



THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL KICKED OFF AT TEATRO CAPITOL YESTERDAY, RUNNING FROM DEC. 3 TO DEC.

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SAM HOU FAI PLEDGES INTEGRITY AND A BROAD VISION IN LEADERSHIP

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BEIJING BANS HIGH-TECH MATERIAL EXPORTS TO US IN RESPONSE TO CHIP SANCTIONS

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China has supported 1.18 million families with disabled members by installing barrier-free home facilities by November 2024. Over 1.24 million disabled children received rehabilitation services from 2021–2023. Marking International Day of Disabled Persons, China highlighted 12,463 rehabilitation centers with 360,000 trained staff.



Indonesia and Australia are finalizing a prisoner transfer for five Australians serving life sentences for drug smuggling. Discussions include sovereignty assurances and maintaining prisoner status. Australia hopes for resolution by December 2024. The Bali Nine group's past cases strained diplomatic ties.



Malaysia Severe floods from monsoon rains killed over 30 people and displaced tens of thousands in Malaysia and southern Thailand. Damages total \$224 million, with 91,000 evacuees in Malaysia and 34,000 in Thailand. Authorities brace for another monsoon surge expected on Sunday.



New Zealand Three climbers from the U.S. and Canada are missing after an ascent of Aoraki (Mount Cook). Search efforts are paused due to poor weather, expected to improve tomorrow. The mountain's treacherous terrain has claimed over 240 lives since the 20th century.

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CITIZENS' PARK

Canidrome's long-awaited revamp into a 'Citizens' Sports Park' set to start in 2025: Rosário

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CULTURE

COUNCIL PLEDGES TO ESTABLISH ROBUST FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

NADIA SHAW

THE Cultural Heritage Council convened its sixth plenary meeting of the year yesterday, chaired by Deland Leong, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The meeting focused on critical issues related to the preservation of Macau's cultural heritage, a vital aspect of the region's identity.

The agenda included discussions on the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage" and the "1st Proposed Group for Classification of Macau Movable Assets."

Council members discussed the importance of safeguarding Macau's unique cultural legacy.

Leong emphasized the necessity for a robust framework to protect intangible cultural heritage, aligning with the "Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Law" and "Intangible Cultural Heritage Management Guidelines."

Leong proposed adding new items to the intangible heritage list that reflect significant community values.

This initiative aims to enhance public awareness and appreciation



of Macau's diverse cultural landscape.

"Through this assessment process, we hope to engage more citizens in understanding and valuing our cultural assets," Leong said.

Plans were also announced for an evaluation procedure to classify movable assets that illustrate Macau's historical and social evolution.

The proposed selection includes a variety of artifacts such as archaeological items, jade, ceramics, and rare manuscripts.

These items not only hold historical significance but also serve as educational tools about Macau's heritage.

The public consultation period has opened and will run until Jan. 3.

During this time, residents will be able to voice their opinions on which items should be formally recognized as part of Macau's cultural heritage.

"We want to ensure transparency and inclusivity in this process," Leong said.

In addition to the movable property assessment, Leong announced that a separate consultation

will also be held for 12 new items proposed for inclusion in Macau's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

These include traditional practices such as dragon dancing, lion dancing, and culinary arts like almond cookie making.

"These traditions are vital to our identity as a community," she said.

The meeting also highlighted support for Santa Rosa de Lima School, which has requested assistance for repairs to its historically significant building.

Leong confirmed that specific budget details would be finalized after further consultations.

"The roof of the building was leaking, causing damage to the walls and balcony pillars," said Leong. After consulting committee members, the situation will be reviewed before tendering and confirming the specific budget amount.

The meeting was attended by key representatives from various government sectors, including Wong Sai Peng from the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and Chan Keng Hei from the Legal Affairs Bureau

SPORTS

Macau International Regatta to set sail in January

VICTORIA CHAN

THE 2025 MGM Macao International Regatta will bring global sailing talent to Macau's waters next month.

Featuring a championship-level competition, the event is expected to draw about 270 athletes from 22 countries and regions to compete across three major competitions.

Scheduled from Jan. 8 to Jan. 12, the international sailing event will showcase the World Match Racing Tour - Macao Match Cup, the Lotus Cup (IRC), and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cup (IRC).

Recognized by World Sailing as a championship-level competition, the

regatta marks Macau's first major international sports event of 2025.

Hosted by the Sports Bureau, MGM, and Ursa Major Sailing Event Management, the competition will take place in waters near the Macao Science Center and Hac Sa Beach.

12 teams will compete in the World Match Racing Tour, with additional teams participating in the other two cup events.

Internationally certified arbitrators and judges from World Sailing will oversee the races, ensuring professional standards.

Beyond the competitive events, organizers have planned supplementary activities including a fleet



parade, Family Fun Day, and photography competition to engage the public and promote maritime sports.

These community-focused elements aim to position the regatta as a cultural celebration, rather than a mere sporting

event. "Macau has always been a hub for the intersection of Eastern and Western cultures and trade, boasting a rich maritime heritage and unique cultural legacy," said Ma Man Wai, chairman of Ursa Major Sailing Event

Management.

He emphasized the event's broader objectives, noting the international sailing competition aims to showcase Macau's maritime culture while supporting the city's economic diversification strategy.

Sports Bureau president Luis Gomes echoed these sentiments, highlighting the regatta's potential to advance Macau's maritime sports and tourism sectors.

"We aim to leverage this collaborative effort to amplify the synergistic effects of this sporting spectacle," Gomes said, explaining the event provides local sailing teams an opportunity to compete and learn from top-tier international competitors.

The World Match Racing Tour, established in 2000, brings elite sailors to compete for the annual World Champion title.

Kenneth Feng, president of MGM China Holdings Limited, emphasized the event's significance, stating it will demonstrate Macau's capability to host world-class sporting events and support the city's ambition to become a "City of Sports."

By blending competitive sailing, community engagement, and cultural celebration, the 2025 MGM Macao International Regatta aims to position the city as a rising force in the world of maritime sports and tourism.

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general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



PUBLIC WORKS

Canidrome revamp only starts 2025

RENATO MARQUES

THE transformation of the former Yat Yuen Canidrome into the so-called “citizens’ sports park” will begin next year, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works,

Raimundo do Rosário, said during a Q&A session with the lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

According to the Secretary and members of his team, the previously announced project will begin in 2025, with planning being completed

during the first quarter (Q1) of next year, followed by the public tender for the construction in Q2.

The project, initially unveiled over one year ago, has suffered significant unexplained delays.

In March this year, the Se-

cretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, had told the AL the sports park construction was to begin in Q2 of this year.

However, according to the information update, it is appears the project is at least 18 months behind.

In March, Ao Ieong responded to lawmakers Leong Sun Iok and Ma Io Fong about the development of the “City of Sports and Shows” and the status of the new sports facilities.

The Secretary had said the Sports Park project was being analyzed and construction was expected to start by the

end of June 2024, but this did not happen.

According to the project presentation in July last year, the track and field and swimming pool will be preserved, while other facilities will be upgraded and integrated with new buildings.

The plans include a children’s library and other amenities.

The revamp presentation was first presented five years after the greyhound racing facility closed.

Rosário said the project will be developed in two phases, with the design plan for the first phase to be completed in Q1 before the public tender for construction is issued.

He also said during the construction’s first phase, facilities currently in use (swimming pool, football field, and running track, among others) will be unaffected and will remain open to the public.

Lam Wai Hou, the director of the Public Works Bureau, said the first phase mostly involves the demolition of the former greyhound pavilions and other related facilities and preparations for the start of the construction of the underground car park.

The second phase includes the stadium revamp and construction of the car park and will require all facilities to cease operations during the construction phase.

The debate on this topic came after lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng called on the government to provide details and an update on the project’s status, because it had not moved forward in the timeframe initially announced.

AL PLENARY

André Cheong: F&B establishments gaining from simplified licensing processes

RENATO MARQUES

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, has claimed food and beverage establishments (F&B) are already benefiting from the simplified system for licensing applications and for the hiring of non-resident workers (TNR).

Cheong was responding to lawmaker Wang Sai Man on the second day of Q&A between the lawmakers and government officials at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Wang called on the go-

vernment to accelerate the process.

According to Cheong, on average, “it takes 75 working days (including renovation and decoration works) for F&B establishments to get a license, while according to government requirements, it only takes an average of 27 working days.

The lawmaker said the difference is as much as 48 days, which means there is a lot of room to improve processing time.

The same lawmaker also noted that while applying for the import

RENATO MARQUES



of TNR, the companies find that the “quotas are only authorized once the official restaurant license has been issued.”

This causes a significant delay as the estab-

lishment begins operations.

