycling in Macau. LV

Additional information about the plant's features and the environmental education room.

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Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai
NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí
DESIGNER_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Goldenhuys 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:
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CE RUN

Sam Hou Fai resigns from top judge post ahead of elections

RENATO MARQUES

SAM Hou Fai, the judge and president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), has been exonerated from his posts by the Chief Executive (CE) at his request, according to an executive order published yesterday in the government's official gazette.

The CE order, effective from Wednesday (Aug. 28), said Sam will be exonerated from his positions as president of the TUI and as a member of the independent commission responsible for nominating candidates for judicial positions.

It is believed this move is linked to earlier statements by Sam, indicating he is considering running for the position of Macau's next Chief Executive.

According to election rules, candidates for this position must step down from any roles of political or governmental influence before officially declaring their candidacy.

Sam's exoneration aligns with the nomination period for candidates to run for the election of the sixth term of CE of Macau Special Administrative Region, which runs from Aug. 29 to Sept. 12.

Speculation around Sam's potential candidacy has grown since the current CE, Ho Iat Seng, announced last

RENATO MARQUES



week that he would not seek re-election due to health issues.

In a statement to the media mid last week, Ho finally broke the silence over the matter, clarifying that his health "has not been fully restored" and expressing gratitude for the support he has received throughout his term.

"I have profound feelings for Macau and have done my utmost for Macau's develop-

ment, but since my health has not been fully restored, for the sake of Macau's long-term development, I have decided not to participate in the election for the sixth-term Chief Executive," he said.

According to the Chief Executive Election Law, high-ranking officials or judicial officers must resign or retire before the nomination period begins; otherwise, they cannot be nominated as candidates.

The election of the new CE

is on Oct. 13 when a collegial committee of 400 people will vote to elect one candidate.

Since the first CE election in May 1999, when Edmund Ho was elected as the first-ever CE after defeating Stanley Au with around 83% of votes, all other election terms candidates have run uncontested.

Ho Iat Seng was the only one of three CEs so far who has not served two consecutive terms.

Ron Lam labels Macau as a 'tax haven' for luxury EVs

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAUI has become a prime destination for luxury electric vehicle buyers, largely due to unrestricted tax exemptions for electric cars, according to lawmaker Ron Lam.

In a written submission to the government, Lam criticized the current tax exemption policies, arguing they are "not only a waste of public funds, but also do not achieve the objective of promoting long-term environmental protection."

"Macau has been gran-

ting tax exemptions to electric vehicles. Although the measures are favorable to the popularization of electric vehicles, there are no restrictions on the number of electric vehicles that can be owned or their maximum price, turning Macau into a tax haven for luxury electric vehicles," Lam said.

As an example, Lam noted that a luxury electric car that sells for approximately HKD838,000 in Hong Kong can be purchased for only HKD428,000 in Macau. This results in around HKD4 million less



tax revenue for each car, while the "environmental benefits obtained are not very significant," he said.

Lam has called on authorities to establish "clear criteria for categorizing

environmentally friendly vehicles" and consider setting a maximum limit on the amount of tax relief available.

He also suggested promoting a "one-for-one"

scheme to encourage vehicle owners to replace their old vehicles with new electric ones.

Furthermore, Lam questioned the exemptions for long-range fossil fuel vehicles and called for updating vehicle tax regulations to tax different vehicle types more reasonably and encourage businesses to buy electric trucks and vans.

The lawmaker's request aimed to address these issues and better achieve environmental goals through tax policy reform.

NEW BUS LINKS AREIA PRETA HEALTH CENTER TO HOTEL LISBOA

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) launched a new circular bus route yesterday, linking the Areia Preta Healthcare Center to the Hotel Lisboa area. Named "2AS," this new bus route has four stops, including the Avenida de 1 de Maio, Avenida de 1 de Maio/Kwong Wa, Hotel Lisboa and La Marina. The route operates weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., except where the weekday falls on a public holiday. According to DSAT, the introduction of this route aims to reduce the waiting time of passengers at the Areia Preta bus stops during the peak morning period.

36 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE IN CYBERSECURITY DRILL

Macau conducted a two-day cybersecurity drill this week, with participants from the government and critical infrastructure operators in the financial sector. The exercise, led by the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre (CARIC) and the Monetary Authority of Macau, aimed to test incident response among 36 organizations. Using a specialized simulation system, participants experienced a hacker attack scenario and deployed appropriate countermeasures. The hands-on training sought to strengthen their capabilities against cyber threats. Speakers emphasized that protecting Macau's growing digital finance industry and economy requires strong security cooperation and proactive prevention.

LOCAL INVESTMENT TEAMS VISITS GBA

In collaboration with the Hengqin Guangdong-Macau Deep Cooperation Zone, the Investment Promotion Bureau has embarked on a five-day tour across six cities in the Greater Bay Area to attract investment. The team visited 16 key enterprises, focusing on industries such as traditional Chinese medicine, finance and high-tech sectors. Companies expressed enthusiasm for Macau's favorable business environment, notably its low tax system and recent regulatory reforms. This initiative is part of Macau's strategy to diversify its economy and enhance its international market presence, targeting expansion into regions like Southeast Asia and Europe.

DSPA LAUNCHES ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) invites the public to register for a series of ecological activities throughout September, starting today (Aug. 27). For more details, interested participants can call the hotline at 2876 2626 or visit the bureau's website.

Public viewing days are scheduled for Sept. 7 and 21, offering guided tours of ecological zones with limited openings for 120 visitors. A "Nature School" workshop for parent-child pairs will take place on Sept. 7, accommodating 12 groups. Additionally, the "Knowing Fish Workshop" on Sept. 21 will allow 50 participants to explore local fish species.



GAMING

Seaport: Sands may resume dividends in 2025

VICTORIA CHAN

CASINO operator Sands China Ltd is expected to resume dividend payments as early as 2025, according to a note from Seaport Research Partners.

This move would mark a significant shift for the company, which has held off on dividend payments since the beginning of the pandemic.

Citing conversations with Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands, during the 2024 Seaport Annual Summer Conference, analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote that "Sands China would most likely see dividend restart in 2025, with scale of dividend dependent on performance post-Londoner completion."

