

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

**17**  
A-CHANGIN'  
Advertise with us  
+853 287 160 81

**NEWS**

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

# Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

ARTYZEN  
GRAND LAPA MACAU  
澳門雅辰酒店

DISCOVER  
Good Life Starts Here

N.º 4677 **TUESDAY** T. 18°/26° Air Quality Moderate  
11 Mar 2025

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

**A MAINLAND WOMAN HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR DEFRAUDING A FEMALE FRIEND OF RMB1.37 MILLION IN A FAKE INVESTMENT SCHEME, PJ SAYS**

P2

**CPPCC COMMITTEE MEMBER LAO NGA WONG URGES MACAU TO BOOST ITS PLATFORM ROLE**

P2

**NISSAN TESTS DRIVERLESS VEHICLES ON CITY STREETS FILLED WITH CARS AND PEOPLE**

P5



AP PHOTO



**Hong Kong** Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte dismissed Sunday speculation that his unannounced Hong Kong trip was to evade a possible ICC arrest warrant. Speaking at a political rally, Duterte reiterated he was ready for jail over his drug crackdown, which left thousands dead.

AP PHOTO



**Myanmar** Thousands freed from forced cyber scams remain in overcrowded border facilities, facing harsh conditions and uncertain repatriation. The mass rescue effort, launched by Myanmar, Thailand, and China, exposed the vast human trafficking network, with an estimated 300,000 still trapped in scam compounds.

AP PHOTO



**Australia** Floodwaters continued to threaten parts of Queensland and New South Wales yesterday following a weekend storm that left one dead, cut power to 200,000 homes, and closed 700 schools. Cleanup efforts began in affected areas, while authorities warned of ongoing flood risks.

AP PHOTO



**Nepal** Thousands rallied in Kathmandu yesterday [Macau time], calling for the reinstatement of former King Gyanendra and a return to monarchy amid frustration with political instability. Protesters blocked airport entrances but were stopped by riot police. Nepal abolished its monarchy in 2008 after mass protests.

More on backpage

# EDUCATION BUREAU PROMOTES TOLERANCE

Amid recent cases of xenophobia in schools, including verbal and visual violence targeting non-Chinese colleagues, DSEDJ is strengthening 'tolerance' across various subjects, the Times has learned P4



**GAMING**  
**CASINO REVENUE FORECAST REVISED AMID SLOWER START TO 2025**

P3

**WELFARE**  
**MACAU FACES AN INCREASING SHORTAGE OF CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY**

P3

LABOR

# DISMISSED WORKERS SUBMIT LETTER TO GOV'T OVER UNFAIR DISMISSALS

VICTORIA CHAN

A group of former employees from a gaming operator submitted a letter to the government yesterday, alleging unfair dismissal without adequate compensation.

The workers from Melco Resorts & Entertainment claim they were terminated without notice or explanation, which they argue violates labor laws and raises concerns about corporate responsibility.

Gathering at government headquarters, they expressed their frustrations over the lack of progress since reporting the issue to the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) over six months ago.

They urged the government to expedite the investigation and address their grievances.

In response, the DSAL confirmed that a case had been opened and an investigation launched.



The department emphasized its commitment to protecting employees' rights and following up on complaints within its authority.

As cited in a TDM report, Mel-

co acknowledged the incident and stated it was following up on the matter.

The petition follows recent concerns raised by lawmaker Ron Lam, who highlighted such alle-

gations last week.

Lam revealed that several employees from various departments of a gaming operator were abruptly dismissed on February 28 without prior notice, explana-

tion, or job transfer options.

He described the layoffs as "unreasonable dismissal" and criticized the company for failing to uphold its corporate social responsibility and commitment to local employment.

Lam also noted industry speculation that the government had tacitly approved layoffs by gaming operators, with only one major company yet to implement such measures.

He warned that unjustified terminations by major gaming operators could set a troubling precedent and exacerbate Macau's employment challenges, particularly as the economy continues its recovery.