The delay can extend for four to six months, during which time companies need to pay for rent, having a significant

impact on their cashflow right from the start.

Cheong said that simplification of procedures is in force.

However, Cheong admitted that, on average, it takes about 77 days to get a license for this type of establishment, remarking that this is a significant improvement on the old system, and that processing time has been approximately halved.

Wang called for the reinstatement of part of the old licensing system that would allow shops to open on a limited-ti-

me trial basis, while waiting for the final licensing.

The Secretary said that system was stopped because it would imply that establishments would be able to open without the necessary fire safety assessments and other inspections, which could put public safety at risk.

A member of Cheong’s team said that for this year alone, the Labour Affairs Bureau has authorized some 1,134 quotas for TNRs for F&B establishments, noting also that of those, 128 were first-time new quotas.

DSAL HOSTING TARGETED JOB FAIR WITH 154 VACANCIES

To assist unemployed residents to meet sector demands, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) will host three job matching sessions mid-December with 154 job vacancies available. Applications will be accepted from 9 a.m. Dec. 4 until noon Dec. 11. The hotel industry session is scheduled Dec. 12, while the pharmaceutical and catering sectors will be featured Dec. 13. Candidates are encouraged to register online due to limited availability.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING CASE REPORTED

The Health Bureau confirmed a case of carbon monoxide poisoning involving a 10-year-old girl in the Kuan Ieng Building on Dec. 1. The girl lost consciousness after using a gas water heater in her bathroom. Family members discovered her unresponsive around 7:30 p.m. and rushed her to Kiang Wu Hospital, where she received hyperbaric oxygen therapy and is now stable. Preliminary investigations revealed the gas water heater lacked an exhaust pipe and was installed in a poorly ventilated area. Health authorities emphasize the importance of proper installation and ventilation to prevent such incidents.

CE: PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IS MACAU'S 'IRON WALL'

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison celebrated its service to the SAR for the last 25 years yesterday. In a speech marking a quarter century since PLA was stationed in Macau, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng praised officers and soldiers for contributing to the "security, stability and development of Macau." Ho praised the garrison for being "Macau's iron wall, guardian, and builder of the 'One country, two systems principle,'" adding that the soldiers represented the "sovereignty of the state." The CE also commended the "civilized and powerful army" for its presence in the local community in the various activities it carries out

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL TO FEATURE 121 FILMS AND MUSIC VIDEOS

NADIA SHAW

THE International Short Film Festival kicked off yesterday at Teatro Capitol, running from Dec. 3 to Dec. 10.

Organized by the Institute of European Studies of Macau and Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries, the festival showcases over 30 screening sessions featuring fiction, documentaries, animations and music videos.

This year's festival presents 121 films and music videos, with the official lineup for the international competition revealed.

The festival received 5,836 submissions from more than 130 countries and regions through its two international competitions: "shorts" and "volume."

Paulo Canelas de Castro, President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau, was grateful for the festival's growing reputation.

"These are eloquent signs of the place that this initiative has conquered in the rich panorama of Macau's cultural activities," he said. He also noted its significance in the Greater Bay Area and beyond.

The festival is not just about film screenings; it also features three masterclasses led by esteemed professionals in the industry.

Lucia Lemos (Portugal/Macau), Antonin Chalon (France), and Soumitra Ranade (India) will cover essential topics such as gaining attention at film festivals, character exploration by actors, and transforming inspiration into compelling fil-



mmaking material.

Speaking at yesterday's press conference, Margarida Cheung, festival director, emphasized the power of film as a storytelling medium.

"Film is an entertainment to narrate events, documentary, comedy and stories," she said.

"Today's technologies provide a podium for filmmakers to transport their stories to the audience." Cheung also acknowledged the vital support from government sponsors and institutions that contribute to the festival.

Originally launched in 2010 as an audio-visual competition called the "Sound & Image Challen-

ge," it became a short film festival in 2015 due to increasing international recognition.

In 2020, it was renamed to establish its unique identity in Macau's cultural landscape. This year marks its 15th opportunity to promote local and international talent.

In addition to film screenings and masterclasses, attendees can look forward to various cultural activities throughout the week. These include post-screening discussions and opportunities for filmmakers and audiences to engage in dialogue about their craft.

The festival awards a range of prizes to recognize excellence

in filmmaking.

Notable categories include Best Film of the Festival (MOP20,000), Best Fiction (MOP10,000), Best Documentary (MOP10,000), Best Animation (MOP10,000), all of which are aimed at celebrating local talent and creativity.

The Audience Award will also be presented, allowing viewers to participate in the selection process.

As the festival unfolds over the next week, it promises to be a vibrant celebration of cinematic artistry that not only highlights emerging talents but also fosters connections among filmmakers worldwide.

Sam Hou Fai pledges integrity and broad vision in leadership

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAU'S Chief Executive-elect, Sam Hou Fai, has vowed to uphold integrity and serve the public's interests as he prepares to take office.

With nearly 25 years of judicial experience as the former president of the Court of Final Appeal, Sam, 62, believes his career in the judiciary has provided him with a holistic view of the region.

In a recent interview with the China Central

Television (CCTV), Sam challenged the notion that economic expertise alone qualifies one for leadership.

"The role of the Chief Executive is not to be a mere economic specialist," he said.

"A comprehensive understanding of Macau requires more than financial expertise. I believe a leader must develop a broad vision and progressively gain deep insights into every area of our special administrative region."

Despite concerns about his economic background, Sam is confident in his leadership abilities, highlighting the importance of teamwork and a thorough understanding.

Integrity emerges as a central theme in his leadership philosophy, as he stresses the importance of loyalty and commitment to serving society and the needs of the entire economic development.

"The government needs to serve the society

and economic development," he said.

"You need to put loyalty in this endeavor. If you are not loyal, how can you run a government? Loyalty matters a lot."

Sam, who has lived in Macau for 38 years, acknowledges the challenges of leading a region with complex economic dynamics.

However, he is confident in his ability to work with his team and the community to move Macau toward a better future.

"We have such great patriotic and Macau-loving communities, and such lovely Macau residents of nearly 700,000," he said. "So, I am really

confident that together with my team, we can move Macau toward a better future."

Sam was elected Oct. 13 by a near-unanimous vote of 394 of 400 committee members.

On Sunday, Sam held his first press conference with his cabinet yesterday, outlining a vision centered on patriotism, service and innovation.

He pledged that his administration is particularly focused on diversifying Macau's economy beyond its heavy reliance on the gaming industry.

"We will do our utmost and live up to the expectations of Macau residents," Sam said. "This is my wish."

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Merchants accoladed with "Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme" awards for Food & Beverage Sector and Travel Agency Sector in 2024:

Food & Beverage Sector

Restaurant (hotel)

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award : MIZUMI (PALÁCIO WYNN)

Sustainable Dining Award : EDO JAPONÉS (ESTABELECIMENTO VENETIAN)

Local Feature Award : VIC'S (ROCKS)

Community Care Services Award : COPA (SANDS)

Operational Innovation Award : 8 VERMELHO (PALÁCIO WYNN)