Umansky's note quoted Sands executives as saying that "Hong Kong investors like dividends, so it makes sense to restart some dividends at Sands China."

The resumption of dividends would come a year earlier than many analysts had

anticipated, underscoring the company's confidence in its recovery.

Sands China is one of three casino operators, alongside Melco Resorts and SJM resorts, that have yet to resume dividend payouts since the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

However, the size of the dividends will be contingent on the company's performance after the completion of its ongoing Londoner Macao revamp project, which has involved significant rooms and gaming space closures.

Las Vegas Sands indicated it will prioritize share buybacks over dividend increases in the near term.

As the project progresses, the company expects Macau's quarter-on-quarter to be "largely in-line" and the impact on revenues to be less severe as the number of rooms offline decreases.

Sands China also anticipates reopening the former Pacifica Casino and Sheraton, to be renamed Londoner Grand, by December.

AUTHORITIES CRACKDOWN ON 700 E-CIG DEVICES

EFFORTS to enforce Macau's strict e-cigarette regulations continue to intensify, with authorities seizing hundreds of devices so far this year.

Between January and June, local authorities confiscated about 200 e-cigarette devices and 10,000 cartridges, as part of efforts to crack down on illegal imports through online shopping, couriers and personal transport.

Since a 2018 ban on e-cigarette sales took effect, authorities have recorded 193 suspected instances



of the law being broken.

In 2023 alone, about 700 e-cigarette devices and nearly 59,000 cartridges were seized, as authorities intensify monitoring, inspections

and confiscations.

Individuals face fines of up to MOP4,000 for violations, while tobacco shops risk penalties ranging between MOP20,000 and MOP200,000.

Macau has signi-

ficantly escalated efforts to combat the illegal import and use of e-cigarettes, implementing stricter regulations and enforcement measures to promote a smoke-free lifestyle among residents.

The Health Bureau and Macao Customs are focusing on preventing youth access and exposure to e-cigarettes.

They aim to minimize the products' availability and discourage use among residents, in line with laws passed in 2017 and 2022 further prohibiting the manufacturing, distribution and import of e-cigarettes.

VC

CULTURE

IC TO LAUNCH FILM AND TELEVISION WEBSITE

NADIA SHAW

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is set to create a dedicated website aimed at enhancing the local film and television industry, according to IC president Deland Leong.

The IC recently announced its aim of creating a website for film and television in response to legislator Leong Sun Iok's inquiry about the benefits of the government's funding initiative.

The new platform will serve as a communication and cooperation hub for production companies and filming teams, facilitating the application process for filming permits in Macau.

This initiative appears to be in alignment with the government's broader strategy of promoting cultural exchange and economic diversification, focusing on integrating Chinese culture with other influences.

The "Film Permit Application Platform," launched in collaboration with 10 government departments, has already streamlined the per-



mit process, reducing the average approval time from 4.3 to 3.6 days – an approximate reduction of 16.28%.

As of May, the platform has processed 388 electronic applications, demonstrating its effectiveness in supporting both local and international film projects.

Moreover, the Cultural Development Fund (FDC) has approved funding for 16 projects, including collaborations

with teams from mainland China, Hong Kong and Japan to showcase Macau's rich heritage and landscapes.

The IC President further emphasized the government's commitment to leveraging film and television as tools for cultural promotion and tourism development, stating that these efforts will enhance Macau's image and foster a more diversified economy.

SPORTS

DEFENDING CHAMPION MIN WOO LEE HEADLINES SJM MACAO OPEN

DEFENDING champion Min Woo Lee will be the headline attraction at the 2024 SJM Macao Open, scheduled for Oct. 10 to 13.

The Australian star secured a two-shot victory over Thailand's Poom Saksansin at last year's tournament, marking his first title in two years.

Lee set a new tournament record with a 30-under-par score across four days, just two strokes shy of the Asian Tour record.

"I'm thrilled to be coming back to the SJM Macao Open," said Lee.

"Last year was an incredible experience, and winning with a record score was a highlight of my season. I have great memories of the course and the fantastic support from the fans. I am looking forward to another amazing week in Macau and hope to defend my title."



The tournament has consistently drawn major winners Ernie Els, Nick Faldo, John Daly, and Vijay Singh, along with prolific global stars Miguel-Angel Jimenez, Branden Grace, Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood and Thongchai Jaidee, cementing its reputation as one of the top golf events in Asia.

The 21st tournament promises to once again attract top talent from around the globe, competing for a prize fund of USD1 million. LV

TECH

French authorities arrest Telegram CEO at a Paris airport, media report

BARBARA SURK, NICE

THE founder and CEO of the messaging service Telegram was detained at a Paris airport on an arrest warrant alleging his platform has been used for money laundering, drug trafficking and other offenses, French media reported on Sunday.

Pavel Durov, a dual citizen of France and Russia, was taken into custody at Paris-Le Bourget Airport on Saturday evening after landing in France from Azerbaijan, according to broadcasters LCI and TF1.

Investigators from the National Anti-Fraud Office, attached to the French customs department, notified Durov, 39, that he was being placed in police custody, the broadcasters said.

Durov's representatives couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

French prosecutors declined to comment on Durov's arrest when contacted by The Associated Press on Sunday, in line with regulations during an ongoing investigation.

French media reported that the warrant for Durov was issued by France at the request of the special unit at the country's interior ministry in charge of investigating crimes against minors. Those include online sexual exploitation, such as possession and distribution of child sexual abuse content and grooming for sexual purposes.

Telegram was founded by Durov and his brother in the wake of the Russian government's crackdown after mass pro-democracy protests that rocked Moscow at the end of 2011 and 2012.

The demonstrations prompted Russian authorities to clamp



Telegram co-founder Pavel Durov

down on the digital space, adopting regulations that forced internet providers to block websites and cellphone operators to store call records and messages that could be shared with security services.

In the increasingly repressive environment, Telegram and its pro-privacy rhetoric offered a convenient way for Russians to communicate and share news. In 2018, Russian media watchdog Roskomnadzor moved to block Telegram over its refusal to hand over encryption keys, but ultimately failed to fully restrict access to the app.

