

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

17
A-CHANGIN'
SEATERS

Advertise with us
+853 287 160 81

www.rcr-macau.com

RCR
electronics

CE CANDIDATE SAM HOU FAI EMPHASIZED THE NUMEROUS HOPES AND DEMANDS OF MACAU RESIDENTS DURING A MEETING OVER THE WEEKEND

P5

NON-CHINESE RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE TO NORTHBOUND CAR SCHEME

P3

MACAU CELEBRATES OLYMPIC SUCCESS WITH NATIONAL DELEGATION WELCOME

P4



AP PHOTO



Japan lodged a formal protest via China's embassy against what it called an incursion by a Chinese survey ship into its territorial waters Saturday, the Japanese foreign ministry said. The ministry expressed "strong concern" after the ship was spotted near Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, early in the morning. The Chinese ship, confirmed in territorial waters at 6 a.m. local time, left shortly before 8 a.m., according to Japan's Defense Ministry, adding it was monitored by a Japanese military vessel and plane.

AP PHOTO

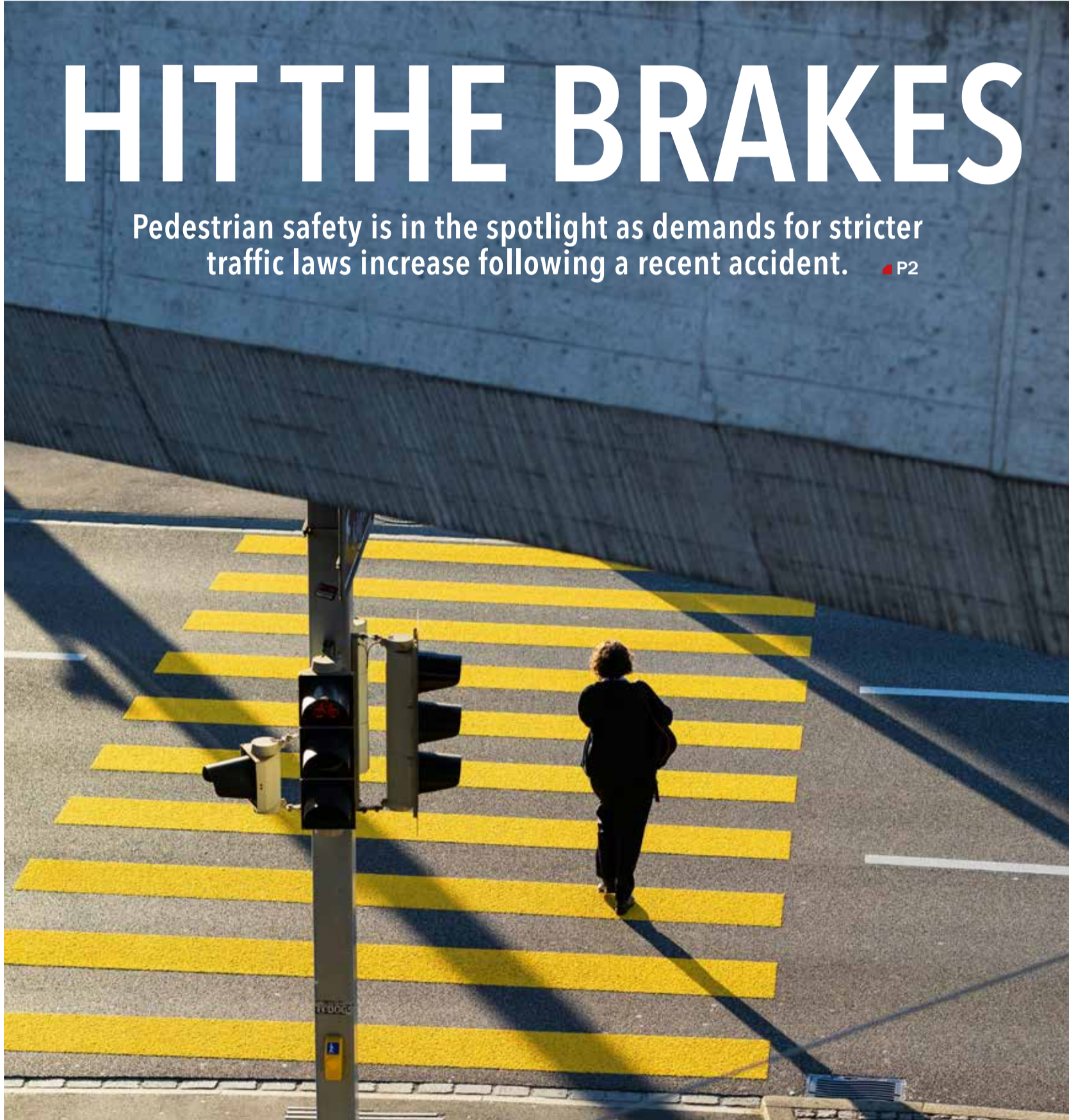


China-Philippines The two countries accused each other of causing a collision between their two vessels Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea. In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu Dejun was quoted as saying that a Philippine ship maneuvered and "deliberately collided" with a Chinese coast guard ship "in an unprofessional and dangerous manner."

AP PHOTO



Philippine authorities raided a suspected illegal online gaming and cyberscam complex in a central province and took into custody more than 160 people — mostly Chinese and Indonesians — who were committing internet-based crimes, officials said yesterday. The raid on Saturday by more than 100 government agents, backed by military intelligence, on a resort compound in Lapu-Lapu city was part of an ongoing crackdown after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a ban in July on widespread — and mostly Chinese-run — online gaming operations that cater mostly to clients in China, where illegal gambling is banned.



HIT THE BRAKES

Pedestrian safety is in the spotlight as demands for stricter traffic laws increase following a recent accident. P2

GAMING
SEASONAL TRENDS DRIVE AUGUST REVENUES TO SOAR 15%

P3

STUDY
'EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL CARE UNABLE TO MEET REAL NEEDS,' SAYS RESEARCHERS

P4

CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC SEES SIGNIFICANT RISE IN JULY

In July, passenger ferry trips in Macau increased by 11.6% year-on-year, totaling 6,834 trips. Cross-border vehicular traffic saw a significant rise of 23.4%, amounting to 778,831 trips. Light passenger car trips rose by 23.1% to 724,648, with notable increases in specific categories: trips between Macau and Hengqin reached 132,000 (up 32.6%), while those under the "Northbound Travel for Macau Vehicles" policy totaled 128,000 (up 8.8%). Additionally, local vehicle trips to and from Hong Kong rose by 56.6% to 23,000. The Macau International Airport recorded 5,256 commercial flights, a 40.2% increase from last year.

MAM TO SHOWCASE 150 ANCIENT BRONZES IN EXHIBITION

The exhibition "The Splendor of Chinese Bronzes: Masterpieces from the National Museum of China" will open at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) on Sep. 6 at 6 p.m. Jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the National Museum of China, the event will showcase over 150 ancient bronzes, including 28 national first-class artifacts like the Bronze Nao and various ritual vessels. This exhibition, the largest of its kind in Macau, features five sections highlighting visual artistry, inscriptions, and technical skills. Interactive multimedia experiences will enhance visitors' understanding of early Chinese civilization and its cultural significance.