Quality Tourism Services Merchant Award*

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. OS OITO (HOTEL GRANDE LISBOA) | 27. RESTAURANTE DO COZIDO DE MARISCO HIP SENG (CITY OF DREAMS) | 53. O JARDIM DE HUAIYANG (O HOTEL LONDRINO MACAU) |
| 2. 888 SOLAR DO GASTRONOMO (SANDS) | 28. RESTAURANTE DO COZIDO DE MARISCO HIP SENG (STUDIO CITY) | 54. NASCENTE (MGM COTAI) |
| 3. AMIGO (RIVIERA MACAU) | 29. MESA (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) | 55. LOJA DAS MASSAS (SANDS) |
| 4. CHALOU GLP (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) | 30. VIC'S (ROCKS) | 56. GRELHADOS 58.º (MGM COTAI) |
| 5. A COZINHA (HOTEL GRANDE LISBOA) | 31. MASSAS DE REFERÊNCIA (LISBOETA) | 57. HIRO (THE VENETIAN MACAU) |
| 6. PRONTO (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 32. DUMPLINGS LAGO CHONG FA (HOTEL GONTAGEM DECRESCENTE) | 58. HUA TING (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) |
| 7. ROBUCHON NO DOMO (HOTEL GRANDE LISBOA) | 33. MIZUMI (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 59. MOMENTOS (MGM COTAI) |
| 8. O BUFETE PARISIEN (O PARISIENSE MACAU) | 34. FADO (ROYAL) | 60. PIMENTA A.JI (MGM COTAI) |
| 9. CAFÉ PARISIEN (O PARISIENSE MACAU) | 35. MESA DE CHURCHILL (O HOTEL LONDRINO MACAU) | 61. RESTAURAÇÃO SHUN HIN HOI SIN (ASCOTT MACAU) |
| 10. A CHINA (O PARISIENSE MACAU) | 36. PÁTIO DOURADO (SANDS) | 62. ZUICHO (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) |
| 11. RESTAURANTE PA LAI (HOTEL PALÁCIO LEGENDÁRIO) | 37. PALÁCIO DE DRAGÃO (DRAGÃO DOURADO) | 63. CASA DON ALFONSO (HOTEL GRANDE LISBOA) |
| 12. PALÁCIO DO NORTE (CONRAD MACAU) | 38. PIN YUE XUAN (THE VENETIAN MACAU) | 64. VIELA (MGM COTAI) |
| 13. PAVILHÃO DO NORTE (THE VENETIAN MACAU) | 39. NOVA CASA IMPERIAL-DIM SUM (THE VENETIAN MACAU) | 65. GODIVA (MGM MACAU) |
| 14. 456 XANGAI (LISBOA) | 40. PICASSO (DRAGÃO DOURADO) | 66. CRISTAL JADE LA MIAN XIAO LONG BAO (O PARISIENSE MACAU) |
| 15. SW (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 41. COZINHA IMPERIAL (CROWNE PLAZA MACAU) | 67. CRISTAL JADE LA MIAN XIAO LONG BAO (LONDONER) |
| 16. WING LEI (WYNN) | 42. 8 VERMELHO (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 68. RESTAURANTE DE XANGAI (THE VENETIAN MACAU) |
| 17. PALÁCIO À VISTA DO LAGO (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 43. HOI NGAN HOI KEI (HOTEL BROADWAY) | 69. CAFÉ STANLEY (LISBOETA) |
| 18. COZINHA URBANA (HOTEL JW MARRIOTT MACAU) | 44. COZINHA ZHEN DIM SUM (NÚWA) | 70. GRANDE PALÁCIO (HOTEL PALÁCIO LEGENDÁRIO) |
| 19. CAÇAROLA (MGM COTAI) | 45. RESTAURANTE GOOBNE FRANGO & O DEMÓNIO PODE GRELHAR (LISBOA) | 71. ORLA (MGM COTAI) |
| 20. BORBULHAS DE AMOR (WYNN) | 46. COPA (SANDS) | 72. PALÁCIO GRANDE DRAGÃO (HOTEL GRANDE DRAGÃO) |
| 21. EDO JAPONÉS (NÚWA) | 47. RESTAURANTE MARMELEIRA MARISCOS (THE VENETIAN MACAU) | 73. SUSHI KINETSU (NÚWA) |
| 22. EDO JAPONÉS (ESTABELECIMENTO VENETIAN) | 48. JARDIM DO PALÁCIO (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) | 74. CASA DE ESMERALDA (O PARISIENSE MACAU) |
| 23. O GRANDE BUFETE (PALÁCIO GRANDE LISBOA) | 49. EXCLUSIVO (FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MACAU) | 75. RESTAURANTE THE RITZ-CARLTON CAFÉ (THE RITZ-CARLTON MACAU) |
| 24. MERCADO BISTRÔ (O PARISIENSE MACAU) | 50. PALÁCIO LÔTUS (O PARISIENSE MACAU) | 76. RESTAURANTE LAI HEEN (THE RITZ-CARLTON MACAU) |
| 25. TEKKA (WYNN) | 51. COZINHA JAPONESA YUE YING (ASCOTT MACAU) | 77. LI JING XUAN RESTAURANTE (RIVIERA MACAU) |
| 26. RESTAURANTE DE MASSAS DRAGÃO VERMELHO (THE VENETIAN MACAU) | 52. JARDIM CATALPA (ROYAL) | 78. RESTAURANTE LAI WU HIN (GUIA) |

Restaurant (non-hotel)

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award : LUGAR DOURADO E ENCANTADOR (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO)

Sustainable Dining Award : DUMPLINGS LAGO CHONG FA (STUDIO CITY)

Community Care Services Award : RESTAURANTE TONG KWOK HOI SIN FO WO SENG (RUA DE SENG TOU, TAIPA)

Local Feature Award : RESTAURANTE LITORAL (TAIPA) (RUA DO REGEDOR, TAIPA)

Operational Innovation Award : RESTAURANTE ÊXITO DO PORTO EXTERIOR (RUA DE CANTÃO)

Quality Tourism Services Merchant Award*

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. RESTAURANTE TONG KWOK HOI SIN FO WO SENG (RUA DE SENG TOU, TAIPA) | 4. CIDADE DE MARISCO JIN YUE XUAN (MACAU FISHERMAN'S WHARF) | 7. BAÍA DE OURO (AVENIDA DR. SUN YAT SEN) |
| 2. DUMPLINGS LAGO CHONG FA (STUDIO CITY) | 5. LITORAL (RUA DO ALMIRANTE SÉRGIO) | 8. RESTAURANTE ÊXITO DO PORTO EXTERIOR (RUA DE CANTÃO) |
| 3. LUGAR DOURADO E ENCANTADOR (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO) | 6. RESTAURANTE LITORAL (TAIPA) (RUA DO REGEDOR, TAIPA) | 9. CAFÉ AZUL (RUA DA PÉROLA ORIENTAL) |

Simple Dining Establishment (hotel)

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award : JAPONÉS OURO ÁRVORE (DRAGÃO DOURADO)

Sustainable Dining Award : JAPONÉS OURO ÁRVORE (DRAGÃO DOURADO)

Local Feature Award : EDO JAPANESE (LISBOA)

Community Care Services Award : BORBULHAS DE AMOR (PALÁCIO WYNN)

Operational Innovation Award : EDO JAPANESE (LISBOA)

Quality Tourism Services Merchant Award*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. BORBULHAS DE AMOR (PALÁCIO WYNN) | 2. EDO JAPANESE (LISBOA) | 3. JAPONÉS OURO ÁRVORE (DRAGÃO DOURADO) | 4. TURTLE ESSENCE SHOP (LISBOA) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|

Food and Beverage Establishment

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award : ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS HIP SENG (LOJA DE GREAT CHINA)

Sustainable Dining Award : ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS UT CHEONG (AVENIDA DE VENCESLAU DE MORAIS)

Community Care Services Award : ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (AVENIDA DA PRAIA GRANDE)

Local Feature Award : ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS LA FAMIGLIA (RUA DOS CLÉRIGOS, TAIPA)

Operational Innovation Award : ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS YUT UN (RUA QUATRO DO BAIRRO DA AREIA PRETA)

