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CCTV



**Taiwan** Famed romance novelist Chiung Yao, born Chen Che in 1938, passed away yesterday, according to China Daily. A literary icon in Chinese-speaking regions, her works inspired over 100 film and TV adaptations, cementing her legacy as a transformative figure in Chinese romance literature.

AP PHOTO



**Philippines** Vice President Sara Duterte faces a second impeachment complaint filed yesterday, citing misuse of \$10.3M in public funds and falsified audit reports. Activists allege systematic corruption and betrayal of trust. Congress, dominated by Duterte's political adversaries, begins reviewing the case amid escalating tensions.

**Japan** Australian Donna Nelson was sentenced yesterday to six years in Japanese prison for smuggling 2kg of amphetamines. The court acknowledged Nelson was deceived in an online romance scam but ruled she acted recklessly. Nelson plans to appeal the Chiba District Court's verdict.

AP PHOTO



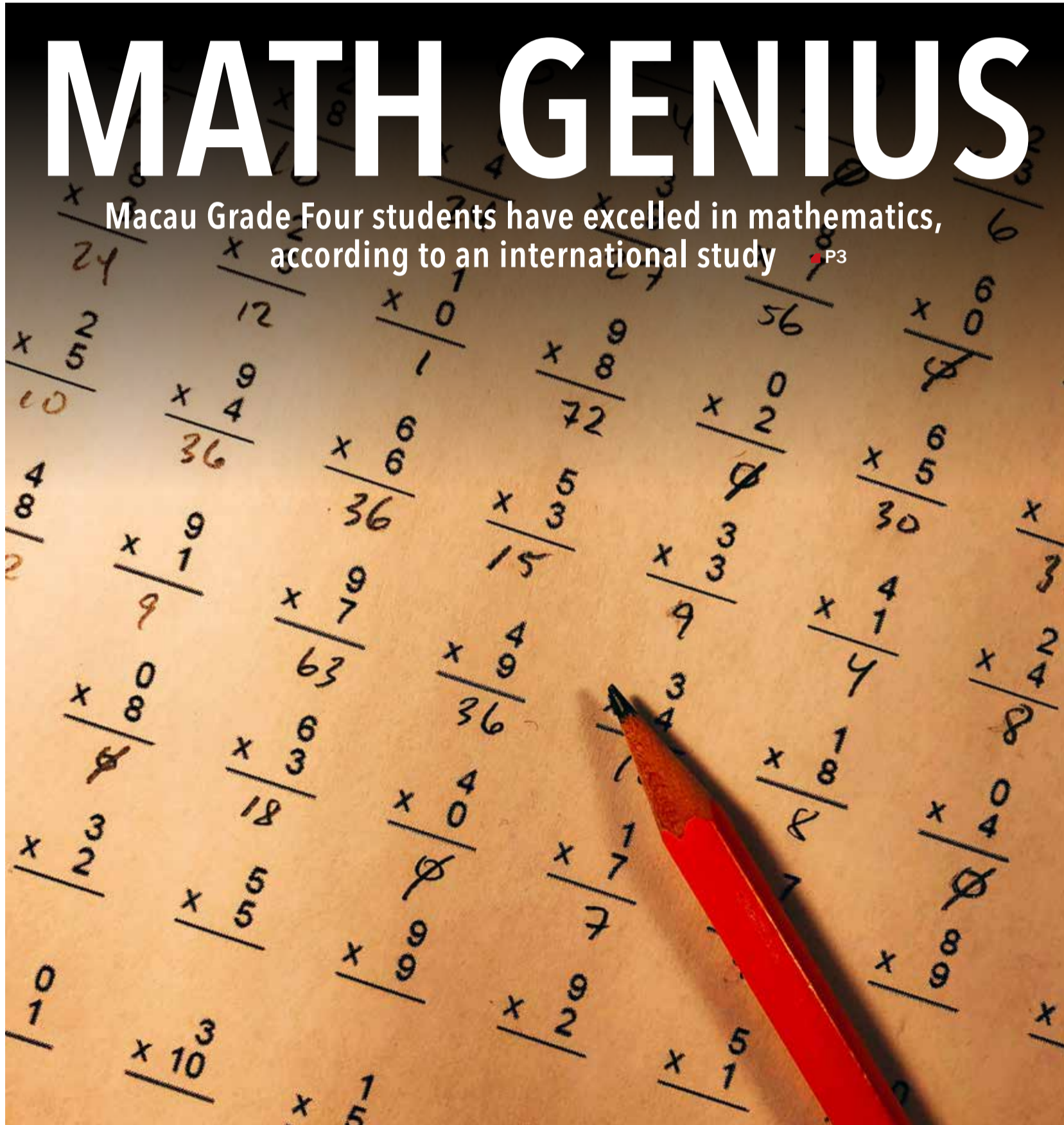
**United States** California resident Shenghua Wen, 41, was charged yesterday [Macau time] for allegedly shipping weapons to North Korea for a planned attack on South Korea. Wen admitted to smuggling goods for North Korea since 2012, despite being under deportation orders. Authorities seized ammunition and military devices from his home.

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# FROM BACK ALLEYS TO ARCHITECTURAL GEMS: JASON WORDIE REDEFINES NARRATIVE OF MACAU

VICTORIA CHAN

**H**ISTORIAN Jason Wordie shared the history of Macau yesterday at the launch of his latest book, "Macau: People and Places, Past and Present." Wordie, whose walking tours breathe life into the forgotten corners of Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou, is a Hong Kong-based author and University of Hong Kong history graduate with an encyclopedic memory.

The illustrated volume dives deep into the heart of Macau, revealing its history and diverse culture through captivating details and unexpected anecdotes.

As Wordie described it, the book not only illuminates the city's past but also honors the countless individuals who have shaped Macau into the unique crossroads of cultures it is today.

In an interview with the Times, Wordie describes his writing process as a labor of love spanning two and a half decades. "It represented 25 years of reading and six years of writing," Wordie said. The process, he explained, was intermittent as his other professional journalism commitments periodically interrupted his progress.

"I really probably started on it in about 2005 or 2006 with my initial ideas. It sort of stopped and started, and stopped and started again."

Wordie's research involved a multi-pronged approach, blending extensive secondary reading, primary field research, and oral history interviews.

Physically exploring the city's streets and neighborhoods was a crucial component of Wordie's process.

"Walking up the back streets, seeing what's there, and thinking, 'Oh, what's that?' and then trying to find out some information on it – there was a lot of physical activity involved," he said.

Wordie's passion for the subject never waned, as he became increasingly fascinated by the diverse architectural styles and influences present in Macau.

"The enthusiasm never pas-

VICTORIA CHAN



sed," he said. "I was fascinated."

## UNCOVERING THE MULTI-CULTURAL TAPESTRY

As Wordie was immersed in the architectural and cultural history of Macau, he has made it a priority to shed light on the region's often overlooked multicultural heritage. In contrast to the common "Sino-Portuguese binary" narrative, Wordie's research has revealed the diversity in ethnic and cultural groups that has shaped Macau over the centuries.

"I think this is something that has changed over time. That's something I've always attempted to focus upon – what about all the others?" Wordie said. Through his extensive fieldwork and interviews, Wordie has illuminated the contributions of various ethnic and cultural groups that have long been marginalized in the dominant historical accounts.

"Having done these walks to explore the various cultural

groups, you've also got to be able to condense something into a fairly short bite-sized bit, so that readers can chew it up and intellectually understand it," he said.

Wordie's approach has involved delving into the nuanced connections and influences that have shaped Macau's culinary and architectural landscapes.

"If we went up to Ruins St.

largely shaped by the rapid growth of its casino industry, Wordie cautions against overlooking the city's rich multicultural heritage and diverse offerings beyond the glitz of gambling.