WHO CONSULTS ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE STRATEGY

The World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a consultation meeting from Aug. 28 to Aug. 29 in Seoul, South Korea to discuss the draft of the "WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-34." Over 50 representatives from 20 member countries participated, focusing on integrating traditional medicine into health systems. Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO's regional director, emphasized the role of traditional medicine in addressing health challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Macau's World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine director Mo Hui, amongst other representatives from Macau, highlighted advancements in regulatory frameworks for traditional Chinese medicine. The finalized strategy will be presented at the 78th World Health Assembly in 2025.

MGTO SHOWCASES LOCAL OFFERINGS IN INDONESIA

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) led a delegation to the Holiyaay! Travel Fair 2024 in Surabaya, Indonesia, showcasing Macau as a premier travel destination. The office has set up a Macau Pavilion, highlighting a diverse range of "Tourism +" experiences aimed at attracting Indonesian and Southeast Asian travelers. As one of Indonesia's largest consumer travel fairs, hosted by the Indonesian Travel Agents Association (ASINTDO), this event ran from Aug. 29 to Sep. 1. MGTO's participation is expected to elevate Macau's international profile and boost visitor numbers from Indonesia.

TRANSPORT

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT PROMPTS CALLS FOR STRICTER ROAD SAFETY REGULATIONS

VICTORIA CHAN

PEDESTRIAN safety has come under the spotlight in Macau as calls grow for stricter traffic laws and harsher penalties in the wake of a disturbing accident caught on video.

Macau has seen a concerning spike in traffic accidents, with the latest government data showing a 24.3% year-on-year increase in July, resulting in 1,405 accidents and 491 injuries. The worrying trend has continued in the first seven months of the year, with 9,071 accidents, two fatalities, and 3,212 injuries.

The issue came to the forefront last Friday, when a 24-year-old woman was struck by a car while crossing a zebra crossing in the Ilha Verde district.

According to the Public Security Police (PSP), the woman suffered various injuries including to her head, but no life-threatening injuries.

The 50-year-old driver, who passed a breathalyzer test, failed to yield to the pedestrian, and no brake marks were found at the scene.

Footage of the incident, which has circulated onto



A screenshot from a video shows a woman crossing the zebra crossing just before being struck by a car

social media, shows the vehicle approaching the crossing without slowing down, colliding with the unsuspecting pedestrian.

The incident has sparked public outrage, with calls for stricter regulations and harsher penalties for reckless driving. "These people should be permanently suspended and must be severely punished!" commented one social media user, echoing the sentiments of many who are calling for harsher consequences for this sort of behavior. Lei Chong Sam, a member of the Transport Consultati-

ve Committee, emphasized the need for the authorities to review and strengthen existing traffic regulations. "As far as the authorities are concerned, I hope they will be able to tighten up the law enforcement. I think that is the way to improve road safety," he said.

Another user shared multiple dash cam videos showing close calls at zebra crossings, writing, "I hope the law enforcement departments can take a square look at the traffic chaos, it is not just a matter of one or two times. Drivers should remember that they have a powerful

machine in their hands, and pay more attention to the pedestrians, then there will be less accidents."

One of the videos shows two young girls under the age of 10 holding each other's hands while crossing a zebra crossing, as a reckless car zoomed straight past them, almost hitting the two children. The close calls of these incidents caused the comment sections to erupt in outrage over the lack of regulations and penalties for road safety.

"Support heavy sentences! If Macau is really serious about this, there would not be so much chaos in Macau, no demerit points system, no heavier penalties, no matter what you say #TransportAffairsBureau," said one comment.

Lei that the ongoing road projects could be contributing to the problem, as vehicles and pedestrians are forced to share the road due to construction.

He has called on the authorities to review and strengthen the existing traffic regulations. He also suggested the installation of speed bumps at zebra crossings as a measure to enhance pedestrian safety.

EVs

Over 2,000 charging stations available across the city

VICTORIA CHAN

CEM has installed over 2,000 charging stations for EVs and 600 for electric motorcycles across public parking lots in Macau.

The city's electric

vehicle (EV) charging network is equipped with multiple safety measures to protect users, according to Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM). As electric vehicles continue to gain popularity in the

region, the discussion of the safety of their batteries and charging infrastructure has come into focus. However, Wong Chio Teng, the company's senior manager of Transmission and Distribution Department,

said it has stepped up to reassure the public that extensive measures are in place to safeguard its growing network, during the sidelines of a seminar held by CEM.

"When we designed the charging network,

the power charging boxes were equipped with overload protection, short circuit protection, and leakage protection," Wong explained. "When any malfunction occurs, we will isolate the malfunction to ensure the safety of users."

Wong said CEM will continue to outfit new public car parks with charging stations, pledging to create a reliable and secure EV charging infrastructure in Macau. VC

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Alex Torrao, 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 Segui DESIGNER Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



CROSS-BORDER

Non-Chinese residents eligible to northbound car scheme

NON-CHINESE permanent residents can apply for car entry permits to Guangdong province, marking a significant shift in cross-border travel policies as of yesterday.

The northbound driving scheme, which began in late December, permits private cars to cross the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge into Guangdong. At its launch, up to 80,000 vehicles were eligible for the scheme.

According to the Guangdong Department of Transport, from July 1 to August 8, the Zhuhai end of the bridge recorded nearly 3 million entries and exits, with over 600,000 car crossings—an in-

crease of 62% and 74%, respectively. Both figures set new records.

These permits, valid for five years and allowing multiple entries with stays of up to 90 days, mark a significant policy shift. The scheme allows a maximum of 2,000 cars per day, with Secretary for Transport Raimundo Arrais do Rosário noting that the daily quota is usually met only on weekends.

Under the scheme, a vehicle should stay no longer than 30 days on one trip each year, 180 days in Guangdong Province, which is the only provincial jurisdiction open to the scheme.

FINANCE

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS NEARLY QUADRUPLED IN 2023

THE Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) has announced a remarkable current account surplus of MOP 136.7 billion for 2023, highlighting a strong recovery in travel service exports. This substantial figure marks an increase of MOP113.8 billion from the previous year's surplus of MOP 22.9 billion.

While exports of goods fell by 27.1%, imports rose by 2.3%, widening the merchandise trade deficit from MOP78.2 billion in 2022 to MOP98.7 billion in 2023. In contrast, service exports surged by 186.9%, primarily due to the revival of travel services, leading to a services account surplus that expanded dramatically from MOP75.5 billion to MOP263.4 billion.

The primary income account recorded a net outflow of MOP4.5 billion, with inflows rising significantly to MOP108.9 billion.



The secondary income account also experienced a net outflow of MOP23.6 billion, reflecting increased current transfers.

Overall, Macau's BOP statistics indicate a robust economic recovery, with reserve assets increasing by MOP4.4 billion. A more detailed report is expected to be released in December 2024, providing further insights into these trends. **LV**

GAMING

Seasonal trends drive August revenues to soar 15%

NADIA SHAW

GAMING operators reported a significant rebound in gross gaming revenue (GGR) for August, reaching MOP19.8 billion (USD2.46 billion), a 14.8% increase year-on-year and a 6.2% rise from July, according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ). This figure, which is the city's second-best post-pandemic revenue, represents 81.5% of the GGR recorded in August 2019, when revenues were at MOP24.3 billion (\$3.02 billion).

The month-to-month growth can be attributed to seasonal trends, as the summer vacation period typically sees increased visitor numbers and gaming activity. Moreover, August benefited from an advantageous calendar, featuring five Fridays, five Saturdays, and four Sundays, leading to 14 weekend days compared to just 12 in July.

