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FERRY OPERATORS SERVING MACAU ROUTES ARE CONSIDERING MULTI-STOP TRIPS TO REBUILD PASSENGER VOLUMES TOWARD PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

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LRT HELD AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH SUPPLIERS TO ADDRESS RECENT FAILURES

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ELEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE NATIONAL ZOO SENT ITS THREE PANDAS BACK TO CHINA, A NEW PAIR ARRIVED IN THE US

P7



XINHUA



China's top political advisor Wang Huning urged private sector entrepreneurs to pioneer high-quality development and promote common prosperity at a seminar marking 30 years of the Guangcai Program. According to China Daily yesterday, the initiative aims to unite the private sector, particularly in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.

Japan Campaigning began yesterday for Japan's parliamentary election with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba seeking a mandate after the governing Liberal Democratic Party's political funds scandal. With more than 1,300 candidates running for 465 seats, the election on October 27 will determine the ruling coalition's future dominance.

AP PHOTO



North Korea symbolically demolished yesterday parts of inter-Korean roads, further escalating tensions with the South. This follows claims by North Korea of drone surveillance from South Korea. South Korea condemned the action as a violation of previous agreements between the two countries.

AP PHOTO



Iran's Revolutionary Guard leaders gathered for a general's funeral in Tehran after he was killed alongside Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah. This marks a major show of solidarity following Tehran's missile strike on Israel, as Gaza conflict casualties continue to rise amid Israeli airstrikes.

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JUSTICE REVAMP

Changes at the top prompt major justice revamp. 15 new judges and 8 new prosecutors have been appointed, and it is not over yet P3



TOP ASIAN BASKETBALL RETURNS TO TOWN P2

CE MEETS CE-ELECT TO TALK TRANSITION

P2

'EASL CLASH OF CHAMPIONS' RETURNS TO MACAU

RENATO MARQUES

THE East Asia Super League (EASL) 2024-2025 season will return to Macau, featuring four games at Macau's Studio City Event Center, the EASL and Melco Resorts & Entertainment (Melco) announced yesterday.

This return is part of a renewed partnership between EASL and Melco.

The "EASL Clash of Champions" event will take place for the second consecutive year in Macau, with organizers noting their mission to diversify the tourism market and further enhance Macau's development as a "City of Sports."

"EASL is excited to extend our long history and partnership with Melco Resorts & Entertainment and to bring five of Asia's best basketball teams to Macau," said EASL Chief Executive Officer, Henry Kerins.

"EASL games provide unique sports entertainment experiences, and Studio City creates the perfect stage. This is going to be an amazing atmosphere for our Macau and Greater Bay Area basketball fans."

Representing Melco, Senior Vice President and Property General Manager of Studio City, Kevin Benning, said, "Melco is committed to delivering diversi-



fied world-class entertainment options to our guests," adding, "We are thrilled to be working with EASL to entertain sports fans with premier Asian basketball at Studio City as we bring more sports and entertainment to our beautiful city."

Studio City Event Center will act as the home venue for defending Macau champions, the Macau Black Bears, who enter

EASL's 2024-2025 season as one of the league's two expansion teams.

Following a strong performance last season, the Macau team has signed several new talents in the offseason, including 7-foot-6 center Samuel Deguara, and is bringing back star player Jennings Leung, a versatile 6-foot-1 guard currently in his second stint with the team.

The first match in Macau will take place Oct. 30, when the Ryukyu Golden Kings take on the Macau Black Bears in one of two standalone regular season games.

On Nov. 6, the Busan KCC Egis (South Korea) will travel to Macau.

The third match of the four-match series is scheduled for Dec. 11, when the Bears face the

PLEAGUE+ (Taiwan) winners, the New Taipei Kings, at 9 p.m.

Another match on the same day at 7 p.m. will feature PLEAGUE+ runners-up, the Taoyuan Pauian Pilots, taking on the Korean Basketball League runners-up, the Suwon KT Sonic Boom.

Tickets for all four games are now available at Studio City's website (www.studiocity-macau.com).

Ho Iat Seng meets Sam Hou Fai to talk transition

RENATO MARQUES

THE Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, has met with CE-elect Sam Hou Fai to discuss matters related to the transition between the current and the upcoming government of Macau.

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the two leaders agreed to maintain close communication and cooperation to ensure a smooth transition between governments into a new administration.

During the meeting at government headquarters,



Ho congratulated Sam for winning the sixth-term CE election, which was held Sunday.

After the completion of the necessary procedures, Ho will immediately submit a report to the central government and request the appointment of Sam as the sixth-term CE of

Macau.

The CE said he would issue an instruction in the coming days, requesting all public departments to support and cooperate with Sam, ensuring that all resources and facilities are made available to him to form a new governmental team.

Concurrently, Ho said the current-term government will continue advancing its established policy plans to "consolidate the solid foundation that the MSAR has achieved, maintain the ongoing pace of stable and harmonious development in society, and maintain a safe and harmonious social environment for the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland and the new-term government's coming into office."

In response, Sam expressed his gratitude for the transition preparations. Sam added that he and his team would stay in close contact with the office of the CE in the coming days, to ensure a concerted effort towards the smooth and orderly transition of leadership within the government.

ONE STEP CLOSER: TUI CONFIRMS CE ELECTION RESULTS

THE Court of Final Instance (TUI) has officially confirmed the electoral results that will see Sam Hou Fai become Macau's next Chief Executive (CE), according to a statement from the office of the TUI president.

During the designated statutory period, no judicial appeals were lodged regarding the election results.

The results were validated by Judge Choi Mou Pan, currently the most senior judge of the Court of Second Instance due to the absence of TUI judges. This occurred due to Sam stepping down as TUI pre-

sident, along with the impediment of Judge Song Man Lei, who has chaired the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Committee, and the unavailability of the third judge, José Maria Dias Azedo, who was out of Macau on official duty.

The proclamation of the election results will be officially published Monday, Oct. 21, in the government's official gazette.

Before Sam can assume office as the new CE, the central government authorities must formally recognize his election and appoint him for the post. **RM**

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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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

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15 judges, 8 prosecutors sworn in as Macau overhauls judiciary

RENATO MARQUES
& VICTORIA CHAN

FIFTEEN judges were yesterday sworn into Macau's Court of Second Instance (TSI) and Court of First Instance (TJB) as part of an ongoing judicial overhaul.

The Independent Committee for the Nomination of Judges, which conducted the swearing-in ceremony, had made the recommendation to the Chief Executive (CE) on whom to appoint.

Among the new judges sworn in for posts of definitive appointment were Kan Cheng Ha and Seng Ioi Man, who were appointed to the TSI, and Leong Sio Kun, Chiang I Man, and Chan Chi Weng, who were appointed as presidents of the collective of judges of TJB.

Additionally, 10 judges were appointed in commissioning to the TJB, including Wang Huating, Liang Tsai Ni, Lou In Leng, Wu Un Tat, Lok Ka Long, Tang Chon In Vitor, Chan Cheok Kei, Lam Sok



Cheng, Wong Weng Han, and Sio Wai Fong.

The ceremony was attended

by CE Ho Iat Seng, Independent Committee for the Nomination of Judges Chairman Lau Cheok Vá,

and other officials. The Acting President of the Court of Final Appeal, Song Man Lei, administered the

oath of office.

These appointments were made following an administrative order issued by the CE, which outlined the method for appointing intermediate court judges and the chairman of the collegial panel of the TJB. The order stipulates that a group of 10 judges of the TJB will be appointed for a commission term of three years, effective yesterday.