"It's not just about the casinos," Wordie said. "That's, of course, a central government push, but it's not only about the casinos. You've got to look at other things."

Wordie's research has revealed a Macau that is far more than the stereotypical portrayal of a gambling mecca. He hopes his book will help readers

appreciate the city's uniqueness contained within a very tiny area.

This includes Macau's history as an "international and cosmopolitan" hub, predating the current casino boom by centuries.

"This place had that centuries ago, and still retains that element," Wordie said.

However, the author ack-

nnowledges the potential threat that unchecked capitalist development and mass tourism pose to Macau's cultural identity.

"I mean, in some ways, the capitalist element drives elements of conservation, because some of these buildings would fall down or would no longer be here without an economic imperative," he said.

Wordie worries about the risk of homogenization, where Macau's diverse array of small businesses and unique cultural offerings are overshadowed by a "production line" of standardized tourist experiences.

"There's more homogenization, and you walk outside and you think, 'Well, the little shops and businesses that were here before can't compete with the foot traffic for other stuff.'"

With the book's recently reprint following a successful first run, Wordie hopes to see it reach an even wider audience through translations into Chinese and Portuguese. For this author, uncovering Macau's architectural gems has been a lifelong pursuit, one that has clearly left an indelible mark.

## In contrast to the common 'Sino-Portuguese binary' narrative, Wordie's research has revealed diversity in ethnic and cultural groups that has shaped Macau

Paul, obviously you've got to give the basic background to it. But then when you explore the sideways, you can see Japanese influence - the Japanese were linked into the silk trade and so on."

## PRESERVING IDENTITY IN THE FACE OF RAPID CHANGE

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CYBERSECURITY

# Lawmaker complains of deepfake sex tapes targeting him, other officials

RENATO MARQUES

**L**AWMAKER Leong Hong Sai has revealed that he has been targeted in a blackmailing scheme involving AI-generated "deepfake" videos and images depicting nudity, intimacy, and sexual activities.

Speaking at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Leong, who is associated with the Macau General Union of Neighborhood Associations (commonly referred to as Kai Fong), explained that he is aware that similar deepfake technology has been used to try to blackmail other public officials in Macau and Hong Kong.

Leong said the threat was initially made via email, but such schemes are also commonly carried out through mobile communication apps.

The topic was raised in an initial inquiry from lawmaker Chui Sai Peng, who was questioning the government on cybersecurity threats and the need for better supervision and control over internet-related problems.



In response, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak acknowledged the seriousness of the issue, confirming several lawmakers and public officials from different government departments have been targeted with similar threats.

Wong also referenced a recent case in Hong Kong where multiple legislators received emails accusing them of "serious misconduct" and con-

taining AI-generated images depicting individuals who appeared to be the lawmakers engaging in compromising acts, with threats to expose those cases to the public.

The Secretary said such cases are not unprecedented, and similar blackmail attempts had been reported more than a decade ago, although he acknowledged the use of AI technologies in the-

se types of crimes is new.

The Director of the Judiciary Police, Sit Chong Meng, said the force is investigating all such cases and is working to hold those responsible to account.

Officials also acknowledged that with the widespread availability of AI technologies, such problems are likely to increase, particularly if criminal groups see the poten-

tial for profit from these acts.

In response to Chui's inquiry, Wong highlighted data collected by the Cybersecurity Incidents Alert and Response Center (CARIC), demonstrating that the number of cyberattacks and espionage incidents involving Macau's critical infrastructure has been increasing.

"In 2020, the number was 1,600 cases per day on average. This year, the average has risen drastically to around 6,200 cases per day," Wong said. He also noted that in 2020, "the number of alerts issued by CARIC to operators was 38, while this year, as of Nov. 25, that number has risen to 231."

Despite the increasing number of threats, Wong said the ability to respond to cyberattacks on critical infrastructure has also improved, with the number of reports on cyberattack incidents from 2020 to 2023 decreasing from 16 to 8 cases.

Wong further cited data that revealed that as of Nov. 25 this year, there had been 12 such incidents recorded.

EDUCATION

# Macau's P4 students excel in math and science in TIMSS 2023

LYNZY VALLES

**P**RI-MARY four students have excelled in the latest Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023, showcasing impressive performance in both mathematics and science.

This study, conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), assesses the academic abilities of students from participating countries and regions every four years.

For the first time, Macau participated in TIMSS, involving over 5,500 students from 59 schools.

The results revealed local students scored 582 in mathematics and 536 in science, significantly exceeding the international medians of 503 and 494,

respectively.

This achievement placed Macau sixth in mathematics and 12th in science among more than 60 participating countries.

According to the report, one of the key highlights from the TIMSS 2023 results is the relatively small score gap between students from high and low socioeconomic backgrounds.

In the SAR, this gap was only 59 points for both subjects, which is considerably lower than the international averages of 85 and 91 points.

At the same time, the percentages of Macau students reaching all four International Benchmarks were significantly higher than the international medians. 68% of local students reached the Advanced or High In-



ternational Benchmark in mathematics, and 45% of Macau students reached the Advanced or High International Benchmark in science.

These two percentages are both higher than the international medians

(42% and 38% respectively).

According to a statement issued from the Education and Youth Development Bureau, Macau's supportive school environment is a key factor contributing to these

positive outcomes.

"The results Macau achieved in TIMSS 2023 rely on the support of our nation and the SAR government. Over the years, the SAR government has actively used the study results of international assess-

ments to continuously formulate various policies to help improve the quality of school education and develop students' abilities," the bureau said.

"Macau teachers also actively participate in professional development in mathematics and science teaching. They have high demand for future training as well."

The bureau confirmed it would continue to review the TIMSS 2023 results and plans to hold explanatory sessions with schools to share the results.

"These sessions will provide the education sector with a clearer understanding of Macau's performance and explore strategies for further improving students' mathematics and science abilities," the bureau concluded.

### MGTO WARNS RESIDENTS ON TRAVEL TO S. KOREA

The South Korean government declared martial law Dec. 3, only to lift it the following morning, prompting concerns among travelers, particularly from Macau. In response, Cheng Wai Tong, deputy director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has announced over 1,500 residents currently in South Korea or planning to travel there received safety alerts via text messages. He emphasized the need for vigilance but noted no travel warnings have been issued yet, as the tourism hotline has not received any inquiries for assistance. Andy Wu, president of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, confirmed there are no organized tour groups traveling to Seoul at this time.

### MGTO PROJECTS BUSY FESTIVE SEASON

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has expressed optimism about the city's tourism outlook, noting most visitors plan short stays. Although specific hotel occupancy rates for the Christmas holiday are unavailable as yet, December is typically a strong indicator of tourist activity. Deputy director Cheng Wai Tong is confident Macau will reach its target of 33 million visitors this year, potentially exceeding 34 million.

### MAN ACCUSED OF SEXUALLY HARASSING STUDENT

A non-resident worker in his 30s has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office for allegedly sexually harassing an adult female student while intoxicated. Police yesterday reported the incident occurred Nov. 27 when the female student was approached by the suspect, who allegedly touched her inappropriately before fleeing the scene. Local authorities apprehended him Dec. 2, and despite his claims of innocence, evidence suggests he may have committed sexual harassment.

### JEFFERIES

# GAMING SECTOR POISED FOR STRONG FINISH IN 2024 WITH REVENUE RECOVERY

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE gaming industry is experiencing a notable resurgence, with casinos reporting significant revenue increases that have surpassed market expectations. According to an investor note from Jefferies Equity Research, casino revenues moderately outperformed forecasts, with strong numbers anticipated for December, aligning with government projections.

In November, the region's gambling winnings soared 14.9% year-on-year, reaching MOP18.4 billion, slightly exceeding Wall Street's highest expectations. Jefferies analyst David Katz noted that while a "new normal" is emerging—characterized by diminished high-roller play and an uptick in mass-market action—this growth reflects a positive trend for the industry post-pandemic.