For the first eight months of 2024, total GGR reached MOP152.1 billion (\$18.9 billion), marking a 33.4% increase from the same period last year.

Despite the positive trends, analysts caution that a recent crackdown by authorities on illicit money exchange operations may pose challenges. Vitaly Umansky, an analyst at Seaport Research Partners, noted that this crackdown could deter some visitors and ne-



gatively impact money flow into Macau. However, he anticipates that the situation will stabilize in the medium term.

Macau's gaming sector is also facing scrutiny regarding its economic dominance.

Former top judge Sam Hou Fai, poised to become the city's new leader in October, expressed concerns about the unchecked expansion of the gaming industry, suggesting that a lack of diversification could

harm the territory's long-term development.

He emphasized the need for a balanced approach to economic growth, warning that reliance on a single industry could limit opportunities for the younger population.

The government projects that the city's GGR for casinos in 2024 will reach MOP216.0 billion.

As of August, the casino sector has generated MOP133 billion in revenue.

MONTHLY GROSS GAMING REVENUE

	2024	2023	Variance
Jan	19,337	11,580	+67.0%
Feb	18,486	10,324	+79.1%
Mar	19,503	12,738	+53.1%
Apr	18,545	14,722	+26.0%
May	20,188	15,565	+29.7%
Jun	17,694	15,207	+16.4%
Jul	18,595	16,662	+11.6%
Aug	19,754	17,213	+14.8%

*Units: MOP million

EMPLOYMENT

GROWTH IN HEALTH AND GAMING EMPLOYMENT AMID DECLINE IN RETAIL TRADE

THE general unemployment rate in Macau from May to July 2024 remains low at 1.7%, with the unemployment rate for local residents at 2.3%, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Both figures have remained unchanged from the previous period (April to June 2024). Additionally, the underemployment rate saw a slight improvement, dropping by 0.2 percentage points to 1.3%.

The total labor force in Macau stands at 383,100, with total employment steady at 376,400. However, the number of employed residents decreased by 700, totaling 286,300. Employment in the Health and Social Welfare sectors, as well as the Gaming industry, increased, while the Wholesale and Retail Trade sector experienced a decline.

Despite the influx of fresh gra-



duates into the job market, the number of unemployed individuals rose by 100 to 6,700. This figure is, however, 300 lower than the same period in 2019. The proportion of new entrants seeking their first job increased to 9.9% of the total unemployed. Among those seeking new employment, many were previously engaged in the Gaming and Retail sectors.

The underemployment situa-

tion also improved, with the number of underemployed individuals falling by 900 to 4,800. The Transport and Storage sector, Restaurants, and Gaming saw notable decreases in underemployment.

Compared to May to July 2023, the labor force participation rate rose to 67.8%, while both the unemployment rate and underemployment rate saw declines. **LV**



EXPERTS RECOMMEND SMART PLATFORM FOR ELDERLY CARE

VICTORIA CHAN

AS Macau's population continues to age, researchers argue that the region needs to adopt a smart aging support

platform to better meet the growing demand for elderly care services.

A study published in the Journal of Public Administration in Macau proposes an

integrated, technology-driven system to provide a network of intelligent care for the elderly. The study, conducted by researchers from the City University of Macau and Liaoning

University, suggests that Macau's current institutional care model is "unable to meet the real needs" of its aging population.

"Existing institutional care in Macau is unable to meet real needs," the study states.

The proposed smart aging platform aims to link the demand-side needs of the elderly with supply-side service providers and management systems. On the demand side, the platform seeks to address seniors' physiological, safety, emotional, esteem, and self-realization needs. The supply side would facilitate cooperation between government agencies, medical institutions, and private companies.

"The management side comprises four modules: feature development, operational management, information management, and evaluation and feedback, striving to realize the systematic operation of the smart elderly care platform

and create a robust intelligent ecosystem," the researchers added.

The study stresses the importance of laws ensuring elder rights and interests for successful intelligent care. It also calls for market research and senior-friendly technologies, such as hands-free phones and voice command devices.

"An open, inclusive, favorable, and respectful environment" is needed to encourage seniors' participation and stimulate demand, the researchers say.

While the platform faces challenges in design, data integration, and privacy protection, the researchers assert that effective connections between terminals can improve the quality of life for seniors and alleviate social and family burdens. "The platform connects multiple institutions, so its operation requires mutual collaboration," the study concludes.

SPORTS

Macau celebrates Olympic success with national delegation welcome

NADIA SHAW

MACAU'S Special Administrative Region government hosted a grand banquet on Friday to honor China's Olympic athletes, celebrating their remarkable achievements at the Tokyo Olympics. Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng commended the delegation for their record-breaking haul of 40 gold, 27 silver, and 24 bronze medals, totaling 91—a historic high for China's national team at an overseas Olympic event.

In his speech at the gala, Ho emphasized that the athletes' accomplishments not only showcase the advancement of China's competitive sports but also reflect the nation's modernization and strength in the contemporary era. He urged the youth of Macau to draw inspiration from the athletes' resilience and patriotic spirit.

Ho acknowledged the progress Macau's sports sector has made in recent years, attributing this growth to national support. He expressed hope for greater integration of Macau's sports initiatives



with national programs, aiming to leverage national resources and talent for local development.

As part of the celebration, Ho presented bonus checks totaling HKD16 million to athletes Fan Zhendong, a table tennis champion, and Chen Yiwen, a springboard diver. Contributions came from various local organizations, including the Macau Fok Ying Tung Foundation and Galaxy Entertainment Group.

In a related event, eight members of the Olympic delegation engaged with 600 local young athletes, sharing personal stories of overcoming challenges

and fostering team spirit. Boxer Li Qian highlighted her motivation to compete in three Olympics, driven by her desire to win gold for China. Synchronized swimmer Feng Yu encouraged Macau's youth to pursue their dreams with determination, while swimmer Pan Zhanle expressed his ambition to break the 100m freestyle world record.

Ho remarked that the delegation's presence adds to the city's joy and pride. Looking ahead, Macau is set to co-host the 15th National Games next year, with the government pledging full support to ensure its success.



GAMING

MELCO INTERNATIONAL REMAINS CONFIDENT IN PROSPECTS AMID NARROWED LOSSES

LYNZY VALLES

MELCO International Development Limited, the parent company of Macau's Melco Resorts & Entertainment, has achieved net revenues of HKD17.77 billion in the first half of the year, marking a 36.3% increase from HKD13.04 billion during the same period in 2023. This growth is largely due to the ongoing recovery in inbound tourism to Macau, which has positively impacted the company's casino and hospitality operations.

The group generated Adjusted EBITDA of HKD4.49 billion for the first half of 2024, up from HKD3.20 billion in the same period last year. Although the company recorded a loss of HKD0.44 billion, this was an improvement compared to a loss of HKD1.40 billion in 2023.

The Board has opted not to recommend an interim dividend for this period.

Lawrence Ho, group chairman and CEO, stated, "The business improvement momentum has continued, driven by strategic initia-

tives aimed at expanding revenue streams, enhancing profitability, and fostering sustainable growth."

Significant investments in workforce and property enhancements were noted, including the June 2024 launch of Studio City Cinema, which features the first Dolby Cinema in Macau and Hong Kong.

In the Philippines, City of Dreams Manila has shown solid performance, while City of Dreams Mediterranean in Cyprus has implemented substantial property upgrades.

Melco also announced a strategic partnership with John Keells Holdings PLC to develop City of Dreams Sri Lanka, an integrated resort designed for a capital-light investment "with an appealing return profile."