In a separate ceremony, eight new public prosecutors were also sworn in yesterday at the Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

The ceremony, held in the presence of the Public Prosecutor General, Ip Song Sang, and the CE, marked the formal appointment of the new public prosecutors.

The newly appointed prosecutors – Lei Lei, Leong Choi Man, Celine Ling, Chiang Pak Seng, Wong Heng Ut, Chou Sin Teng, Wong Fai, and Kong I Teng – have taken their oath and will begin their duties immediately.

Five of the new prosecutors completed their legal studies in Macau, while the other three were trained at universities in Portugal.

All the new public prosecutors have gained work experience in both the private legal sector and various government departments and government-owned entities, including the Personal Data Protection Bureau, MTR Company, and the University of Macau.

AD

6th ENCOUNTER IN MACAO Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries



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2024 10 OCT — 12 DEC

2024
10.25 — 10.27 / 11.01 — 11.03
2024 GEG Lusofonia Festival

2024 10.25 —
2025 02.09
Memories • Legacies • Mutations —
Annual Arts Exhibition between China
and the Portuguese-speaking Countries

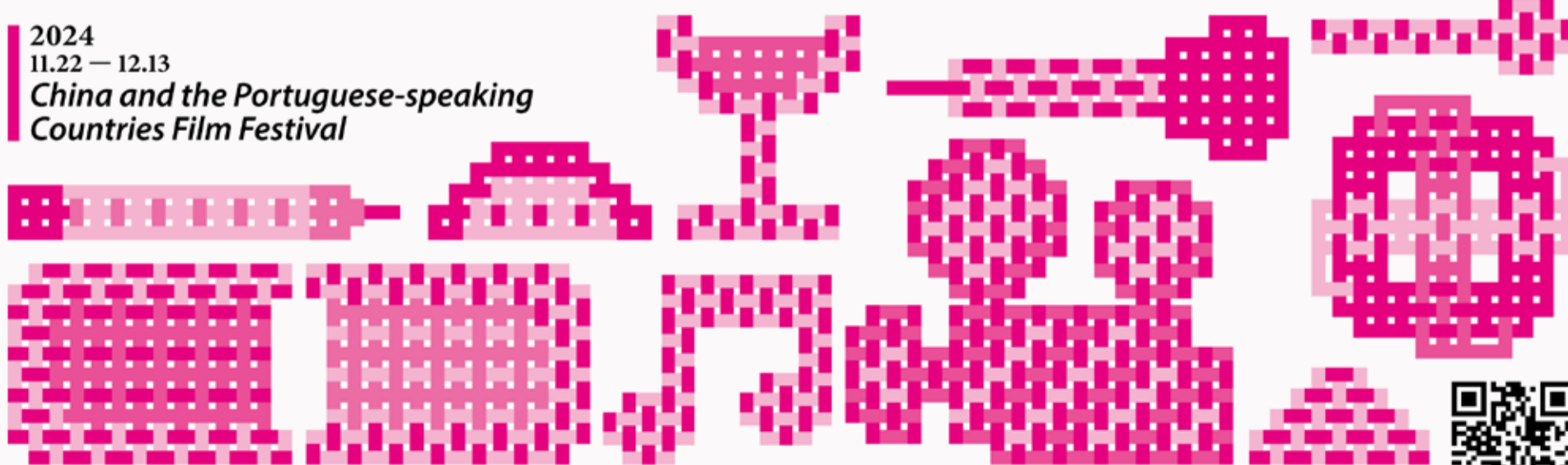
2024
10.25 — 11.03
Chinese and Portuguese
Picture Book Fair

2024
10.24,26 — 27,31 / 11.02 — 03
GEG Traditional Music and Dance
Performance in the Community

2024
11.15
Tito Paris Concert with the
Macao Chinese Orchestra

2024
11.23,30 / 12.07
Wine Tasting Workshop

2024
11.22 — 12.13
China and the Portuguese-speaking
Countries Film Festival



MACAU DIVERS CLAIM SILVER AT HOME TOURNAMENT

Macau divers Zhao Hang U and Wong Cho Yi secured silver on the final day of the Macau International Diving Invitational Sunday, finishing with 166.90 points after five rounds. Fellow Macau diver, Leong Ian I, also took silver in the men's 3-meter springboard at the Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau Greater Bay Area Future Stars Diving Competition. Despite minor mistakes, both Zhao and Leong expressed satisfaction with their performances. The local swimming association aims to leverage appearances by Olympic champions like Lin Yue to further promote water sports in Macau.

GBA VOCATIONAL SKILLS CONTEST SHOWCASES DIVERSE TALENTS

More than 100 workers from across the Greater Bay Area showcased their vocational skills at the 4th Greater Bay Area Vocational Skills Contest, held in Dongguan City, Guangdong, last weekend. Competitors from Macau, Hong Kong, and seven other cities prepared traditional Chinese noodles and used kitchen robot technology. Wu Hai Lin of Macau, named best competitor, thanked the Macau Workers' General Union for the opportunity to improve. Li Xiao Jun, also a winning contestant from Dongguan, said flower arrangement participants worked to showcase skills equal to counterparts from larger cities like Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The competition aimed to cultivate highly skilled talent through an exchange of skills between unions in Guangdong, Macau, and Hong Kong.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES GROW 0.8% IN SEPT.

A preliminary estimate of foreign exchange reserves at the end of last month amounted to MOP230.6 billion (USD28.81 billion), the Monetary Authority (AMCM) has announced. According to AMCM statistics, this figure represents a 0.8% increase from the revised value of MOP228.9 billion (USD28.50 billion) for the previous month (August 2024). Foreign exchange reserves at the end of September represented 11 times the currency in circulation or 91.2% of the pataca at the end of August. The AMCM also said the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 0.9 points month-on-month and 2.64 points year-on-year to 102.4 in September. This indicates a broader decline in the pataca's exchange rate against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.



FERRY OPERATORS MULL MULTI-STOP TRIPS TO BOOST MACAU ROUTES

VICTORIA CHAN

FERRY operators serving Macau routes are considering multi-stop trips to rebuild passenger volumes toward pre-pandemic levels, Susana Wong, director of the Marine and Water Bureau said.

According to Wong, the daily volume of passengers carried by ferries serving Macau currently ranges from 10,000 to 17,000, with the potential to reach up to 30,000 during holiday periods. However, the non-holiday daily volume on Hong Kong-Macau

routes is only 60-70% of 2019 levels.

The official acknowledged that the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in 2018 has also influenced market conditions for the ferry trade. Additionally, the recent commissioning of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, a cross-sea bridge, has impacted the volume on the Shenzhen-Macau ferry routes.

To address declining passenger numbers, ferry operators have been exploring various solutions. One option under

consideration is a multi-stop ferry service, where a ferry departing from Hong Kong might stop at the Hong Kong International Airport or other locations before reaching Macau. The commercial aspects, such as the cost-effectiveness of the ferry operation and how to attract more people, are within the ferry operators' considerations. The government will work with the operators to meet their needs.

In the first eight months of the year, Macau received 2.8 million visitor arrivals by sea,

representing a 61.7% recovery from the same period in 2019. The Hong Kong market, the biggest contributor to the overall maritime-traveler cohort to Macau, accounted for nearly 1.19 million journeys, which was down 6% year-on-year and only 51.2% of the comparable period in 2019. The number of Hong Kong-originating visitors arriving at the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, however, reached just above 2.72 million, which was about 61% higher than the same period in 2019.