Telegram continued to be widely used — including by government institutions — and the ban was dropped two years later. In March 2024, Roskomnadzor said that Telegram was working with the Russian government to a certain extent and

had removed more than 256,000 posts with prohibited content at Roskomnadzor's request.

Telegram also continues to be a popular source of news in Ukraine, where both media outlets and officials use it to share information on the war, and deliver missile and air raid alerts.

In a statement posted on its platform, Telegram said it abides by EU laws including the digital services act, and its moderation is "within industry standards and constantly improving."

Durov, the company added, "has nothing to hide and travels frequently in Europe."

"It is absurd to claim that a platform or its owner are responsible for abuse of that platform," Telegram's post said. "Almost a billion users globally use Telegram as means of communication and as a source of vital information. We're awaiting a

prompt resolution of this situation. Telegram is with you all."

A French judicial official suggested that Durov could appear before a judge later Sunday to determine whether he will remain in custody. The official wasn't authorized to be named publicly during an ongoing investigation.

"If the person concerned is to be brought before a judge today, it is only in the context of the possible extension of his police custody measure — a decision that must be taken and notified by an investigating judge," the official said.

Western governments have often criticized Telegram for lack of content moderating on the messaging service, which experts say opens up the messaging platform for potential use in money laundering, drug trafficking and allowing the sharing of con-

tent linked to sexual exploitation of minors.

Compared to other messaging platforms, Telegram is "less secure (and) more lax in terms of policy and detection of illegal content," said David Thiel, a Stanford University researcher, who has investigated the use of online platforms for child exploitation, at its Internet Observatory.

In addition, Telegram "appears basically unresponsive to law enforcement," Thiel said, adding that messaging service WhatsApp "submitted over 1.3 million CyberTipline reports in 2023 (and) Telegram submits none."

In 2022, Germany issued fines of 5.125 million euros (\$5 million) against the operators of Telegram for failing to comply with German law. The Federal Office of Justice said that Telegram FZ-LLC hasn't established a lawful way for reporting illegal content or named an entity in Germany to receive official communication.

Both are required under German laws that regulate large online platforms.

Last year, Brazil temporarily suspended Telegram over its failure to surrender data on neo-Nazi activity related to a police inquiry into school shootings in November.

Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of social media site X who's called himself a "free speech absolutist" in the past, posted "#freePavel" in support of Durov following the arrest.

Russian government officials expressed outrage at Durov's arrest, with some highlighting what they said was the West's double standard on freedom of speech. **MDT/AP**

GAMING

Ciarán Carruthers departs Crown by the end of year

CROWN Resorts Ltd. has announced CEO Ciarán Carruthers will step down at the end of the year, with current president and chief operating officer David Tsai assuming the role of acting CEO from Sept. 1.

During his tenure, Crown implemented signi-

ficant changes and secured approvals from regulators in Victoria and New South Wales.

In a statement, Crown Resorts chairman John Borghetti praised Carruthers' "critical" work that resulted in the company retaining licenses in key markets.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Ciarán during this period of transformation and remediation," Borghetti said, noting the implementation of harm minimization programs and other compliance upgrades.

More regulatory steps

remain for Crown's Perth casino, but insiders say Carruthers' leadership positioned the company for continued success.

Carruthers' departure comes after Crown was cleared to operate in Melbourne and Sydney following detailed reviews of its past practices. He formerly served as chief operating officer at Wynn Macau Ltd.

Tsai will take over as acting CEO while Crown searches for a permanent replacement. **VC**



DIRE STRAIT

Taiwan drills with anti-amphibious landing missiles

TAIWAN drilled yesterday with anti-amphibious landing missiles as part of strategy to remain mobile and deadly in an attempt to deter any military action from China.

Troops fired tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missiles known as TOW 2A missiles mounted on M1167 Humvees at floating targets off a beach in Pingtung County during the two days of exercises. The area on Taiwan's southern tip faces both toward the Taiwan Strait and China, and toward the Pacific Ocean.

The missiles are among the most effective and popular anti-tank weapons in the world and a key component in what some experts say is Taiwan's best strategy to resist a potential Chinese invasion. China has ramped up its military threat in recent years based on its vast edge in numbers of warplanes, ships and missiles.

Taiwan bought 1,700 units of the newer TOW 2B system from the U.S., the last of which are due to be delivered by the end of the year. The two days of testing will also gauge the more sophisticated TOW 2B's interoperability with the TOW 2A and its ability to acquire targets at night, the government said. **MDT/AP**

China is conducting military patrols near Myanmar border

CHINA'S military is carrying out armed patrols near the Myanmar border this week, where the government is concerned about potential fallout from fierce fighting in a civil war on the other side.

Troops were deployed to Yunnan province in southwestern China yesterday to test their ability to maintain security in border areas, the military's Southern Theater Command said.

An alliance of ethnic militias has dealt a series of setbacks to Myanmar's military in the country's northeast, which is near China. Five people were injured on the Chinese side in January by a stray artillery shell.

Live-fire drills will be held from Tuesday to Thursday in four locations including two in Ruili city, the Yunnan government said.

The units will carry out armed patrols and joint air-ground patrols to test their ability to mobilize quickly, block and control and strike together, the southern command said in a statement.



Myanmar government troops stand on a rooftop on the Myanmar side, near the Chinese border town of Nansan

The military previously held live-fire drills near the Myanmar border in November.

China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, said earlier this month that his country "opposes chaos and war in Myanmar," according to Chinese state media.

Beijing helped broker a ceasefire in January, but that fell

apart in June when one member of the Three Brotherhood Alliance launched new attacks.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of the military government, alleged recently that foreign countries were backing the ethnic militias, a likely reference to China, which has long ties to the groups.

Wang, who was on a visit to Myanmar, told Min Aung Hlaing that China opposes the

attacks in Shan state, according to Myanmar state television.

China's top diplomat also expressed hope that Myanmar "will effectively safeguard the safety of Chinese personnel and projects" in the country.