"Looking ahead, the group remains confident in its long-term prospects across regions, while standing ready to navigate near-term uncertainties and challenges in a prudent and agile manner," said Ho.

Melco International holds a 51.69% ownership stake in Melco Resorts.



SAM HOU FAI

Expectations from the public place increased demands on governance

STAFF REPORTER

CHIEF Executive candidate Sam Hou Fai emphasized the numerous hopes and demands of Macau residents during a meeting with cultural subsector members from the Chief Executive Election Committee on Saturday.

The former top judge said that, in light of significant internal and external structural changes, Macau faces a range of challenges that impact its development and prosperity.

"The general population has many new demands and expectations for a better life, which places greater demands on the SAR's governance," Sam stated, according to a press release from his campaign office.

He sought insights and support regarding the development of the city's news media and cultural sectors during the meeting, which was attended by 24 committee members at the headquarters of Macau Daily News.

Participants proposed various initiatives, including increased investment in cultural resources, enhancing cultural exchanges be-

tween China and the West, and promoting a 'tourism + culture' strategy. They also discussed the importance of establishing a cultural platform connecting Macau and Hengqin to elevate the city's cultural status.

Some members of the cultural sub-sector have put forward proposals to increase investment in cultural resources, tap the unique advantages of cultural exchanges between China and the West, increase art exhibition facilities and revitalize existing resources.

The nomination period began on Aug. 29 and will continue until Sep. 21.

His bid has garnered support from several prominent political figures, including first Chief Executive, Edmund Ho, and other notable legislators and NPC deputies, underscoring a strong backing for his campaign.

Since yesterday, Sam has been reaching out to gather opinions from a wide range of social sectors. He invites individuals to submit their written feedback regarding his candidacy through specified channels to his campaign headquarters, as cited in a press statement released yesterday.

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Creates a Pet-Friendly Space at Barra District



To further revitalize Barra District into a vibrant "community lifestyle hub" that combines trendy commercial components with the warmth of neighborhood life, MGM launched the Barra District "Summer Hype" Series Event this July. The series' fourth pillar event **Matsui "The Dog" 1st Overseas Solo Exhibition in Macau** was freshly unveiled earlier in August, bringing local SMEs from various industries together to jointly enrich Barra's lifestyle and retail offerings.

The event features a collaboration between MGM and the local trendy fashion retail brand THE BIG APPLE – jointly bringing in the first overseas solo exhibition of Japan's popular illustrator Mr. Matsui at Navy Yard No.1. Alongside the exhibition, a pop-up store has been set up, offering limited-edition products, respectively co-designed with Japanese fashion brand BEAMS and international accessory brand CASETiFY. These items include pet-themed merchandise such as T-shirts, tote bags, towels, and electronic accessories. Matsui's illustrations are also available for purchase on-site.



Additionally, MGM has expanded the themed offerings, such as collaborating with a local specialty café brand COTIZ to establish a pet-friendly coffee shop at Navy Yard No. 2; introducing local pet product SMEs Dog Inn; also helping Petly Duffy, another local SME specializing in artisanal pet food and care products, to set up its first offline store; organizing weekly DIY workshops taught by local artists. The whole objective is to join forces with local partners to create a brand-new space for pet-friendly lifestyle and retail environment.

A differentiation approach is integral when it comes to city revitalization. As such, MGM aims to constantly inject personalized and lifestyle components to foster a unique and vibrant atmosphere at Barra District. This latest event goes further beyond by utilizing both indoor and outdoor spaces to create a large pet-friendly venue, including an outdoor "Dog Park". MGM has also introduced a weekend "Pet Shuttle" to offer transportation service for dog owners and their pets. In addition, a certain portion of the event's proceeds will go to local pet charities. For more information about the event, please visit: <https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai/entertainment/Matsui-The-Dog>.



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



More Hong Kongers tune out the news as they adapt to the status quo

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

HANNAH Wong cried when the Hong Kong government effectively forced Apple Daily and Stand News out of business three years ago. Among the last news outlets in the city willing to criticize the government openly, many saw their end as a sign that the old Hong Kong was gone for good.

Today, the 35-year-old makeup artist says she's gone from reading the news every day to reducing her intake drastically to protect herself from despair.

After four years of measures against dissent in this city, many democracy-oriented journalists, activists, and politicians have faced challenges. As a result, a lot of people are tuning out the news.

It's a sign of change in a city that used to pulse with talk, from morning conversations over newspapers in bustling dim sum restaurants, to lively debates on social media throughout the day, to evening discussions at dinner tables.

Wong says it's too hard to read the headlines, but avoiding them left her feeling more disconnected. "There's a loss of the sense of belonging to this place."

Since the national security law was enacted in 2020, there has been a noticeable decline in press freedom, according to an index.

In 2021, Apple Daily and Stand News closed down after the arrests of their top management. Hong Kong was ranked 135 out of 180 territories in Reporters Without Borders' latest World Press Freedom Index, down from 80 in 2021.

Last week, two former editors of



Chung Pui-kuen, the ex-chief editor of the now shuttered Stand News online outlet, outside the district court, in Hong Kong, last week

Stand News were convicted in the first sedition case involving media since the former British colony returned to China's rule in 1997. The judge said their outlet became a tool for smearing the Beijing and Hong Kong governments during the anti-government protests in 2019.

After the verdict, the Hong Kong government said that when journalists base their reporting on facts, there are no restrictions on press freedom.

The city's politics are one factor driving news avoidance, said Francis Lee, a journalism and communication professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In early 2023, a survey conducted by Lee's team at the Center for Communication and Public Opinion Survey found that about 4 in 10 Cantonese-speaking adults in Hong Kong agreed or strongly

agreed that they sometimes want to avoid news about the changing social or political environment in Hong Kong.

Lee said people who don't trust the government are more likely to tune out the news, such as democracy supporters who tend to view the city's recent changes negatively. When people perceive the outlets as unable to perform, they are also more inclined to avoid news, he said.

Residents like Wong said the remaining media now largely echoes government narratives.

Iris Ng, another former reader of Apple Daily and Stand News, said she's reading more about livelihood issues and softer features but less about politics, finance and policy.

The 34-year-old photographer said she wanted to avoid the offi-

cial's "farce" because it makes her feel angry and helpless.

"It doesn't matter if you read the news every day or catch up 10 days later because you don't have a choice [...] anyway," she said.

A public increasingly checking out means the city's remaining civil society is finding it more challenging to amplify the impact of their work.

Chan Kim-ching, who conducts independent research on the city's land and development issues at the Liber Research Community, said the organization's work used to drive public conversations that could last for two to three days when it made headlines. Chan would hear people talking about it in diner-like cha chaan teng restaurants. The government, facing pressure, might respond.

But this year, even when the

organization made it to the front page, Chan says that social media shifted to other topics within hours.

While the impact on his group is not severe, they feel their "efforts are twice as hard but only half as effective" when attempting to engage the public with some very important issues, he said.

People still talked about their reports when they covered topics like animal rights, he added.

Julian Ng said there's little room left to make a difference and, under the security law, he no longer dared to share news reports or his comments online. He's prioritized his personal goals after the challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It turns out this lifestyle is quite happy," he said.

But even as political discussion goes quiet, many said it shouldn't be mistaken for apathy.

Others are still trying to keep them alive. Veteran journalist Catherine Chan co-founded The Witness, a new outlet that focuses on court reporting, in 2022.

