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**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE HITS A SLUMP, WITH THE OVERALL INDEX FALLING NEARLY 3.7% IN THE THIRD QUARTER COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER**

**CENTRAL GOV'T AND LIAISON OFFICE CONGRATULATE CHIEF EXECUTIVE-ELECT**

**PREMIER LI TALKS TRADE IN VIETNAM DESPITE DIFFERENCES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**



**China** A retrial has begun last week in the high-profile child trafficking case of Yu Huaying, who was sentenced to death last year for abducting and selling 11 children in the 1990s. The court discovered new evidence, increasing the total number of victims to 17, with Yu's retrial now underway.



**China** Archaeologists uncovered 301 immovable cultural relics, including ancient tombs and inscriptions, in Shigatse, Tibet, as part of a national census. Over 1,000 cultural sites have now been surveyed in Shigatse, contributing to the preservation and documentation of the region's rich historical heritage.

**Cambodia** Thirteen pregnant women from the Philippines were arrested yesterday in Cambodia for illegal surrogacy. Authorities discovered they had been recruited online. They could face prison sentences of 2-5 years under Cambodia's anti-trafficking laws once they give birth, in a case linked to a Thailand-based business.



**Australia** An Australian police officer faces charges for performing an illegal Nazi salute and praising Adolf Hitler at a police academy in Melbourne. Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton yesterday condemned the officer's actions, expressing anger and apologizing to the Jewish community.

# CHIEF JUSTICE

**In an uncontested run, Sam Hou Fai was elected Chief Executive of Macau, campaigning under a motto summed up in one word: justice for all**

■ P2-3 COVERAGE & EDITORIAL



**TOURISM**  
**LOCAL MARKETPLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUTHS' TALENT IN TAIPA**



**CULTURE**  
**MARITIME FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# editorial

Paulo Coutinho



## SAM OF THE PEOPLE?

**T**HE Chief Executive election in Macau, which saw top judge Sam Hou Fai emerge as the sole candidate—and now the elected Chief Executive as of yesterday—has been a point of contention for years. While it is true that an election took place, the circumstances surrounding it raise critical questions about the nature of democracy in the region. Was Sam truly “of the people,” or was he a candidate put forth by a system designed to maintain the new norm?

Needless to say, that’s a rhetorical question.

In Macau, the Chief Executive is not chosen through a process of universal suffrage. Instead, an Electoral College made up of 400 grand electors selects the Chief Executive. These electors are chosen by associations and sectors of civil society, many of which are aligned with business interests and pro-Beijing factions. Although the Basic Law of Macau technically allows any eligible citizen to run for office, the reality is that the system ensures only those who meet stringent requirements—such as demonstrated patriotism towards China—can advance as candidates.

According to Article 47 of the Basic Law of Macau, “The Chief Executive shall be a Chinese citizen of not less than 40 years of age who is a permanent resident of the Region and has ordinarily resided in Macau for a continuous period of not less than 20 years.”

Additionally, recent changes to local electoral laws require that the Chief Executive must be someone who “loves the country and Macau,” reflecting the political necessity for candidates to be seen as patriotic and aligned with central government policies. This is not unique to Macau but reflects the broader political structure of the region, where Beijing retains ultimate control over significant political appointments.

While Sam Hou Fai may have been the sole candidate in this election, there was nominal competition within the selection process. Various factions, including the kaifongs (neighborhood associations) and workers’ unions, participated in choosing the grand electors, and disputes did arise over who would represent these groups. However, even within these minor contests, the larger picture remains unchanged: the system ensures loyalty to the central government, leaving little room for a genuine people’s choice.

To his credit, Sam Hou Fai made a concerted effort to present himself as a legitimate candidate, campaigning as if he were running against real competition, despite being the only name on the ballot.

For 20 years, Sam, 62, was a quiet force within Macau’s society, serving as President of the Court of Final Appeal. His

legal background provided him with a unique perspective, as he presided over cases that reflected the changing dynamics of the city. Through his rulings—some controversial—Sam had a front-row seat to the many social and legal issues that have emerged in Macau in recent years.

The main criticism has been his lack of executive experience, to which he responded with a fine-tuned campaign showcasing his leadership ability and management skills. I also appreciated his candid criticism of the previous administration, while recognizing their merits.

One notable aspect of Sam’s profile is his ability to speak Portuguese, making him the first Chief Executive to be proficient in both of Macau’s official languages. This is significant in a region where the Portuguese legacy still plays an important cultural and legal role. His language skills could be seen as a nod to the multicultural history of the city, but they do little to conceal the deeper issues at play.

The propaganda machine framed Sam’s candidacy as a serious endeavor, despite the fact that he faced no real opposition. While he may have presented himself as running against headwinds, it’s hard to ignore the reality that the wind was always blowing in his favor.

As a democrat, I firmly believe that Macau is ready for universal suffrage, both for its Chief Executive and for its Legislative Assembly members. The current system, where only a select group of grand electors have a say in choosing the Chief Executive, is simply not representative of the will of the people. In a conversation I once had with a constitutional scholar, he agreed that Macau’s political system is ripe for reform, echoing the calls for greater democratic participation.

However, this was an election, with “Macau characteristics”—by some people, for some people. Those “some” now lead the future of the city, and Sam is the face of that leadership.

Sam Hou Fai was elected by representative bodies of society, chosen by tens of thousands in a potential universe of half a million residents; hence, he was not elected by all the people. If Macau is to embrace its full potential as a vibrant, diverse, and autonomous region, it should move toward a political system where universal suffrage is the norm, not the exception.

From now on, it will be important to see whether Sam fulfills his promises to govern for all, particularly for the less fortunate in this city of fortune, and whether he truly promotes transparency, administrative reform, and equity.

Sam of the people or some of the people? That is the question, and that is the challenge.

## VOX POPULI

# Locals’ views on new chief executive-elect mixed

VICTORIA CHAN

**A**S Macau prepares to welcome its new Chief Executive, Sam Hou Fai, the city’s residents have expressed a range of sentiments and expectations for the incoming leader.

After the election that saw Sam elected as the Chief Executive, a range of opinions has emerged from the local community.

While some harbor doubts about his background and the electoral process, others hope for positive change under his leadership.

Residents shared varying perspectives on Sam’s election.

Many younger residents appear to have lower expectations and less knowledge about the Chief Executive’s role and responsibilities.

One resident from Macanese ancestry raised skepticism about the CE-elect’s origins, noting discrepancies between Sam’s reported background from China and the expectation of a Macau native in the role.

“All I have heard is that the CEs are supposedly from Macau, and this man is from China. That’s a red flag,” said one anonymous interviewee, expressing skepticism about the legitimacy of Macau’s elections.

Another resident noted Sam’s extensive experience serving China for over three decades, suggesting a long-standing plan for his ascension to power.

Anticipating a continuation of the “one country, two systems” framework, the residents expected Sam to introduce reforms aligning with mainland China’s policies.