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar issued a reminder this month to citizens in Shan state to strengthen their security precautions and stay away from conflict zones or return to China. **MDT/AP**

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法律專家及外地註冊律師

- JURISTS AND LAWYERS
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 - 羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
 - 楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

- 張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
- 伍福賢 Domingos Ng
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"DEIGNAN AWARD"
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN MACAU (2023)





AP PHOTO

PAKISTAN

Gunmen kill 31 people in two separate attacks

ABDUL SATTAR, QUETTA

GUNMEN in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 31 people in two separate attacks yesterday and security forces killed 12 insurgents, officials said, in one of the deadliest days of violence in the restive Baluchistan province, with reports of other shootings and destruction in the area.

Twenty-three people were fa-

tally shot after being identified and taken from buses, vehicles and trucks in Musakhail, a district in Baluchistan, senior police official Ayub Achakzai said. The attackers burned at least 10 vehicles before fleeing.

In a separate attack, gunmen killed at least nine people, including four police officers and five passersby, in Qalat district also in Baluchistan, authorities said.

Insurgents blew up a railway track in Bolan, attacked a police

station in Mastung and attacked and burned vehicles in Gwadar, all districts in Baluchistan. No casualties were reported in those attacks.

Baluchistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency in Pakistan, with an array of separatist groups staging attacks, mainly on security forces. The separatists have been demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad. Although Pakistani au-

thorities say they have quelled the insurgency, violence in Baluchistan has persisted.

The attack in Musakhail came hours after the outlawed Baluch Liberation Army separatist group warned people to stay away from highways as they launched attacks on security forces in various parts of the province.

But there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest killings.

In a statement yesterday, the BLA only said it inflicted heavy losses on security forces in attacks in the province. Pakistan's military and government did not immediately comment on that claim. The group often provides exaggerated figures of troop casualties.

Separatists are known to ask people for their ID cards, and then abduct or kill those who are from outside the province. Many recent victims have come from neighboring Punjab province.

Uzma Bukhari, a spokesperson for the Punjab provincial government, denounced the latest killings, saying the "attacks are a matter of grave concern" and urging the Baluchistan provincial government to "step up efforts to eliminate BLA terrorists."

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement that security forces in Baluchistan responded to the latest attacks, killing 12 insurgents. He said authorities would reveal who was behind the latest attacks after completing an investigation, but noted that "terrorists and their facilitators will have no place to hide" in the country.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Naqvi in separate statements called the attack in Musakhail "barbaric" and vowed that those behind

it would not escape justice.

Later, Naqvi also condemned the killings in Qalat

In May, gunmen fatally shot seven barbers in Gwadar, a port city in Baluchistan.

In April, separatists killed nine people after abducting them from a bus on a highway in Baluchistan, and the attackers also killed two people and wounded six in another car they forced to stop. BLA claimed responsibility for those attacks at the time.

Syed Muhammad Ali, an Islamabad-based security analyst, said the latest killings of non-Baluch people are an attempt by separatists to harm the province economically.

Ali told The Associated Press that most such attacks are carried out with the aim to economically weaken Baluchistan, noting that "the weakening of Baluchistan means the weakening of Pakistan."

He said insurgent attacks could hamper development work being done in the province.

Separatists in Baluchistan have often killed workers and others from the country's eastern Punjab region as part of a campaign to force them to leave the province, which for years has experienced a low-level insurgency.

Most such previous killings have been blamed on the outlawed group and others demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad. The Pakistani Taliban also have a presence in the province, and they are closely connected to the BLA.

In a separate attack yesterday in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a roadside bomb killed four people and wounded 12 others in North Waziristan district, said local administration official Abid Khan. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA

Naval attack ship sinks after hitting unknown object

MALAYSIAN authorities were working yesterday to salvage a 45-year-old fast attack naval ship that sank after it struck an unknown underwater object.

The navy said in a statement that a leak was first detected in the engine room of the KD Pendekar on Sunday, which quickly flooded the vessel. The crew failed to fix the hole and the 260-ton ship sank underwater hours later off the coast of southern Johor state, it said. All 39 crew members were evacuated safely, with no injuries.

"The leak is believed to be caused by the ship hitting an underwater object," it said, adding that salvage operations were underway. An investigation has been launched into the cause of the incident, it said.

Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin yesterday ordered an inspection of navy vessels over 40 years old, which make up at least a third of the country's fleet. The Pendekar, built by Karlskrona Varvet Shipyard in Sweden, was commissioned into the Malaysian fleet in 1979.

"We do not deny that (some of) our ships are old but that is not likely to be one of the causes ... and the important thing is that thankfully no lives were lost," Khaled was quoted as saying by the Malay-language Harian Metro newspaper.

Khaled said a fleet modernization is ongoing, involving the construction of littoral combat ships with the first due to be commissioned in 2026. The ministry is also negotiating to purchase littoral missions ships from Turkiye, he said. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

This undated photo provided by The Royal Malaysian Navy shows the country's fast attack naval ship, KD Pendekar

AP PHOTO



Salamba Ndiaye, a 28-year-old who tried to migrate to Europe twice, is photographed at the beach in Thiaroye-Sur-Mer

'BARCELONA OR DIE'

For Senegalese dreaming of Europe, the deadly Atlantic route is not a deterrent

MARK BANCHEREAU,
THIAROYE-SUR-MER

SALAMBA Ndiaye was 22 when she first tried to get to Spain, dreaming of a career as a real estate agent. Without her parents' knowledge, she made it onto a small fishing boat known as a pirogue, but the Senegalese police intercepted the vessel before it could leave.

A year later Ndiaye tried again, successfully making it off the coast but this time a violent storm forced the boat to stop in Morocco, where Ndiaye and the other passengers were sent back to Senegal.

Despite her two failed attempts, the 28-year-old is determined to try again. "Right now, if they told me there was a boat going to Spain, I would leave this interview and get on it," she said.

Ndiaye is one of thousands of young Senegalese who try to leave the West African country each year to head to Spain, fleeing poverty and the lack of job opportunities. Most head to the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago off the coast of West Africa, which is used as a stepping

stone to continental Europe.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 22,300 people have landed on the Canary Islands, 126% more than the same period last year, according to statistics released by Spain's Interior Ministry.