The lawmaker called on the government to investigate the dismissals, clarify policies on layoffs, and ensure local workers are protected. He emphasized that gaming operators, which employ over 27,000 non-resident workers as of June 2024, must prioritize local employment and avoid practices that undermine job security.

The Times reached out to the DSAL and Melco for further clarification on the matter, but did not receive a response by press time.

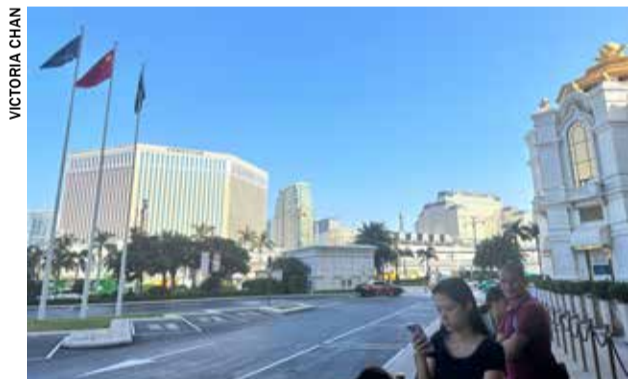
CPPCC

# Committee member urges Macau to boost platform role

VICTORIA CHAN

DURING the National Top Advisory Bodies Plenary Meeting, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Standing Committee Member Lao Nga Wong urged Macau to strengthen its role as a platform for connecting China with Portuguese-speaking countries.

His remarks emphasized the importance of advancing Macau's unique status as an international gateway. In a speech at the 3rd Plenary Meeting of the 3rd Section of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Lao highlighted Macau's potential to serve as a vital bridge for economic and cultural ties. He referenced President Xi Jinping's



endorsement of Macau's capabilities during his visit last year, underscoring its relevance in fostering international relations. "Leverage the unique role of Macau's China-Portuguese-speaking countries platform and overseas Chinese businesses to provide multi-level services for mainland enterprises to go global through cooperation," Lao said. He called for collaborative efforts to establish Macau as an additional international

hub alongside Hong Kong. The plenary session featured discussions from 14 CPPCC members, covering a range of issues from improving the business environment to enhancing cross-strait cultural exchanges.

Tu Haiming, deputy director of the CPPCC Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and Overseas Chinese, reiterated the importance of shared responsibilities among governments

and citizens in advancing Macau's international role.

## GOV'T IMPLEMENT GUIDELINES FROM TWO SESSIONS

In a concerted effort to advance the 'One country, two systems' principle in Macau, government officials said they are set to implement key strategies derived from the Two Sessions held in Beijing.

According to statements issued by the city's secretaries, these measures aim to foster economic diversification, ensure stability, and improve the well-being of residents.

Additionally, they focus on developing the Macau-Hengqin interconnection, deepening international exchanges, and enhancing the region's integration into the broader national development framework.

CRIME

# WOMEN SUSPECTED OF DEFRAUDING A FRIEND OF AN INVESTMENT

A 43-year-old unemployed mainland woman has been arrested for allegedly posing as a shareholder of a Cotai VIP room and defrauding a female friend of approximately RMB1.37 million in a fake investment scheme, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced.

The suspect, who had known the victim for over two years, reportedly convinced her to invest in the VIP room in Cotai, promising a monthly profit of 4%.

In May of last year, the victim was taken to the VIP lounge and subsequently transferred a total of RMB1.547 million to the suspect's designated mainland account. While the victim initially received RMB167,000 in profits, she later discovered

the suspect had financial issues and demanded her investment back.

The suspect repeatedly delayed repayment, prompting the victim to report the case to authorities. PJ confirmed the suspect was not a shareholder of the VIP room.

She was intercepted last Friday at the Macau Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, where she refused to cooperate.

Officers also found a forged Hong Kong resident identity card in her possession, which she allegedly purchased online for RMB1,000 to falsely demonstrate financial capability for immigration purposes. VC

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

**+25,000**

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

**Times**

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrao, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Segú, Victoria Chan DESIGNER\_Melissandre Denize | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER\_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:  
general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

# Macau facing an increasing shortage of care facilities for the elderly

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE SAR is facing an increasing shortfall of elderly care spaces, despite government plans to expand capacity in the coming years.