The November figures not only delighted the government but also surprised Wall Street,



as they exceeded consensus projections by 1.7% and Jefferies' forecasts by 7.1%. Katz projected Macau could close out 2024 with aggregate gambling revenue as high as MOP28.5 billion, contingent on casinos earning MOP2.4 billion in December—just shy of Jefferies' estimate.

Further bolstering optimism are recent changes in immigration policies set to take effect

Jan. 1, allowing residents of neighboring Zhuhai and Hengqin increased access to Macau. Katz said this could enhance both gaming and non-gaming revenues as more tourists flock to the region, potentially attracting premium-mass players.

However, despite these promising developments, Katz cautioned about potential challenges ahead. He noted

U.S.-facing stocks could face valuation headwinds due to political uncertainties surrounding the recent U.S. election and its implications for U.S.-China relations, particularly with tariff threats from the incoming Trump administration looming.

Among the gaming concessionaires benefiting from this recovery, Katz highlighted Galaxy Entertainment for its high-end infrastructure and Las Vegas Sands for its market position reinforced by upcoming room upgrades at The Londoner complex in Macau and at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

Cumulative gross gaming revenue has reached MOP208.6 billion for the first eleven months of 2024, marking a 26.8% increase year-on-year but still reflecting a gap of 22.6% compared to pre-Covid figures.

Nonetheless, Katz stresses the importance of monitoring external economic factors and political developments that could impact this momentum.

## Christmas decorations cost MOP16.6 million

RENATO MARQUES

**C**hristmas decorations adorning some of Macau's most iconic locations cost MOP16.6 million this year, according to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

The decorations are spread across 88 sites, with 60 located on the Peninsula and the remaining 28 across Taipa and Coloane.

Notable sites featuring elaborate displays include Senado Square, Largo da Sé, Praça da Amizade, Largo Eduardo Marques (Coloane), the IAM building and the Ruins of St Paul's.

Traditional nativity scenes have also been set up at Largo da Sé, Praça da Amizade, Largo Eduardo



Marques (Coloane) and the IAM building.

IAM noted that, in addition to the traditional Christmas decorations, some locations have also been specially decorated to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region, which is celebrated Dec. 20.

These include

the "light tunnel" at Senado Square and several illuminated installations at the main border checkpoints.

The decorations will remain in place until mid-January. After this, some will be removed, while others will be structurally repurposed for the upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations at the end of January.



## MACAU PASS LAUNCHES CARD FOR MAINLAND RIDES

**T**o support the travel and employment needs of Macau residents to mainland China, the Macau Pass company has launched the "Macau Pass - National Pass Card" effective yesterday.

The new card aims to provide a more convenient payment option for public transportation and other purchases across China.

The new "Macau Pass - National Pass Card" allows users to make payments at nearly 30,000 consumption points across China, including transportation, retail, dining and entertainment. The card can be used for major public transportation in over 300 mainland cities, with the "Transportation Union" logo indicating where it can be used.

Macau residents can purchase the card for MOP68 at Macau Pass customer service centers, designated sales points, or through online channels like mCoin and mPass.

The card features dual wallets - one in MOP and one in RMB - allowing users to conveniently pay in both currencies without the need for currency exchange.

While the card does not support registration or lost-card reporting, users can manage their balances and transactions through the MPay mobile app.

The terms and conditions of any fare discounts will be determined by local transportation operators or government authorities. VC



PETER MCCLEAVE

# Cancer survivor champions stem cell donation with '10,000 Donors' campaign

NADIA SHAW

**P**ETER McCleave, a blood cancer survivor and advocate, has arrived in Macau to promote stem cell donation through his campaign, "10,000 Donors."

This initiative encourages individuals, particularly those from minority backgrounds, to register as stem cell donors to assist those battling blood cancers like myeloma.

"It's really been about action and using my story as a way to engage people," McCleave told The Times. Since launching the initiative in 2018, he has successfully registered over 130,000 donors and facilitated 26 matches for patients in need of stem cell transplants.

His journey began after being diagnosed with myeloma in 2017, following health complications that arose after completing a triathlon.

"Two days after finishing, I found myself in the Countess of Chester Hospital with pneumonia, sepsis, and legionnaires," McCleave



recalled. "I was given a maximum of seven years to live. However, that prognosis came with a caveat: if I could find a stem cell donor, there was no reason I couldn't live a normal life." It has now been just over seven years since that diagnosis.

In Macau, McCleave will embark on a 10-day campaign aimed at encouraging the Macanese community to sign up as stem cell donors. He plans to connect with community members and educate audiences in Macau and Hong Kong on the importance of stem cell donation. McCleave will raise awareness at Encontro 2024, an annual reunion of the Macanese diaspora that

gathers more than 1,400 individuals from around the globe.

Born in the UK with a mixed English, Irish, and Macanese heritage, he emphasizes the urgency of his mission. "It's the only chance I'll ever get to speak to people of my heritage on that issue," he explained.

"Through a simple cheek swab or a blood draw from the Hong Kong Red Cross, you can be the genetic twin of someone with blood cancer."

His campaign not only seeks to increase donor registrations but also highlights health inequalities faced by individuals from diverse backgrounds. "I don't do this campaign for me because I'm aware how difficult

it is to find a match," McCleave stated. "I do it because there's a health inequality that can be fixed."

Throughout his time in Macau and Hong Kong, McCleave will participate in various events, including radio and television interviews. He views this trip as the pinnacle of his campaigning efforts. "This is my last 10,000 Donors project and it's the biggest one I'll have done and the most impactful," he noted.

Looking ahead, McCleave plans to continue his fight against blood cancer as managing director of DKMS, an international charity focused on raising awareness about blood cancer and stem cell donor registration.

"They operate out of seven different countries but not in Asia yet. I'm hoping to fix that," he said.

As he embarks on this mission in Macau, McCleave remains motivated by his two sons and hopes that through education and community engagement, more lives can be saved.

ADVERTORIAL

# GREAT TIMES

A must-see residency -  
Macau 2049 - Fusion of  
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you can never miss

7 years of waiting for a chance to unfold MGM brand-new residency, internal renowned director Zhang Yimou and MGM join forces to present a show of the integration of art and technology that transcends time, cultural boundaries, and language.



Leading a global team of top talents from various fields to Macau, Director Zhang Yimou, along with 20 world's leading team with a Hollywood-scale behind-the-scenes crews of 582. After 237 days of preparation and 2,838 hours of intricate craftsmanship, combined with state-of-the-art intelligent technologies, the masterpiece showcases the epitome of millennia-old Chinese culture, redefining the imagination of intangible heritage arts and performing arts while transcending the language and cultural boundaries.



"Macau 2049" weaves together 8 performance segments, blending treasured Chinese traditional art with cutting-edge technology. Each scene offers a glimpse into the future of live entertainment while honoring the essence of Chinese culture. These eight cultural wonders spring to life in Asia's first dynamic theater, creating a harmonious bridge between heritage and future.

With overwhelming audience demand, tickets for the December 15 premiere are selling rapidly. Don't miss your chance to be part of this transformative experience. Secure your seats at [macau2049.mgm.mo](http://macau2049.mgm.mo) to witness "Macau 2049" sets the stage for new era!





In this image provided by National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea, a Chinese coast guard vessel (right) fires a water cannon on a Philippine bureau of fisheries vessel near a disputed shoal yesterday

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Philippines says Chinese coast guard fired water cannons, sideswiped its patrol vessel

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

**C**HINESE coast guard vessels backed by navy ships fired powerful water cannons and blocked and sideswiped a Philippine patrol vessel yesterday at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said.