Earlier this year, the EU signed a 210 million euro deal with Mauritania to stop smugglers from launching boats for Spain. But the deal has had little effect on migrant arrivals for now.

The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will visit Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia this week to tackle irregular migration. The West African nations are the main launching pads for migrants traveling by boat.

The Atlantic route from West Africa to the Canary Islands is one of the deadliest in the world. While there is no accurate death toll because of the lack of information on departures from West Africa, the Spanish migrant rights group Walking Borders estimates the victims are in the thousands this year alone.

Migrant boats that get lost or run into problems often vanish in the Atlantic, with some drifting across the ocean for months until they

are found in the Caribbean and Latin America carrying only human remains.

But the danger of the route is not a deterrent for those like Ndiaye, who are desperate to make a better living for themselves and their families in Europe. "Barsa wala Barsakh," or "Barcelona or die" in Wolof, one of Senegal's national languages, is a common motto of those who brave the deadly route.

"Even if we stay here, we are in danger," said Cheikh Gueye, 46, a fisherman from Thiaroye-sur-Mer, the same village on the outskirts of Senegal's capital that Ndiaye is from.

"If you are sick and you can't pay for treatment, aren't you in danger? So, we take our chances, either we get there, or we don't," he added.

Gueye also attempted to reach Europe though the Atlantic route but only made it to Morocco following bad weather, and was sent back to Senegal.

Like many inhabitants of Thiaroye-sur-Mer, he used to make a decent living as a fisherman before fish stocks started to deplete a decade ago due to overfishing.

"These big boats have

changed things, before even kids could catch some fish here with a net," Gueye said, pointing at the shallow water.

"Now we have to go more than 50 kilometers out before we find fish and even then we don't find enough, just a little," he adds.

Gueye and Ndiaye blame the fishing agreements between Senegal and the European Union and China, which allow foreign industrial trawlers to fish in Senegalese waters. The agreements impose limits on what they can haul in, but monitoring what the large boats from Europe, China and Russia harvest has proven difficult.

Ahead of the Spanish prime minister's visit to Senegal on Wednesday, Ndiaye's mother, Fatou Niang, 67, says the Senegalese and Spanish governments should focus on giving young people in the West African country job opportunities to deter them from migrating.

"These kids don't know anything but the sea, and now the sea has nothing. If you do something for the youth, they won't leave," Niang says.

"But if not, well, we can't make them stay. There's no work here," she said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1967 BEATLES' MANAGER EPSTEIN DIES



The Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein, has been found dead at his Belgravia home in London.

It is not yet clear how he died. Friends found his body in bed after his housekeeper raised the alarm.

Mr Epstein, 32, was due to travel tomorrow to Bangor in north Wales to join the Beatles at a meeting of the International Meditation Society.

Paul McCartney and his girlfriend, Jane Asher, drove back to London in a chauffeur-driven car after hearing the news.

The other Beatles were also returning to London.

Before leaving Bangor, John Lennon said: "Our meditations have given us confidence to stand such a shock."

George Harrison said: "There is no such thing as death, only in the physical sense. We know he is ok now. He will return because he was striving for happiness and desired bliss so much."

Brian Epstein's housekeeper became worried when she did not get an answer after knocking on his bedroom door in the middle of the afternoon.

Friends, who had called round to see him, broke into the room and found him dead. The police were called.

One of his business colleagues, Don Black, described his death as "a terrible and stupid accident".

Another colleague said: "He has been unwell for some months. The reason for his death is at present unknown, but there were no untoward circumstances associated with it."

A concert at the Saville Theatre, London, headed by Jimi Hendrix, was cancelled tonight in tribute to Mr Epstein. He owned the theatre's lease.

Mr Epstein brought a number of singers to fame. Apart from the Beatles, his other protégés included Cilla Black, Billy J Kramer, The Dakotas and Gerry and the Pacemakers.

Mr Epstein discovered the Beatles when they were still performing in blue jeans and leather jackets at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. [...]

In January 1962 the band agreed a five year contract with Epstein, although he refused to sign it, saying their mutual regard for one another was enough.

He got them their first record deal with EMI in October 1962 and by autumn 1963, Britain was engulfed by Beatlemania.

Mr Epstein was a director of Northern Songs, the company which owned the copyright to McCartney and Lennons' songs. [...]

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A post mortem examination showed Brian Epstein died of an overdose of sleeping pills. The death was officially ruled as accidental, although it has often been speculated that it was suicide.

Brian Epstein started out in the family business as a furniture salesman. He quickly got bored and spent a year at RADA before returning to the family business.

The Epstein empire expanded to take over what was North End Road Music Stores and Brian was put in charge of the ground floor, which sold pianos and radios.

A Beatles' autobiography, published in 2000, claimed Epstein wanted the Beatles to agree to a £50-a-week-for-life deal, which would have netted them just over £100,000 each, rather than the millions they actually earned.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Those worrying about their medical reports can lay their fears at rest. Expect the financial situation to remain strong. You will find parents supportive in all your endeavors.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Some of you are likely to realize the folly of your ways and make amends. Some unwanted guests can prove a waste of time and money.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Mentally stressed are likely to take up yoga or meditation. You can get in two minds regarding an investment. Peace and harmony prevail on the domestic front.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Yoga or an exercise routine will benefit. Expenditure is set to increase due to some unexpected expenses. A new addition to the family is likely for some.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

A home remedy will come in handy. Advice may not get you out of the financial doldrums. Positive changes on the home front are in store for some.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Your initiative on the health front will pay rich dividends. Don't trust anyone suggesting lucrative investments through dubious schemes.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

This is a good day to pursue matters of health. You may need to monitor your finances closely. You can be helpful around the house today.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You will be able to successfully avoid a cash crunch by judicious spending. You will manage to convince those around to support your ideas on the home front.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A fine day is foreseen for those trying to make some money on the side. You are likely to derive immense satisfaction in a development on the domestic front.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Health remains excellent as you turn health conscious. Financial stability is assured, as you go on a saving spree. Sharing love and togetherness with family is foretold.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