Chan said people might not want to read the news every day, but that doesn't mean they don't care. To cater to those readers, Chan's team produces podcasts with weekly updates and summaries of long trials.

She said there's still demand for court news. She said the value of their reports is not just that they can be read now, but also that they provide a comprehensive record of the cases for the future.

"If it's worth doing, I'll do it, even if only one person is reading it," she said. **MDT/AP**

TAIWAN

Investigators to rule on further detention of former leader candidate amid graft probe

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, TAIPEI

TAIWAN investigators are expected to rule on the further detention of a former leader candidate amid graft allegations that have sparked minor street protests by his supporters.

Ko Wen-je, chairman of the Taiwan People's Party, was held overnight and had a hearing yesterday.

Supporters gathered outside the prosecutors office in Taipei, holding

signs and chanting slogans demanding Ko's release and alleging judicial oppression. Investigators refused Ko's request to return home out of concern he would collude with others involved in the case.

Ko, who trained as a doctor and also served as mayor of Taipei, and his TPP emerged as a third force in a sometimes ram-bunctious democracy dominated by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party



Ko Wen-je

and the remainder of the Nationalist Party that fled to Taiwan after the Communist Party's takeover of

mainland China in 1949.

Ko and others were named in May in the scandal in which the developer of

the downtown Core Pacific Center shopping center was given permission to massively expand the floor space available for lease during Ko's 2014-2022 term as mayor. Ko's home and TPP offices were raided before he was called in for questioning on Friday. The shopping center is still under construction and DPP politicians have called for a suspension of work or even demolition.

Ko finished third with

about a quarter of the vote in this year's election, which was won by the DPP's William Lai Ching-te, whose party favors continued de-facto independence from China. The TPP won just under 3% of the seats in the legislature.

Ko did particularly well among young people despite having no clear political platform. He flirted briefly with both the DPP and Nationalists but was unable to come to terms on an alliance, leaving him with few political allies outside his own supporters.

Once a major problem, political corruption has declined as a top concern amid a strengthening of the power of independent investigators. **MDT/AP**



Japan wants its hardworking citizens to try a four-day workweek

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

JAPAN, a nation so hardworking its language has a term for literally working oneself to death, is trying to address a worrisome labor shortage by coaxing more people and companies to adopt four-day workweeks.

The Japanese government first expressed support for a shorter working week in 2021, after lawmakers endorsed the idea. The concept has been slow to catch on, however; about 8% of companies in Japan allow employees to take three or more days off per week, while 7% give their workers the legally mandated one day off, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Hoping to produce more takers, especially among small and medium-sized businesses, the government launched a “work style reform” campaign that promotes shorter hours and other flexible arrangements along with overtime limits and paid annual leave. The labor ministry recently started offering free consulting, grants and a growing library of success stories as further motivation.

“By realizing a society in which workers can choose from a variety of working styles based on their circumstances, we aim to create a virtuous cycle of growth

and distribution and enable each and every worker to have a better outlook for the future,” states a ministry website about the “hata-rakikata kaikaku” campaign, which translates to “innovating how we work.”

The department overseeing the new support services for businesses says only three companies have come forward so far to request advice on making changes, relevant regulations and available subsidies, illustrating the challenges the initiative faces.

Perhaps more telling: of the 63,000 Panasonic Holdings Corp. employees who are eligible for four-day schedules at the electronics maker and its group companies in Japan, only 150 employees have opted to take them, according to Yohei Mori, who oversees the initiative at one Panasonic company.

The government’s official backing of a better work-life balance represents a marked change in Japan, a country whose reputed culture of workaholic stoicism often got credited for the national recovery and stellar economic growth after World War II.

Conformist pressures to sacrifici-

ce for one’s company are intense. Citizens typically take vacations at the same time of year as their colleagues — during the Bon holidays in the summer and around New Year’s — so co-workers can’t accuse them of being neglectful or uncaring.

Long hours are the norm. Although 85% of employers report giving their workers two days off a week and there are legal restrictions on overtime hours, which are negotiated with labor unions and

“**Some officials consider changing that mindset as crucial to maintaining a viable workforce amid Japan’s nosediving birth rate**

detailed in contracts. But some Japanese do “service overtime,” meaning it’s unreported and performed without compensation.

A recent government white paper on “karoshi,” the Japanese term that in English means “death from overwork, said Japan has at least 54 such fatalities a year, including from heart attacks.

Japan’s “serious, conscientious and hard-working” people tend to value their relationships with their colleagues and form a bond with their companies, and Japanese TV shows and manga comics

often focus on the workplace, said Tim Craig, the author of a book called “Cool Japan: Case Studies from Japan’s Cultural and Creative Industries.”

“Work is a big deal here. It’s not just a way to make money, although it is that, too,” said Craig, who previously taught at Doshisha Business School and founded editing and translation firm BlueSky Academic Services.

Some officials consider changing that mindset as crucial to maintaining a viable workforce amid Japan’s nosediving birth rate. At the current rate, which is partly attributed to the

country’s job-focused culture, the working age population is expected to decline 40% to 45 million people in 2065, from the current 74 million, according to government data.

Proponents of the three-days-off model say it encourages people raising children, those caring for older relatives, retirees living on pensions and others looking for flexibility or additional income to remain in the workforce for longer.

Akiko Yokohama, who works at Spelldata, a small Tokyo-based

technology company that allows employees to work a four-day schedule, takes Wednesdays off along with Saturdays and Sundays. The extra day off allows her to get her hair done, attend other appointments or go shopping.

“It’s hard when you aren’t feeling well to keep going for five days in a row. The rest allows you to recover or go see the doctor. Emotionally, it’s less stressful,” Yokohama said.

Her husband, a real estate broker, also gets Wednesdays off but works weekends, which is common in his industry. Yokohama said that allows the couple to go on midweek family outings with their elementary-school age child.

Fast Retailing Co., the Japanese company that owns Uniqlo, Theory, J Brand and other clothing brands, pharmaceutical company Shionogi & Co., and electronics companies Ricoh Co. and Hitachi also began offering a four-day workweek in recent years.

The trend even has gained traction in the notoriously consuming finance industry. Brokerage SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. started letting workers put in four days a week in 2020. Banking giant Mizuho Financial Group offers a three-day schedule option.

Critics of the government’s push say that in practice, people put on four-day schedules often end up working just as hard for less pay.

But there are signs of change.

A annual Gallup survey that measures employee engagement ranked Japan as having among the least engaged workers of all nationalities surveyed; in the most recent survey, only 6% of the Japanese respondents described themselves as engaged at work compared to the global average of 23%.

That means relatively few Japanese workers felt highly involved in their workplace and enthusiastic about their work, while most were putting in their hours without investing passion or energy.

Kanako Ogino, president of Tokyo-based NS Group, thinks offering flexible hours is a must for filling jobs in the service industry, where women comprise most of the work force. The company, which operates karaoke venues and hotels, offers 30 different scheduling patterns, including a four-day workweek, but also taking long periods off in between work.

To ensure none of the NS Group’s workers feel penalized for choosing an alternative schedule, Ogino asks each of her 4,000 employees twice a year how they want to work. Asserting individual needs can be frowned upon in Japan, where you are expected to sacrifice for the common good.