LRT meets suppliers, pledges to prevent future breakdowns

VICTORIA CHAN

THE Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation (MLM) held an emergency meeting with train and systems suppliers recently to address two failures on the Taipa Line in September and October.

The MLM has vowed to work with its train and systems supplier to prevent future breakdowns on the Taipa Line.

In a statement, MLM said it held an emergency meeting with the supplier following equipment malfunctions in September and October. The com-



pany requested the supplier identify the causes of the failures and propose measures to avoid similar issues going forward.

"MLM values the safety and well-being of passengers with utmost priority," the statement read.

"Since the failures af-

ected LRT operations, MLM has required the train and systems supplier to identify and clarify the causes of the malfunction

and to propose improvement measures to avoid similar issues."

MLM also expressed gratitude to passengers for their "patience and tolerance" during the disruptions and noted that the on-site service team was able to quickly restore service after ensuring system safety.

The company said its service team will continue to optimize operations and provide passengers with a high-quality ride experience.

The recent breakdowns marked the latest challenges for Macau's light rail system, which has faced periodic service disruptions since launching in 2019. MLM has said that resolving the issues is a top priority for the company.

WYNN has a long and proud history of reaching new heights in food and beverage achievement and quality and, in 2018, became the first to introduce a guest chef series in the city. In continuing this tradition, Wynn is once again raising the bar of Macao's growing reputation in gastronomy by gathering Asia's most influential chefs and award-winning mixologists together at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace with the latest edition of the "Wynn Guest Chef Dining Series" from October to December and the "Wynn Guest Mixologist Pop-Up" series on October 18 and 19.

For the "Wynn Guest Chef Dining Series," renowned culinary masters from around the region will present nine gastronomic events that celebrate the diversity of international cuisines. For three consecutive months from October to December, Wynn will host a series of once-in-a-lifetime collaborative dinner events where Wynn resident chefs Executive Chef Tam Kwok Fung of Chef Tam's Seasons, Executive Chef Chan Tak Kwong of Wing Lei, and Executive Chef Hironori Maeda of Mizumi at Wynn Palace, will partner with award-winning chefs from Shanghai, Singapore, Taiwan, and Japan. Wynn has also invited four renowned Chinese chefs from Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Shanghai to showcase their impressive culinary talents.

FOUR CHINESE CHEFS REVEAL THEIR CULINARY TALENTS AT WYNN MACAU

In October, Founder and Chef Jerry Tian from AVANT in Shenzhen will take the reins of Lakeside Trattoria for two nights to present his famed avant-garde cuisine. Wynn will also welcome Chef Jacky Shaw, co-founder of CICADA in Guangzhou to Golden Flower in October, who will showcase the very best of New Hunan cuisine through a variety of innovative flavor combinations and new culinary techniques. Then in November, Executive Chef Fang Yi of NanLu in Shanghai will present the elegance of Zhejiang cuisine to guests at Golden Flower. Finally in December, Chef Sun Xiaoyang of The Hut in Shanghai will craft creative New Huaiyang cuisine to stimulate and refine diners' palates at the Golden Flower.

WYNN HOSTS FIVE COLLABORATIVE DINNER EVENTS FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

The first of five collaborative dinner events begins in October, starring Chef Tam Kwok Fung and Chef Zor Tan of BORN at the Michelin-starred Chef Tam's Seasons. In early November, Chef Chan Tak Kwong will partner with Chef Sun Kim, chef-owner of Meta at the Michelin two-star Wing Lei. Then in late November, Chef Tam will host his second collaborative dinner event, this time in collaboration with Chef

Chef Chan Tak Kwong and Chef Sun Kim



Chef Tam Kwok Fung and Chef Zor Tan



Wynn's Taste Sensations Blending Cocktails and Culinary Delights with a Touch of Class

Kai Ho of Taïrroir in Taipei to honor the flavors of Cantonese and Taiwanese cuisines. For three unforgettable nights in December, Chef Hironori Maeda will collaborate with celebrity sushi master Chef Takayoshi Watanabe to present sensational sushi at Mizumi. For the fifth and final collaborative dinner event, Chef Tak of Wing Lei will return once again to partner with Executive Chef Xu Wenbin of XizuoHokkien Huay Kuan in Shanghai to present a harmonious blend of Cantonese and Fujian flavors.

WYNN PRESENTS "THE CRAZE FOR THE HOTTEST BARTENDING STARS"

As part of the on-going "Wynn Guest Mixologist Pop-up" series, Wynn Palace is thrilled to present "The Craze for the Hottest Bartending Stars," bringing top bartending talents from mainland China to Macao. The exciting mixology event will take place on October

18 and 19 and feature the hottest, up-and-coming mixologists from Shanghai's DENTREE, Pony Up, 12-Bar BLUES, and Chengdu's Papuwa. For the first time, cocktail enthusiasts will have the opportunity to savor innovative cocktails curated by four award-winning mixologists at SW Bar, Wing Lei Bar, and Palace Reserve Club – all top-tier locations within Wynn Palace.

GARY HU OF DENTREE TAKES TO THE STAGE AT SW BAR

Co-founded by Rémy Cointreau Group and Spirits Architects, DENTREE is China's first sustainability concept bar. It was selected by the DMBA Drink Award as one of the best new bars in Shanghai in 2023. General Manager Gary Hu will introduce the bar's groundbreaking sustainability concept and its signature cocktails to SW Bar at SW Steakhouse, offering guests a chance to experience an urban oasis through drinks which promises to

be an unforgettable evening for the clientele.

VIVIAN LIU OF PAPUWA SPICES UP WING LEI BAR

Papuwa, located in Chengdu, is celebrated for its inventive reinterpretation of classic cocktails that are infused with creativity. Co-founder Vivian Liu, recognized for her outstanding bartending skills, left a lasting impression by reaching the finals of the WORLD CLASS 2022 China competition. During her guest appearance at Wing Lei Bar, she will guide patrons on an exceptional palate-pleasing journey with her flavorful drinks.

PALACE RESERVE CLUB WELCOMES DRE YANG OF PONY UP AND YU AN OF 12-BAR BLUES

Cocktail masters Dre Yang of Pony Up and Yu An of 12-Bar BLUES join forces to showcase their signature drinks at the Palace Reserve Club. Dre, formerly the Head

Bartender at The Odd Couple which ranked 38th on the Asia's 50 Best Bars 2020 list, was recognized in the WORLD CLASS 2023 China Speed Round Champion, the esteemed cocktail competition that is known as the Oscars of the industry. Joining Dre is Yu An from 12-Bar BLUES, who earned a place among the top 15 for the DMBA Drink Award China Bartender of the Year (East China/Shanghai region) consecutively from 2021 to 2023. He also led his bar to receive nominations for the best cocktail menu in Shanghai and earned a place among the top five best bars in 2023.

Designed to inspire conversation and innovation through the culinary arts, the 'Wynn Guest Chef Dining Series' and 'Wynn Guest Mixologist Pop-Up' series aim to boost Macao's diversified development of 'tourism + gastronomy' elements and further enhance the city's status as a UNESCO-designated Creative City of Gastronomy.