A scheme you had invested in is likely to give good returns. Guests are likely to brighten up the home front. A change of scene will prove most refreshing and rejuvenating.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You are about to seize an opportunity to enhance your earning. You will have to prevail upon a family member to do things your way.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

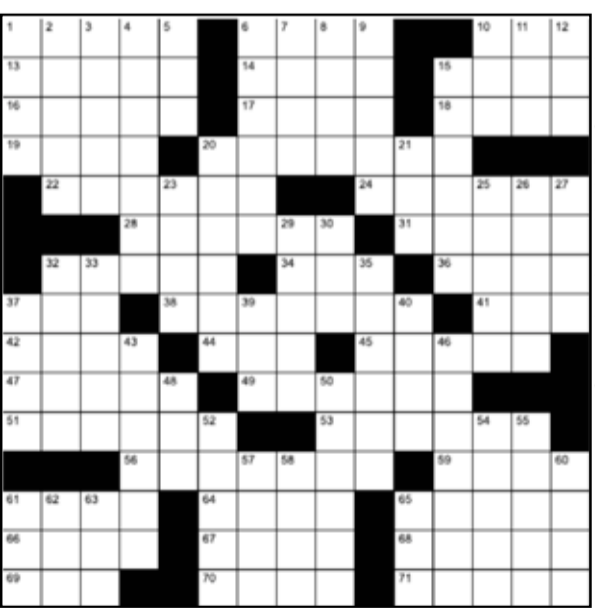
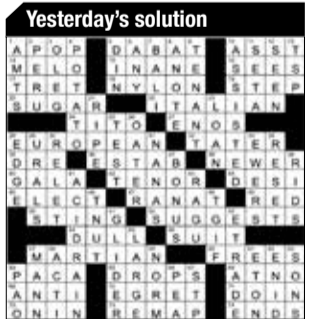
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	30	rain
Changchun	16	27	rain
Chengdu	25	39	fine
Chongqing	32	41	fine
Fuzhou	27	37	fine
Guangzhou	25	34	thunderstorms
Guiyang	21	33	showers
Haikou	25	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	28	35	fine
Harbin	16	26	thunderstorms
Hefei	25	28	rain
Nanjing	29	33	cloudy
Shanghai	28	36	cloudy
Taipei	25	31	fine
Wuhan	26	33	showers
Hong Kong	29	34	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	18	30	overcast
Frankfurt	15	28	overcast
Paris	14	28	overcast
London	16	25	cloudy
New York	23	30	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- 1978 Nobel sharer; 6- File; 10- Capote, to friends; 13- Aristotle's teacher; 14- Zeno of ___; 15- Small batteries; 16- "Dallas" matriarch; 17- Office fill-in; 18- Baseball team; 19- James of "The Godfather"; 20- Organized group; 22- Upper; 24- Girl in a Beach Boys song; 28- Mailed communique; 31- Dicembre follower; 32- ___ a time; 34- Weigh-in abbr.; 36- Alaska's first governor; 37- Lingerie item; 38- White ant; 41- Squeeze (out); 42- Kiln for drying hops; 44- Norma ___; 45- Antipasto morsel; 47- Maker of Pong; 49- Journey; 51- Experience again; 53- Staggered; 56- Methods; 59- Util. bill; 61- Faction of a group, often religious; 64- Rani's garb; 65- Glass marble; 66- Caesar's wings; 67- End in ___ (draw); 68- "See ya!"; 69- Martini liquor; 70- Cravings; 71- Wide-awake;

DOWN 1- Blueprint detail, for short; 2- God of Islam; 3- Lama lead-in; 4- Atwitter; 5- Water tester; 6- Sharp reply; 7- One of the Baldwin brothers; 8- Highway hauler; 9- It beats rock; 10- Mai ___ (drink); 11- Jogged; 12- Bring into play; 15- Whatever person; 20- Dog breed; 21- Everyday article; 23- Warmth; 25- Israeli desert region; 26- Male duck; 27- Top of the line; 29- Fudd of cartoons; 30- Slugger's stat; 32- Speechify; 33- Twangy, as speech; 35- Cooking devices; 37- Male swine; 39- Snitch; 40- Robt. ___; 43- Sibelius's "Valse ___"; 46- Forbidden by law; 48- Climbing vine; 50- Military organizations; 52- Blue book filler; 54- Delight; 55- Hinder; 57- London gallery; 58- "___ Brockovich"; 60- Dick Francis book "Dead ___"; 61- Droop, sink; 62- Inventor Whitney; 63- Tin; 65- Pie ___ mode;



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- 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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Macau shines in thrilling Fairtex Fight Muay Thai event



The Londoner Macao was the scene of an electrifying night of Muay Thai action on August 24, as Sands China Ltd., in partnership with Fairtex Fight and Tero Entertainment, hosted the first-ever 'Fairtex Fight Muay Thai Boxing' event in Macau.

The fight card featured a lineup of regional and Thai competitors. When the action got underway, the capacity crowd was treated to a night of thrilling Muay Thai bouts. Macau's Bryant Ng defeated Hong Kong's North Yip in a close match decided by just one point. Li Xiancheng then overpowered Lai Hon Yuen, winning 30-27, while Khong Dech edged out Shi Shaohuai by the same score.

The highlights continued as Fha Pichit scored a knockout victory over Liu Kinming, and Wingyan Yip defeated Li Lishan 30-27. Meng Baian won a close battle against Fah Jarad, 29-28, before Sit Thi Chai dominated Pak Yuleung 30-26.

In the final two bouts, Sek San defeated So Tsz Hin 29-28, and Chat Phet emerged victorious over Che Huashuo by the same margin.

The event's success is expected to boost the popularity of Muay Thai across Asia and is part of Sands China's commitment to bringing world-class sporting events to Macau. "We hope to take advantage of the opportunity for top boxers to compete in Macau to encourage local young boxers to do their best and strive for the top. We also hope to leverage Macau's unique advantages in hosting sports events to attract more athletes and spectators to visit Macau," said Grant Chum, CEO and executive director of Sands China, in a press conference last last week.