“The view in Japan was: You are cool the more hours you work, putting in free overtime,” Ogino said with a laugh. “But there is no dream in such a life.” **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Brazilian Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandre de Moraes

BRAZIL

On the first day without X, many Brazilians say they feel disconnected from the world

GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA,
SAO PAULO

THE blocking of social media platform X in Brazil divided users and politicians over the legitimacy of the ban, and many Brazilians on Saturday had difficulty and doubts over navigating other social media in its absence.

The shutdown of Elon Musk's platform started early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through mobile apps after the billionaire refused to name a legal representative to the country, missing a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. The blockade marks an escalation in a months-long feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, with tens of millions of users.

"I've got the feeling that I have no idea what's happening in the world right now. Bizarre," entertainment writer and heavy X user Chico Barney wrote on Threads. Threads is a text-based app developed by Instagram that Barney was using as an alternative. "This Threads algorithm is like an all-you-can-eat restaurant where the waiter keeps serving things I would never order."

Bluesky, a social media platform that was launched last

year as an alternative to X and other more established sites, has seen a large influx of Brazilians in the past couple of days. The company said Friday it has seen about 200,000 new users from Brazil sign up during that time, and the number "continues to grow by the minute." Brazilian users are also setting records for activities such as follows and likes, Bluesky said.

Previous users of other platforms welcomed Brazilians to their ranks. "Hello literally everyone in Brazil," a user wrote on Threads. "We're a lot nicer than Twitter here," said another.

Platform migration isn't new for Brazilians. They were huge adopters of Orkut and, when Orkut went kaput, they very gladly moved to other platforms.

X is not as popular in Brazil as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or TikTok. However, it remains an important platform on which Brazilians engage in political debates and is highly influential among politicians, journalists and other opinion makers.

It's also where they share their sense of humor. Many of the country's most famous memes originate from posts on X before spreading to other social networks. Last week, for instance, Brazilians collaboratively crafted an absurd storyline for a fictional telenovela, complete with a theme song created using artificial intelligence tools.

Pop stars and their fanbases were also hit by Brazilians being left off the platform.

"Wait a lot of my fan pages are Brazilian!!! Come back hold up!!," Cardi B said Friday on X. A fan page dedicated to Timothée Chalamet, known by the handle TimotheeUpdates, said it would temporarily cease updating as all of its administrators are Brazilian.

De Moraes said X will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and he also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access it. Some legal experts questioned the grounds for that decision and how it would be enforced. Others suggested the move was authoritarian.

The Brazilian Bar Association said Friday in a statement that it would request the Supreme Court review the fines imposed on all citizens using VPNs or other means to access X without due process. Brazil's bar association argued that sanctions should never be imposed summarily before ensuring an adversarial process and the right to full defense.

"I've used VPNs a lot in authoritarian countries like China to continue accessing news sites and social networks," Maurício Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said on the platform before its shutdown. "It never occurred to me that this type

of tool would be banned in Brazil. It's dystopian."

A search Friday on X showed hundreds of Brazilian users inquiring about VPNs that could potentially enable them to continue using the platform by making it appear they are logging on from outside the country.

"Tyrants want to turn Brazil into another commie dictatorship but we won't back down. I repeat: do not vote on those who don't respect free speech. Orwell was right," right-wing congressman Nikolas Ferreira, one of former President Jair Bolsonaro's closest allies, published before X went off. Musk replied with an emoji suggesting agreement: "100".

Ferreira is a 28-year-old YouTuber who received the most votes of the 513 elected federal lawmakers in the 2022 election. De Moraes ordered the block of his social media accounts after a mob of Bolsonaro supporters attacked Brazil's Congress, presidential palace and Supreme Court in January 2023 seeking to overturn the election.

Lawmaker Bia Kicis said "the consequences of Alexandre de Moraes' attacks to Elon Musk, X and Starlink will be regrettable for Brazilians." She also urged Rodrigo Pacheco, the president of the country's Senate, to act. Kicis has repeatedly urged Pacheco to open impeachment proceedings against the Supreme Court justice. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1945 JAPAN SIGNS UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER



Japanese officials have signed the act of unconditional surrender, finally bringing to an end six years of world war.

In the presence of 50 Allied generals and other officials, the Japanese envoys boarded the American battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay to sign the surrender document.

Within half-an-hour of the signing, a convoy of 42 US ships entered Tokyo Bay and landed 13,000 American troops.

The Supreme Commander of the Allied powers, US General Douglas MacArthur, briefly addressed the dignitaries on the deck of the battleship urging them to comply with the terms of the surrender "fully, promptly and faithfully".

He continued: "It is my earnest hope and, indeed, the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past; a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfilment of his most cherished wish, for freedom, tolerance and justice."

He also referred to the nuclear bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, saying they had "revised the traditional concept of war". The world had had its last chance, he said, and if it did not devise some greater and more equitable system Armageddon would be at its door.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, Japan has agreed to end all hostilities, release all prisoners of war, and comply with the terms of the Potsdam declaration, which confines its sovereignty to the four main islands which make up Japan.

It has also agreed to acknowledge the authority of the US supreme commander. Although Emperor Hirohito will be allowed to remain as a symbolic head of state.

From today the occupying force will be rapidly increased to about 500,000. British landing forces are expected to be relieved by US Army troops within a few days. Some will return home to Britain, others may be deployed for the reoccupation of surrendered ports.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Allies celebrated victory over Japan on 15 August 1945, and that date as well as 2 September are both known as VJ Day.

Japan enjoyed a series of early victories from its entry in the war at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, followed by the conquest of Hong Kong, Burma, the Philippines, Malaya and Borneo.

But the war effort drained the country's economy and hardship prevailed. By 1943 defeats at Midway and Guadalcanal the previous year had contributed to Japan's decline.

Japan suffered further defeats in 1944, then in March 1945 Tokyo came under sustained assault from US bombers. Tens of thousands died and much of the city was razed to the ground.

On 6 August 1945, the US dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima and three days later a second on Nagasaki. With that and the Soviet declaration of war on 8 August, the Japanese were forced into a surrender that was virtually unconditional.