Dre Yang



Vivian Liu



Gary Hu



Yu An



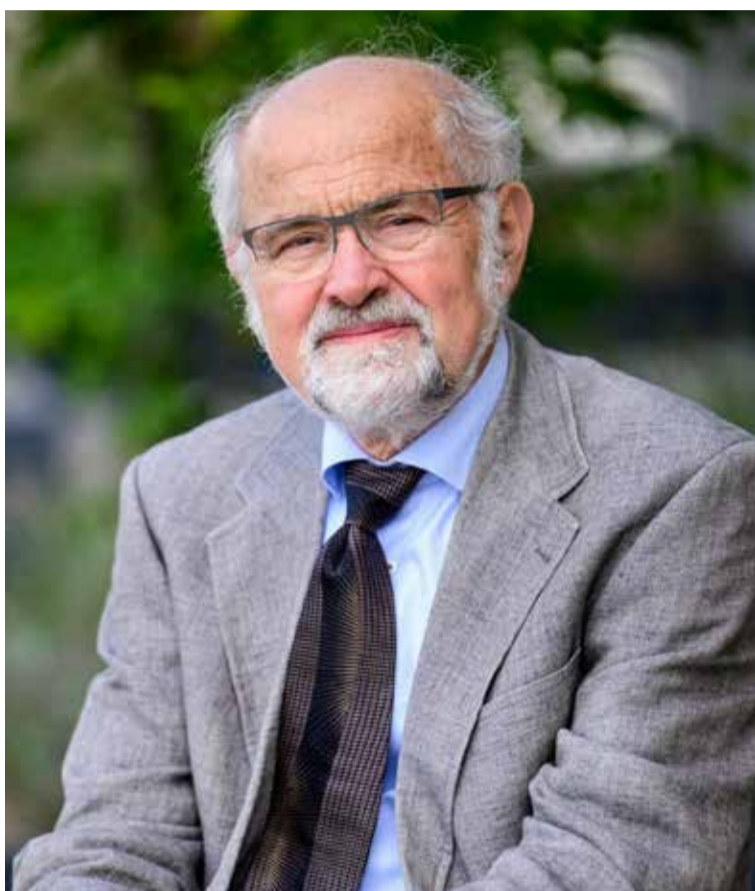
PHYSIOLOGY NOBEL PRIZE WINNER LECTURES AT MUST

GERMAN biophysicist and Nobel laureate specializing in the field of cell physiology, Professor Erwin Neher, is delivering a lecture today at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

Neher, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Bert Sakmann, in 1991, for their groundbreaking discoveries on the function of single ion channels in cells, will speak as part of MUST's master lecture series on brain signals.

In March 2016, MUST recognized Neher's contributions to biomedicine by awarding him with an honorary doctorate in science and inviting him to serve as a distinguished professor to jointly promote traditional Chinese medicine in Macau with the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research.

Under his leadership, the laboratory team has made several breakthroughs in multiple fields, especially in several areas such as clinical



research, ion channels, brain neuroscience, cancer research and inflammatory diseases.

The lecture will take place from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

at the lecture hall in building D. The event is open to the public, and those interested can reserve a place by contacting the MUST public desk. RM



Residence for the elderly opens, move-ins begin

THE government elderly residence facility officially opened yesterday, providing housing and amenities for over 600 senior citizens who have already chosen to move in this year.

The new residence features a clubhouse and other facilities that will be accessible to residents, allowing them to enjoy a higher quality of life. The move-in process is being carefully coordinated by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), which is assisting residents with signing the usage agreements and inspecting their new apartments.

During the first day of operations, over 40 qualified applicants signed their usage agreements and took possession of their new ho-

mes. The IAS is providing an 8-day fee exemption to assist residents with the transition.

For the approximately 300 seniors who have chosen to move in next year, the IAS will be in touch to schedule the signing of usage agreements in the coming months. The bureau emphasizes that no links will be included in reminder messages to be issued, cautioning residents to be wary of potential scams.

The facility represents a significant investment in the well-being of Macau's aging population. By providing comfortable, technology-enabled living spaces, the initiative aims to enhance the everyday lives of the city's senior citizens. VC

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PANDA DIPLOMACY

Pandas arrive in the US; next stop is the National Zoo

ASHRAF KHALIL AND
DIDI TANG, WASHINGTON

THE National Zoo's long dark panda drought is coming to an end.

Eleven months after the zoo sent its three wildly popular pandas — Mei Xiang, Tian Tian and their cub Xiao Qi Ji — back to China, a new pair of bears arrived in the United States yesterday. They will be transported from Dulles International Airport in suburban Virginia to the zoo.

A pair of three-year old giant pandas, named Bao Li and Qing Bao, have left a research facility in the southwestern Chinese city of Dujiangyan and will soon be flown to Washington, according to a statement by the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

"Food prepared for the trip includes corn bread, bamboo and carrots, as well as water and medicine," the statement said, adding that the partnership will "make new contributions in protecting global biodiversity and enhance the friendship of the people from the two countries."

Once the bears arrive in Washington, there will likely be an extended quarantine and acclimation period before they are introduced to the public. On Monday evening, the zoo's website posted an alert that the entire facility would be closed yesterday. The lead article on the site still said the pandas would be coming sometime before the end of the year.



In this image taken from video and released by China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration, female giant panda Qing Bao is prepared for transport from the Dujiangyan Base of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Sichuan

Bao Li (precious vigor) and Qing Bao (green treasure) arrive in Washington as part of a new 10-year agreement with Chinese authorities. The previous deal expired last year, leading to some concern among American panda-lovers that Beijing was gradually pulling its furry friendship ambassadors from American zoos amid rising diplomatic tensions.

Breeding pairs in zoos in Memphis and San Diego had already returned to China earlier and the four pandas in the Atlanta zoo left for China last week.

That anxiety turned to optimism last November when Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping publicly stated a desire to continue the panda exchange programs. This year, a new pair of bears has been delivered to the San Diego Zoo, while another pair has been promised to San Francisco.

In Washington, National Zoo officials remained conspicuously silent about negotiations for a new panda agreement, but they expressed optimism about striking a new deal and launched a multimillion-dollar renovation of its panda enclosure in anticipation. Then in late May, zoo director Brandie Smith teamed up with first lady Jill Biden to an-

nounce that Bao Li and Qing Bao would be arriving by the end of this year.

The Chinese announcement said the National Zoo had sent "three experienced keepers and veterinary experts" to China to assist the transport and accompany the bears.

Zoo officials on Monday declined to confirm the Chinese announcement. Zoo spokesperson Jennifer Zoon said in an email, "For the safety of animals and staff, we are not able to confirm any details at this time." But signs at the zoo and on its social media site have heralded the planned

return of the pandas and panda-themed merchandise still dominates the gift shops.

"The giant pandas are an iconic part of the Washington, D.C., story, both for locals and incoming travelers alike," said Elliott L. Ferguson, II, president and CEO of Destination DC. "The interest and excitement associated with their return directly benefits the entire city, bringing further interest and visitors to our hotels, restaurants and other attractions."

The exact terms of the deal are still unclear; under previous 10-year agreements the Chinese government receives \$1 million per year, per bear. Any cubs born in overseas zoos are typically returned to China before they reach age four.

Pandas have become one of the unofficial symbols of the nation's capital, dating back to 1972 when the first pair — Ling Ling and Hsing Hsing — were sent as a gift from Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai following President Richard Nixon's historic diplomatic visit to China. Later, a rolling series of 10-year cooperation agreements was struck.

Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington, credited the decades of cooperation with advancing research into panda preservation and breeding. During the lifespan of these agreements, giant pandas have been reclassified from an endangered species to merely vulnerable.