Three Philippine coast guard and bureau of fisheries vessels were on routine patrol to protect Filipino fishermen at Scarborough Shoal when several Chinese coast guard and navy ships

approached and staged “aggressive actions” after dawn, the Philippine coast guard said.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese officials. In the past, they have repeatedly cited claims of Chinese sovereignty in the contested offshore region and their determination to defend what they say is their territory despite a 2016 international arbitration decision that invalidated Beijing’s historical claims.

The United States condemned China’s “unlawful use of water cannons and dangerous maneu-

vers.” U.S. Ambassador to Manila MaryKay Carlson said on the social media platform X that the Chinese maneuvers disrupted a Philippine maritime operation and “put lives at risk.”

“We condemn these actions and stand with our like-minded friends, partners, allies in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Carlson said.

China’s reported actions in the disputed waters came after a respite of more than a month while back-to-back major storms prevented many Philippine fishing

and commercial vessels from venturing into dangerously rough seas.

Despite the Chinese ships’ “reckless” maneuvers, the Philippines coast guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource said they renewed their “commitment to protecting the rights and safety of our fishermen within our maritime jurisdiction.”

“We will continue to be vigilant in safeguarding our national interests in the West Philippine Sea,” the two Philippine law enforcement agencies said, using the

Philippine name for the seas off the archipelago’s western coast.

The Chinese maritime maneuvers “are not standard law enforcement actions,” Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said, adding they “should be interpreted as unlawful aggression by international law violators.”

China’s sweeping claims cover virtually the entire waterway and overlap with the territorial waters, exclusive economic zones and high seas claims of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Indonesia has also had confrontations with the Chinese coast guard, which backs Beijing’s fishing fleets.

Yesterday, one of the Philippine vessels, BRP Datu Pagbuaya, was hit by high-pressure water fired from a Chinese coast guard ship with bow number 3302 which targeted its navigational antennas about 16 nautical miles (30 kilometers) south of Scarborough, Manila’s coast guard said.

Shortly after, the Chinese coast guard ship “intentionally sideswiped the BRP Datu Pagbuaya on its starboard side” and then “launched a second water cannon attack on the same vessel,” it said.

Philippine coast guard ship BRP Teresa Magbanua “faced blocking, shadowing and dangerous maneuvers” by two Chinese navy and coast guard ships, it said. Another Philippine coast guard ship, the BRP Cabra, “was subjected to reckless maneuvers” by a Chinese coast guard ship at a distance of about 300 yards (274 meters), Philippine coast guard officials said.

At a news conference yesterday, Philippine coast guard and national security officials showed videos of the Chinese coast guard’s use of water cannon and maneuvers close to the Philippine vessels. **MDT/AP**

CYBERSECURITY

# FBI tells telecom firms to boost security following ‘Chinese hacking campaign’

**U.S.** federal authorities yesterday [Macau time] urged telecommunication companies to boost network security following a “sprawling Chinese hacking campaign that gave officials in Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans.”

The guidance issued by the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is intended to help root out the hackers and prevent similar cyberespionage in the

future. Officials who briefed reporters on the recommendations said the U.S. still doesn’t know the true scope of China’s attack or the extent to which Chinese hackers still have access to U.S. networks.

Yesterday, a spokesperson for China’s embassy in Washington called the U.S. allegations “disinformation.”

China’s government “firmly opposes and combats all kinds of cyber attacks,” spokesperson Liu Pengyu wrote in a statement emailed to

The Associated Press. “The US needs to stop its own cyberattacks against other countries and refrain from using cyber security to smear and slander China.”

In one sign of the global reach of China’s hacking efforts, the government’s warning was issued jointly with security agencies in New Zealand, Australia and Canada, members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, which also includes the U.S. and Britain.

Dubbed Salt Typhoon

by analysts, the wide-ranging cyberespionage campaign emerged earlier this year after hackers sought to penetrate the networks of multiple telecommunications companies.

The hackers used their access to telecom networks to target the metadata of a large number of customers, including information on the dates, times and recipients of calls and texts.

The hackers succeeded in retrieving the actual audio files of calls and content from texts from

a much smaller number of victims. The FBI has contacted victims in this group, many of whom work in government or politics, but officials said it is up to telecom companies to notify customers included in the first, larger group.

The FBI has said some of the information targeted by the hackers relates to U.S. law enforcement investigations and court orders, suggesting the hackers may have been trying to access programs subject to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA.

Officials said they think the hackers were more broadly motivated, hoping to burrow deeply into the nation’s telecommunications systems to

gain wide access to Americans’ information.

The suggestions for telecom companies released Tuesday are largely technical in nature, urging encryption, centralization and consistent monitoring to deter cyber intrusions. If implemented, the security precautions could help disrupt the Salt Typhoon operation and make it harder for China or any other nation to mount a similar attack in the future, said Jeff Greene, CISA’s executive assistant director for cybersecurity and one of the officials who briefed reporters yesterday.

“We don’t have any illusion that once we kick off these actors they’re not going to come back,” Greene said. **MDT/AP**

HYUNG-JIN KIM,  
KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA

# Opposition parties submit a motion to impeach President Yoon over sudden martial law

**S**OUTH Korea's opposition parties yesterday submitted a motion to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over the shocking and short-lived martial law that drew heavily armed troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers climbed walls to reenter the building and unanimously voted to lift his order.

Impeaching Yoon would require the support of two-thirds of parliament and at least six justices of the nine-member Constitutional Court would have to support it to remove him from office. The motion, submitted jointly by the main opposition Democratic Party and five smaller opposition parties, could be put to a vote as early as Friday.

Yoon's senior advisers and secretaries offered to resign collectively and his Cabinet members, including Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, were also facing calls to step down, as the nation struggled to make sense of what appeared to be a poorly-thought-out stunt.

In his speech announcing the abrupt order Tuesday night, Yoon vowed to eliminate "anti-state" forces and continued to criticize parliament's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. But martial law lasted only about six hours, as the National Assembly voted to overrule Yoon and the declaration was formally lifted around 4:30 a.m. during a Cabinet meeting.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, said yesterday that its lawmakers decided to call on Yoon to quit immediately or they would take steps to impeach him.

"President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration was a clear violation of the constitution. It didn't abide by any requirements to declare it," the Democratic Party said in a statement. "His martial law declaration was originally invalid and a grave violation of the constitution. It was a grave act of rebellion and provides perfect grounds for his impeachment."

Impeaching him would require support from 200 of the National Assembly's 300 members. The Democratic Party and other small opposition parties together have 192 seats. But the rejection of Yoon's martial law declaration in a 190-0 vote included the votes of 18 lawmakers from Yoon's ruling People Power Party, according to National Assembly officials.

The leader of the People Power Party, Han Dong-hun, who has long ties with Yoon dating to their days as prosecutors, criticized Yoon's martial law declaration as "unconstitutional."



South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung (bottom center) during a rally against President Yoon at the National Assembly in Seoul, yesterday

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, seen as a potential presidential hopeful for the People Power Party, said Yoon's martial law declaration went against the "fundamental spirit of democracy" and that the deployment of troops to the National Assembly was an act that violated the separation of powers.

"Right now, the most urgent task is a thorough investigation. Through this, we must clearly hold accountable those who participated in destroying democracy," Oh said in a televised statement.

If Yoon is impeached, he'll be stripped of his constitutional powers until the Constitutional Court rules. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the No. 2 position in the South Korean government, would take over his presidential responsibilities. As calls mounted for Yoon's Cabinet to resign, Han issued a public message pleading for patience and calling for Cabinet members to "fulfill your duties even after this moment."

The Constitutional Court has only six justices following three retirements, which is one below the minimum seven needed to handle a presidential impeachment case, requiring lawmakers to speed up the process of naming new justices.