Quality Tourism Services Merchant Award*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ESTABELECIMENTO DE BEBIDAS HAAGEN DAZS (TRAVESSA DO ROQUETE) | 29. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (RUA DE PEDRO COUTINHO) |
| 2. ESTABELECIMENTO DE BEBIDAS HAAGEN DAZS (RUA DO REGEDOR, TAIPA) | 30. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (RUA DE TAI LIN, TAIPA) |
| 3. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS SPRING POT HOT POT (AVENIDA DR. SUN YAT-SEN, TAIPA) | 31. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (RUA DE PARIS) |
| 4. GELADARIA SAM POU (RUA DE LEÓNIO FERREIRA) | 32. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (LOJA FAI CHI KEI) (AVENIDA MARGINAL DO PATANE) |
| 5. GELADARIA SAM POU (AVENIDA DO GOVERNADOR JAIME SILVÉRIO MARQUES) | 33. COZINHA ZHEN DIM SUM (STUDIO CITY) |
| 6. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS "TAI CHEONG" B.B.Q. (RUA DO COMANDANTE JOÃO BELO) | 34. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS MR GUNG DIM SUM (RUA DO VISCONDE PAÇO DE ARCOS) |
| 7. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CRYSTAL PALACE SEAFOOD HOT POT (RUA DO REGEDOR, TAIPA) | 35. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS GOOBNE ALL DAK HOUSE (RUA DE SENG TOU, TAIPA) |
| 8. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS LOJA DE THE THREE (AVENIDA DO GOVERNADOR JAIME SILVÉRIO MARQUES) | 36. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS GOOBNE FRANGO (AVENIDA MARGINAL DO LAM MAU) |
| 9. JANELA CAFÉ (RUA DO REGEDOR, TAIPA) | 37. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TOP FUSION (RUA DA RIBEIRA DO PATANE) |
| 10. COZINHA BOA FORTUNA (RUA DE NAM KENG, TAIPA) | 38. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TOP FUSION (RUA DE FRANCISCO XAVIER PEREIRA) |
| 11. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS BOA FORTUNA (AVENIDA DO INFANTE D. HENRIQUE) | 39. BEING COZINHA (RUA DE LONDRES) |
| 12. ESTABELECIMENTO DE BEBIDAS HANG HEONG UN (TRAVESSA DO AUTO NOVO) | 40. BEING COZINHA (AVENIDA DR. SUN YAT SEN, TAIPA) |
| 13. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS NOVE DOIS (RUA DE FRANCISCO XAVIER PEREIRA) | 41. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS PEND CHU AO MEN QI JIAN DIAN (RUA CIDADE DE SANTARÉM) |
| 14. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS HIP SENG (LOJA DE GREAT CHINA) | 42. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CHARMING GOURMET CAFE (RUA DE XANGAI) |
| 15. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS HIP SENG (CLÁSSICO)(TRAVESSA DA CALDEIRA) | 43. CHINÊS CAFÉ MARCA MACAU (STUDIO CITY) |
| 16. LOJA DE MARISCO JIN YUE XUAN (AVENIDA DR. SUN YAT-SEN, TAIPA) | 44. CAFÉ FANTASY (AVENIDA PANORÂMICA DO LAGO NAM VAN) |
| 17. LK COMIDAS (AVENIDA DO GENERAL CASTELO BRANCO) | 45. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS NOVA RIQUEZA (RUA CIDADE DE COIMBRA) |
| 18. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS PEPPER LUNCH (RUA DO CAMPO) | 46. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS UT CHEONG (AVENIDA DE VENCESLAU DE MORAIS) |
| 19. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS HOME MADE MEAL (AVENIDA DO GOVERNADOR JAIME SILVÉRIO MARQUES) | 47. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS UT CHEONG COZINHA PRIVADA (AVENIDA DE KWONG TUNG, TAIPA) |
| 20. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS YUT UN (AVENIDA DE KWONG TUNG, TAIPA) | 48. CAFÉ VOYAGE (RUA DO PADRE ANTÓNIO ROLIZ) |
| 21. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS YUT UN (RUA QUATRO DO BAIRRO DA AREIA PRETA) | 49. CAFÉ VOYAGE (AVENIDA DO GOVERNADOR JAIME SILVÉRIO MARQUES) |
| 22. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS YUT UN (RUA DA BACIA SUL) | 50. THAI KITCHEN BY CAFE VOYAGE (RUA DE HONG CHAU, TAIPA) |
| 23. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TEGO (RUA DA PÉROLA ORIENTAL) | 51. THAI KITCHEN BY CAFE VOYAGE (RUA CENTRAL DA AREIA PRETA) |
| 24. COMIDA HOI WONG (AVENIDA DO GOVERNADOR JAIME SILVÉRIO MARQUES) | 52. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS KING SHIP (RUA DE EVORA, TAIPA) |
| 25. COMIDA HOI WONG (RUA DE BRAGAÇA, TAIPA) | 53. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CHAA (BECO DO ATAÍ) |
| 26. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (AVENIDA DE KWONG TUNG, TAIPA) | 54. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS LA FAMIGLIA (RUA DOS CLÉRIGOS, TAIPA) |
| 27. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (RUA CENTRAL DA AREIA PRETA) | 55. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS FUNG SAU (WATERFRONT DUET) |
| 28. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS ZHEN DIM SUM (AVENIDA DA PRAIA GRANDE) | |

Travel Agency Sector

Quality Tourism Services Excellence Award (Outbound Service) : GRUPO HN, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO)

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award (Inbound Service) : COMPANHIA DE DESENVOLVIMENTO TURÍSTICO KONG PAK MACAU, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO)

Quality Tourism Services Gold Award (Outbound Service) : GRUPO HN, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO)

Quality Tourism Services Merchant Award*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS E TURISMO TIM MA, LIMITADA (AVENIDA DA AMIZADE) | 10. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS E TURISMO LEÃO, LIMITADA (AVENIDA DE HORTA E COSTA) |
| 2. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS E TURISMO LAP KEI, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO) | 11. GRUPO DE MULTINACIONAL TURISMO LIMITADA (AVENIDA DA AMIZADE) |
| 3. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS CHEONG HENG INTERNACIONAL LIMITADA (RUA DE PEQUIM) | 12. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS HAN CHENG LIMITADA (RUA DE PEQUIM) |
| 4. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS VAI WA, LIMITADA (PRAÇA DAS PORTAS DO CERCO) | 13. SINCERIDADE (RUA DE S. DOMINGOS) |
| 5. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS ENERGIA, LIMITADA (TERMINAL MARÍTIMO DE PASSAGEIROS DO PORTO EXTERIOR) | 14. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS E DE TURISMO CHINA (MACAU), S.A. (AVENIDA DR. RODRIGO RODRIGUES) |
| 6. GRUPO HN, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO) | 15. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS E TURISMO INTERNACIONAL (CHINA-MACAU), LDA. (CALÇADA DE SANTO AGOSTINHO) |
| 7. COMPANHIA DE TURISMO WORLD EXPRESS, LDA. (AVENIDA DE ARTUR TAMAGNINI BARBOSA) | 16. AGÊNCIA DE VIAGENS SHUN TAK E CITS (MACAU) COMPANHIA LIMITADA (TERMINAL MARÍTIMO DE PASSAGEIROS DO PORTO EXTERIOR) |
| 8. AGÊNCIA DE TURISMO CULTURAL EXPLORADORA (AVENIDA DA AMIZADE) | 17. COMPANHIA DE DESENVOLVIMENTO TURÍSTICO KONG PAK MACAU, LIMITADA (ALAMEDA DR. CARLOS D'ASSUMPÇÃO) |
| 9. SOCIEDADE DE TURISMO HOI SAM KA KEI, LIMITADA (RUA SUL DO PATANE) | 18. AGÊNCIA GRAY LINE (MACAU) (RUA DO CAMPO) |

The above is the 2024 "Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme" awarded list of new and re-entered merchants. The list of surveillance merchants with renewed awards will be released later through the Macao Government Tourism Office website.

*no particular order

RESIDENT DEPOSITS INCREASE TO MOP761B

The Monetary Authority of Macao has reported continued growth in broad money supply for October. The currency in circulation and demand deposits rose 0.1% and 2.5%, leading to a 1.8% increase in M1. Resident deposits increased 0.7% to MOP761.3 billion, while total deposits rose 0.6% to MOP1,276.3 billion. However, domestic loans to the private sector fell 0.1% to MOP518.6 billion. The loan-to-deposit ratio for residents decreased to 54.1%, and the non-performing loan ratio increased to 5.4%.

POLICE UNCOVER LOAN SHARKING OPERATION

During an investigation into illegal loan sharking, the police have uncovered two separate cases at the same illegal hotel, rescuing two gamblers and arresting four mainland men guarding them. Authorities are examining whether the two groups are connected and are pursuing other suspects. One victim borrowed HKD50,000 and was held for eight hours, while another was trapped for 31 hours under similar circumstances. The victims were charged interest of HKD14,000 and HKD8,000, respectively. The arrested individuals claimed they were paid HKD500 each to monitor the victims. The police have informed the tourism bureau to close the establishment.

JOÃO MANUEL COSTA ANTUNES

REFLECTIONS ON THE MACAU GP: FROM VISION TO VICTORY

NADIA SHAW

THE Macau Grand Prix has been a cornerstone of international motorsport since its inception in 1954. The annual race continues to captivate racing enthusiasts with its unique blend of history, speed, and safety challenges.

João Manuel Costa Antunes, a prominent figure in the event's organization and the former director of Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), shared insights into the evolution of this prestigious race during a recent talk hosted by the International Advertising Association.

Antunes opened the discussion by emphasizing the significance of the circuit itself.

"If you change the circuit, there will be no more Macau Grand Prix," he stated. He presented historical images from 1954, showcasing Macau's landscape at the time and how it has transformed over the decades.

"If there are something that everybody who knows Macau Grand Prix has expressed during the last 27 years, it is that you can do many things except change the circuit. If you change the circuit, there is no more Macau Grand Prix in Macau.

This position is absolutely correct." This sentiment underscores the deep-rooted connection between the event and its historic layout, reinforcing the notion that any alterations could jeopardize the very essence of what makes the Macau Grand Prix a cherished fixture in motorsport history.



The former MGTO director and former coordinator of the Macau Grand Prix recounted how local enthusiasts gathered at the old Hotel Riviera to brainstorm ideas for a motorsport event. This meeting led to a letter sent to Paul Delac, an expatriate with experience in motorsports. "They didn't know much about motorsport, but they had a vision," Antunes explained. This vision evolved from a simple treasure hunt into what is now recognized as one of the world's premier street races.