Another young Portuguese resident acknowledged their own lack of political expertise, noting, “It’s not like we’re in a full democracy.”

The resident was uncertain about what to expect from the new Chief Executive, stating, “I also don’t know what to expect and whether



he will do a better job than Ho Iat Seng or not.”

However, not all residents shared these sentiments.

One interviewee, a parent involved with the IC2 Association, was optimistic, saying, “We hope that Sam Hou Fai can lead Macau for us, for the people.”

The interviewee praised the incoming CE-elect, describing him as “a very good man” and emphasized that he treated their association “very well.”

Concerns about Sam’s age and experience were also raised, with one local Chinese resident drawing a comparison to US President Joe Biden, stating, “Oh, he’s quite old, so I don’t expect much from him.”

Nevertheless, many residents expressed a desire for the new Chief Executive to bring positive changes to the city.

“I hope he can make Macau better,” said one interviewee in her fifties, emphasizing the need to improve the city for both locals and international residents.

One local Chinese resident in his twenties advocated for policies that promote economic diversification, small businesses, and cultural awareness, emphasizing the need for supporting Macanese communities and encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Specifically, the resident, who is part of the business

sector, hoped the CE-elect would focus more on helping Macanese groups and entrepreneurship.

As the resident noted, “There isn’t much investment in Macau currently. If the government introduced more business incentives or promoted entrepreneurship, that could boost the economy.”

The resident also hoped the new leader would provide support and promote cultural awareness for minority groups, particularly the Macanese community.

Rather than just financial assistance, the government could sponsor programs celebrating local heritage.

The resident called for diversifying the economy beyond casinos, as well as policies to assist small businesses and cultural initiatives supporting Macanese communities.

The resident hoped the CE-elect would address these issues through entrepreneurship programs, investment incentives, and events honoring Macanese culture.

As Macau navigates this transition in leadership, diverse voices from the local populace underline the complex expectations and concerns surrounding the new Chief Executive.

While some remain cautious due to perceived discrepancies, others hope for positive change and progress under Sam’s leadership.

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CE ELECTION

# Sam Hou Fai garners 98.99% of the votes

RENATO MARQUES

**S**AM Hou Fai yesterday became Chief Executive-elect, winning 394 of 398 votes (98.99%). The other four votes were blank votes. No null or void ballots were cast.

The results were announced just 1 hour and 30 minutes after the voting started, in a process that took place without any disruptions.

Speaking immediately after the results were announced, Sam thanked his camp for the work over the past few weeks, noting his goal is to fulfill Macau's citizens' hopes for a better life.

"Macau is our common home and, speaking as one of its residents, the quality of its development cannot be dissociated from the efforts of each of us," he said.

"I will firmly assume this great responsibility, faithfully applying my ideas and my political candidacy program to meet citizens' expectations for a better life."

"[I will] implement the 'one country, two systems' principle in a full, correct, and firm way, as a supreme principle to defend the sovereignty, security, and interests of the country's development, and as a goal of my mission to accelerate the promotion of economic diversification, and better integrate and serve the national development."

Sam promised to unite all sectors of society and bring the population to higher ground by guiding the new government and listening to the population's opinions.

"For the benefit of the population, Macau, and the country, and taking the rule of law as a core, I will continue to defend social justice and impartiality, to protect the will of the population, to constantly raise the capacity of public management and the level of governance, so that citizens can feel happier in the experience of constantly optimized public services, and I will work with dedication for the public with a realistic and pragmatic work style, so as not to disappoint the expectations that citizens place on me."

The CE-elect said Macau has optimized its development but that its people "must seize opportunities, face challenges, walk with determination, persist in innovation, promote development, and work together to create prosperity."

During the CE-elect's press conference after the announcement of results, Sam said Macau



needs to continue with regional integration and to focus on giving its share of contribution to China's mission.

"Macau is small in scale, but if we integrate with the mainland, we will have more opportunities. We need to understand that we are integrating with the second-largest world economy. We can maximize our advantages. This is crucial to the development of Macau," he said.

He added that the central government's Macau policies have been shown, over time, to have been beneficial for Macau's development.

Speaking about upcoming projects, Sam noted that the Hengqin Cooperation Zone's second phase of construction was underway. He emphasized a need to continue using Macau's advantages to connect internationally with Portuguese-speaking countries.

"We need to continue this work and improve on it. We also need to be the facilitator within the Greater Bay Area for the linking of these cities outside and namely to the Portuguese-speaking countries."

Questioned by the media on the opinions collected within society during the campaign, Sam said his camp has met with 108 associations and groups and collected over 2,000 opinions both directly and indirectly.

"These opinions are very important not only for the political program but to help me to form my government team," he said.

"These over 2,000 opinions came from many visits and meetings with people from different sectors and walks of life. Many people asked the government to increase its efficiency to protect profits obtained over the years."

"Citizens also want the future government to be more proactive and effective in the sense of fulfilling its duties, calling for better collaboration and integration between departments."

The CE-elect said issues related to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were also among the many opinions and suggestions collected.

"We also need to solve the difficulties faced by SMEs. I believe people have hope in us and trust

we can do better. I hope we can improve on this matter, too," he said. He noted that many SMEs are struggling due to their inability to adapt to new times and the ability of locals to enter and buy in the mainland.

Sam said these opinions are being compiled and analyzed by area so the new government can address them and "place them under short-, mid-, or longer-term goals so that our work can satisfy the wishes of the society."

## CE CONGRATULATES SAM HOU FAI ON ELECTION

The Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, has issued a statement congratulating Sam Hou Fai on his election and on becoming Chief Executive-elect.

Ho noted Sam had secured a significant number of nominations from Chief Executive Election Committee members to qualify as a candidate, and he also garnered a substantial number of votes in yesterday's election.

The CE said the election for the sixth-term CE was held in an orderly and lawful manner, reflecting the full implementation of the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macau people governing Macau," as well as the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the MSAR.

Ho said the requirements to hold the post included being patriotic and loving Macau, earning the trust of the central government, demonstrating strong governance capabilities, and enjoying a high level of recognition within local society.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE EXPECTS 'CONSOLIDATION'

**A**FTER the election, several election committee members have expressed their opinions on what to expect from Sam Hou Fai's incoming government.

Lawyer and member of the Executive Council, Leonel Alves, said a government focused on consolidation first and progress later was to be expected.

"I think it's first about consolidating what was done previously, followed by progress," he said.

Addressing aspects that need further development, Alves hoped Sam, whom he described as a "brilliant legal expert," would focus on modernizing the existing law and harmonizing local laws



with international laws to allow a safer, more prosperous, and useful economic and financial evolution.

Ng Siu Lai, president of the Macau General Union of Neighborhood Associations (Kai Fong) has said on the side-

lines of the election that she hopes the new government will continue to consider the opinions of all sectors of society and promote the development of Macau's economy and people's livelihood.