Government data indicates that as of 2021, there were 2,510 residential care beds in the city. This number had remained unchanged for several years, likely due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To address the growing demand, the government has announced plans to add 200 beds in the short term and an additional 900 beds in Zone A by 2028, bringing the total number of beds to 3,600.

However, projections based on past studies suggest this may not be sufficient to meet Macau's needs, according to an interpellation made by lawmaker Lo Choi In.

Previous research reports and government data have referenced an unofficial standard of 3.4%—meaning that for every 1,000 residents, 3.4 residential care beds should be available. Based on this benchmark, academics estimate that the city would require approximately 4,000 beds by 2026. Yet, even with the planned increase, the city is expected to face a shortfall



XINHUA

of nearly 400 beds by 2028.

According to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Health Organization (WHO), the median standard for residential care beds in developed nations is 4.4% of the total population.

"If Macau were to align with this standard, it would need approximately 5,200 beds by

2026, far exceeding the government's current expansion plans," said Lo.

The 2021 Population Census conducted by the government further underscores the urgency of the situation, revealing that 5,226 elderly residents aged 65 and above are unable to care for themselves.

Challenges in expanding elderly care services

Many care homes in the SAR

rely heavily on imported labor due to the strenuous nature of elderly care work. However, Lo warned that wage constraints and rising salary levels in mainland China are making it increasingly difficult to attract and retain foreign workers.

"Most care homes struggle to offer competitive salaries," said Lo.

"This makes it hard to maintain a stable workforce,

leading to high turnover rates and potential declines in service quality."

Additionally, the government imposes limits on the ratio of foreign workers to local employees in care homes.

Lo explained that when local staff leave and cannot be quickly replaced, care facilities may struggle to maintain their workforce, creating a vicious cycle of understaffing and declining service quality.

Therefore, Lo urged the government to reassess its elderly care policies. Some have called for an expansion of private sector involvement in elderly care services.

"Neighboring regions have successfully leveraged private care facilities to complement public services, reducing government burdens while creating jobs," said the lawmaker.

"Macau should consider optimizing land use and offering incentives to develop its private elderly care sector," she added.

The lawmaker is also advocating for increased financial support for care homes.

She argued that given rising operational costs and inflation, the government should review and adjust the subsidies provided to residential care facilities to help them maintain quality services.

## GAMING

# Casino revenue forecast revised amid slower start to 2025

STAFF REPORTER

**I**NVESTMENT banking firm Jefferies has revised its forecast for the region's gross gaming revenue (GGR) in 2025, lowering its prediction by 2% to 240 billion patacas. This adjustment follows weaker-than-expected revenue reported by the city's casino operators in the first two months of the year.

In a statement, analysts explained that the GGR figures for January and February were flat, with the Chinese New Year holiday showing a longer-than-expected impact on revenues.

January's GGR totaled 18.25 billion patacas, reflecting minimal growth of just 0.29%



compared to December 2024. February's revenue showed a stronger increase, rising 6.8% to 19.74 billion patacas.

Despite these modest gains, the overall performance fell short of expectations, prompting the revision of the GGR forecast.

The new estimate remains 2% above the market's projected GGR for 2025, reflecting a 5.8% growth compared to the

previous year's GGR of 226.8 billion patacas.

Although the forecast has been lowered, Jefferies remains optimistic about the city's potential for growth in the coming months.

Analysts pointed to the introduction of multiple-entry permits for Zhuhai residents and the Hengqin-Macao multiple-entry permits for tour groups as potential

drivers for increased visitation and gaming revenue.

Meanwhile, the GGR for the first week of March is expected to remain stable, according to the JP Morgan Asia Pacific Equity Research Team.

The average daily GGR for the first nine days of the month stood at 638 million patacas, accumulating 5.75 billion patacas in total.