"The current round of cooperation will focus on prevention and treatment of major diseases, and protection of habitats and wild giant panda populations," Liu said in an email. "We hope the arrival of the pandas will inject fresh impetus into exchanges between China and the U.S., and help to stabilize the broader bilateral relationship as well." **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Zoo seeks answers after nine monkeys die in two days

HONG Kong's oldest zoo is seeking answers in a monkey medical mystery after nine animals died in two days, including three members of a critically endangered species.

Part of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens has been sealed off and disinfected, and experts have been called in to conduct necropsies and toxicological tests, Hong Kong leader John Lee said in his weekly press briefing yesterday.

Eight monkeys were found dead on Sunday, and another died Monday after displaying unusual beha-



A buff-cheeked gibbon swings in its cage at Hong Kong's Zoological and Botanical Gardens in Hong Kong, yesterday

avior. The deceased animals are a De Brazza's monkey, a common squirrel monkey, four white-faced sakis and

three cotton-top tamarins — a species listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Con-

servation of Nature.

"Whenever we have any news, if there's a new development, an annou-

ncement should be made as soon as possible, so that everyone can know about the facts," Lee said.

On Monday, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung held an urgent interdepartmental meeting about the deaths with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Department of Health. It said in a statement that another De Brazza's monkey's behavior and appetite were found to be unusual, requiring further observation.

All 80 other animals in

the gardens were in normal condition, it added.

In a statement last night, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department said the monkey's condition remained stable. The department was still awaiting test results and provided no clues about the possible cause of the deaths.

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens — the oldest park in the former British colony — fully opened to the public in 1871. It is a rare urban oasis in the downtown Central district of the financial hub, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997. **MDT/AP**

KING CHARLES III TO VISIT AUSTRALIA, SAMOA

A royal trip spanning a dozen time zones

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

KING Charles III, who is 75 and battling cancer, will travel halfway around the world to Samoa this month to take his seat as the head of the Commonwealth and highlight the existential threat that climate change poses for Pacific island nations.

He will also return to Australia, a country that played a key role in Charles' adolescence — giving him the chance to be an almost normal teenager during the six months he spent at Timbertop school outside Melbourne in the 1960s. The visit marks the first time since he assumed the throne that Charles will visit one of the 14 countries outside the United Kingdom where the monarch is head of state.

The tour, from Friday to Oct. 26, is a watershed moment for Charles, who is slowly returning to public duties after a hiatus following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey is seen as a reflection of his workaholic tendencies and his wish to put his stamp on the monarchy after waiting some seven decades to become king.

"He doesn't just want to be a sort of caretaker king, waiting in a sense for his own death and the accession of William," said Anna Whitelock, a professor of the history of the monarchy at City University, London, referring to Prince William. "He wants to be active in the world."

Charles' globetrotting itinerary comes as he works to shore up support for the monarchy at home and abroad two years after ascending the throne.

It's a challenge the king will face in Australia, a country with a strong anti-monarchy movement.

Charles and Queen Camilla arrive in Australia with a schedule that includes a visit to Parliament House in Canberra, the Australian War Memorial and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander memorial. The king will also meet with professors Georgina

AP FILE PHOTO



Charles and his wife Camilla (Nov. 2015)

Long and Richard Scolyer to learn about their work on melanoma, one of Australia's most common cancers, while the queen's program will include joining a discussion on domestic violence.

Charles first visited Australia as a 17-year-old, when he spent two terms at Timbertop, chopping wood, going on long hikes and meeting boys who welcomed him, unlike his classmates at Gordonstoun in Scotland. The future king returned to the U.K. a more confident, disciplined young man, according to his biographer, Jonathan Dimbleby.

"Part of this change was in the nature of adolescence, but some of it lay in the opportunity he had been given in Australia to find himself — free from Gordonstoun, away from his parents, away from the British press, away from the suffocating certainties of royal life," Dimbleby wrote in 1994.

Charles later toured the country as a young prince and visited again soon after he married his first wife, the late Princess Diana.

But this time he returns as king not only of the United Kingdom, but also of Australia. That's not an easy

thing to be.

Around 45% of Australians voted to ditch the monarchy in 1999, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Labour Party has long aimed to hold a second referendum on the issue. But those plans were put on hold after Australians overwhelmingly rejected a plan to give greater political rights to Indigenous people in a referendum held last year.

While many Australians still favor becoming a republic, it isn't central to the national debate these days, said Ian Kemish, a former Australian diplomat. People are more focused on the economy, the rising cost of living and the ascendance of China.

The king's visit helps to bolster ties between Australia and the U.K., which recently signed a tripartite security agreement with the United States. The pact, known as AUKUS, will equip the Australian navy with nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, while also increasing military cooperation and information sharing in other areas.

"In my view, we have bigger fish to fry here in Australia right now than the question of whether we

should continue as part of a constitutional monarchy or become a republic," Kemish said.

As important as Australia is to Charles, his lifelong passion is the environment, and climate change is at the top of the agenda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent nations, most of which have historic ties to the U.K.

Charles has built a reputation as an outspoken environmental campaigner, calling on world leaders to work together to curb the carbon emissions that cause global warming. He will attend the summit for the first time as head of the Commonwealth, a role first championed by his mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Island nations like Samoa are on the front lines of the climate emergency, with the United Nations saying they are already feeling the effects of rising sea levels, ocean acidification and more intense tropical storms.

Charles is a "genuine eco-warrior" who has earned the respect of people around the world for his stance on climate change, Whitelock said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1996 HANDGUNS TO BE BANNED IN THE UK



The British Government has announced plans to outlaw almost all handguns following the shocking massacre at Dunblane in Scotland.

On 13 March Thomas Hamilton walked into the gym at Dunblane primary school and killed 16 young children and their teacher. He also injured 13 other children and three teachers. Hamilton, a former scout master, then shot himself.

Today's announcement follows publication of Lord Cullen's inquiry into the massacre which concluded Hamilton's horrific attack could not have been predicted.

But it made 23 recommendations to tighten rules on gun ownership and monitor those who work with children.

The proposal to ban all handguns - except .22-caliber target pistols - would leave Britain with some of the toughest laws on private possession of guns.

Home Secretary Michael Howard told a packed House of Commons he would make sure the measures were passed as quickly as possible through parliament.

But the move has angered both those for and against private gun ownership.

The Snowdrop Campaign, set up by victims' families after Dunblane, wants to see a total ban on handguns and called the plan an "unacceptable compromise".

The opposition Labour Party welcomed the report and the government's swift reaction to it but urged ministers to bring about a complete ban.

Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw said politicians should have acted in a similar vein nine years ago after the Hungerford massacre.

Former Tory cabinet minister David Mellor also felt the proposals did not go far enough.

He asked: "Isn't it time to conclude that, literally and metaphorically, the game is up for handguns now?"

But gun club owners warned thousands of jobs would be in jeopardy if the proposal became law.

Speaking to the Daily Mirror newspaper, Ross Armstrong, owner of Medway Shooting Club in Kent said: "People are killed by drunk drivers but no-one demands a ban on cars. Further restrictions suit no-one."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Conservative Government's proposals became law in February 1997.

When Labour came to power three months later they brought in an amendment banning all handguns. This became law in November 1997. The Snowdrop Campaign was ended in the same year.

The Gun Control Network set up a few months after Dunblane as the UK's first gun control organisation continues to campaign for - among other things - a national gun register.

Three months after the Dunblane massacre in March 1996, there was a national firearms amnesty that saw nearly 23,000 firearms and 700,000 rounds of ammunition surrendered.