Ben U, a scholar and businessman in

electronics, said Macau lacks talent for the "four new industries" and hopes the incoming government can accelerate the introduction of overseas professional talent to help boost the faster development of these industries. **RM**



### ICONIC PORTUGUESE BAKERY 'MANTEIGARIA' TO OPEN IN MACAU

Manteigaria, the Portuguese bakery famous for its handmade pastéis de nata, will be opening a branch in Macau in the coming months, according to media outlet Macao News. The new bakery will be run by the Portugália group and located on the Macau peninsula, though the exact spot has not been revealed. Established in 2014, "Manteigaria" is known for its buttery casings and creamy custard fillings. At the moment the brand has 11 stores in Portugal. "We were definitely lacking representation of the real pastel de nata," said Diogo Vieira of Portugália Group, noting that there will be no changes to the traditional recipes. Originally planning to open before expanding to Paris last year, Vieira said "Manteigaria" accelerated Macau plans due to the popularity of the egg tarts in France among Asian tourists.

### GBA 3X3 CIRCUIT FINALS IN MACAU

The 2024 Greater Bay Area 3X3 Circuit Finals presented by Wynn Macau took place in Macau over the weekend with the opening taking place last Friday at the Ruins of St. Paul's Square. The men's circuit has held qualifying rounds in Greater Bay cities since September to determine the 15 teams advancing to the Macau finals. A total of 32 men's and 16 women's teams from the region competed for championship titles in matches that took place concurrently in two different venues, at Ruins of St. Paul's and Tap Seac Square. Teams battled for the chance to win the GBA championship title and bonuses and prizes worth a total of more than MOP800,000.

### MACAU AIRPORT LOOKS TO EXPAND INTERNATIONALLY TO EUROPE AND THE US

Macau International Airport (MIA) is seeking to expand its international route network. The operator said it is working with airlines to initiate new long-haul services connecting Macau to Europe and the United States. This would allow for a one-ticket option with baggage that can be checked through. A new route to Laos will soon launch as part of efforts to constantly expand MIA's network internationally. These expanded routes are key to supporting Macau's tourism goals by attracting more global visitors, as traffic saw nearly 30% growth during China's recent Golden Week versus last year. Overall passenger and flight activity during the week-long holiday recovered to around 82% and 77% of pre-pandemic levels, respectively, in 2019.

# MARITIME FESTIVAL 2024 KICKS OFF WITH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE Maritime and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday kicked off the "Maritime Festival 2024," aiming to deepen public understanding of maritime culture and history.

The festival commenced with an opening ceremony at Barra Pier, drawing over 2,700 attendees eager to explore maritime activities.

Director Wong Soi Man highlighted the festival's goal: to educate the public about maritime professions and the government's role in ensuring maritime safety.

"This festival allows citizens to connect with the sea and appreciate the hard work of maritime personnel," Wong said.

The festival features a blend of online and offline activities designed to engage participants.

Events and activities include the "Let's Get to Know the Boat" event, where citizens can board various vessels, including lifeboats and passenger ferries.

Yesterday, many took the opportunity to explore the lifeboat "Barra" and the passenger boat "Peng Xing 3," capturing memorable moments with their families.

On Oct. 19 and 20 at the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal, attendees will be able to board a large dredger and a jetfoil. Registration for these activities is open until Oct. 13 via the Macao One Account platform.

In addition to boat tours, se-



veral local landmarks—including the Guia Lighthouse and the Maritime Museum—offered free admission yesterday and today.

A guided boat trip will also provide insights into Macau's maritime history and the daily operations of professionals in the maritime trade.

On Oct. 27, DSAMA will host a "Maritime Fun Day" at Naval Workshops in Fai Chi Kei.

This event will feature interactive games focused on maritime safety, showcasing rescue equipment like speedboats and inflatable rafts. Attendees will have hands-on opportunities to learn about

rescue operations.

For those who prefer digital engagement, online games related to the festival are now live.

Participants can join via DSAMA's official WeChat account for a chance to win prizes by completing tasks at designated maritime facilities.

# Consumer confidence declines in Q3

NADIA SHAW

**C**ONSUMER confidence has taken a hit, with the overall index falling nearly 3.7% in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024 compared to the previous quarter.

This decline, reported by researchers at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), reflects growing concerns about the local economy and investment climate.

The consumer confidence index now stands at 100.39 on a scale of 0 to 200, where scores above 100 indicate po-



sitive sentiment.

The survey, which included responses from 805 local residents, revealed four of six key indicators fell.

Notably, confidence in the local economy plummeted 8.94%, while faith in stock market investments dropped 11.66%. Em-

ployment conditions and housing acquisition also experienced slight declines, with decreases of 0.9% and 2.48% respectively.

Despite these setbacks, there were modest increases in perceptions regarding the standard of living and commodity prices, rising by 1.87% and just over 1% respectively. This mixed bag of results suggests that while overall confidence is waning, some aspects of daily life are perceived to be improving.

The survey results come on the heels of findings from the Ma-

cau Economic Association, which indicated the city's economic prosperity index is expected to remain stable through November.

This stability is based on various indicators, including anticipated unemployment rates and visitor arrivals.

As Macau navigates these challenging economic waters, experts emphasize the need for further diversification of its economy to bolster consumer confidence and enhance resilience against external shocks.

The outlook remains cautious as residents grapple with uncertainty in both local and global markets.



## Local marketplace to showcase youth talent in Taipa

NADIA SHAW

A vibrant marketplace featuring local products and live performances is set to enliven the area in front of Pak Tai Temple for four consecutive weekends starting Oct 12-13 and until Nov. 1-2.

The "Young-Teresting" Creative and Cultural Marketplace - Largo Camões aims to highlight the talent and creativity of local youth while providing entertainment for both residents and tourists.

The event features an array of booths offering cultural and creative products, alongside games and light snacks.

Attendees can participate in free handicraft workshops from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., but prior registration is required.

Live performances will also take center stage, with dedicated photo spots designed for social media engagement.

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), emphasized the event's broader vision. "We aim to highlight different kinds of activities across Macau's districts to attract attention to their unique cultures and local attractions," she said.

As the MGTO chief looks to welcome more visitors in the coming months, she reiterated community collaboration will be essential for future events and in fostering a sense of community pride and cultural appreciation in Taipa.

# Central gov't and Liaison Office congratulate CE-elect

RENATO MARQUES

CHINA'S State Council Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office congratulated Sam Hou Fai on being elected by an overwhelming majority as the sixth-term chief executive designate of the Macao Special Administrative Region yesterday.

The successfully concluded election is "significant" for implementing the principle of "patriots administering Macau" and advancing the successful practice of "one country, two systems" with Macau characteristics, the office said in an article posted on its website.

Sam won the election with 394 votes in favor out of 398 valid ballots.

In sequence, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) also congratulated Sam, hailing the election as "pioneering and emblematic."

Congratulating Sam, the newly elected CE of the Macau SAR, an



official of the office said the election, the first of its kind taking place after the amendments to the Chief Executive Election Law,

which took effect at the beginning of this year, effectively implemented the principle of "patriots administering Macau."