This mirrors the daily GGR of 644 million patacas seen in February, indicating a consistent trend. Analysts from JP Morgan, including DS Kim, Selina Li, and Mufan Shi, forecast March's GGR to remain largely unchanged from the previous year, estimating it will total around 19 billion patacas.

## LOK KUAN

# ELDERLY RESIDENTS HOSPITALIZED AFTER FLAT FIRE

**T**WO elderly women were hospitalized after a fire broke out in a residential flat in Lok Kuan late Sunday evening, authorities said.

The incident occurred around 10 p.m. on the 11th floor of the building. Firefighters responding to the scene found a washing machine on the balcony of the flat engulfed in flames. The blaze also caused damage to the surrounding walls.

According to fire officials, the fire is

suspected to have been caused by a short circuit in the washing machine's electrical wiring.

Two residents, aged 70 and 90, were taken to the hospital for treatment of discomfort and cardiac issues after inhaling thick smoke. They were reported to be in stable condition.

During the incident, 24 people evacuated the building on their own. Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze before it could spread to other units. VC

### FSS URGES BENEFICIARIES TO PROVIDE ANNUAL PROOF OF LIFE

The Social Security Fund (FSS) is reminding approximately 168,000 old-age and disability pension beneficiaries to submit their annual proof of life by the end of March 2025. Currently, about 12,000 beneficiaries have not completed this requirement. The FSS advises residents to use the "Macao One Account" mobile app for a quick facial recognition process. In light of recent phishing scams, the FSS emphasizes that it does not send text messages with links. Beneficiaries can also provide proof of life at various locations or through authorized representatives.

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR ANNOUNCED

The Education Fund released the list of conditionally accepted scholarship applications under the "Higher Education Scholarship Financing Scheme" yesterday. Applicants can view the results on the scheme's thematic page or visit the Education and Youth Development Bureau in Macau. To secure funding, applicants must submit the required documents by March 28, either in person or via the "Macao One Account" app. Those unable to meet the deadline must provide written justification by April 30 to avoid forfeiting their grants.

### FOREIGN WORKER LOSES RMB50,000 IN ONLINE LOAN SCAM

A male foreign worker fell victim to an online loan scam after responding to an advertisement. He registered an account and applied for a loan of RMB50,000. The so-called "customer service" claimed he had made an input error and demanded repayment. Trusting the request, he transferred MOP57,200 in multiple transactions. When further payments were requested, he realized he had been scammed and reported it to the police. Authorities are currently investigating the case.

### H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN UK PROMPTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

An outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been reported in Herefordshire, UK. In response, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has announced that it will not approve import applications for poultry meat from affected areas. The bureau has notified Macau's importers and will closely monitor the situation to ensure strict control over poultry and poultry products entering the market.



## EDUCATION

# DSEDJ STRENGTHENING 'TOLERANCE' AND 'OPEN-MINDEDNESS' ACROSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS

RENATO MARQUES

**T**he Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) is focused on the moral education of local students and has been working to strengthen tolerance, open-mindedness, and respect for other cultures through various subjects in the school curriculum.

In response to an inquiry from The Times, the DSEDJ stated, "DSEDJ has always attached great importance to students' moral education.

Under the 'Curriculum Framework for Formal Education of the Local Education System' and the 'Requirements of Basic Academic Attainments for Formal Education of the Local Education System,' qualities such as 'understanding and respecting different languages and cultures, treating people equally, and being tolerant and open-minded' are fostered."

The bureau noted that these values are instilled in students "through lessons on moral and civic education, history, and languages, among others."

This initiative comes amid several recent cases of xenophobia, including verbal and even graphic

violence targeting non-Chinese communities in Macau.

Although this issue is not new, there has been an increase in expressions of extreme nationalism and assertions of Chinese superiority over other communities in Macau, particularly in social media posts and online comments.

The Times also questioned the DSEDJ regarding whether the recent emphasis on patriotism and national education in school curricula could lead to misinter-

## This initiative comes amid several recent cases of xenophobia, including verbal and even graphic violence targeting non-Chinese communities

pretations and a potential rise in xenophobia and racism. However, the bureau chose not to respond to this specific concern.