Yoon's martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years, harkened to South Ko-

rea's past military-backed governments when authorities occasionally proclaimed martial law and other decrees that allowed them to station combat soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles on streets or at public places like schools to prevent anti-government demonstrations. Such scenes of military intervention had not been seen since South Korea achieved a genuine democracy in the late 1980s until Tuesday night.

After Yoon's declaration, troops carrying full battle gear, including assault rifles, tried to keep protesters away from the National Assembly as military helicopters flew overhead and landed nearby. One soldier pointed his assault rifle at a woman who was among protesters outside the building demanding that the martial law be lifted.

It wasn't clear how the 190 lawmakers were able to enter a parliamentary hall to vote down Yoon's martial law decree. Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung livestreamed himself climbing over the wall, and while troops and police officers blocked some from entering they didn't aggressively restrain or use force against others.

No major violence has been reported. The troops and police personnel were later seen leaving the grounds of the National Assembly after the parliamentary

vote to lift the martial law. National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik said: "Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military."

Han, the People Power Party leader, demanded that Yoon explain his decision and fire Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, who he said recommended the martial law decree to Yoon. The Defense Ministry has not commented.

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to restrict the freedom of press, assembly and other rights to maintain order. Many observers question whether South Korea is currently in such a state.

The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote.

Some experts say Yoon clearly violated the constitution in how he imposed martial law. While martial law allows "special measures" to restrict individual freedoms and the authority of agencies and courts, the constitution does not permit the functions of parliament to be restricted. But in following Yoon's declaration

on Tuesday, South Korea's military proclaimed parliamentary activities were suspended and deployed troops to try to block lawmakers from entering the National Assembly.

Park Chan-dae, the Democratic Party's floor leader, called for Yoon to be immediately investigated on charges of rebellion over the way he deployed troops to the parliament. While the president mostly enjoys immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to alleged rebellion or treason.

In Washington, the White House said the U.S. was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

Pentagon spokesman Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said there was no effect on the more than 27,000 U.S. service members based in South Korea.

In Seoul, the streets seemed busy like a normal day Wednesday.

Tourist Stephen Rowan, from Brisbane, Australia, who was touring Gyeongbokgung Palace, said he was not concerned at all.

"But then again, I don't understand too much about the political status in Korea," he said. "But I hear they are now calling for the current president's resignation, so ... apparently there's going to be a lot of demonstrations. ... I would have been concerned if martial law had stayed enforced."

Yoon's government and ruling party have been embroiled in an impasse with the Democratic Party over next year's budget bill and a Democratic Party-led attempt to impeach three top prosecutors.

Natalia Slavney, research analyst at the Stimson Center's 38 North website that focuses on Korean affairs, said Yoon's imposition of martial law was "a serious backslide of democracy" that followed a "worrying trend of abuse" since he took office in 2022.

South Korea "has a robust history of political pluralism and is no stranger to mass protests and swift impeachments," Slavney said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



U.S. President Joe Biden inspects the honor guard with Angola's President João Lourenço, in Luanda

ANGOLA

# Biden says the US is 'all in' on Africa during his visit meant to counter China

WILL WEISSERT, LUANDA

**S**PEAKING of “our nation's original sin,” President Joe Biden yesterday [Macau time] toured a slavery museum in Angola and inspected shackles and a whip but also addressed Africa's future, saying Africans will make up one in four people by 2050 and the world's fate rests in their hands.

Biden's visit, the first to Angola by a U.S. president, is meant to promote billions of dollars of commitments to the sub-Saharan African nation for what he called the largest ever U.S. rail investment overseas.

“The United States is all in on Africa,” Biden earlier told Angolan President João Lourenço, who called Biden's visit a key turning point in U.S.-Angola relations dating back to the Cold War.

But even as the trip was meant to counter China's influence on the African continent of over 1.4 billion people by showcasing a U.S. commitment of \$3 billion for the Lobito Corridor railway redevelopment linking Zambia, Congo and Angola, China announced its own move.

The corridor across southern Africa is meant to make it easier to ship raw materials for export and advance the U.S. presence in a region rich in critical minerals used in batteries for electric vehicles, electronic devices and clean energy technologies.

China already has heavy investments in mining and processing African minerals, and on Tuesday it announced it is banning exports to the United States of gallium, germanium, antimony and other high-tech materials. It came a day after the U.S. expanded its list of Chinese technology companies subject to controls.

The U.S. for years has built relations in Africa through trade, security and humanitarian aid. The 800-mile railway upgrade is different, with shades of China's Belt and Road infrastructure strategy in Africa and other parts of the world.

Biden will visit the coastal city of Lobito today [Macau time] for a look at the corridor's Atlantic Ocean outlet. 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.

It was not clear how much of the U.S. commitments had been delivered and how much will depend on the Trump administration.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the corridor's completion is “going to take years.” That means much of it may fall to Donald Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20.

Asked whether the project could proceed without Trump's support, Kirby said the Biden administration's hopes “that they see the value too.”

Kirby also insisted that the corridor was about more than simply trying to outpace Beijing, saying that “we're not asking countries to choose between us and Russia and China.”

One Angolan, 19-year-old Ladislau Ngola, called Biden's visit “very important for our country as the Lobito Corridor will create lots of jobs for young people.” Julião Oliveira said “Africa in general” would benefit, too.

The rainy streets of the capital, Luanda, had a heavy military presence but few civilians — a striking change from Biden's arrival on Monday, when cheering onlookers lined his route. Authorities on Tuesday encouraged people downtown to stay home. As the motorcade passed through outer neighborhoods, crowds waved from rooftops or intersections.

Biden and Lourenço briefly addressed reporters before a closed-door meeting. Biden ignored questions about his decision to issue a pardon for his son after previously pledging not to, and joked to the Angolan delegation, “Welcome to America.”

He also told Lourenço while pledging to use the trip to listen: “We don't think, because we're bigger and more powerful, that we're smarter. We don't think we have all the answers.”

Angola's president said he'd like to see a public-private partnership to increase energy production, and praised

Biden's leadership on the Lobito Corridor, saying it would “always be remembered.”

After the meeting, a senior U.S. administration official said China didn't come up. The official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss a meeting that was not public, also said Biden's visit to Lobito will be joined by the presidents of Zambia and Congo.

Biden had promised to visit sub-Saharan Africa last year, after reviving the U.S.-Africa Summit in 2022. But the trip was delayed until this year, reinforcing a sentiment among Africans that their continent is still a low priority for Washington. The last U.S. president to visit sub-Saharan Africa was Barack Obama in 2015.

Biden toured Angola's National Slavery Museum at a site that was formerly the headquarters of the Capela da Casa Grande. The 17th century temple is where slaves were baptized against their will, with their names changed, before boarding ships to America. Angola was the departure point for an estimated 6 million enslaved people, the White House said.

Looking ahead, “I know the future runs through Angola, through Africa,” Biden said.

Speaking by the water, he said history “cannot and should not be erased,” and that while America was founded on the ideal of freedom and equality, “it's abundantly clear today we have not lived up to that ideal.” **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1991 MAXWELL BUSINESS EMPIRE FACES BANKRUPTCY



Administrators have been called in to try to salvage the Maxwell business empire, which is at least £1bn in debt.

At 1100 GMT two sons of the late business tycoon Robert Maxwell, Kevin and Ian, called in administrators from accountants Arthur Andersen as the enormity of their father's financial difficulties emerged.

Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) today revealed Mr Maxwell, who died a month ago, removed £350m from its pension fund in the weeks before his death apparently without proper authority.

Administrators will take over Headington Investments and Robert Maxwell Group, the senior UK companies at the heart of his business empire.

They head a network of 400 private firms including AGB International, The European Newspaper and The New York Daily News.

Through the two key companies the Maxwells own 51% of MGN.

The family also owns 68% of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC).