### GOLF

## WANNASRICHAN CLAIMS 2024 SJM MACAO OPEN TITLE

THAILAND'S Rattan Wannasrichan has celebrated a triumphant return to the Asian Tour, clinching the SJM Macao Open title with a wire-to-wire victory.

The 29-year-old golfer finished the tournament with a four-under-par 66, totaling an impressive 20-under at the Macau Golf & Country Club, marking his first win on the tour in seven years.

The final day delivered a thrilling showdown, with Charoenkul finishing second after carding a 67. Poosit Suppramai rounded out the top three with a remarkable 64.

This event highlighted Thailand's dominance in golf, as all three podium spots were occupied by Thai players.

Suppramai expressed pride in his performance despite a grueling schedule leading up to the tournament.



"I'm very happy with my performance this week because I've been really tired from the last two weeks. I played 54 holes in two days and only had time to practice 11 holes here," he said. "I just wanted to keep my body fresh, so I'm thrilled to have finished third."

Reflecting on his win, Wannasrichan said, "I'm feeling so happy. I really want to thank myself

for not giving up during tough times and for the hard work this season. I wanted to win, but I also didn't want to put too much pressure on myself."

The tournament showcased strong performances from John Catlin and Miguel Tabuena, who tied for fourth at 15-under par. Defending champion Min Woo Lee finished tied for ninth. NS

### CEM NOTICE

#### Temporary traffic arrangements for cable laying on Rua da Vitória and Calçada do Gaio

In conjunction with the cable laying works by Companhia de Electricidade de Macau - CEM, S.A. (CEM), temporary traffic control measures will be implemented at Rua da Vitória and Calçada do Gaio from 14 October to 28 October. Details can be found in the table below. "Calçada do Gaio" bus stop will be suspended from 19 October at 10:00 a.m. to 28 October. Passengers taking route 28C (toward Rua da Tribuna/ Estrada dos Cavaleiros) and H3 (toward Rua do Campo) can go to the temporary station about 40 meters away from the original station in the direction of Rua de Ferreira do Amaral. For details, please check the two buses' websites ([www.tcm.com.mo](http://www.tcm.com.mo) and [www.transmac.com.mo](http://www.transmac.com.mo)).

Measures	Date	Road sections
Closed to traffic	14 to 23 October	The section of Rua da Vitória between Rua do Brandão and Calçada do Gaio
No parking		Part of the metered parking spaces and motorcycle parking spaces on Rua da Vitória
Limited traffic	19 to 28 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The section of Calçada do Gaio near Rua da Vitória.</li> <li>The section of Calçada do Gaio near Edif. Chi On.</li> </ul>

Media Contact: Jaclyn Iun, Senior Manager of CEM Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Communications Office, Tel.: 6686 0994.





Wu Bangguo, the former chairman of the NPC

OBITUARY

# Remains of late Chinese leader Wu Bangguo to be cremated

**T**HE remains of Wu Bangguo, former chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, will be cremated in Beijing today.

Wu, who died in Beijing on Tuesday at the age of 84, had served as a member of the Political Bureau and a member of the Secretariat of the 14th Communist Party of China Central Committee, a member of the Political Bureau of the 15th CPC Central Committee, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 16th and 17th central committees of the CPC, vice premier of the State Council, and chairman of the Standing Committee of the 10th and 11th NPCs.

To mourn his death, national flags will fly at half-mast on Oct 14 at Tian'anmen Square, Xinhua-men, the Great Hall of the People, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seats of provincial-level committees of the CPC and provincial-level governments, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region, border ports, seaports and airports, and Chinese embassies and consulates.

Wu was extolled in an obituary jointly issued by the CPC Central Committee, the NPC Standing Committee, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, as an excellent Party member, a time-tested and loyal communist soldier and an outstanding proletarian revolutionary, statesman and leader of the Party and the state. XINHUA

DIPLOMACY

# Premier Li talks trade in Vietnam despite differences over South China Sea

**C**HINA agreed yesterday to assist Vietnam on cross-border railway development and take steps to expand agricultural imports from its smaller neighbor, Vietnam's official media said.

Premier Li Qiang, on an official visit to Vietnam, pledged that China would further open its market to high-quality fruits, seafood and other Vietnamese products, a state media report said.

China is Vietnam's largest trading partner and second-largest export market after the U.S. Trade between the two countries reached \$172 billion in 2023. Vietnam's top leader, To Lam, signaled the importance of the relationship when he made China his first overseas visit after assuming his post last year.

Li came to Vietnam from neighboring Laos, where he had pushed back against calls at a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders to respect international law in ter-



Premier Li Qiang and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh (left) inspect an honor guard during a welcome ceremony for Li's official visit in Hanoi, yesterday

ritorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh told Li that both sides should respect each other's legitimate rights and interests, resolve disputes through peaceful means and properly address issues related to fishers and their vessels, the state media report said.

Vietnam condemned China two weeks ago for what it described as an assault by

Chinese law enforcement personnel that injured several Vietnamese fishers near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea.

The islands have been under the de facto control of China since 1974.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the Southeast Asian leaders gathered in Laos last week that the U.S. is concerned about China's activities in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims vir-

tually in its entirety.

In their talks yesterday, Chinh and Li agreed to deepen exchange and cooperation in diplomacy, national defense and public security, the state media report said.

They also witnessed the exchange of 10 cooperation agreements, including the establishment of a working group to develop cross-border economic cooperation zones and the implementation of QR-code, cross-border payment services.

The railway agreements covered a technical plan and feasibility studies to improve train connectivity between Vietnam and China.

On trade, Chinh asked for greater access for a range of products including tropical fruits, meat products, farm-raised spiny lobster and plant-based traditional medicines.

Li said that China stands ready to resolve trade issues and work with Vietnam on quarantine and customs procedures, according to the Vietnamese report. MDT/AP

ECONOMY

# Finance minister Lan says there is room for more stimulus but offers no plan

**T**HE Chinese government is looking at additional ways to boost the economy, Finance Minister Lan Fo'an said this weekend, but he stopped short of unveiling a major new stimulus plan that analysts and stock investors were hoping for.

Lan's remarks left the door open for such a plan in the future but he did not divulge what is under consideration.

"There are other policy tools that are being discussed that are still in the pipeline," he said at a news conference, adding that



In this image made from a video, China's Finance Minister Lan Fo'an speaks during a new briefing in Beijing

there is "ample room" in the government budget to raise debt and increase the deficit.

China's economy has remained sluggish despite the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions

at the end of 2022. Companies have cut back on hiring and wages and a prolonged downturn in the property market has deflated consumer confidence, curbing

spending.

The government has raised pensions and offered subsidies to people who trade in old cars or appliances for new ones, but such steps have failed to jolt economic growth.

Chinese stock markets rallied after the central bank and other government agencies announced steps at the end of September to revive the property sector and prop up financial markets.