SCOREBOARD

BOUT 1:
Bryant Ng defeats North Yip
(29 Points - 28 Points)

BOUT 2:
Li Xiancheng defeats
Lai Hon Yuen
(30 Points - 27 Points)

BOUT 3:
Khong Dech defeats
Shi Shaohuai
(30 Points - 27 Points)

BOUT 4:
Fha Pichit defeats
Liu Kinming
(K.O. - Knockout)

BOUT 5:
Wingyan Yip defeats Li Lishan
(30 Points - 27 Points)

BOUT 6:
Meng Baian defeats Fah Jarad
(29 Points - 28 Points)

BOUT 7:
Sit Thi Chai defeats
Pak Yuleung
(30 Points - 26 Points)

BOUT 8:
Sek San defeats So Tsz Hin
(29 Point - 28 Points)

BOUT 9:
Chat Phet defeats
Che Huashuo
(29 Points - 28 Points)

JENNA FRYER
PORTLAND (ORE.)

AUTO RACING

Will Power is thick in the IndyCar championship fight

WILL Power, soaked in victory champagne and still buzzing from a win that kept him in the IndyCar championship fight, leaned in to do a microphone check in a most unusual way.

The 43-year-old Australian sang a verse of "Dead or Alive" by Bon Jovi to test the sound level on his news conference microphone in a fitting post-win tribute. His victory yesterday [Macau time] at Portland International Raceway cut into points leader Alex Palou's margin and made the title fight a two-driver competition with three races remaining.

"If he had finished ahead of us, it would be over," Power said of beating Palou. "This just kept it alive."

When he won his second IndyCar title in 2022, Power was rewarded in early 2023 by Team Penske with a two-year contract extension. That deal runs through next season, but with Power still at the top of his game, he used Portland to emphasize he's not planning to leave IndyCar anytime soon.

"I want to continue. I'm not retiring. I'm not. I'm just simply not retiring," he said. "I know people probably like to spread that around, rumors or whatever, in the hope that they can take my seat. Yeah, I'm staying here for a while. I get better every year, man. I get better every year. I feel like that."

He's shown it this year in a bounce-back season in which he's won three races for the first time since 2018. Power struggled mentally most of last year as his wife battled a near fatal staph infection that left him distracted at the racetrack.

Now that Liz Power has healed and is back attending races with him, his race craft is back to its 2022 level. And his win at Portland cut Palou's lead in the championship race from 66 to 54 points.

Although four drivers remain mathematically eligible to win the title, it's really down to Palou and Power as each is

AP PHOTO



Will Power drives during an IndyCar auto race

seeking a third IndyCar championship. Palou won at Portland last year to wrap up his second title, but he finished nearly 10 seconds back of Power.

"It's going to be the same for the rest of the year. You've got no choice but to be ahead of him," Power said of his strategy the remaining three races.

IndyCar closes out the year with a doubleheader next weekend at the Milwaukee Mile, followed by the September season finale at Nashville Superspeedway. Power has raced Nashville once before and has one victory in six previous starts at Milwaukee Mile.

Palou has never won on an oval or even raced at the two remaining venues on the schedule. Power, who has 10 career victories on ovals, is salivating over the opportunity in front of him.

"To win in this series, at this time, it's so difficult. You get a third championship from a deficit of 54 points at this point, come back from a deficit like that, that would be amazing," Power said. "To finish on all ovals, as well, kind of going back to my early days, sort of unfinished business there. It's a tough climb from here, but not impossible."

Although he wasn't

emotional about it, Power took a moment to reflect on his first opportunity in America when Walker Racing flew him to Portland from Australia in 2005 to test in what was then called the Champ Car Series.

Power impressed the team so much that he got two races that year and a full season in 2006. So he considers Portland his launching pad of sorts, and a fitting spot to ensure he doesn't let Palou run away with the title.

"It's the first track I ever drove at in the U.S., first time I ever drove an Indy car," Power said. "I still remember it, driving down the back straight, I had the thought, 'Man, I could be paid to do this.' I remember that day, I do. I remember driving that car. It was good memories. A long time ago."

It made him reflective and again reiterate that he doesn't want to retire, he loves his job and racing in IndyCar, and doesn't have any idea what he'd even do if he walked away at the end of next season.

"I love all the tracks. It would be really tough for me to walk away from this sport. It really would," Power said. "The feeling of being a part of something, trying to accomplish something with a group of people, I think you'd be pretty lost. If I stopped, I'd be

very lost with what to do. "No way that I thought I would have driven for the best team in the U.S., won on ovals, won the Indy 500. All those things. Won a cham-

pionship," he continued. "I worked very hard always, was very determined. It's something that unfolds very slowly. It's not a big shock that it happened now. When

you reflect on it when you came here all those years ago, it was a dream. What I've done, I've lived out my dream, absolutely. I've just lived it out." MDT/AP

AD



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OPINION

World Views

David Ekbladh, Tufts University



THE WORLD IS CLOSER TO THE GRINDING WORLD ORDER COLLAPSE OF THE 1930s, RATHER THAN NEW COLD WAR

The past decade has seen global upheaval, from the 2008 financial crisis to the COVID-19 pandemic and major regional conflicts. Many commentators liken today's geopolitical tensions, especially between the U.S. and China, to a "new Cold War." However, as a historian of the U.S.'s role in the world, I argue that this comparison is flawed. Instead, today's world more closely resembles the disintegration of global order during the 1930s.

The 1930s, often referred to as a "low dishonest decade," were marked by economic turmoil, the rise of authoritarian regimes, and the collapse of international stability. The Great Depression, which began with the 1929 stock market crash, unraveled the global economy, leading to widespread insecurity and discrediting liberal capitalism. Similarly, the 2008 financial crisis triggered economic chaos and undermined the liberal globalization that had dominated since the 1990s. Both periods saw people losing faith in established ideas and turning to more radical and extreme voices.

In the 1930s, the crisis of liberalism led to questions about the suitability of democracy and capitalism, particularly as these systems were already riddled with contradictions like discrimination and imperialism. This skepticism is echoed today as voters around the world increasingly support authoritarian-leaning populists. The appeal of strongman leaders like Hungary's Viktor Orbán, Russia's Vladimir Putin, and China's Xi Jinping reflects a broader rejection of liberal values in favor of more centralized control.