Emperor Hirohito offered to take the blame for war atrocities committed by the Japanese at a meeting with General MacArthur later in September 1945 but his offer was rejected. He was never tried for war crimes, instead the Americans used him to help push through some democratic reforms that transformed Japanese politics.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Finances could feel volatile. Adapt to changing markets. Old revolutionary ideas work best, with Uranus retrograde. Use proven methods. Research leads to profitable discoveries.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Inquire and discover. Expect rebellious explosions, discovery and insight over the next five months, with Uranus retrograde in your sign. Make action plans for later.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Edit communications carefully. Hidden desires, secrets and dreams can get revealed. With Uranus retrograde for five months, expect revelations and explosive discoveries. Adapt plans.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Profit through social connections. Secure what you've acquired over five months, with Uranus retrograde. Strengthen trusted alliances. Your friends are your true wealth.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Freedom urges awaken, inspiring rebellion against ruts or confinement. You can replace what you leave behind. Walk down memory lane. Review and update long-range planning.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Spontaneous travels tempt. Expect bursts of invention and intuition, with Uranus retrograde for five months. Old passions get rekindled. Prepare for adventures next spring.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Budget for springtime changes. Events could surprise or upset the financial status quo, with Uranus retrograde over the next five months. Collaborate to adapt.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Communication preempts upsetting surprises. Rebellious urges impact partnerships, with Uranus stationing retrograde until Jan. 30, 2025. Provide and enjoy freedom by keeping your word.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Balance with meditation and exercise. Spontaneous outbursts and surprises can impact your work and energy over five months, with Uranus retrograde. Prioritize healthy practices.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Revise and refine. Consider family before making changes. Enjoy familiar pursuits, with Uranus stationing retrograde until Jan. 30, 2025. Practice what you love.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Surges of domestic independence and nesting instincts can arise, with Uranus retrograde over five months. Plan home changes carefully to start construction next spring.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Imagine getting what you want. Outbursts of invention and intellect erupt over five months, with Uranus retrograde. Make plans and discuss. Revise and edit.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	27	fine
Changchun	12	25	fine
Chengdu	26	36	rain
Chongqing	31	40	fine
Fuzhou	28	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	36	cloudy
Guiyang	22	31	cloudy
Haikou	25	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	28	36	thunderstorms
Harbin	12	25	fine
Hefei	29	32	rain
Nanjing	28	33	thunderstorms
Shanghai	28	35	rain
Taipei	26	32	fine
Wuhan	28	38	rain
Hong Kong	27	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	28	sunny
Frankfurt	18	29	sunny
Paris	17	25	cloudy
London	16	22	cloudy
New York	16	27	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Stylish; 5- Center; 10- Peruvian of yore; 14- Architect Saarinen; 15- French farewell; 16- Roger Rabbit, e.g.; 17- Airline to Israel; 18- Country in the Himalayas; 19- ___ boy!; 20- Arm coverings; 22- Serving no function; 24- Bro's sib; 25- ___ live and breathe!; 26- Guy; 29- Sue Grafton's "___ for Evidence"; 32- Long stories; 36- Intestinal sections; 37- Clothes; 39- Article in Le Monde; 40- In spite of; 43- GI mail drop; 44- Appeared; 45- Isaac's eldest; 46- Horne and Olin; 48- Hi-graphics; 49- Part of an act; 50- Made a hole; 52- Miss Piggy's query; 53- Bow and arrow skill; 57- Show; 61- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 62- Red fluorescent dye; 64- Patriot Nathan; 65- Person of action; 66- "Snowy" bird; 67- Humorist Bombeck; 68- Suit to ___; 69- Delicious; 70- Impetuous;

DOWN 1- So-so grades; 2- Hades; 3- Dies ___; 4- Cabbage salad; 5- Lions' locks; 6- Mid-month times; 7- Immerse; 8- Linebacker Junior; 9- Oklahoma city; 10- Roma's land; 11- Memo; 12- Camp beds; 13- Collections of anecdotes; 21- By way of; 23- Ruhr city; 26- Last; 27- Run away to get married; 28- Divulge; 29- Old anesthetic; 30- Reply to "Who's there?"; 31- Locations; 33- False front; 34- Kofi of the U.N.; 35- Smooth transition; 37- Polished off; 38- Way cool; 41- Magazine copy; 42- Interpret; 47- Stick; 49- Call for help; 51- Welcome; 52- Like some mouthwashes; 53- Alan of "M*A*S*H"; 54- Dig like a pig; 55- Canadian First Nation; 56- Indian exercise method; 57- Cut calories; 58- Zhivago's love; 59- Donations to the poor; 60- Slangy assent; 63- SAT takers;

Friday's solution

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	

It's prime time to BUY & RENT!

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

jml property
 置業 物業 買賣 租賃

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

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

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

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

info@jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty



Cabana Verde (Taipa Village)
Studio & 1 bath
41.80 m² / 450 ft² | HKD2,800,000



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



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



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



Ocean Garden Cattleya Court (Taipa)
2 bed 2 bath
73.95 m² / 796 ft² | HKD6,980,000

**BUY & RENT!
MACAU & HK**

www.jmlproperty.com
www.ariapropertyltd.com

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

Call us!

(853) 2835 2699

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



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



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

South Korean shooter completes medal set after gold at Paralympics

GABRIELLA ETIENNE, PARIS

SOUTH Korean shooter Jinho Park completed a full set of Paralympic medals after winning the men's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 final on Saturday.

Park scored 249.4 points, only 1.2 shy of his own world record. The SH1 category is for athletes with missing legs or severe trunk impairments.

The gold complements the silver and bronze medals he earned in Tokyo.

"It was the only medal I did not have so now I have achieved everything," Park said. "I feel fulfilled."

He praised his wife after the medal ceremony.

"She has sacrificed so much. I have not seen her and my family very much in the last year as I prepared for the Paralympic Games."

SWISS WHEELCHAIR RACER WINS 5000

Switzerland's Catherine Debrunner opened her six-event



Catherine Debrunner, of Switzerland, celebrates after winning at Women's 5000m - T54 final at the Stade de France stadium, during the 2024 Paralympics, Saturday

Paralympics by winning the women's T54 5,000-meter final.

Debrunner clocked a personal best 10 minutes, 43.62 seconds to edge world record-holder and Tokyo champion Susannah Scaroni 1.5 seconds. T54 wheelchair is for people with spinal cord injuries but normal hand, arm and trunk function.

"Once I knew we were alone I was really happy because I knew I was second or first," Debrunner said. "But then

(Scaroni) went really fast for the last 600 meters so I stayed behind her. Somehow I had some energy left at the end."

Debrunner competes on Sunday in the T53 800 in which she holds the world record. She's also entered the 100, 400, 1,500 and marathon.

ROMANCHUK COMES FROM LAST IN MEN'S 5000

Daniel Romanchuk was in the back row of the 10-man pack entering the final lap of

the men's 5,000-meter final for T54, little to no lower limb function. Then he kicked into sprint mode and burning the competition to win his first Paralympic gold in the event.

"That last lap or so was kind of a blur," the American said. "I just kind of remember being in the back, kind of moving out, a sprint starting and I think we probably were four or so wide at one point."

In Tokyo, Romanchuk won the 400 and bronze in the marathon.

BLACKWELL BREAKS HIS 100 WORLD RECORD

U.S. sprinter Jaydin Blackwell broke his own world record in the men's T38 100 (cerebral palsy and coordination impairments) to win his first Paralympic gold medal.

The 20-year-old Blackwell called it the perfect race, but did not feel that way about it originally. He was surprised to break the record in 10.64 seconds.

"It felt like it was a little bit slow, but I looked up at the

screen and was like, 'Okay, all right, yeah, let's go,'" he said.

Countryman Ryan Medrano was second in a personal best 10.97. Juan Alejandro Campas Sanchez of Colombia was third with a personal best 10.99.

MURDERBALL SEMIS SET

The U.S. advanced to the wheelchair rugby semifinals after beating Germany 57-47.

Chuck Aoki scored 34 tries, giving him 74 of the Americans' 150 in four games, three of them wins.

The U.S. finished second in its pool and will play Britain in the semis on Sunday. Japan meets Australia in the other semifinal.

US MEN'S GOALBALL TEAM WIN

The United States held off a late comeback by host France to win 5-4 and get off the mark in men's goalball.

The U.S. play Iran on Saturday to decide the quarterfinal seedings. Iran was second in their group after drawing with leader Brazil 7-7. **MDT/AP**

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
• 仁德醫療中心 •

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

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

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

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

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

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

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

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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

MACAU
澳門

BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校

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

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

PHILIPPINES SHOULD FACE UP TO REALITY, GIVE UP ILLUSIONS, AND ACT RESPONSIBLY

Despite the outcry by Manila to the contrary — and the biased and politically motivated support it has received to give credence to its rumpus — China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters in the South China Sea.