But the rally has since cooled amid concern about whether the moves were enough to generate a sustainab-

le economic recovery. Investors were hoping Lan would announce a stimulus package of up to 2 trillion yuan (\$280 million).

The finance minister instead said the government would roll out a package of incremental measures to speed up implementation of its existing policies.

They include increasing scholarships for students, issuing bonds to help major banks replenish their capital, and providing more support to highly indebted local governments, some of which have had to curtail public services. MDT/AP



PAKISTAN

# Gunmen kill 21 miners in the southwest ahead of an Asian security summit

ABDUL SATTAR, QUETTA

**G**UNMEN killed 21 miners and wounded six others in Pakistan's southwest, a police official said this weekend, drawing condemnation from authorities as a search was launched for the assailants.

The latest attack in the restive Balochistan province came days ahead of a major security summit being hosted in the capital.

The gunmen stormed the accommodation at a coal mine in Duki district late Thursday night, rounded up the men and opened fire, police official Hamayun Khan Nasir said. He said the attackers also fired rockets, lobbed grenades at the mine and damaged machinery before fleeing.

Most of the casualties were from Pashto-speaking areas of Balochistan. Three of the dead and four of the wounded were Afghan. Angered over the violence, local shop owners pulled their shutters down to observe a daylong strike against the killings.

One of the critically wounded miners died later at a hospital, increasing the death toll to 21, Nasir said. However, he said the families of the killed miners for hours refused to bury them and staged a sit-in at the site of the attack in Duki.

Under Islamic tradition, burials take place as quickly as possible after death, but the demonstrators before ending the protest insisted they would not hold funerals until authorities arrest the killers, Nasir said.

No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack,



but suspicion is likely to fall on the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, which targets civilians and security forces.

The province is home to several separatist groups who want independence. They accuse the federal government in Islamabad of unfairly exploiting oil and mineral-rich Balochistan at the expense of locals.

Foreign investors, many from China, have pumped billions of dollars in investment into Balochistan, but the separatists say few of the profits from development reach the local area.

The BLA launched multiple attacks in August that killed more than 50. They included 23 people, mostly from eastern Punjab province, who were fatally shot after being taken from buses, vehicles and trucks in Musakhail district in Balochis-

tan. Authorities responded by killing 21 insurgents in the province.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep sorrow over the coal mine killings and vowed to eliminate terrorism.

Sarfraz Bugti, the chief minister in Balochistan, said "terrorists have once again targeted poor laborers." He said the attackers were cruel and had an agenda to destabilize Pakistan. "The killing of these innocent laborers will be avenged," he said in a statement.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said those who killed the laborers would not be able to escape the grip of the law.

Early last week, the BLA said it carried out an attack on Chinese nationals outside Pakistan's biggest airport. The bodies of the two slain Chinese engineers

were sent to Beijing by a plane Thursday night, according to security officials.

There are thousands of Chinese working in the country, most of them involved in Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.

Two suspects linked to a 2021 bombing that killed nine Chinese nationals and four Pakistanis working on a dam in the northwest were killed Friday in eastern Pakistan, counterterrorism police said.

Police said the suspects died when armed men attacked a van transporting the suspects to a prison in Sahiwal, a district in Punjab province. No officer was harmed in the shootout, the statement from counterterrorism police said.

Last week Sunday's airport explosion, which the BLA said

was the work of a suicide bomber, has raised questions about the ability of Pakistani forces to protect high-profile events or foreigners in the country.

Islamabad is hosting a summit next week of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a grouping founded by China and Russia to counter Western alliances.

Authorities have increased security in the capital by deploying troops and banning rallies.

However, Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf, the opposition party of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan, said day it would stage a peaceful protest in Islamabad on Oct. 15 when the two-day SCO summit begins in the city. Khan's party wants his release. It also says Khan has been denied his right to meet with his legal team.

The Interior Ministry this week alerted provinces to take additional measures as separatists and the Pakistani Taliban could attack public places and government installations.

The killings of the miners came hours after Saudi and Pakistani businessmen signed 27 investment agreements valued at \$2 billion across various sectors, including mining in Balochistan.

Saudi Arabia also wants to invest in Reko Diq, a district in Balochistan famed for its mineral wealth, including gold and copper.

Balochistan's Gwadar Port is an anchor in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of Beijing's Belt and Road initiative. The BLA has asked the Chinese workers to leave the province to avoid attacks. **MDT/AP**

INDIA

# Politician known for his close ties with Bollywood killed in Mumbai

**A** senior politician in India's financial capital, Mumbai, who was also known for his close ties with Bollywood has been shot dead weeks before a key state election.

Baba Siddique, 66, was shot multiple times outside his son's office in Mumbai yesterday [Macau time], police said in a statement. He later succumbed to his

wounds at the city's Lilavati Hospital.

Siddique was associated with the Indian National Congress party for decades but had recently joined a regional party that rules Maharashtra state. He was also close to several Bollywood superstars and was known for throwing lavish parties.

Maharashtra's deputy

chief minister Ajit Pawar, who is from the same political party as Siddique, said he was shocked by the killing.

"The incident will be thoroughly investigated and strict action will be taken against the attackers. The mastermind behind the attack will also be traced," Pawar said in a statement.

News agency Press Trust of India reported that two suspected attackers had been arrested, and police were searching for another.

Broadcaster NDTV said the two suspects claimed they were part of a crime gang that has carried out multiple killings in the past.

Elections in Maharashtra state are expected to be held in November. **MDT/AP**



A police agent sits below a large hoarding showing a portrait in red turban of Baba Siddique



NOBEL OF PEACE | NIHON HIDANKYO

# A-bomb survivors use prize to share anti-nuke message with the young

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**T**HE recipient of this year's Nobel Peace Prize is a fast-dwindling group of atomic bomb survivors who are facing down the shrinking time they have left to convey the firsthand horror they witnessed 79 years ago.

Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese organization of survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was awarded for its decades-long activism against nuclear weapons. The survivors, known as hibakusha, see the prize and the international attention as their last chance to get their message out to younger generations.

Terumi Tanaka, 91 and who survived the Nagasaki bombing at age 13, said he hopes the award will help raise public awareness about the need to join hands to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. He said he feels the hibakusha's desperate wish is not fully understood even as their population rapidly declines.

"Now we face the crisis in which nuclear weapons may be actually used and they are not even going away, we need to properly communicate with younger people and teach them about atomic weapons and the work we have been doing ... so everyone can think what he or she can do," Tanaka told a news conference in Tokyo with several other survivors.

"We've led the activism because we were atomic bombing victims, but I must say all of you are the future hibakusha candidates. So you should fully understand what it means to be hibakusha" and work together, Tanaka said.

The honor rewards members' grassroots efforts to keep telling their stories — even though that involved recollecting horrendous ordeals during and after the bombings, and facing discrimination and worries about their health from the lasting radiation impact — for the sole purpose of never again let that happen.