In its statement, the DSEDJ emphasized that it would collaborate with schools, families, and communities to implement various educational and promotional initiatives.

These efforts include school and community activities focusing on self-respect, respect for others,

and fostering positive interpersonal relationships.

The bureau also stated that these activities are not limited to students, as parents are encouraged to participate alongside their children "to jointly create a harmonious environment of mutual respect."

A study conducted by social anthropologist Vicki Igglesden, in collaboration with London's Global University and based primarily on case studies from South Africa,

revealed that "people with little formal education are particularly prone to adopting xenophobic nationalism as a strategy for distinguishing between 'us' and 'them' in

their efforts to reduce complexity and anxiety." This perspective aligns with a United Nations (UN) study on the matter, as reported by the UN's Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Mutuma Ruteere.

At the UN Human Rights Council in 2013, Ruteere stated, "Education plays a central role in shaping new values and attitudes and provides essential tools for addressing deep-rooted discrimination and

the legacy of historical injustices."

He further stressed, "States must ensure that school curricula contain balanced information on the contributions of minorities, migrants, and other non-dominant groups, particularly in times of economic and social unrest."

At the same time, Ruteere warned that "the rise of extremist political parties, movements, and groups poses major challenges, especially during economic and financial crises."

### NATIONAL EDUCATION MATERIALS INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER

New teaching materials on National Security Education, developed by the DSEDJ in collaboration with several mainland organizations, began arriving at local schools last September and have been implemented in the current academic year.

These materials are intended for all educational levels, from primary to tertiary education.

According to the DSEDJ, the bureau serves as a supporting unit for the Greater Bay Area Chinese Studies Core Curriculum Teacher Development Plan.

This initiative encourages educators to participate in annual themed training courses and organizes activities that promote traditional Chinese culture and relevant national topics.

These activities include parent-child experiences and promotional events centered around the themes of "peace" and "harmonious community."

The DSEDJ stated that these initiatives "aim to deepen students' understanding of traditional Chinese culture at various levels and cultivate a spirit of patriotism towards both the country and Macau."

### 'FOSTERING DEVOTION TO THE MOTHERLAND' AS KEY GOAL

According to a DSEDJ document outlining the goals for the 2024/2025 academic year, published on August 28 last year, the bureau has identified five main objectives, with the first one being "Fostering devotion to the motherland and seizing development opportunities."

On this subject, the DSEDJ stated, "The teaching of the two laws will be integrated into all bachelor's degree programs, and elements of patriotism—such as affection for Macau and the motherland, as well as national security education—will continue to be reinforced through various learning activities."

Additionally, "In line with the implementation of the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China, a patriotic education camp will be held for Form 1 students in the 2024/2025 academic year, while study tours to the In-Depth Cooperation Zone will be arranged for Form 4 students."

AUTOMAKERS

# Nissan tests driverless vehicles in city streets filled with cars and people

YURI KAGEYAMA, YOKOHAMA

**T**HE van makes its way slowly but surely through the city streets, braking gently when a car swerves into its lane. But its steering wheel is turning on its own, and there's no one in the driver's seat.

The driverless technology from Nissan Motor Corp., which uses 14 cameras, nine radars and six LiDAR sensors installed in and around the vehicle, highlights Japan's eagerness to catch up with players like Google's Waymo that have taken the lead in the U.S.

Japan, home to the world's top automakers, has not kept pace with the global shift to autonomous driving, so far led by China and the U.S. But momentum is building.

Waymo is going to land in Japan this year. Details haven't been disclosed, but it has a partnership with major cab company Nihon Kotsu, which will oversee and manage their all-electric Jaguar I-PACE sport-utility vehicles, first in the Tokyo area, still with a human cab driver riding along.

During Nissan's demonstration, the streets were bustling with other cars and pedestrians. The vehicle stayed within the maximum speed limit in the area of 40 kph (25 mph), its destination set with a smartphone app.