Beijing has thus once again urged the Philippines to give up its illusions and stop stirring up trouble, as its current course of action in staging one provocative stunt after another is only leading it toward dangerous ground.

For the sake of peace in the waters and because it bears the bigger picture of ties in mind, Beijing has so far shown great restraint in the face of Manila's provocative moves. But with Manila giving no indication that it is going to put an end to its claim-jumping showboating anytime soon, Beijing's patience is naturally wearing increasingly thin.

Thus tensions have flared up at Xianbin Reef, thanks to the brazenly provocative publicity stunts of the Philippines in the waters around the reef in August, making it a potential flashpoint. In the latest incident on Saturday, a Philippine Coast Guard vessel that has been squatting in the lagoon at Xianbin Reef since April, weighed anchor and began maneuvering during which it intentionally and dangerously rammed a China Coast Guard vessel.

There were at least three similar incidents in August. On Aug 19, two Philippine Coast Guard vessels rammed into China Coast Guard vessels at Xianbin Reef after a tense standoff. There was also a collision between coast guard vessels of the two sides on Aug 25.

Manila should be aware that its attempts to infringe upon China's maritime territory and interests will never succeed. No matter what tricks it plays and whom it gangs up with, Manila is dreaming if it thinks it can infringe upon China's sovereignty and maritime interests without paying a price.

Manila should know there is no way it can replicate at Xianbin Reef the drama it has staged at Ren'ai Reef, where it deliberately grounded a World War II-era warship in 1999 as a de facto assertion of "sovereignty". It should withdraw all its vessels from Chinese waters, or face the Chinese law enforcement measures that ensue. The constant provocative stunts of the Philippines have not only strained its ties with China but also revealed it to be a troublemaker with no regard for the stability of the region at large.

Yet high-ranking Philippine officials have brazenly tried to shift the blame to China and portray their country as a victim of China's "bullying". Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr even called China the "biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia — which is a hat his own country should wear.

To forward-deploy significant military forces thousands of miles from the homeland, the United States has established its alliance network, of which the Philippines — its oldest alliance in Asia — is a linchpin. But the consequence of this is that Manila is willing to take advantage of the US' geopolitical game plan while fearing abandonment if it does not accede to Washington's directives. Thus it gives no second thoughts to the possible consequences of the provocative moves it is making at the instigation of the US.

The Philippine government should change course in the South China Sea for the sake of peace in the waters.

It is high time the Philippines stopped its irresponsible adventurism before the situation spirals out of control. Manila should cease its incursions into Chinese waters, make efforts to ease the tensions, and not let the US goad it into doing anything reckless so the situation can cool down as soon as possible. [Abridged]

If any evidence were needed to underscore that Pope Francis' upcoming trip to Asia and Oceania is the longest, farthest and most challenging of his pontificate, it's that he's bringing along his secretaries to help him navigate the four-country program while keeping up with work back home.

Francis will clock 32,814 kilometers by air during his Sept. 2-13 visit to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore, far surpassing any of his previous 44 foreign trips and notching one of the longest papal trips ever, both in terms of days on the road and distances traveled.

That's no small feat for a pope who turns 88 in December, uses a wheelchair, lost part of a lung to a respiratory infection as a young man and had to cancel his last foreign trip at the last minute (to Dubai in November to participate in the U.N. climate conference) on doctors' orders.

But Francis is pushing ahead with this trip, originally planned for 2020 but postponed because of COVID-19. He's bringing along his medical team of a doctor and two nurses and taking the usual health precautions on the ground.



KENYA

ROBOT WAITERS CREATE A BUZZ. BUT THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS FOR HUMAN LABOR

DESMOND TIRO & EVELYNE MUSAMBI, NAIROBI

CHILDREN giggle as young people flash their smartphones to film robots carrying plates of freshly prepared meals on their inbuilt trays to deliver to diners in a busy eatery in Kenya's capital.

Nairobi has a vibrant tech industry with various startups and innovations in operation and has positioned itself as a tech hub in the East African region bearing the nickname The Silicone Savanna.

This is the Robot Cafe, believed to be the first of its kind in Nairobi and East Africa, where three robots glide among human waiters serving food to mesmerized customers.

These preprogrammed robots were acquired for entertainment. Cafe owner Mohammed Abbas says he experienced robot service in Asian and European countries and decided to invest in them.

"It was very expensive to import the robots," he says, but adds that the investment has borne fruit, because the restaurant is "often busy with curious customers" who come to

experience robot service.

One customer, Packson Chege, picks up a plate of fries from the robot tray as his friend films the experience across the table.

"I can say it is something unique because here in our country Kenya, I have never seen a restaurant like this one so I think for me, it is a good idea from the owner of this restaurant," he said.

The three robots, which are named Claire, R24 and Nadia, aren't programmed to have a full conversation with customers, but they can say "Your order is ready, Welcome" and then people have to press an exit button after picking up their food from the tray.

They are commanded by waiters through an application on an iPad.

Human waiters are still important in the operations of the cafe, because they take orders from customers who don't use the online ordering option. The waiters then place the food on the robot tray when it's ready and deliver drinks in person.

The technology is predicted to disrupt the future workforce globally,

and especially in Africa, where there is a youthful population with a median age of 19 years.

But the cafe's manager says the robots aren't a replacement for human waiters as they can't offer all services.

"At no point are the robots able to fully function in all the services that are supposed to be ongoing in the restaurant without the human touch," John Kariuki said. "The robots are actually way too expensive for us to acquire, so if you are trying to save money, it is not going to work if you choose to go the robotic way."

A hospitality industry expert, Edith Ojwang, said that there's room for robotic and human service to coexist in the industry.

"The hospitality industry is very diverse. We have clients who will prefer robotic service and full automation, while we also have clients who will prefer human service, the human touch and warmth that comes with human service so it is not entirely a threat to human labor because of the diverse nature of the hospitality client base," she said. MDT/AP



Iran's president said Saturday his country needs some \$100 billion in foreign investment to achieve an annual target of 8% economic growth up from the current rate of 4%. The remarks by Masoud Pezeshkian (pictured), who was elected in July, came in his first live televised interview by state TV. Pezeshkian said Iran needs up to \$250 billion to reach its goal but more than half is available from domestic resources.



Two people who were critically injured in attacks while attending London's Notting Hill Carnival earlier this week have died, police said Saturday. The Metropolitan Police force said 32-year-old Cher Maximen died early Saturday after being stabbed in the street on Aug. 25. She had been visiting the carnival, billed as Europe's biggest street party, with her child, who was not hurt. A 20-year-old local man was arrested and charged with attempted murder, and is now likely to face a murder charge.



Gaza Strip A campaign to inoculate children against polio and prevent the spread of the virus has begun, the Health Ministry said Saturday, as Palestinians in the Hamas-governed enclave and the occupied West Bank reeled from Israel's military offensives. Meanwhile, Israel's military late Saturday in a terse announcement said it had "located a number of bodies during combat" in Gaza. The army was trying to identify the bodies, including whether they were hostages, but said the process would take several hours. "We ask to refrain from spreading rumors," it said.

Ukraine somberly marked its 33rd Independence Day on Saturday, setting the usual fireworks, parades and concerts aside to commemorate thousands of civilians and soldiers killed in the ongoing war with Russia. Social media was flooded with messages of gratitude and support as Ukrainians greeted each other from around the country and thanked soldiers who are on the front lines. "Independence is the silence we experience when we lose our people," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared to the nation in a video posted on Telegram.