Now, with their average age at 85.6, the hibakusha are increasingly frustrated that their fear of a growing nuclear threat and push to eliminate nuclear weapons are not fully understood



Terumi Tanaka, a Nihon Hidankyo executive speaks during a press conference in Tokyo, Saturday

by younger generations.

The number of prefectural hibakusha groups decreased from 47 to 36, according to Hidankyo. And the Japanese government, under the U.S. nuclear umbrella for protection, has refused to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, at a party leaders' debate in Tokyo Friday, said that while Japan needs to keep conveying the tragedy of nuclear weapons to the world, in reality it is crucial to balance nuclear deterrence and the need to achieve a nuclear-free world.

Tanaka rejected Ishiba's justification for nuclear weapons for deterrence and his idea of sharing the U.S. nuclear capability in the region as "out of the question." Tanaka, who briefly talked with Ishiba who called to congratulate him Saturday, said he hoped to meet the prime minister for fuller talks.

Another Hidankyo executive, Jiro Hamasumi, who survived the Hiroshima bombing inside of his mother's womb, said the group has faced declining hibakusha membership and financial difficulty, and is seeking to involve younger supporters and second-generation hibakusha to keep their activity going.

But there is hope, and a youth movement seems to be starting, the Nobel committee noted.

Three high school students accompanied Mimaki at the city hall, stood by him as the prize winner was announced, and promised to keep their activism alive.

"I had goose bumps when I heard the announcement," said a beaming Wakana Tsukuda. "I have felt discouraged by negative views about nuclear disarmament, but the Nobel Peace Prize made me renew my commitment to work toward abolishing nuclear weapons."

Another high school student, Natsuki Kai, said, "I will keep up my effort so we can believe that nuclear disarmament is not a dream but a reality."

In Nagasaki, a group of students celebrated Hidankyo's win. Yuka Ohara, 17, thanked the survivors' yearslong effort despite the difficulty. Ohara said she heard her grandparents, who survived the Nagasaki bombing, repeatedly tell her the importance of peace in daily life. "I want to learn more as I continue my activism."

In April, a group of people set up a network, Japan Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, connecting younger generations around the country to work with survivors and pursue their effort.

Efforts to document the survivors' stories and voices have grown in recent years around Japan, including in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo. In some places, young volunteers are working with hibakusha to succeed their personal story telling when they are gone.

The first U.S. atomic bombing killed 140,000 people in the city of Hiroshima. A second atomic attack on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, killed another 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, bringing an end to its nearly half-century aggression in Asia.

Hidankyo was formed 11 years later in 1956. There was a growing anti-nuclear movement in Japan in response to U.S. hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific that led to a series of radiation exposures by Japanese boats, adding to demands for government support for health problems.

As of March, 106,823 survivors — 6,824 fewer than a year ago, and nearly one-quarter of the total in the 1980s — were certified as eligible for government medical support, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. Many others, including those who say they were victims of the radioactive "black rain" that fell outside the initially designated areas of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are still without support. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1994 ISRAELIS AND ARAFAT SHARE PEACE PRIZE



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and two Israelis, the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, have been named the winners of this year's Nobel peace prize.

The announcement has been marred by the resignation of one of the Nobel peace prize committee members.

Kare Kristiansen objected to the honour being given to the PLO leader, whom he described as "too tainted by violence, terror and torture".

The award has also been overshadowed tonight by the bungled rescue of a kidnapped Israeli soldier from his militant Palestinian captors, which ended in the deaths of the captive, three of his kidnapers and one of his would-be rescuers.

It is the first time the prize has been divided among more than two named individuals and only the third time in the prize's 93-year history that a committee member has broken ranks publicly and quit.

The peace prize follows the historic handshake between the PLO leader and the Israeli Prime Minister on the White House lawn on 13 September 1993, marking an agreement to give the Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The Nobel Committee statement said the award was to honour a political act "one that called for great courage on both sides...By concluding the Oslo accords Arafat, Peres and Rabin have made substantial contributions to a historic process through which peace and cooperation can replace war and hate".

But the failed rescue attempt of Corporal Nahshon Waxman has served to highlight how frail the peace is in the Middle East.

The Israelis had accused Hamas of holding Corporal Waxman in PLO-administered territory. But after the PLO leader ordered a search and detained some 150 suspects, the soldier was eventually found in an Israeli-occupied area of the West Bank.

The kidnapers were demanding the release of their leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and 200 Hamas extremists being held in Israeli jails. Otherwise, they said, they would kill Corporal Waxman.

Mr Rabin refused to negotiate and - an hour before the captors' deadline expired - Mr Rabin ordered the rescue attempt. [...]

Middle East experts were surprised at the inclusion of Mr Peres in the award. [...]

Today's was the second Nobel peace prize awarded to peacemakers in the Middle East, the first being the 1978 joint award to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The award was controversial and generated a great deal of criticism.

Adrian Hamilton of The Observer called it a "peace of opportunism rather than one of principle".

David Horowitz of the Financial Times said it was a decision based on "hopes of peace rather than peace itself".

Events since 1994 have tended to prove them right.

Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated in November 1995 by a right-wing Jewish extremist opposed to the peace process.

Yasser Arafat died in 2004.

Sheikh Yassin was released in 1997. He was killed in an Israeli missile strike on 22 March 2004.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> <b>Mar. 21-Apr. 19</b> Generate a lucrative harvest together. It's easier to discuss money over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio. Find clever and profitable solutions.	 <b>TAURUS</b> <b>Apr. 20-May. 20</b> Discuss possibilities. Collaboration flourishes with open communication, with Mercury in Scorpio over about three weeks. Articulate dreams and potential. Strategize for shared success.
 <b>GEMINI</b> <b>May. 21-Jun. 21</b> Prioritize advancing your work and health for about three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio. Collaborate with doctors, coaches and supporters. Set goals and push.	 <b>CANCER</b> <b>Jun. 22-Jul. 22</b> Speculate on ideas for fun and romance, with Mercury in Scorpio for about three weeks. Express your feelings and creativity. Share your heart.
 <b>LEO</b> <b>Jul. 23-Aug. 22</b> Collaboration flowers. Enjoy family connections. Talk about dreamy home improvements. Upgrade your spaces over three weeks, with Scorpio Mercury. Discuss domestic possibilities and potential.	 <b>VIRGO</b> <b>Aug. 23-Sep. 22</b> With Mercury in Scorpio for three weeks, you're especially clever and creative. Make powerful connections. Craft your message and share it far and wide.
 <b>LIBRA</b> <b>Sep. 23-Oct. 22</b> Network and connect. Generate income through communication, with Mercury in Scorpio for three weeks. Discover new resources in conversation. Discuss what you can provide.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> <b>Oct. 23-Nov. 21</b> Reinvent and share your vision. Talk about the dream you're working for, with Mercury in your sign. Define your own mark or brand.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> <b>Nov. 22-Dec. 21</b> Enjoy private productivity. Indulge your creativity. Complete old projects to clear space for new over three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio. Invent interesting possibilities.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> <b>Dec. 22-Jan. 19</b> Make valuable connections. Grow your social networks with participation. For about three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio, team projects buzz with communication. Harmonize.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> <b>Jan. 20-Feb. 18</b> Talk about your dream situation. Update your bio. Make important professional decisions over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio. Market and promote.	 <b>PISCES</b> <b>Feb. 19-Mar. 20</b> Consider options. Over about three weeks, with Mercury in Scorpio, travel and discovery beckons. Plan your next adventure. Consult with experts. Discuss your research.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