Takeshi Kimura, the Mobility and AI Laboratory engineer at Nissan, insists an automaker is more adept at integrating self-driving technology with the overall workings of a car — simply because it knows cars better.



Nissan's driverless vehicle (center) drives along a street in Yokohama

"How the sensors must be adapted to the car's movements, or to monitor sensors and computers to ensure reliability and safety requires an understanding of the auto system overall," he said during a recent demonstration that took reporters on a brief ride.

Nissan's technology, being tested on its Serena minivan, is still technically at the industry's Level Two because a person sits before a remote-control panel in a separate location outside the vehicle, in this case, at the automaker's headquarters, and is ready to step in if the technology fails.

Nissan also has a human sitting in the front passenger seat during the test rides, who can take over the driving, if needed. Unless there is a problem, the people in the remote control

room and the passenger seat are doing nothing.

Nissan plans to have 20 such vehicles moving in the Yokohama area in the next couple of years, with the plan to reach Level Four, which means no human involvement even as backup, by 2029 or 2030.

Autonomous vehicles can serve a real need given the nation's shrinking population, including a shortage of drivers.

Other companies are working on the technology in Japan, including startups like Tier IV, which is pushing an open source collaboration on autonomous driving technology.

So far, Japan has approved the use of so-called Level Four autonomous vehicles in a rural area in Fukui Prefecture, but those look more like golf carts. A Level

Four bus is scuttling around a limited area near Tokyo's Haneda airport. But its maximum speed is 12 kmph (7.5 mph). Nissan's autonomous vehicle is a real car, capable of all its mechanical workings and speed levels.

Toyota Motor Corp. recently showed its very own "city" or living area for its workers and partnering startups, near Mount Fuji, being built especially to test various technology, including autonomous driving.

Progress has been cautious. University of Tokyo Professor Takeo Igarashi, who specializes in computer and information technology, believes challenges remain because it's human nature to be more alarmed by accidents with driverless vehicles than regular crashes.

"In human driving, the driver

takes responsibility. It's so clear. But nobody is driving so you don't know who will take responsibility," Igarashi told The Associated Press.

"In Japan, the expectation for commercial services is very high. The customer expects perfect quality for any service — restaurants or drivers or anything. This kind of auto-driving is a service form a company, and everybody expects high quality and perfection. Even a small mistake is not acceptable."

Nissan says its technology is safe. After all, a human can't be looking at the front, the back and all around at the same time. But the driverless car can, with all its sensors.

When a system failure happened during the recent demonstration, the car just came to a stop and all was well.

Phil Koopman, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, believes the autonomous vehicle industry is just getting started.

The main problem is what's known as "edge cases," those rare but dangerous situations that the machine has not yet been taught to respond to. Using autonomous fleets of a significant size for some time is needed for such edge cases to be learned, he said.

"We will see each city require special engineering efforts and the creation of a special remote support center. This will be a city-by-city deployment for many years," said Koopman.

"There is no magic switch."  
MDT/AP

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands China hosts special event for families from the Macau Autism Association



Sands China recently organized a special outing for families from the Macau Autism Association as part of its commitment to corporate social responsibility.

The event, held in conjunc-

tion with World Autism Awareness Day, took the group on a tour of Sands China's Coastal Fantasia art exhibition and a sailing experience with Cotai Water Jet's Macau Cruise Tour.

According to a statement from the gaming operator, around 70 participants began the day by exploring Coastal Fantasia, a maritime-themed outdoor art installation by renowned artist Philip Colbert.

The group admired the iconic Lobster King sculptures and the large inflatable Lobster Submarine along the Macao Science Center waterfront.

Afterward, the group boarded Cotai Water Jet's Macau Cruise Tour at the Taipa Ferry Terminal, where they received a guided tour of the ferry and learned about the ship's operations, including a visit to the captain's bridge.

### MGM partners with Art Basel Hong Kong to support emerging art talents



MGM has announced its collaboration with Art Basel Hong Kong to promote global arts and culture through the inaugural "MGM Discoveries Art Prize."