Administrators have three months to prepare a disposal plan for approval by banks and other creditors.

Joint administrator John Talbot said: “We are looking at a strategy where by we maintain the businesses which are good and viable and at the moment we are looking to sell those.”

Some analysts predict the Maxwell business empire could be sold off by the spring, saying there is almost no question of a rescue.

Maxwell's private companies could be worth £1bn but the debts total £1.4bn.

MGN is valued at £500m at its suspended share price but in an auction it could fetch much more.

But it has debts of £350m and faces questions about the millions of pounds missing from its pension fund.

The other publicly quoted company, MCC, is worth £227m at its last share price, but like the private companies its debts total £1.4bn.

It was the Swiss Bank which triggered the crisis when it called in the Serious Fraud Office and put a receiver into a subsidiary of Headington Investments.

The bank had discovered the security the bank was owed had been sold - contravening the loan agreement.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry were commissioned in 1992 to look into the collapse of the Maxwell business empire.

Its report was delayed as Maxwell's two sons and family adviser Larry Trachtenberg were charged with being involved in a conspiracy to defraud company pensioners, after £440m was taken by their father from his companies' pensions.

All three were later acquitted in 1996 on all counts after an eight month trial.

The DTI inquiry resumed and its report, published in March 2001, blamed Kevin Maxwell for having a “heavy responsibility” for the collapse of his father's business empire.

It also blamed leading City institutions and Robert Maxwell himself.



**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Don't worry about what seems impossible. Focus on your career. Discipline here and now provides lasting benefits. Handle duties, obligations and responsibilities.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Plot your next adventure to keep costs minimal and sights high. Trying new things can bring new problems; stick to familiar routes and routines.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Conditions and expectations shift. Make sure that your family has what they need. Attention to financial management yields satisfying results.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Choose words carefully with your partner. Ignore the little stuff. Postpone expansion, expense or travel. Do what needs to be done. Keep showing up.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Get your blood pumping! Exercise energizes you. Ignore gossip. Talk later. Enjoy healthy food and practices. Put love into your work and it blossoms.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Things could seem chaotic or unstable. Don't be hasty; work out plans with your loved ones. Let everyone know what's needed. Keep accurate records.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Today is perfect for restoring beauty and organization at home. Make repairs and adjustments. Avoid travel or expense, and cook up something delicious.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Discipline with a creative project can make valuable progress. Ignore gossip or rumors, controversy or chaos. Plan, craft and mold to fit your vision.

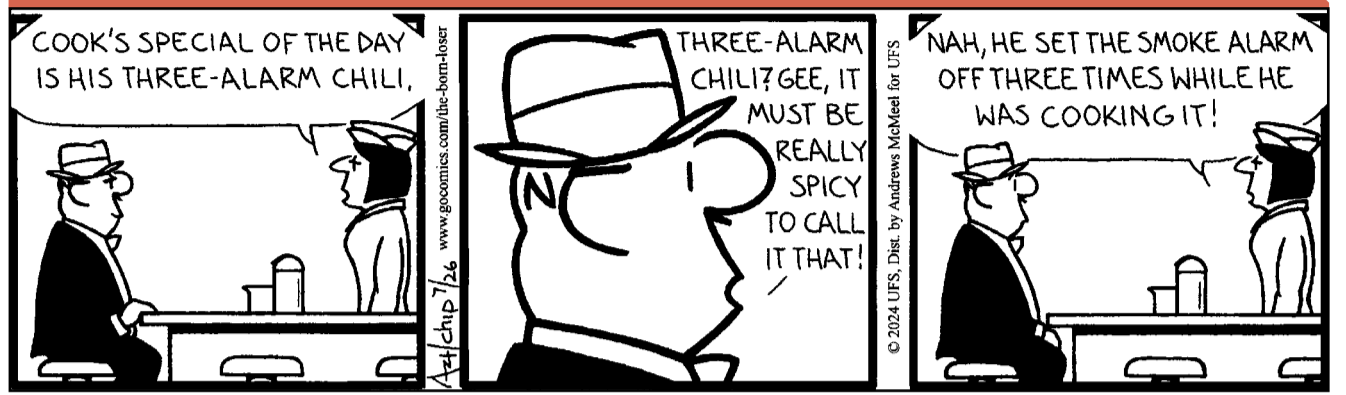
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Take charge to adapt to new circumstances. Rely on advice from someone experienced. Be careful with resources. Stick to your budget and plan.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Focus on attaining a personal dream. Abandon self-criticism. Honor your word. Align with a sense of purpose. Dress for success. Savor satisfying results.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Rest and review where you've been. Put things away. Take extra care for your health and well-being. Consider what's next and make plans.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Coordinate efforts to save time and money. Teamwork gets everyone closer to a shared goal with minimal fuss. Reduce risks. Stay in communication.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

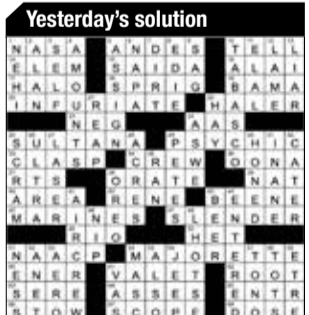
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-2	10	cloudy
Changchun	-12	-4	fine
Chengdu	6	12	cloudy
Chongqing	11	12	rain
Fuzhou	14	21	cloudy
Guangzhou	14	25	cloudy
Guiyang	7	9	rain
Haikou	21	25	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	11	rain
Harbin	-17	-11	snow
Hefei	4	12	cloudy
Nanjing	6	13	overcast
Shanghai	9	14	overcast
Taipei	18	19	overcast
Wuhan	7	13	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	22	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-6	-5	cloudy
Frankfurt	3	3	snow
Paris	6	9	snow
London	7	13	rain
New York	-1	5	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Ah, mel; 5- Adds; 9- Handles clumsily; 13- \_\_\_ colada; 14- Deplete; 16- Succulent plant; 17- Rushed, drove too fast; 18- Young rabbit; 19- Outback hoppers; 20- Cornerstone abbr.; 21- Used to be; 22- Child's toy; 24- Tel Aviv server; 26- Quarter, e.g.; 27- Medium of exchange; 29- Skin preparation; 33- Brainy bunch; 34- Asian cuisine; 35- Infrequent; 36- Wolfed down; 37- Gross; 38- A Kennedy; 39- Afternoon affairs; 41- Cafe au \_\_\_; 42- View; 44- Archie Bunker's is in the Smithsonian; 46- Task; 47- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 48- Examine by touch; 49- Monetary unit of Thailand; 52- Religious sch.; 53- Weak, as an excuse; 57- Type of machine found in Las Vegas; 58- French school; 60- They may clash; 61- DEA agent; 62- Hazardous gas; 63- Wrigley varieties; 64- Adam's third son; 65- Desire; 66- Comfort;

**DOWN** 1- Church section; 2- Kissers; 3- Work without \_\_\_; 4- Makes sorrowful; 5- Underground electric railroad; 6- Customary; 7- Department store department; 8- Sky light; 9- Associate; 10- Tremendously; 11- Fleece; 12- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 15- Heartburn; 23- Goal, intention; 25- Pasture; 26- Seashore; 27- Unit just above a yard; 28- Wee hour; 29- Seat; 30- Spud; 31- "Goodnight" girl; 32- Give up; 33- \_\_\_ Hari; 34- Characteristic; 37- Blunder; 40- Deal with poison ivy, in a way; 42- "\_\_\_ loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah"; 43- School; 45- Female fowl; 46- Building material; 48- Criminal; 49- IRS IDs; 50- Wings; 51- Civil wrong; 52- Bubbly drink; 54- Juan's water; 55- May honorees; 56- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 59- Cornfield cry;



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<b>Fire department</b> 28 572 222	<b>Water Supply - Report</b> 2822 0088
<b>PJ (Open line)</b> 993	<b>Telephone - Report</b> 1000
<b>PJ (Picket)</b> 28 557 775	<b>Electricity - Report</b> 28 339 922
<b>PSP</b> 28 573 333	<b>Macau Daily Times</b> 28 716 081
<b>Customs</b> 28 559 944	
<b>S. J. Hospital</b> 28 313 731	
<b>Kiang Wu Hospital</b> 28 371 333	
<b>Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)</b> 28326 300	
<b>IAM</b> 28 387 333	
<b>Tourism</b> 28 333 000	
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Jeweller Moussa Diop works on a bronze hippopotamus in his workshop

## CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART

# SENEGALESE ARTISANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS THEY EXHIBIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

MONIKA PRONCZUK, DAKAR

FOR the artistic and cultural elites of Senegal, the month-long Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Arts is a celebratory moment.