  

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	22	cloudy
Changchun	13	22	rain
Chengdu	17	25	cloudy
Chongqing	17	24	cloudy
Fuzhou	23	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	21	32	cloudy
Guiyang	14	19	showers
Haikou	25	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	20	28	rain
Harbin	10	20	rain
Hefei	16	25	cloudy
Nanjing	20	26	overcast
Shanghai	21	27	rain
Taipei	23	29	cloudy
Wuhan	17	26	fine
Hong Kong	29	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	1	4	rain
Frankfurt	6	12	showers
Paris	12	20	cloudy
London	10	14	showers
New York	7	18	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Compare; 6- Neat; 10- Frozen waffle brand; 14- Senseless; 15- Praiseful poems; 16- Strip of wood; 17- Scout unit; 18- Blue hue; 19- Portable shelter; 20- Conger; 21- In the lead; 23- Bluegrass instrument; 24- Koran religion; 26- State Farm rival; 27- Lighted by the sun; 29- Scope; 31- Capital city of Western Samoa; 32- Magna \_\_\_; 33- Where the buoys are; 36- In spite of; 40- U-turn from WSW; 41- Harvests; 42- Actress Heche; 43- Gets ready; 44- Lengthier; 46- Physician to Marcus Aurelius; 48- Capital of Yemen; 49- Put a new price on; 50- Take as one's own; 52- Ignited; 55- Plugging away; 56- Olive genus; 57- Objects of devotion; 59- Tartan skirt; 60- Crowd noise; 61- Craze; 62- Kitchen add-on?; 63- Sun. speeches; 64- Gardener's tool;

DOWN 1- Low-cal; 2- Memo starter; 3- Chief constituent of china clay; 4- Music producer Brian; 5- Kathmandu native; 6- Tribal symbol; 7- Brain wave; 8- Six feet under; 9- Fashion designer's monogram; 10- Executor's concern; 11- First American to orbit Earth; 12- Marijuana; 13- Director Preminger; 22- Magician's prop; 23- Started; 25- Cabbage salad; 26- Architectural pier; 27- Having a sound mind; 28- Atop; 29- Rough files; 30- Liberal pursuits; 32- Bloke; 33- Songfest; 34- Feminine suffix; 35- Teen follower; 37- Like some vbs.; 38- High schooler; 39- Comedian Carvey; 43- Missouri feeder; 44- Child seat?; 45- Punctual; 46- Understand?; 47- Leaning; 48- Flies high; 49- Autumn tool; 50- Shaving cream additive; 51- Honeybunch; 53- Would \_\_\_ to you?; 54- Peter the Great, e.g.; 56- Surgery sites, briefly; 58- Family man;

**Friday's solution**

H	O	L	D	O	A	S	T	S	C	O	M	O
O	N	O	R	S	E	E	R	S	A	P	I	N
S	E	R	E	T	R	A	I	S	M	E	N	U
S	I	N	S	T	E	I	N	G	E	N	T	S
S	I	R	E	T	S	A	R					
S	A	T	I	N	B	E	A	R	A	B	L	E
I	N	A	N	E	A	L	E	R	T	P	R	E
R	I	N	G	A	P	I	N	G	P	I	T	T
E	L	Y	B	U	N	N	Y	T	A	B	O	O
D	E	A	D	E	N	E	D	E	D	G	L	E
E	T	T	A	D	A	L	I	T				
A	L	O	H	A	D	E	A	F	M	U	T	E
N	E	R	O	D	I	E	T	S	O	F	A	N
N	E	E	R	O	R	A	N	T	N	O	M	E
E	T	O	N	O	K	R	A	S	Y	S	E	R

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



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Nam Long (Taipa Village)  
2 bed 1 bath  
59.92 m<sup>2</sup> / 645 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD3,650,000



Jade Garden (Taipa)  
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TENNIS

# Sinner beats Djokovic to take Shanghai Masters title, Sabalenka reigns in Wuhan

**T**OP-ranked Jannik Sinner beat Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the Shanghai Masters yesterday, giving the Italian his tour-leading seventh title of the season.

The Italian bettered the 24-time Grand Slam champion 7-6 (4), 6-3 in an hour and 37 minutes and never faced a break point in the outdoor hard-court tournament. Sinner hit eight aces and 22 winners to four and 12, respectively, for Djokovic.

Djokovic was aiming for his 100th tour-level title and his fifth in Shanghai. Only Jimmy Connors with 109 titles and Roger Federer with 103 have hit the century mark in men's tennis.

Sinner became the first man to win more than six titles in a season since Andy Murray won nine in 2016. He also pulled level in his career record against Djokovic, now at four wins apiece.

"It was a very tough match, obviously, playing against Novak is one of the toughest challenges



we have," Sinner said. "It's tough to tell you a secret about (Djokovic) because he doesn't have any weaknesses. You have to try and use the small chances that he gives you, but there are not many during the match. He is a legend

of our sport, he's very tough to play against, so I am very happy."

The victory for Sinner came after he lost the final of the China Open in Beijing to Carlos Alcaraz and amid an ongoing doping case.

The 23-year-old Sinner is now

8-2 against top-5 opponents on hard courts this year, with both losses coming against Alcaraz, who watched yesterday's final from the stands.

The 37-year-old Djokovic was playing in China for this first time

in five years.

He also lost to Sinner in the Australian Open semifinals. His only title for the year so far was at the Paris Olympics, where he beat Alcaraz for the gold medal.

"I think I played some really good tennis, but congratulations to Jannik," Djokovic said. "He was just too good today. Too strong, too fast, well done. You're having an incredible year. You deserve this."

## SABALENKA WINS WUHAN OPEN

Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka won the Wuhan Open for a third year in a row after beating Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 in the final.

It was a rematch of the Australian Open final, which Sabalenka won. She then added the U.S. Open title last month. She is now 4-0 against Zheng.

The Belarussian player took her record at the tournament to 17-0. She has won four tournaments this year. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**THE DEEPER LIES GO, THE MORE EXPOSED LAI'S TRUE COLORS ARE**

Compared with his overtly separatist speech at his "inauguration" on May 20, the "pro-peace" and economy-focused address of Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te at a ceremony in Taipei [last week] may, at first glance, sound less provocative. But to assume he is on the path to mend himself would be similar to doubting the ability of a chameleon to change colors to suit the circumstances.