This was considerably less than the 48,000 weapons surrendered after the Hungerford killings nine years before.

In January 2003 the killing of teenagers Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare in Birmingham provoked another gun amnesty.

Nearly 43,000 firearms and more than a million rounds of ammunition were handed in to police stations across the UK.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
A long-term dream comes calling. Think things through. Consider the consequences of different options. Make decisions from your heart. Take a spiritual view.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Share support with friends. Contribute to your circle. What comes around goes around. Share your passions and dreams. Celebrate milestones together.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
A challenge requires discipline and vision. A dream could come true. Stick close to the basic structure. Experience pays. Collaborate with more talented players.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Studies and explorations benefit from organization and focus. Research a long-term goal. Follow an intuitive thread. Actions taken now have lasting value.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Opposites attract. Work together for shared profit. Discipline pays extra dividends. Coordinate your plan for maximum efficiency and ease.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Collaboration pays extra. You inspire each other for creative ideas that wouldn't otherwise spark. Walk and talk. Put promises in writing and schedule actions.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Prioritize your work and health. Disciplined efforts win. Practice your moves and build your game to new levels. Feed yourself well and rest deeply.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Creativity comes easily. Practice your favorite game to grow skills and raise results. Romance flowers naturally. Share a sweet connection with someone fun.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Household improvement projects provide lasting benefit with coordinated efforts. Follow instructions carefully. Get expert assistance if needed.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You're especially clever with words. Write and share your views. Gentle persuasion gets farther than force. Show respect. Try finesse, charm and motivation.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Tap into positive cash flow. Continue doing what's working. Self-discipline pays nicely. Keep the budget and reap the rewards. Lucrative possibilities are within reach.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Provide leadership. Turn personal objectives into agreement through listening for what's wanted and needed and addressing that persuasively.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

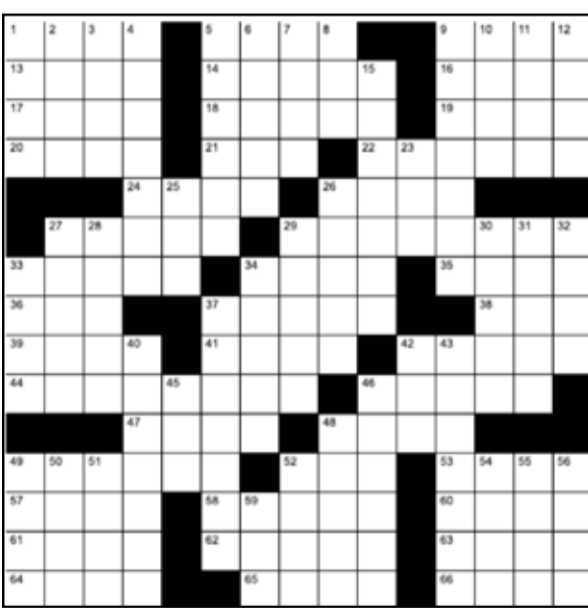
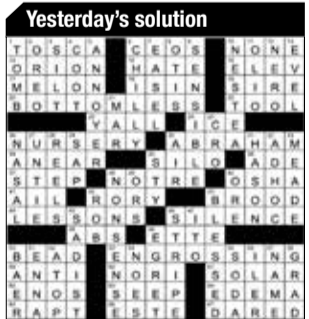
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	19	cloudy
Changchun	0	13	cloudy
Chengdu	15	23	rain
Chongqing	18	24	rain
Fuzhou	24	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	23	31	rain
Guiyang	14	21	rain
Haikou	24	29	rain
Hangzhou	19	25	cloudy
Harbin	-1	12	cloudy
Hefei	16	24	cloudy
Nanjing	17	25	cloudy
Shanghai	21	25	rain
Taipei	24	27	overcast
Wuhan	16	27	overcast
Hong Kong	27	29	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	1	7	rain
Frankfurt	11	19	overcast
Paris	17	24	overcast
London	14	20	rain
New York	6	16	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Mex. miss; 5- Perlman of "Cheers"; 9- Kind of prof; 13- Kit item; 14- Fret; 16- Winnie-the-___; 17- Charisma, atmosphere; 18- Singer Baker; 19- Whine and whimper; 20- Wild guess; 21- Born, in France; 22- Deodorant type; 24- Hardy boy; 26- Brainstorm; 27- Pago Pago locale; 29- Receive an academic degree; 33- Pie nut; 34- Sleep like ___; 35- Consider; 36- Acapulco gold; 37- Do penance; 38- ___ Lanka; 39- Zhivago's love; 41- Guns; 42- Church singers; 44- Underwear; 46- Ginger cookies; 47- "So be it"; 48- Jazz flutist Herbie; 49- Exceptional intellect; 52- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 53- Fence opening; 57- Nothing, in Nice; 58- "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie; 60- Thing; 61- Big times; 62- Muscle contraction; 63- Orderly; 64- Cried; 65- Jai ___; 66- Hair goops;

DOWN 1- RR stops; 2- Defeat decisively; 3- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 4- Montgomery's state; 5- "Hotel ___"; 6- Bee stuff; 7- Sandusky's lake; 8- Guggenheim display; 9- Clap; 10- Redding's genre; 11- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 12- At that point; 15- Running back's pursuit; 23- Multivolume ref; 25- Prefix with profit or fiction; 26- Golf clubs; 27- Caravansary; 28- Squirrel stash; 29- Covering for the hand; 30- Greek fabulist; 31- Garr and Hatcher; 32- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 33- Voting-pattern predictor; 34- Dined at home; 37- Takes into custody; 40- Contrary to; 42- MSNBC rival; 43- Form of capital punishment; 45- Flightless bird; 46- Italian sausage; 48- Brainy bunch; 49- Increased in size; 50- De Valera's land; 51- Type of tide; 52- Distribute cards; 54- Suit to ___; 55- Blue hue; 56- 911 respondents; 59- Org. that banned DDT;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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WHO AM I?

A SOUTH KOREAN ADOPTEE'S JOURNEY TO UNCOVER HER IDENTITY

KIM TONG-HYUNG, FOSTER KLUG & CLAIRE GALOFARO, MDT/AP

In a small room in Seoul, South Korea, Rebecca Kimmel sat in disbelief, staring at a baby photo she had just unearthed from her adoption file. The black-and-white image was of an infant, supposedly her, abandoned as a baby in Gwangju. But something deep inside told her this baby was not her.

The photo confirmed what she had long suspected: her adoption story, the one she had been told her entire life, was a lie. And so began Kimmel's intense search for her true identity, a quest that many South Korean adoptees have undertaken as they seek answers about their origins.

Thousands of South Korean adoptees have been caught in a web of falsified documents, switched identities, and fabricated stories, a result of a system that prioritized international adoption over the rights and identities of the children involved. For Kimmel, this search would bring answers, but not the ones she hoped for.

THE FOG OF CHILDHOOD

Kimmel, an artist, believes she is about 49, though she is unsure of her exact age. Her search for her roots has consumed much of her life, though it wasn't always this way. Growing up, Kimmel, like many adoptees, experienced what she calls "the fog"—a period of ignorance when she did not question her adoption story.

Her American adoptive parents were told that she was found abandoned on a street in Gwangju, with a birth date of August 4, 1975, listed on a slip of paper attached to her clothing. Her birth name was unclear due to the writing on her paperwork, and there was no information about her biological parents.