Every two years, hundreds of artists, curators and art lovers from across the world descend on the West African capital to attend the event, which was founded in 1989 by the Senegalese government and has over the decades become one of the most important showcases on the continent.

Pop-up exhibitions are held in hundreds of venues, from stylish five-star hotels to local art galleries. Roads are even more crowded than usual, with traffic jams stretching out for miles along the Corniche, the city's picturesque seaside boulevard. Every night, there are music concerts, fashion shows, talks with artists and movie screenings held against the backdrop of palm trees and to the soundtrack of popping champagne bottles.

But it wasn't until this year that the local artisans in the Soumbédioune crafts market, just off the Corniche and at the doorstep on the Medina working-class neighborhood, realized what the Biennale was.

For years, "we saw the OFF signs, but we didn't know what was going on," said Ndiouga Dia, a 48-year-old leatherworker from Soumbédioune, referring to a series of even-

ts organized in parallel to the official government program, scattered all over the city. "Only the artists knew among themselves what was going on."

Craftsmanship is deeply rooted in the country's culture. Senegal, like most African nations, has little capacity for industrial production, and traditionally much of its economy has relied on locally produced goods. For centuries, craftsmen played a central role in Senegalese social life, sculpting religious statues and ceremonial masks, sewing boubous (traditional colorful wide-sleeved robes), molding pottery and weaving baskets.

But these days, their role is in decline. As living costs rise, many Senegalese opt for cheaper, often Chinese products. And those that can afford it buy Western clothes and furniture to mark their social status.

So when two designers approached Dia, who is also the community leader of the Soumbédioune artisans, with a proposal for a joint exhibition, he didn't hesitate for a second.

It felt good to be noticed and included, Dia said.

Designers Kemi Bassène and Khadim Ndiaye asked five artisans — a sculptor, a painter, a jeweler, a leatherworker and a upholsterer — to interpret the theme of "hippo."

They chose the theme because it was easily recognizable across Africa, they said, bringing together people from

different nations who live next to the water.

The exhibition, held in the central square of Soumbédioune, surrounded by artisanal boutiques and restaurants selling thieboudienne, the most famous Senegalese dish, has been a hit among locals. There are hippo earrings and a hippo necklace; a giant wooden sculpture of a sleeping hippo; and a hippo-shaped bag.

Papise Kanté, a 45-year-old sculptor who created two wooden hippo statues for the exhibition, said it allowed him to tap into a more creative part of his work, instead of just producing objects that he

intended to sell.

"I have been sculpting since I was a young child," said Kanté, who comes from a long line of sculptors. "Every artist wants to get better."

But it also gave his work recognition.

"It's because of the Biennale that people know my work," he said. If you participate in the Biennale, he added, "you are proud."

Bassène, the curator, grew up in Medina, next to Soumbédioune, but is now based in Paris. He said he wanted to bridge the divide between arts and crafts.

"This is the first time in the

history that artisans, especially those who are custodians of traditional craftsmanship, are invited to the Biennale," Bassène said. "For craftsmen in Africa, there is a natural progression towards the world of modern design."

It was "normal," he said, to include artisans in the Biennale "if we wanted to try to decolonize a little."

This year's Biennale is being held as Senegal is undergoing profound political change, with the newly elected authorities charting a more self-reliant and pan-African course.

Last month, the governing party, PASTEF, secured a resounding victory in legislative elections. Its win granted President Bassirou Diomaye Faye a clear mandate to carry out ambitious reforms promised during the campaign to improve living conditions for ordinary Senegalese — including greater economic self-reliance, revamping the fishing industry, and making maximum use of natural resources.

The theme of this year's Biennale has been "The Wake," alluding to the emancipation of the African continent from its remaining dependence on former colonial powers.

The new government of Senegal has "a transformational agenda," said Bassène. "I think that what we have experienced politically will impact all the social sciences and all art."

In the meantime, the Soumbédioune artisans have big plans. Dia, the community leader, said that they are planning a collaboration with a local school to manufacture backpacks for students.

His dream, he said, was to expand the production across the whole country so the Senegalese parents "do not have to buy Chinese products."

"We have all the know-how," he said. "We can produce more." MDT/AP



Woodcarver Papis Kanté sculpts a wooden hippopotamus to be exhibited in the "Rebondir" exhibition

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring the opening goal

FOOTBALL

# Vardy helps Van Nistelrooy to first win with Leicester

STEVE DOUGLAS

LEICESTER 3, WEST HAM 1

**I**T was a fine first win for Ruud van Nistelrooy, and perhaps one final defeat for Julen Lopetegui.

Leicester marked Van Nistelrooy's first match in charge of the team by surging to a 3-1 win over Lopetegui's West Ham in the Premier League yesterday [Macau time].

Van Nistelrooy, the former Manchester United striker, is back in En-

glish soccer this time as a manager, with Leicester taking something of a gamble on the Dutchman after his brief and impressive spell as interim coach at United this season following Erik ten Hag's departure.

He faces the tough task of keeping Leicester, one of the top can-

didates for relegation, in the top division. For that to happen, he's likely to need goals from Jamie Vardy — and the 37-year-old former England international delivered immediately.

Nine years after breaking Van Nistelrooy's record for scoring in consecutive games, Vardy scored the first goal of the Dutchman's tenure at Leicester by beating the off-side trap and slotting home a finish with less than two minutes gone.

Morocco midfielder Bilal El Khannouss supplied the pass for Vardy's goal and scored himself with a low shot in the 61st minute to make it 2-0. Patson Daka added

a third for Leicester in the 90th minute, before a stoppage-time consolation by West Ham substitute Niclas Füllkrug.

"We are very happy with the new manager," El Khannouss said of Van Nistelrooy. "He arrived two days ago, and there's a new dynamic in the group."

Van Nistelrooy praised the "spirit and energy" in his team.

"The foundation for us going forward is everyone working their socks off, fighting for every inch and defending together," he said. "We can look further then, and they did that in an unbelievable way."

This dismal result for West Ham came three days after its 5-2 thrashing at home by Arsenal, which piled more pressure of Lopetegui early in the former Spain and Real Madrid coach's first season with the London club.

West Ham's disgruntled traveling fans chanted "You're getting sacked in the morning" toward Lopetegui during the second half — even if his team dominated large parts of the game but only had one goal to show from 31 shots on goal.

"We're very frustrated but in the same way I can say nothing about the players — they fight until the end," Lopetegui said. "It's not easy to explain football some days."

West Ham has lost seven of its 14 games so far and is in 14th place in the 20-team league, one spot above Leicester. **MDT/AP**

AD



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OPINION

China Daily  
Editorial, China Daily

WASHINGTON ABUSING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

In a strongly worded statement, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce excoriated the United States for engaging in unilateral bullying behavior, saying that it “talks a good game while doing the opposite”.