There is no doubt the secessionist-minded politician has realized the importance of hiding his true colors and not being seen as a rabid troublemaker. It's possible he has compared notes with his backers in Washington who might have advised him to keep a low profile at this sensitive juncture and avoid giving Beijing any reason to launch strong response measures, and thus pass the ball to Beijing's court.

Both Lai and his US patrons are well aware of the rising tensions across the Taiwan Strait since the secessionist Democratic Progressive Party led by Lai's predecessor Tsai Ing-wen refused to recognize the 1992 Consensus — that both sides of the Strait belong to one China. It is obvious that Tsai and Lai mustered the courage to do so because of the collusion between the DPP and the United States.

So despite the great lengths Lai has gone to try and ride his DPP authorities out of the storm of their own making, it is evident that he used his Thursday speech to hide his separatist agenda under the garb of promoting economic development and "democracy".

But he let the cat out of the bag when he said that the fundamental reason for advancing the development of the island to a higher level is to ensure the island enjoys equal status in its dialogue with the Chinese mainland and enhance its capability to maintain status quo across the Strait — which essentially means preventing the reunification of Taiwan with the motherland.

The measures to improve the livelihoods of Taiwan residents are only a means to consolidate the DPP authorities' power so they can advance their "Taiwan independence" agenda.

The truth is that because of the DPP's separatist activities, the island's international space is shrinking continuously, as evidenced from the island's ever shortening list of "foreign state guests" at key ceremonies over the past decades.

It is a historical and legally binding fact that there is only one China, and Taiwan is an integral part of China. In fact, the one-China principle, recognized by the United Nations, is the bedrock of China's diplomatic relations with other countries.

Interestingly, Lai called on Beijing to use its influence to help end the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Middle East crisis when he should be asking Washington to do so, because it is the latter that is prolonging the conflicts.

In doing so, Lai and his party are trying to claim the moral high ground by calling for peace in Eurasia and the Middle East, and portraying themselves as peace lovers, victims of "bullying" and defenders of "rules-based order", but they forget that the world has long seen through their tricks.

The DPP authorities are pushing Taiwan residents toward misery by pursuing their "Taiwan independence" agenda. [Abridged]

**WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRYING TO SMUGGLE 29 TURTLES ACROSS A VERMONT LAKE INTO CANADA BY KAYAK**

**THE BUZZ**

A woman from China pleaded guilty over the weekend to attempting to smuggle 29 eastern box turtles, a protected species, across a Vermont lake into Canada by kayak.

Wan Yee Ng, 41, was arrested on the morning of June 28 at an Airbnb in Canaan as she was about to get into an inflatable kayak with a duffle bag on Lake Wallace, according to a Border Patrol agents affidavit filed in federal court.

Agents had been notified by Royal Canadian Mounted Police that two other people, including a man who was believed to be her husband, had

started to paddle an inflatable watercraft from the Canadian side of the lake toward the United States, according to court documents.

The agents searched her heavy duffle bag and found 29 live eastern box turtles individually wrapped in socks, the affidavit states. Eastern box turtles are known to be sold on the Chinese black market for \$1,000 each, the affidavit stated.

Her cellphone was seized, and a search by law enforcement found communications showing that she tried to smuggle the turtles into Canada so that they could eventually be sold for a profit in Hong Kong.



Artur Beterbiev

**BOXING**

**BETERBIEV BEATS BIVOL TO BECOME UNDISPUTED LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**

**A**RTUR Beterbiev beat Dmitry Bivol by a points decision to become the first undisputed light heavyweight champion in the division for more than 20 years.

The 39-year-old Beterbiev (21-0, 20 KOs) had won all 20 of his previous fights by knockout but was forced the distance by his fellow Russian rival in Riyadh yesterday in a fight that had several swings of momentum and was almost too close to call.

"I feel not bad," Beterbiev said to DAZN after the fight. "I wanted to box with more quality. I'll be better one day. It was a little bit uncomfortable."

Throughout the bout there was never much between the two dominant fighters of the division as Bivol (23-1, 12 KOs) used his speed to land early blows, while Beterbiev warmed to the task in the middle rounds before a late flurry in the final rounds appeared to clinch it.

"During the fight, we always try to change something," Beterbiev said. "I didn't deliver more punches, I don't know. Today I am lucky too."

In the end, two judges scored it 115-113, 116-

112 for Beterbiev, with a third judge scoring it as a 114-114 draw.

"I am a warrior. I have no explanation because it looks like excuses. I am a warrior," Bivol told DAZN.

"Congratulations to Artur. He is powerful, very powerful. I have a bruise from my hand, he hit it and it was so hard." It was the first undisputed title fight in the division since 2002 and was the first time all four major world titles — WBO, WBA, IBF and WBC — have been up for grabs in the four-belt era.

They now all belong to Beterbiev.

He came into the bout with the WBC, WBO and IBF light heavyweight titles after defeating Callum Smith by knockout in January, needing just Bivol's WBA belt — which Bivol won with a shock upset points decision over Canelo Alvarez in May 2022 — to complete the set.

Both Russians showed patience in the opening rounds before Bivol went to work with his left jab and right hook as his speed began to trouble Beterbiev.

The tide began to turn through the fifth and si-

xth rounds as Beterbiev began landing his right hook, forcing Bivol onto the defensive.

The bout spurred to life in the seventh as both fighters attacked. A big left by Bivol forced Beterbiev against the ropes, but Beterbiev responded with a heavy jab and short left hook as both fighters ended the round showing damage.

Beterbiev had only been beyond round seven five times in his 20 previous fights, but Bivol was going to make this go the distance here as he was again the more assertive through rounds eight and nine.

But Beterbiev came back again in the 10th with a strong round to leave the fight in the balance and continued the assault into the 11th as a right hook to Bivol's body was followed by an uppercut in a rare clear round win.

The final round saw Beterbiev up the tempo even more as he sought to extend his incredible record of winning every bout inside the distance. Bivol held on to deny his compatriot a knockout blow but hadn't done quite enough to clinch it.

MDT/AP



**United States**

Volunteers have brought solar power to remote disaster zones in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene caused extensive damage. Solar microgrids and generators are helping communities without electricity power critical medical equipment, as power restoration efforts continue in the storm-ravaged mountains.



**Cuban**

animal activists yesterday [Macau time] report a surge in abandoned pets as migration from the island rises. Economic hardships have forced many Cubans to leave behind their pets, leading to a sharp increase in the number of stray animals. Shelters and activists struggle to cope with the growing numbers.



**Italy**

Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares faced questions from Italian lawmakers regarding the automaker's declining production in Italy. Amid calls for increased government support for the electric vehicle sector, Tavares highlighted challenges posed by EU regulations and rising energy costs impacting competitiveness.



**Nigeria**

Thousands of Nigerians displaced by Boko Haram have been resettled under a government program, but many fear returning to unsafe areas. Analysts warn that the forced resettlement of internally displaced people risks exposing them to further violence, as militants remain active in affected regions.