Adopted six months later, Kimmel grew up on the East Coast of the U.S., where each January 21st, her family celebrated her "Arrival Day"—the day she arrived from South Korea. Yet, something nagged at her: one photo from her South Korean documents didn't resemble the pictures of her as a baby in the U.S. When she asked her parents about it, they brushed it off, saying that babies change.

It wasn't until adulthood that Kimmel started questioning these discrepancies, as a sense of loneliness and a desire for identity began creeping in.

AP PHOTO



Rebecca Kimmel is seen reflected in her artwork depicting twins at her home

CLEARING THE FOG

In 2017, Kimmel's journey toward discovering her past began when she Googled "Korean adoptions" and came across a community of adoptees sharing their stories. She soon realized time was running out—her birth parents, if still alive, would likely be elderly.

In 2018, she shut down her art classes and traveled to South Korea, hoping to trace her roots. It was a trip filled with false starts and dead ends. The clinic where she was supposedly found was closed, and the orphanage records were nonexistent.

Kimmel's visit to Korea Social Service (KSS), the agency that facilitated her adoption, ended in frustration. The agency refused to let her photograph her file and denied her requests for more information. When she finally accessed her file, she found a photograph that only confirmed her worst fears: the child in the photo was not her.

A WEB OF DECEPTION

Kimmel's story is not unique. The Korean adoptee diaspora is thought to be the largest in the world, with thousands returning to South Korea in recent years to search for their birth families. Fewer than a fifth of those who seek help from the government succeed, due to the vague or falsified records used to make children appear abandoned, even when they had known parents.

Kimmel's file seemed to contain more questions than answers. She consulted a dysmorphologist, a specialist in identifying children through fa-

cial features. His analysis revealed that the baby in her adoption file was likely not the same person as Kimmel, further deepening the mystery.

This revelation led her to believe that KSS had switched her identity with another girl. She had seen similar cases during her travels, where adoptees were given the paperwork of other children at the last moment. Could this have happened to her too?

THE COMPLEXITIES OF ADOPTION RECORDS

In 2019, Kimmel returned to KSS and, after a tense back-and-forth with the agency's social worker, was allowed to search the agency's file room herself. There, she found what she believed to be her "real file." Yet the details didn't quite add up. The documents said the girl in the photos had leg deformities, while medical notes written just days before described a healthy child.

Once again, the dysmorphologist concluded that the photos in the file were not of the same child as Kimmel, leaving her more confused than ever. She wondered if the girl in the photos could be her sibling or perhaps even a twin.

By 2021, Kimmel was deeply invested in her quest, examining KSS's complex numerical system for logging adoption cases. She visited the agency again, accompanied by Associated Press reporters, only to be met with more roadblocks and evasions.

It was during this visit that a social worker made a shocking admission: switching children's identities was a common prac-

tice during the adoption rush of the 1970s and 1980s. If a child died, became sick, or was taken back by their birth family, another child would often be substituted, and Western adopters would accept the replacement without question.

This left Kimmel grappling with the possibility that she might have been one of those children.

THE TWINS' STORY

Amid the chaos of her search, Kimmel came across an old man named Park Jong-kyun, who was searching for his twin daughters, born between 1973 and 1976. Kimmel tracked Park down to Jeju Island and, though DNA testing ultimately revealed that she was not his daughter, she helped reunite him with his long-lost twins, Becca Webster and Dee Iraca, who had been adopted to the United States.

Webster and Iraca grew up with the understanding that they had been abandoned in front of a hospital in South Korea. Though they occasionally wondered about their birth parents, the thought of searching seemed overwhelming, and they had little to go on.

It wasn't until a DNA test connected them with Kimmel, and she informed them about their father's search, that they learned the truth. In 2022, the twins traveled to South Korea to meet their birth father, who had been searching for them for decades.

Though the language barrier and cultural differences were significant, they felt an immediate connection. For Park, the reunion was bittersweet, as he had lost decades of time with his daughters and had been unable to reunite with them sooner due to systemic failures within the adoption agencies.

A BITTERSWEET ENDING

For Kimmel, the reunion of the twins with their father provided some comfort, though it left her own search unresolved. She continues to help other adoptees through a website called Paper-slip, which focuses on the many errors and fabrications in adoption files.

Though she has yet to uncover the full truth of her own identity, Kimmel is determined not to give up. The system may have failed her and countless others, but the desire to know who she truly is still drives her.

"I'm almost 50 years old, and I still don't know when I was born, or what city I was born in," she says. "I don't know my birth parents. There's nothing that I know about myself as real."

Her journey, like that of so many adoptees, is a story still waiting for an ending. [Abridged]



Dee Iraca and Becca Webster, twins who were adopted out of South Korea to a family in the United States

FOOTBALL | ASIAN WORLD CUP

Only own-goals as Japan and Australia draw in qualifying match

JAPAN 1, AUSTRALIA 1

TWO own-goals saw the points shared yesterday as Japan and Australia drew 1-1 in Asian World Cup qualifying.

Shogo Taniguchi accidentally put Australia ahead just before the hour at Saitama Stadium, but Australia's Cameron Burgess returned the favor soon after to leave Japan top of Group C with 10 points from four games, five clear of the Socceroos in second.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, third and fourth, meet today [Macau time].

"I'm very proud of that performance – the calmness and composure that we showed in defense," said Australia midfielder Jackson Irvine. "It's a top foundation for us to move forward."

Japan, which has appeared at every World Cup since 1998, attacked from the beginning but struggled to create clear chances despite the majority of possession. Takefusa Kubo had the best



Australia's goalkeeper Joe Gauci jumps up in the air to make a save during the World Cup 2026 Group C qualifying soccer match between Australia and Japan at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, yesterday

chance, shooting into the side of the net from close range while Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma had a shot deflected wide.

It was more of the same in the second half but, just after former Liverpool attacker Takumi Mi-

namino headed wide, Australia stunned the hosts by taking the lead after 58 minutes with a goal that came out of nothing.

Lewis Miller crossed into the area from the right and Taniguchi tried to clear but only succeeded

in diverting the ball past the diving Zion Suzuki and into the net to the delight of the small number of visiting fans.

It was the first time that Japan had conceded in 10 qualifiers in the second and third rounds but

the team got the equalizer thanks to another own-goal after 76 minutes. Keito Nakamura dribbled down the left and his low cross hit Burgess and went into the net from close range.

Japan pressed in an attempt to get the winning goal and maintain its perfect record in qualification but had to settle for the point.

The top two from each of the three six-team groups in the third round qualify automatically for the World Cup while the third and fourth-place teams will advance to the next stage to compete for two more spots.

There was another top two meeting in Group B as South Korea beat Iraq 3-2 in Yongin to move three points clear.

Oh Se-hun gave the hosts the lead four minutes before the break only for Aymen Hussein to level for Iraq six minutes after with a spectacular bicycle kick. Oh Hyeong-gyu and Lee Jae-sung both struck late to secure the win and leave South Korea on course for an 11th successive World Cup appearance. **MDT/AP**

AD



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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

**SOLUTION TO EV DISPUTE
MUST BE FOUND TO AVOID
BREAKING BENEFICIAL
PARTNERSHIP**

Despite the eight rounds of intensive talks they have held since Sept 20 in Brussels, China and the European Union have yet to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the bloc's planned tariffs of up to 45 percent on Chinese-made electric vehicles. Major differences still remain.

The current situation serves neither side's interest, given that not resolving their differences on the issue could trigger a full-blown trade war between the two major trading partners, and cause irreparable damage to their mutually beneficial cooperation.