The Guia Circuit's unique characteristics and challenging turns have attracted elite drivers and fostered a sense of tradition that captivates racing

enthusiasts worldwide. Antunes reflected on the early years of the Grand Prix, describing the rudimentary conditions under which it operated. "There were no safety barriers; it was really brave," he recalled, noting that significant infrastructure improvements were necessary even during his early tenure as director in 1988.

He highlighted the reliance on military personnel for support until 1976 when Macau transitioned to a police-only operation for the Grand Prix.

"From my first year onward, I realized that something must be done," he said, referring to his commitment to enhancing safety and organization. Antunes initiated plans for more

permanent structures to support racing activities and addressed complaints from drivers regarding inefficiencies.

The Macau Grand Prix has faced numerous challenges over its long history, including severe weather events that have impacted race schedules. In 1987, for instance, a typhoon forced organizers to postpone races for the first time ever. "We had no choice but to request a delay. Safety is the number one priority," Antunes said.

Looking ahead, Antunes emphasized that success in organizing such events begins well before race day. "Everything starts one year before when we establish invitations and say yes or no," he explained.

CORPORATE BITS

Studio City launches Winter-Fun Wonderland



Studio City has launched its Winter-Fun Wonderland. Set to run from Nov. 30 until Jan. 5, 2025, the property has transformed into a fairytale holiday destination surrounded by twinkling snowflakes, charming ice, and

snow scenery.

Winter-Fun Wonderland offers a one-of-a-kind Christmas experience. From a Dreamland Ice Park fit for all ages, an 8-meter Christmas tree, to a Snowflake Bridge with real snowfall, guests can

experience the magic of the season.

Visitors may also explore Studio City's illuminated Winter Market and various giant 3D installations, including a 5-meter Penguin Snow Mountain and a 2.5-meter gingerbread man.

The festive campaign also aims to promote economic diversification while supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by offering local vendors rent-free stalls to showcase their products and services.

The Christmas Market features over 40 local SME businesses displaying their unique holiday crafts, gift ideas, and seasonal food and beverages.

Galaxy announces festive hotel and dining offers



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) announced a series of hotel and dining offers available from Dec. 1 for this festive season.

These initiatives aim to foster a joyful atmosphere throughout the city, inviting both local residents and inter-

national visitors to join in the festivities.

Galaxy's hotels and restaurants will offer exclusive gastronomic experiences across over 30 venues at StarWorld Hotel, Galaxy Macau, and Broadway Macau.

Guests can enjoy Michelin-

-starred dishes, regional specialties, and local delicacies, with a 25% discount on dining until Dec. 20

Guests also can enjoy a MOP 250 dining credit and special accommodation benefits at its hotels, including Broadway Hotel and JW Marriott Hotel Macau.

At Banyan Tree SPA Macau, guests receive 25% off their second treatment with the purchase of a selected massage. The FootHub also offers 25% off selected body massages and facials. Additionally, guests can enjoy a "buy one get one free" promotion at the "Love Between Fairy and Devil" VR Immersive Experience Center.

TRADE WAR

Beijing bans exports to US in response to chip sanctions

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BANGKOK

CHINA announced yesterday it is banning exports to the United States of gallium, germanium, antimony and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications, as a general principle, lashing back at U.S. limits on semiconductor-related exports.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment, software and high-bandwidth memory chips. Such chips are needed for advanced applications.

The ratcheting up of trade restrictions comes as President-elect Donald Trump has been threatening to sharply raise tariffs on imports from China and other countries, potentially in-



Commerce Minister Wang Wentao

tensifying simmering tensions over trade and technology.

China said in July 2023 it would require exporters to apply for licenses to send to the U.S. the strategically important materials such as gallium and germanium. In August, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said it would restrict exports of antimony, which is used in a wide range of products from batteries

to weapons, and impose tighter controls on exports of graphite.

The limits announced by Beijing yesterday also include super-hard materials, which would include diamonds and other synthetic materials that are not compressible and extremely dense. They are used in many industrial areas such as cutting tools, disc brakes and protective coatings. The licensing require-

ments that China announced in August also covered smelting and separation technology and machinery and other items related to such super-hard materials.

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germanium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology.

After the U.S. side announced it was adding 140 companies to a so-called "entity list" subject to strict export controls. China's Commerce Ministry protested and said it would act to protect China's "rights and interests" Nearly all of the companies affected by Washington's latest trade restrictions are based in China, though some are Chinese-owned businesses in Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Both governments say their respective export controls are needed for national security.

China's government has been frustrated by U.S. curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds but had been cautious in retaliating, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology.

Various Chinese industry

associations issued statements protesting the U.S. move to limit access to advanced chip-making technology.

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said it opposed using national security as a grounds for export controls, "abuse of export control measures, and the malicious blockade and suppression of China."

"Such behavior seriously violates the laws of the market economy and the principle of fair competition, undermines the international economic and trade order, disrupts the stability of the global industrial chain, and ultimately harms the interests of all countries," it said in a statement.

The China Semiconductor Industry Association issued a similar statement, adding that such restrictions were disrupting supply chains and inflating costs for American companies.

"U.S. chip products are no longer safe and reliable. China's related industries will have to be cautious in purchasing U.S. chips," it said.

The U.S. gets about half its supply of both gallium and germanium metals directly from China, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. China exported about 23 metric tons (25 tons) of gallium in 2022 and produces about 600 metric tons (660 tons) of germanium per year. **MDT/AP**

ANNUAL EXAMS

ASPIRING CIVIL SERVANTS SEE THEIR ODDS IMPROVE

THE competition intensity among people vying to be civil servant recruits was eased a bit this year as many candidates didn't show up for the writing part of the annual exam, which concluded on Sunday.

The test is a key part of the nation's recruitment of civil servants for central government ministries and affiliated government bodies next year.

The writing tests were held at 101,345 examination sites in 248 designated cities across 31 provinces and regions, according to the administration.

Figures from the National Civil Service Administration show that about 2.59 million candidates took the written exam — 86.7 percent of the 2.98 million who had confirmed online that they had been approved to take it. Originally, about 3.42 million people were deemed qualified to sit the exam to compete for the 39,721 civil servant job openings next year.

Based on the exam's at-

tendance, an average of 65 people will compete for each civil servant opening next year. Before the test, it was estimated that about 86 contenders would vie for each opening.

According to the administration, the result of the writing exam will be published around January, while job interviews will be arranged by ministries and government bodies. The dates for the interviews have not yet been released.

Li Zhongxin, 31, let out a sigh of relief after finishing her test on Sunday.

"It was the second time I registered for the civil servant test. I was under greater pressure preparing for the test while still doing my job at an internet company in Beijing," she said, adding that she wished to switch to a more stable position at a government agency.

The nation plans to recruit 39,721 civil servants for central ministries and government bodies next year, slightly more than the

39,561 that were offered this year. Of those jobs, 26,700 are only open to new university graduates as part of government efforts to boost youth employment, according to the administration.

To qualify for civil servant recruitment, candidates must generally be 18 to 35 years old, but the age limit can be as high as 40 for those who are projected to complete their postgraduate or doctoral studies next year. The candidates must have a degree above the junior college level.

Xiao Geqin, vice-dean of continuing education college under Beijing Union University, told China Youth News, one of China's major news outlets, that most people want a civil servant position for its stability and secure salary, while many grassroots positions may face harsher working conditions. She said she hopes youths will choose to work at grassroots organizations if they are selected to be civil servants.

MDT/CHINA DAILY

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AP PHOTO



President Joe Biden is greeted by Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio as he arrives at Quatro de Fevereiro international airport in the capital Luanda

ANGOLA

Biden plans to tout US investments and visit a slavery museum

WILL WEISSERT, LUANDA

JOE Biden is using the first visit to Angola by a U.S. president to promote Washington's investments in the sub-Saharan African nation and see a slavery museum where he'll acknowledge the trafficking of human beings that once linked the two nations' economies.

A centerpiece of his trip is showcasing a U.S. commitment of \$3 billion for the Lobito Corridor, a railway redevelopment linking Zambia, Congo and Angola that is meant to make it far easier to move raw materials in the continent and for export. The project also has drawn financing from the European Union, the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations, a Western-led private consortium and African banks.

The project aims to advance the U.S. presence in a region rich in critical minerals used in batteries for electric vehicles, electronic devices and clean energy technologies and to counter China's heavy investments in mining and processing African minerals.

The U.S. has for years built relations in Africa through trade, security and humanitarian aid. The 800-mile

(1,300-kilometer) railway upgrade is a different move and has shades of China's Belt and Road infrastructure strategy in Africa and other parts of the world.

Biden is to fly to the Angolan coastal city of Lobito on Wednesday for a firsthand look at a port terminal that is the Atlantic Ocean outlet for the corridor.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the Biden administration "has absolutely transformed" U.S.-Africa relations and that the corridor's completion is "going to take years but there's already been a lot of work put in."