Lambasting the US for constantly expanding the concept of national security and abusing export control measures that seriously affect companies from all over the world, including the US, the ministry pilloried the US for its abuse of regulatory measures that impede normal economic and trade exchanges among countries, seriously undermine market rules and the international economic and trade order, and threaten the stability of the global industry and supply chains.

The statement came in response to the US Department of Commerce announcing on Monday new export restrictions targeting China.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday it would restrict exports to the US of some key components used in making semiconductors after the US Department of Commerce announced the new curbs targeting shipments of advanced memory chips and chip-making tools to Chinese companies.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, in a statement, described the latest crackdown the US has launched on China’s high-tech sector as “significant steps to protect our technology from being used by our adversaries in ways that threaten our national security”, adding that Washington will keep working with its allies “to proactively and aggressively safeguard our world-leading technologies and know-how so they aren’t used to undermine our national security”.

Yet national security is only a pretext for the US to undermine China’s tech sector. Its tech salvos are actually aimed at crippling China’s overall tech development and its economic growth.

China will therefore take all necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

Given that the semiconductor industry is highly globalized, other countries, including some of the US’ allies, should stand with China in opposing the US repeatedly abusing regulatory measures to weaponize trade. Dutch and ROK companies are among those whose businesses will be harmed by the latest US restrictions.

Dutch lithography equipment maker ASML said the latest US restrictions, if enforced by the Dutch government, would affect the company’s exports of deep ultraviolet lithography systems to chip-making plants in China.

The US’ attacks on Chinese tech, which are aimed at maintaining its own leadership position, are so indiscriminate that it tries to box them and tie them up in the bows of a response to national security threats when trying to sell them to its collateral-damaged partners.

Yet in spite of all their efforts, the China hawks in Washington are destined to be disillusioned if they think imposing technology sanctions on China will prevent the country from advancing its domestic semiconductor manufacturing system as it pursues modernization. Such efforts are only spurring China to intensify its quest to innovate and achieve self-reliance in high technologies.

A survey done by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute suggests that China is leading in 37 of 44 cutting-edge technologies, including nanoscale materials and synthetic biology. China is also employing industrial robots at 12 times the rate of the US. Therefore, China, with its science and innovation making rapid progress, will not easily succumb to the US attacks.

History proves that global cooperation drives development of science to benefit all humanity. The “small yard, high fence” policy that focuses on safeguarding the world-leading technologies and know-how for the exclusive benefit of an increasingly mono-fixed hubristic hegemon is a threat to global stability and progress.

The US should focus more on the benefits new technology can bring to humanity and less on trying to choke China’s development.

CANADIAN MINISTER SAYS TRUMP WAS JOKING WHEN HE SAID CANADA COULD BECOME THE 51ST STATE

THE BUZZ

President-elect Donald Trump was joking when he suggested Canada become the 51st U.S. state during a dinner with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a Canadian minister who attended their recent dinner said yesterday [Macau time].

Fox News reported that Trump made the comment in response to Trudeau raising concerns that Trump’s threatened tariffs on Canada would damage Canada’s economy.

Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who attended the Friday dinner at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club, said Trump’s comments were in jest. “The president was telling jokes. The president was teasing us. It was,

of course, on that issue, in no way a serious comment,” LeBlanc told reporters in Ottawa.

LeBlanc described it as a three-hour social evening at the president’s residence in Florida on a long weekend of American Thanksgiving. “The conversation was going to be light-hearted,” he said.

He called the relations warm and cordial and said the fact that “the president is able to joke like that for us” indicates good relations.

Trump appeared to continue with the joke, posting an AI-generated image of himself standing on a mountain with a Canadian flag next to him with the caption “Oh Canada!”



AP PHOTO

Visitors gather around the Rocky Statue and the “Rocky Steps” in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA READY TO GO THE DISTANCE WITH ROCKYFEST WEEK

DAN GELSTON,  
PHILADELPHIA

**R**OCKY Balboa fans are ready to go the distance — by bus, by ice skates, by 72 steps — to honor Philly’s favorite fictional fighter almost 50 years after the first movie launched the enduring series of an underdog boxer persevering despite the odds.

Yo, Adrian, Philly finally did it!

The city Rocky called home at last has a week dedicated to the box office heavyweight champion of the world a year after the inaugural Rocky Day was held with Sylvester Stallone in attendance at the Philadelphia Museum of Art steps.

It’s Rocky, so of course there’s a sequel.

This year, it’s RockyFest.

The Rocky Bus Tour served as Round 1 over the weekend before the festival truly laced up its gloves for Tuesday’s opening event — on Dec. 3, the 1976 release date of “Rocky” — with area elementary school students running the Rocky steps.

A second cast of the Rocky statue was unveiled Tuesday at the top of the Rocky steps — where the original was featured in “Rocky III” — and will remain there through Dec. 31.

“This statue represents everything that the Rocky films stand for: resilience, heart, and the unbreakable bond between Rocky and the people of Philadelphia,” Stallone said in a statement.

Rocky is feted this week with a mural unveiling, movie marathons, RockyU discussions on the enduring appeal of Stallone’s most famous character, look-alike contests and even a bus tour. The tour — with QR codes that pull up scenes from the movies at designated sites - weaves Rocky fanatics through the city and includes stops at Adrian and Paulie’s fictional graves (not far from the real one for former Phillies announcer Harry Kalas), the Italian Market where Rocky trained, and the exterior site of Mighty Mick’s Gym.

“If no one has seen the movie,” tour guide Adam Clements said before a recent trip, “there will be spoilers.”

Rocky fans can even recreate Rocky and Adrian’s first date at a local ice rink.

It seems almost as improbable as Rocky Balboa lasting 15 rounds with champion Apollo Creed that it took so long for Philadelphia to properly honor “Rocky” and the other eight movies in the series (including

three “Creed” films).

Whether natives like it or not, Rocky is as much a part of the fabric of the city as the Founding Fathers and the Liberty Bell.

Before most fans chug their first raw eggs of the day, the Rocky statue at the base of the museum steps already boasts a line that often snakes around the corner for most of the day. Movie clips are played ad nauseam — usually Adrian imploring Rocky to win — on the big screen at sporting events. The strains of “Gonna Fly Now” stir ahead of kickoff for all Eagles games. Rocky’s faithful followers run a 50-kilometer race each year that follows his trumped-up training route in a grueling tribute to their mythical champ.

There’s even a merchandise stand at the steps that sells “Italian Stallion” robes and plush Clubber Lang dolls a short run from where Paul Cézanne and Claude Monet’s works hang in the museum.

Choose your favorite canvas, there’s a little something for everyone.

While Stallone and “Creed” star Michael B. Jordan have made previous promotional stops at the Rocky steps, no actors were expected to attend this year’s events. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**United States** Border arrests dropped 17% in November, hitting a historic low during Biden’s presidency. Stricter asylum rules and Mexican enforcement contributed to a steep decline from record highs in December 2022. The arrests fell to levels not seen since mid-2020, defying predictions of a post-election surge.



AP PHOTO

**Middle East** Hamas and Fatah near a deal to form a postwar Gaza administration of independent technocrats. The agreement, brokered in Cairo, aims to end Hamas’ rule and facilitate humanitarian aid and reconstruction, though Israel and internal Palestinian factions remain critical of the proposed arrangement.



AP PHOTO

**United Kingdom** Police recovered yesterday a stolen van carrying 2,500 pies destined for a Christmas market, but the contents were deemed unsalvageable. The van was abandoned 30 miles from its original location. Chef Tommy Banks expressed disappointment over the waste of the \$32,000 worth of food.



AP PHOTO

**European Union** postponed its deforestation ban enforcement by one year to 2025 after global producers and EU members voiced concerns over preparedness. The law targets deforestation-linked products like soy and cocoa. Environmentalists criticized the delay as undermining urgent climate and forest preservation efforts.