It is the EU that should bear the blame for the dispute and the lack of progress in finding a way to end it.

The EU started the troubles by adopting protectionist measures against the Chinese EV industry on the false grounds that China has provided generous subsidies to its EV producers. Yet it has so far failed to address the core concerns of enterprises both in China and the EU, as a Ministry of Commerce spokesman said.

Moreover, the 27-state bloc has reportedly been conducting separate negotiations over the price of Chinese-made EVs sold in the EU with selected companies, a move that could "undermine the foundation of the negotiations and mutual trust".

This is in contrast to the utmost sincerity and flexibility China has shown during the talks, as evidenced in the many "pragmatic and constructive" solutions the country has proposed to address the EU's concerns.

China has always valued its trade partnership with the EU. The country has reportedly proposed a minimum price of 30,000 euros (\$32,950) for imported EVs made in China to be sold in the EU. But this practical proposal was rejected by Brussels. Beijing has therefore been seeking to negotiate an alternative to tariffs that would involve some form of "flexible pricing commitment", according to reports.

The success of China's green industries including its EV industry has been built on technical innovation, fair market competition and the country's complete industry and supply chains. It has nothing to do with so-called government subsidies, as the EU has wrongfully presumed.

Moreover, Chinese-made EVs now account for only about 8 percent of new sales of EVs in the EU, posing no substantial threat to the development of local EV industry.

The confrontational approach the EU has adopted targeting Chinese-made EVs and other industries — Brussels is also probing Chinese "subsidies" for solar panels and wind turbines — seems more like an effort by the China hawks in some of the EU member states to toe the "de-risking from China" line of the United States, rather than a serious move to address the problems that many European automakers face such as high costs and lack of innovation.

In the face of the EU's increasing crackdown on Chinese high-tech industries, Beijing has vowed to protect the legitimate interests of Chinese enterprises. After the bloc voted to impose tariffs on Chinese-made EVs, the Ministry of Commerce announced that preliminary findings of an investigation had determined that the dumping of brandy by the EU threatens to cause "substantial damage" to China's own brandy sector. The escalation of tensions does not bode well for the development of stable and healthy China-EU economic relations.

The EU should exercise "strategic autonomy" in its economic ties with China, rather than being led astray by Washington, so as to prevent a "lose-lose", tit-for-tat trade war from happening. [Abridged]

HOW THE TINY CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF ANGUILLA HAS
TURNED THE AI BOOM INTO A DIGITAL GOLD MINE

THE
BUZZ

The artificial intelligence boom has benefited chatbot makers, computer scientists and Nvidia investors. It's also providing an unusual windfall for Anguilla, a tiny island in the Caribbean.

ChatGPT's debut nearly two years ago heralded the dawn of the AI age and kicked off a digital gold rush as companies scrambled to stake their own claims by acquiring websites that end in .ai.

That's where Anguilla comes in. The British territory was allotted control of the .ai internet address in the 1990s. It was one of hundreds of obscure top-level domains assigned to individual countries and territories based on their names. While the domains are supposed to indicate

a website has a link to a particular region or language, it's not always a requirement.

Google uses google.ai to showcase its artificial intelligence services while Elon Musk uses x.ai as the homepage for his Grok AI chatbot. Startups like AI search engine Perplexity have also snapped up .ai web addresses, redirecting users from the .com version.

Anguilla's earnings from web domain registration fees quadrupled last year to \$32 million, fueled by the surging interest in AI.

Full story on macaudailytimes.com.mo/buzz



AP PHOTO

A PASTRY BROUGHT TO
MEXICO BY BRITISH
MINERS IS STILL POPULAR
AFTER 200 YEARS

INDIA GRANT,
REAL DEL MONTE

ISABEL Arriaga Lozano carefully fills a small pastry with a savory mix of meat, potatoes and chili pepper. She is crafting a "paste" (pronounced PAH-stay), a beloved Mexican snack with a rich history.

Originating in the mining town of Real del Monte, in the Mexican central state of Hidalgo, the "paste" was introduced by British miners in the 1820s and has since become a local culinary tradition. Each year, food enthusiasts converge on Real del Monte to celebrate the International Paste Festival, honoring its delicious heritage.

Pastes are popular across Mexico, with fillings ranging from spicy Mexican mole to sweeter concoctions like pineapple or blueberry with cheese.

And although many are unaware of their surprising origin, a graveyard at the top of a cobbled hill holds the clue: around 700 graves sit covered in moss and lichen with distinctly English names. These are the graves of the hundreds of miners who traveled to Mexico in 1824 to work in Real del Monte, extracting silver, copper, zinc,

gold and mercury.

The miners came from Cornwall, a region on the southwest of England which had a similar strong mining community in the 19th century. They brought with them this iconic snack, known in England as a "Cornish pasty."

Cornish pasties date from the 13th century, when they were the food of nobility and the upper crust. By the 19th century, they became popular with working class Cornish families. A simple shortcrust pastry case was filled with cheap cuts of meat alongside potatoes, rutabaga and onion. The pastry was then crimped at the side, sealing the ingredients and giving the eater something to hold onto.

The crimped side would serve as a sort of handle, meaning that the miners could hold onto their lunch without getting the rest of the pastry dirtied with mud and grime from working in the mines.

Arriaga said she has made pastes for 30 years. She married into a paste-making family and took over the business when her husband passed away. Pastes, she said, have become a crucial part of life in the "magical town" of Real del Monte. "I think around 50% of us here make

a living from this," she said, highlighting a very special ingredient that goes into every snack. "It's, above all, the love we put into every paste that makes it a good product."

She said pastes have persisted thanks to the "mexicanization" of the ingredients. Compared to Cornish pasties, she said, "in Mexico (...) we always look for that spicy flavor ... we add pepper, we add parsley."

Pastes are such an iconic snack in Real del Monte that they have their own museum.

"The paste arrived in the year 1824, with the English miners from Cornwall who came to Real del Monte to start working in the mines," said Epifanio Garcés Torres, director of the town's Pasty Museum. "The first Englishwoman to bake (one) here in Real del Monte was Mary Jenkins in 1824."

Visitors at this year's paste festival tried an array of treats. Where pastes in the U.K. have adopted fillings such as "full English breakfast," "steak and ale" or "lamb and mint," the Mexican influence on the pastry here is clear: Frijoles (beans); spiced mole sauce or Mexican style tuna — with the obligatory chili pepper — are on the menu. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

India-Canada A diplomatic row that has strained bilateral relations for over a year has boiled over as the countries expelled each other's diplomats over the killing of a Sikh activist in Canada. The diplomatic standoff will make it difficult for both countries to move forward with a once-promising partnership.



AP PHOTO

Albania confirmed yesterday that only Italy is allowed to operate migrant asylum centers in its territory, rejecting similar requests from other European Union countries. The agreement, part of a five-year deal, includes processing asylum applications for migrants rescued in international waters by Italian authorities.



AP PHOTO

United States The Biden administration announced \$750 million in funding for WolfSpeed, a North Carolina-based company producing silicon carbide chips. This investment aims to boost U.S. chip manufacturing, create 2,000 jobs, and enhance the country's competitiveness in electric vehicle and artificial intelligence technologies.



AP PHOTO

Mexico Despite FIFA sanctions, homophobic chants persist in Mexican soccer matches, including Tuesday's U.S.-Mexico friendly in Guadalajara. The Mexican soccer federation's attempts to eradicate the chant have been largely unsuccessful, raising concerns ahead of the 2026 World Cup, which Mexico will co-host.