That means much of it may fall to Biden's successor, Republican Donald Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20. Asked whether the project could proceed without future support from Trump, Kirby said it was "our fervent hope that as the new team comes in and takes a look at this that they see the value too, that they see how it will help drive a more secure, more prosperous, more economically stable continent."

Kirby, speaking aboard Air Force One as Biden flew to Angola, said the corridor was about more than simply Washington trying to outpace Beijing geopolitically.

"I would say there is no

cold war on the continent. We're not asking countries to choose between us and Russia and China. We're simply looking for reliable, sustainable, verifiable investment opportunities that the people of Angola and the people of the continent can rely on," he said. "Too many countries have relied on spotty investment opportunities and are now wracked by debt."

The last U.S. president to visit sub-Saharan Africa was Barack Obama in 2015. Biden attended a United Nations climate summit in Egypt in North Africa in 2022.

Biden had promised to visit Africa last year, after revisiting the U.S.-Africa Summit in December 2022. But the trip was delayed until this year and then pushed back again this October because of Hurricane Milton — reinforcing a sentiment among Africans that their continent is still a low priority for Washington.

Today [Macau time], Biden is to attend an official arrival ceremony and met with Angolan President Joao Lourenco. Biden welcomed Lourenco to the Oval Office in November last year.

Biden also is to meet with leaders of African business engagement groups he helped found and then visit

Angola's National Slavery Museum. The site was once the headquarters of the Capela da Casa Grande, a 17th century temple where slaves were baptized before boarding the ships that took them to America.

Kirby said Biden will give a speech there acknowledging "both the horrific history of slavery that has connected our two nations, but also looks forward to a future predicated on a shared vision that benefits both our people."

After arriving in Angola's capital, Luanda, yesterday [Macau time], Biden met briefly with Wanda Tucker, a descendent of William Tucker, the first enslaved child born in the United States, the White House said. Wanda Tucker is the faculty chair of psychology, philosophy and religious studies at Rio Salado College.

William Tucker's parents were brought to colonial Virginia from Angola in August 1619 aboard the Portuguese ship the White Lion.

Biden also met with business leaders, African community leaders and members of Congress -- including Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, a Democrat who is also a senator-elect from Delaware, and California Democratic Rep. Sara Jacobs. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1961 BIRTH CONTROL PILL 'AVAILABLE TO ALL'

Women who wish to have oral contraception will now be able to get it on the National Health Service.

The Health Minister, Enoch Powell, made an announcement in the House of Commons today but did not give any guidelines as to whom the pill should be given.

"It is not for me to indicate to doctors when they should decide for medical reasons to prescribe for their patients," he said.

However some GPs are in a dilemma over whether they can prescribe the Pill, as it is commonly known, for social as well as medical reasons.

Several companies are busy manufacturing the product in Britain which will cost the NHS just over one shilling a pill - 17s a month.

And some politicians are anxious that the drug could be a huge financial burden on the Treasury which currently spends £90m a year on drugs provided by the health service.

The oral contraceptive is a combination of a synthetic hormones oestrogen and progesterone taken to prevent conception by hampering monthly release of an egg cell from the ovary.

Pills have to be taken regularly in order to work and some physicians are concerned about the effects the drug could have on the body's delicate balance of hormones.

Sir Charles Dodds, Britain's leading expert on the drugs contained in the Pill and who heads a research institute at Middlesex Hospital, has said the pills could have long-term side-effects.

He compared a woman's body with a clock mechanism. "Even if you thoroughly understand the mechanism of a clock, provided it is going well it is very much better to leave it alone. To interfere with it if you do not understand it can be disastrous," he said.

The Family Planning Association, which runs clinics all over Britain, is still deciding whether or not to give the go-ahead to its physicians to issue the Pill to married women.

Two scientists at Birmingham University will carry out basic experiments on the Pill because it is not fully understood how it works.

In the current issue of the Queen's Medical Magazine, Birmingham Medical School's journal, they write: "Much careful quantitative work remains to be done before the biological action of these drugs is understood and before any recommendations of these drugs for routine use by the medical profession."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The rest of the decade saw a huge demand for what is an extremely effective form of birth control. It remains the most popular reversible contraceptive in the UK and the USA in spite of various health scares since its invention in the early 1950s. To prevent side-effects produced by combined hormone pills - such as fluid retention, depression, weight gain, and in rare cases thrombosis - progestogen-only pills were developed in the 1980s. They have fewer side-effects than the combined pill but are slightly less efficient. Pioneers behind the invention of the Pill include Marie Stopes who opened a birth control clinic in London in 1921 and Margaret Sanger, an American campaigner for women's rights. Mrs Sanger coined the phrase "birth control" and raised \$150,000 to fund the development of the first human contraceptive pill first invented by Carl Djerassi at a laboratory in Mexico in 1951. It was Frank Colton, an American chemist, who invented the first commercially available oral contraceptive named Enovid in 1960 and produced by GD Searle and Co. In 1964 Searle took in \$24 million in net profits from Pill sales.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Consider professional dreams. Determine what you want so you recognize it when it appears. Discover career opportunities in unexpected places.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You're itching to explore; do the groundwork first. Make plans, itineraries and reservations. Save hassle, money and time by plotting moves carefully in advance.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Discuss financial concerns with your partner. Sort through clutter to get to bare facts. Envision what you want. Plot the budget for it.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You and your partner can either help each other see past blind spots, or bicker and complain. It's your choice. What are you committed to?

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Focus on your work, services and health. Strengthen your infrastructure. Listen to an experienced coach or teacher. Eat well, exercise and rest.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Share your heart with someone dreamy. Avoid expensive complications and go for simple pleasures. Show off your secret talents.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Home and family take priority. Make household changes and repairs. Clear clutter, clean and organize. Disciplined efforts get beautiful results. Keep it simple.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Dig into a fascinating subject. Explain and clarify a murky view. Words flow easily. Tackle projects involving writing, expression and publishing. Get your message out.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Things could get especially lucrative. Stay organized. Don't throw your money around. Read the fine print before signing. Stash resources for later. Maintain momentum.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Success with personal projects hinges on strong foundations and backstage efforts. Tempers may be short. Obstacles abound. Keep your patience and sense of humor.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Sit back and think things over before making moves. Anticipate potential conflicts or disagreements. Avoid risky propositions. Plan your route and steps carefully.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Hold gatherings to advance a common cause. Turn complaints into actionable projects, and then invite sign-ups. Schedule actions for later. Organize for strength.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

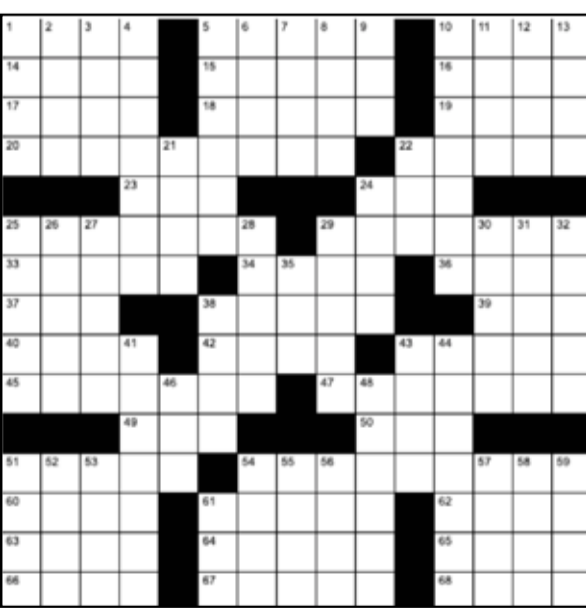
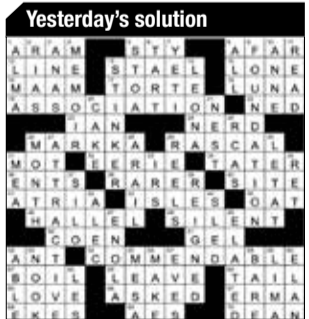
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	8	cloudy
Changchun	-12	-5	fine
Chengdu	8	14	overcast
Chongqing	11	13	rain
Fuzhou	16	20	overcast
Guangzhou	14	26	fine
Guiyang	10	11	rain
Haikou	20	25	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	13	cloudy
Harbin	-20	-9	cloudy
Hefei	4	10	rain
Nanjing	8	12	rain
Shanghai	9	14	overcast
Taipei	19	21	rain
Wuhan	8	10	rain
Hong Hong	21	23	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	-5	-1	snow
Frankfurt	-1	2	snow
Paris	5	6	cloudy
London	7	7	cloudy
New York	4	4	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Rocket launcher; 5- Aconcagua's range; 10- Narrate; 14- K-6; 15- You mouthful; 16- Jai ___; 17- Light ring; 18- Parsley piece; 19- Crimson Tide, for short; 20- Enrage; 22- More healthy; 23- Not pos.; 24- Small batteries; 25- Seedless raisin; 29- Mental; 33- Necklace fastener; 34- Ship's company; 36- A Chaplin; 37- ACLU concerns; 38- Speechify; 39- ___ King Cole; 40- Gray ___ (unclear situation); 42- Russo of "Ransom"; 43- Designer Geoffrey; 45- Semper Fi sayers; 47- Thin; 49- de Janeiro; 50- Worked (up); 51- Civil rights org.; 54- Girl who leads a marching band; 60- Cabinet dept.; 61- Hired parker; 62- Underground part of a plant; 63- Shrivelled, without moisture; 64- Donkeys; 65- ___'act; 66- Pack away; 67- Listerine alternative; 68- Prescription info;