Economic nationalism, a dominant force in the 1930s, has reemerged in recent years. Countries, including the U.S., have adopted protectionist policies to shield domestic industries from global competition, mirroring the economic fragmentation of the interwar period. This resurgence of economic nationalism is a symptom of a broader global trend toward fragmentation and rivalry.

The 1930s also saw the rise of totalitarian ideologies such as fascism, communism, and militarism, which gained legitimacy as liberal governments faltered. Today, the appeal of authoritarianism, particularly China's model of economic growth under centralized control, reflects a similar disillusionment with liberalism.

During the 1930s, revisionist powers like Japan sought to reshape the global order through military aggression, as seen in Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931. This parallels Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its ongoing aggression in Ukraine. The 1930s were marked by a series of conflicts in which revisionist states used force to challenge the existing international order, leading to widespread instability and eventually global war.

While it is unsettling to compare our current moment with the 1930s, the parallels are instructive. Recognizing that we are in a complex, multipolar period similar to the interwar years can help us understand the forces at play and potentially avoid the catastrophic outcomes that followed that era.

Our future does not have to mirror the global conflicts of the past. The rise of regional powers like Brazil and India reminds us that historical actors evolve, and new alliances can form. By acknowledging the complexity of our time and learning from history, we may be able to navigate these challenges and avoid repeating the mistakes that led to global war in the 20th century. [Abridged]

PORTUGAL COAST HIT BY 5.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE, MOSTLY IN LISBON AREA

The quake hit waters 7.7km south-east of the capital, Lisbon, and 74km south-west of Setúbal, EuroNews has reported.

An earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.4 on the Richter scale struck in the early hours yesterday, according to the US Geophysical Institute and the Euro-Mediterranean Seismological Centre.

The shocks were most intense in the Sines, Lisbon and Setúbal areas, with reports on social media of the earthquake being felt as far as Porto, and even Spain and Morocco.

The Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute has since revised the

earthquake's magnitude to 5.3 on the Richter scale.

The earthquake was recorded at 5:11 am local time (6:11 am CET), with its epicentre 58 kilometres west of Sines, on the high seas, and at a depth of 21 kilometres, according to the IPMA.

According to Miranda, there are no reports of victims or major damage at this time.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Portuguese government said it was "in close coordination with all the relevant services" following the earthquake.

There are no reports of victims or major damage at this time.

AP PHOTO



Eriksson and Beckham (WC 2006)

OBITUARY

SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON WHO WAS FIRST FOREIGNER TO LEAD ENGLAND TEAM, DIES AT 76

STEVE DOUGLAS

SVEN-GORAN Eriksson, the Swedish soccer manager who spent five years as England's first ever foreign-born coach after making his name winning trophies at club level in Italy, Portugal and Sweden, died yesterday. He was 76.

Eriksson died at home surrounded by his family, his agent Bo Gustavsson told The Associated Press.

His death followed eight months after he revealed he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had at most one year to live.

That news led to Eriksson receiving a surge of affection and tributes from his former players and clubs, a biographical documentary being made, and a visit to his favorite club Liverpool which invited him to be manager for the day at a charity game.

Fondly known as "Svennis" in his native Sweden, Eriksson had a modest, nine-year playing career before retiring at the age of 27 and embarking on what proved to be a nomadic coaching career that reached its peak when he was hired by England in 2001.

Within months, he led an underachieving team to a stunning signature win — 5-1 against Germany

in Munich in a World Cup qualifying game.

Eriksson led what was regarded as a "golden generation" of players, including David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney, at the World Cups in 2002 and 2006 and got the team to the quarterfinals at both tournaments before elimination by Brazil and Portugal, respectively.

In the only other major tournament under Eriksson — the European Championship in 2004 — England was also ousted at the quarterfinal stage, by Portugal and via a penalty shootout like at the World Cup in 2006.

Eriksson's tenure in one of world soccer's most high-profile jobs was remembered almost as much for what happened off the field as on it. He had two affairs — one with Swedish TV personality Ulrika Jonsson and the other with a secretary at the Football Association, Faria Alam — which kept England's gossip-hungry newspapers busy.

"My private life was not very private in England," Eriksson said in 2018.

His time with England coincided with the emergence of a WAG (wives and girlfriends) culture, with the high-profile partners of the players — like Victoria Be-

ckham — making headlines after Eriksson allowed them to come to the World Cup in Germany.

Eriksson later had brief spells in charge of the Mexico, Ivory Coast and Philippines national teams but the only silverware he earned came in the club game.

At Swedish team IFK Gothenburg, he won the league-and-cup double in 1982 and capped a stunning season by also capturing the now-defunct UEFA Cup.

Eriksson won back-to-back Portuguese titles in an initial two-year stint with Benfica (1982-84), as well as the Portuguese Cup in 1983, and returned there to reach the European Cup final in 1990 — losing to AC Milan — and win the league again in 1991.

It was in Italy where he became a major coaching name, primarily at Lazio after spells at Roma (1984-87) and Sampdoria (1992-97) — where he won Italian Cups — and Fiorentina (1987-89).

At Lazio from 1997-2001, he led to the team to only its second league title — in 2000 — after a late-season collapse by Juventus, as well as two Italian Cups and the last ever edition of the European Cup Winners' Cup (in 1999). **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Ukraine A Russian missile strike on a hotel in Kramatorsk killed a British safety advisor and injured other members of a Reuters journalist team over the weekend. The attack is part of ongoing hostilities in Ukraine's eastern regions, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

AP PHOTO



Netherlands The Dutch Data Protection Authority fined Uber 290 million euros yesterday for inadequately protecting the personal data of its European drivers during transfers to the United States, in violation of GDPR requirements.

AP PHOTO



United Kingdom Three individuals were stabbed, one critically, during the Notting Hill Carnival in London on Sunday. The annual event, celebrated for its Afro-Caribbean culture, also saw police making numerous arrests related to various offenses.

AP PHOTO



Mexico Protesters in Mexico rallied against proposed judiciary reforms by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Sunday. Critics argue these reforms could undermine democratic checks and balances by influencing the electoral process for judiciary positions.