DOWN 1- "M*A*S*H" soft drink; 2- Space pioneer Shepard; 3- Ego; 4- Quantities; 5- Give, as homework; 6- Wine valley; 7- Grime; 8- Falco of "The Sopranos"; 9- Droop, sink; 10- Pungent sauce; 11- Carrier to Ben-Gurion; 12- Like some excuses; 13- Untrustworthy one; 21- Cut the crop; 22- Cut and dried grass; 24- ___ forgive our debtors; 25- Beat it!; 26- Extreme; 27- Coherent light beam; 28- Land measures; 29- For ___ sake!; 30- Sharpened; 31- Senseless; 32- Provide food for; 35- Hurried; 38- White-centered cookie; 41- Pilot, co-pilot, attendants; 43- Ale, e.g.; 44- Went in; 46- Pinch; 48- Fourth highest peak in the world; 51- Loch ___ monster; 52- Work without ___; 53- Dynamic introduction?; 54- Not fem.; 55- Too; 56- Rugged utility vehicle; 57- ___ avail; 58- Small children; 59- French 101 verb; 61- ___ deferens;



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

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

AD

HUNGER

THEY FLED WAR IN SUDAN. BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FLEE THE HUNGER

SAM MEDNICK, ADRE

FOR months, Aziza Ibrahim fled from one village in Sudan to the next as people were slaughtered. Yet the killing of relatives and her husband's disappearance aren't what forced the 23-year-old to leave the country for good. It was hunger, she said.

"We don't have anything to eat because of the war," Ibrahim said, cradling her 1-year-old daughter under the sheet where she now shelters, days after crossing into Chad.

The war in Sudan has created vast hunger, including famine. It has pushed people off their farms. Food in the markets is sparse, prices have spiked and aid groups say they're struggling to reach the most vulnerable as warring parties limit access.

Some 24,000 people have been killed and millions displaced during the war that erupted in April 2023, sparked by tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces. Global experts confirmed famine in the Zamzam displacement camp in July. They warn that some 25 million people — more than half of Sudan's population — are expected to face acute hunger this year.

"People are starving to death at the moment ... It's man-made. It's these men with guns and power who deny women and children food," Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, told The Associated Press. Warring parties on both sides are blocking assistance and delaying authorization for aid groups, he said.

Between May and September, there were seven malnutrition-related deaths among children in one hospital at a displacement site in Chad run by Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF. Such deaths can be from disease in hunger-weakened bodies.

In September, MSF was forced to stop caring for 5,000 malnourished children in North Darfur for several weeks, citing repeated, deliberate obstructions and blockades. U.S. President Joe Biden has called on both sides to allow unhindered access and stop killing civilians.

But the fighting shows no signs of slowing. More than 2,600 people were killed across the country in October, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which called it the bloodiest month of the war.

Violence is intensifying around North Darfur's capital, El Fasher, the only capital in the vast western Darfur region that the RSF doesn't

AP PHOTO



Ousmane Taher and his family cross from Sudan into Chad near Acre

hold. Darfur has experienced some of the war's worst atrocities, and the International Criminal Court prosecutor has said there are grounds to believe both sides may be committing war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Ibrahim escaped her village in West Darfur and sought refuge for more than a year in nearby towns with friends and relatives. Her husband had left home to find work before the war, and she hasn't heard from him since.

She struggled to eat and feed their daughter. Unable to farm, she cut wood and sold it in Chad, traveling eight hours by donkey there and back every few days, earning enough to buy grain. But after a few months the wood ran out, forcing her to leave for good.

Others who have fled to Chad described food prices spiking three-fold and stocks dwindling in the market. There were no vegetables, just grains and nuts.

Awatif Adam came to Chad in October. Her husband wasn't making enough transporting people with his donkey cart, and it was too risky to farm, she said. Her 6-year-old twin girls and 3-year-old son lost weight and were always hungry.

"My children were saying all the time, 'Mom, give us food,'" she said. Their cries drove her to leave.

As more people stream into Chad, aid groups worry about supporting them.

Some 700,000 Sudanese have entered since the war began. Many live in squalid refugee camps or shelter at the border

in makeshift displacement sites. And the number of arrivals at the Adre crossing between August and October jumped from 6,100 to 14,800, according to government and U.N. data., though it was not clear whether some people entered multiple times.

Earlier this year, the World Food Program cut rations by roughly half in Chad, citing a lack of funding.

While there's now enough money to return to full rations until the start of next year, more arrivals will strain the system and more hunger will result if funding doesn't keep pace, said Ramazani Karabaye, head of the World Food Program's operations in Adre.

During an AP visit to Adre in October, some people who fled Sudan at the start of the war said they were still struggling.

Khadiga Omer Adam said she doesn't have enough aid or money to eat regularly, which has complicated breastfeeding her already malnourished daughter, Salma Issa. The 35-year-old gave birth during the war's initial days, delivering alone in West Darfur. It was too dangerous for a midwife to reach her.

Adam had clutched the baby as she fled through villages, begging for food. More than a year later, she sat on a hospital bed holding a bag of fluid above her daughter, who was fed through a tube in her nose.

"I have confidence in the doctors ... I believe she'll improve, I don't think she'll die," she said.

The MSF-run clinic in the Aboutengue camp admitted more than 340 cases of severely malnourished children in August and September. Staff fear that number could rise. The arid climate in Chad south of the Sahara Desert means it's hard to farm, and there's little food variety, health workers said.

People are fleeing Sudan into difficult conditions, said Dr. Oula Dramane Ouattara, head of MSF's medical activities in the camp.

"If things go on like this, I'm afraid the situation will get out of control," he said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Khadiga Omer adam sits by her sick child in an MSF-run clinic in the Aboutengue displacement site near Acre

FOOTBALL

Saudi Arabia's network of spending, influence detailed before getting 2034 WC

GRAHAM DUNBAR, GENEVA

SAUDI Arabia's growing influence and massive spending in global sports ahead of being confirmed by FIFA as the 2034 World Cup host was detailed yesterday [Macau time] in a report that cited risks to good governance off the field.

More than 900 sponsor deals — more than one-third traced to the \$925 billion Saudi sovereign wealth fund — and a network of officials with overlapping state, business and sports roles were cited by Play The Game, a publicly funded sports ethics institute in Denmark.

The oil-rich kingdom's investment of tens of billions of dollars in soccer, golf, boxing, tennis, the Esports Olympics and a yet-to-be-built ski resort will get its most coveted prize next week from FIFA, the 2034 World Cup in men's soccer.

The close ties between FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman were built since 2018 amid global criticism of the kingdom's record on human rights, including for women, migrant workers and freedom of expression.



Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (left) and FIFA President Gianni Infantino (Moscow, 2018)

"Saudi Arabia's sports strategy seeks to divert attention from these realities, revealing the tension between the ideals of sport and the realities of power, money, and politics," Play The Game's Stanis Elsborg said in the report.

FIFA passed a mandatory step toward the 2034 decision by publishing at the weekend an in-house evaluation of the World Cup hosting plan that offered more praise than critical analysis, including labor issues for how most of

the 15 stadiums will be built.

On Dec. 11 in Zurich, FIFA will host an online meeting to ask more than 200 member federations to acclaim Saudi Arabia as the 2034 host, 14 months after shaping a fast-tracked and narrow-focused contest that produced just one candidate.

Nearly 50 of those voters have signed working agreements with the Saudi soccer federation, while the soccer bodies for North America, Africa and Asia separa-

tely struck cooperation deals or tournament sponsor deals with the sovereign Public Investment Fund (PIF), state oil firm Aramco and the planned megacity project Neom.

"The awarding of the 2034 World Cup to Saudi Arabia is merely the culmination of years of strategic investments and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring," said the report, called "Saudi Arabia's grip on world sport."

FIFA itself signed Aramco in

April to an elevated World Cup sponsor category of "major worldwide partner," worth a reported \$100 million each year through 2027.

The chairman of Aramco, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, also is governor of the PIF which has a goal to "deliver a strategy focused on achieving attractive financial returns and long-term value for the country." He is chairman also of the LIV Golf project, new airline Riyadh Air, and English Premier League club Newcastle.

"Aramco and FIFA intend to leverage the power of football to create impactful social initiatives around the world," FIFA said in April.

Saudi state and sports officials have consistently cited the crown prince's Vision 2030 program to diversify the economy beyond dependence on oil and modernize the traditionally conservative society while giving opportunities to a young population.

Infantino has not taken questions from international media, nor held a news conference, in the 14 months since the Saudi candidacy was declared. No news conference is scheduled on Dec. 11 at FIFA headquarters after the closed-doors meeting. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**MACAU
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OPINION

The Conversation

Mark R. Gleim, Auburn University



THE JOURNEY MATTERS AS MUCH AS THE DESTINATION

Americans spent more than US\$850 billion on domestic leisure travel in 2023, a sum that looks likely to rise in future years. Whether it's a weekend getaway to a Taylor Swift concert, a long-anticipated holiday visit with family, or a monthlong tour of national parks, travel can leave a lasting impact on how we see ourselves.

In the age of social media, platforms like TikTok, Instagram and Reddit have become outlets for travelers to share their experiences and connect with others. Our recent research suggests that this online engagement plays an underappreciated role in how much people enjoy their vacations.

We found that trip satisfaction isn't just about the core event — the concert, gathering or sightseeing tour. Instead, the entire journey matters, from the anticipation beforehand to the joy of sharing stories afterward.

This might sound intuitive to avid travelers. But as marketing professors, we believe the tourism industry could better harness this insight.

Even before a traveler sets foot at a destination, what we call "mental time travel" begins shaping their experience.

Picture this: You're planning to take your teenage niece to her first Taylor Swift concert. The planning process itself is exciting: You might research airline options, compare seating arrangements and debate the best airport. Next comes the hotel search — ideally close to the venue, but near shopping, dining and other entertainment.

With tickets secured, planning for the concert itself begins. You might search for concert tips, from what time to arrive to bracelet-making guides, or even the expected setlist. Social media and forums become invaluable tools for gathering advice, imagining the event and building anticipation — a satisfaction booster in itself.

Most of this mental time travel takes the form of noodling online. For service providers, engaging consumers during this phase can drive greater satisfaction and loyalty. After all, while a concert may last only three hours, the connections made during months of planning can last far longer. And when an experience is over, people often return to online communities to share their stories, continuing the cycle of excitement and engagement.

To understand the value of mental time travel, we conducted two studies. The first involved people on an online cruise forum who had booked their first cruise but hadn't yet sailed. These travelers, already active in the forum, imagined their upcoming experiences and reported stronger expected loyalty before even boarding the ship.

To confirm this wasn't limited to first-timers, our second study surveyed recent vacationers. They recalled how pre-trip activities shaped their experience, reporting that they felt more satisfied and loyal, and sharing their positive views with others.

These findings suggest that companies should actively encourage social media participation and create online communities to enhance the pre-experience phase of travel. Hotels, airlines and event organizers could share planning tips, highlight customer stories and foster connections that turn anticipation into a memorable part of the journey.

Offering incentives to top contributors, encouraging photo and video sharing, and engaging with customer posts can make the journey as enjoyable as the destination itself. By embracing every stage — from planning to reminiscing — companies can create a memorable experience from start to finish.

13 WOMEN CONVICTED IN CAMBODIA OF ACTING AS SURROGATES FOR FOREIGN CLIENTS

THE BUZZ

Thirteen women from the Philippines have been convicted on human trafficking-related charges for acting as surrogates in Cambodia for a ring selling babies to foreigners for cash.

The women were each sentenced to four years in prison after being found guilty of selling, buying or exchanging a person for cross-border transfer, the Kandal Provincial Court said.

According to the verdict, two of the four years in prison were suspended, meaning they won't have to be served unless they're found guilty of another crime.

The women are held at a police hospital outside Phnom Penh, the

Cambodian capital, and authorities have previously said they would not have to serve prison time until after giving birth.

The women can appeal the verdict, said court spokesperson So Sarin. He refused to comment on how many were still pregnant, or what would happen to the babies after they have given birth.

Developing countries have been popular for surrogacy because costs are much lower compared to the United States and Australia, where surrogate services could cost around \$150,000.

The Cambodia case was unusual because surrogates normally are employed in their own countries, not transported elsewhere.



Vietnamese real estate tycoon Truong My Lan attends trial in an appeal she filed against her death sentence in a financial fraud case in Ho Chi Minh City

VIETNAM

DEATH SENTENCE FOR TYCOON TRUONG UPHeld IN LARGEST FRAUD CASE

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL, HANOI

THE death sentence for real estate tycoon Truong My Lan was upheld yesterday in Vietnam's largest fraud case, the scale of which had raised concerns about the country's economy.

She had been convicted in April of embezzlement and bribery over the fraud amounting to \$12.5 billion, nearly 3% of Vietnam's 2022 GDP. As chairperson of the Van Thinh Phat real estate firm, Lan illegally controlled Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank between 2012 and 2022 and allowed 2,500 loans that cost the bank \$27 billion in losses.

The court in Ho Chi Minh rejected her appeal against the conviction while adding that her death sentence could be commuted to life if she reimburses three-fourth of the losses, working out to around \$11 billion, state media reported.

Her lawyers argued that she had repaid the money but the court disagreed since there were legal issues with some of the seized properties and prosecuting agencies couldn't assess their value, VN Express reported.

Lan's lawyers also noted several mitigating circumstances — she had admitted guilt, showed remorse and had paid back part of the amount.

"I feel pained due to the waste of national resources," she said last week, state media reported.

But the court said her violations had negatively impacted banking, caused public disorder and eroded people's trust, VN Express said.

Under Vietnamese law, death sentences aren't immediately carried out and there is an extended legal process, said Nguyen Khac Giang, a visiting fellow in the Vietnam Studies Program at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He added that Lan would seek another review of the case or a presidential pardon to reduce her sentence.

"Moreover, if she repays at least three-quarters of the misappropriated funds, the court may consider commuting her sentence to life imprisonment," he said.

Her arrest was among the most high-profile in an anti-corruption drive in Vietnam that intensified after 2022. The Blazing Furnace campaign touched the highest echelons of Vietna-

mese politics. But the scale of her fraud shocked the nation with analysts raising questions about whether other banks or businesses had similarly erred.

This dampened Vietnam's economic outlook and made foreign investors jittery at a time when Vietnam has been trying to position itself as a home for businesses pivoting their supply chains away from China.

Lan, 67, and her family had set up the Van Thing Phat company in 1992 after Vietnam shed its state-run economy in favor of a more market-oriented approach open to foreigners. The company grew into one of Vietnam's richest real estate firms, with luxury residential buildings, offices, hotels and shopping centers.

This made her a key player in the country's financial industry. She orchestrated the 2011 merger of the beleaguered SCB bank with two other lenders in coordination with Vietnam's central bank. The court said that she used this to tap SCB for cash and, according to government documents, owned more than 90% of the bank while approving thousands of loans to "ghost companies." MDT/AP



Finland A Sweden-Finland border data cable suffered damage in two locations, affecting thousands of customers. Excavation caused one break; the second is under investigation. Global Connect is restoring services. Recent Baltic Sea cable ruptures raised concerns about sabotage, though no evidence suggests foul play.



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau warned Donald Trump that tariffs on Canadian goods would harm both economies. Discussions at Mar-a-Lago aimed to avert a proposed 25% tax. Trump remains firm on addressing drug and migrant flow, linking Canada to broader U.S.-Mexico border issues.



Syria's civil war reignited with rebels seizing Aleppo, triggering intense clashes despite a 2020 ceasefire. Government forces, supported by Russia and Iran, countered with airstrikes. Weakened foreign players, including Turkey and Hezbollah, contributed to the rebel gains in the long-running conflict.

Lebanon Israeli airstrikes killed 11 in Lebanon after Hezbollah fired projectiles over alleged ceasefire violations. The fragile truce, part of a broader regional conflict involving Gaza, faces collapse. Trump demanded Hamas release Israeli hostages, threatening severe U.S. action if conditions persist.



United States Hannah Kobayashi, a missing Hawaii woman, crossed into Mexico voluntarily, police confirmed. Her family had reported cryptic messages before her disappearance. Police urge Kobayashi to contact loved ones. Her father died by suicide during the search, adding to the family's distress.