The winner of this award, which recognizes innovative and

original emerging artists, will be revealed at the MGM Lounge during Art Basel Hong Kong on March 28.

The MGM Discoveries Art Prize aims to spotlight international artistic talent, offering

artists increased exposure and opportunities to showcase their work to a global audience.

The prize is designed to support emerging talents of all ages and nationalities, helping them elevate their influence within the international art community.

The jury members include Aaron Cezar of the Delfina Foundation, Antonia Carver of Art Jameel, Christopher K. Ho of Asia Art Archive, X Zhu-Nowell of Rockbund Art Museum, and Sam Seungho Park of Park-seobo Foundation.

Three shortlisted artists—Shin Min, Kayode Ojo, and Saju Kunhan—will compete for the USD50,000 prize.

NPC

# More judicial efforts aim to protect rights of businesses

CUI JIA, CHINA DAILY

**T**HE work reports of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate have sent strong signals that more judicial efforts will be made to equally protect the legitimate rights and interests of all types of businesses and to foster a healthier business environment, in order to further support high-quality development, deputies to China's top legislature said.

Both the SPC and the SPP highlighted in their reports the importance of equally protecting the legitimate rights and interests of various business entities. The reports were delivered by SPC President Zhang Jun and Procurator-General Ying Yong, respectively, on Saturday at the second plenary meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress for the national lawmakers to deliberate.

In 2024, the use of criminal means to intervene in economic disputes, as well as unauthorized cross-regional law enforcement and profit-driven law enforcement were targeted in particular, according to the reports.

A total of 46 cases involving property rights disputes were reexamined, with the wrongful convictions of 72 individuals overturned and 13 people being

acquitted, the SPC said.

Meanwhile, by using the power of the rule of law to stabilize expectations, boost confidence and promote development, 137,000 individuals were prosecuted for crimes that disrupted the socialist market economy order, marking a 13 percent increase year-on-year, the SPP said.

Xue Jiping, a deputy from Jiangsu province and chairman of Jiangsu Zhongtian Technology Co, said, "The reports have shown judicial authorities' determination to safeguard the high-quality development of different enterprises and optimize the law-based business environment."

He said he hoped that the rule of law will become the core foundation for building a healthy business environment in China.

Yao Kuizhang, a deputy from Hebei province and chairman of Hebei Yangyuan Zhihui Beverage, said the reports both repeatedly emphasized the importance of serving the construction of a

unified national market, supporting the development of new quality productive forces, and building a rule-of-law business environment, in response to the concerns of entrepreneurs.

"The work reports have sent a strong signal of protecting the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises and entrepreneurs in accordance with the law," said Yao, who last year suggested drafting laws to support the development of private enterprises.

Dong Mingzhu, a deputy from Guangdong province and chairwoman of Gree Electric Appliances, urged judicial authorities to strengthen the comprehensive system to tackle online rumors and cyber violence targeting businesses, and to explicitly include penalty clauses for online rumors and cyber violence in relevant laws.

She said there is a need to "severely punish behavior such as spreading false information and maliciously attacking competitors online".

Last year, the SPC enforced efforts to severely punish crimes such as spreading rumors about and defaming enterprises, as well as extortion, it said in its report. In one case, an offender surnamed Huang, together with others, posted negative information related to enterprises online, extorting a total of 556,000 yuan (\$76,860) from 21 companies for the removal of posts. Huang was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

According to a white paper released by the SPP on Sunday, prosecutorial authorities nationwide attached great importance last year to combating crimes that disrupt the business environment via the internet.

MDT/CHINA DAILY



TWO SESSIONS

# Annual political meetings feature minority delegates in tribal finery with a message

**E**VERY year in early March, China's legislature and its advisory body gather to hear speeches and hold discussions in the capital, Beijing.

In contrast to the long and monotonous sessions, a bustling scene unfolds outside the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing, where ethnic minority delegations from far-flung provinces pose for photographs donning their finest traditional costumes.

Jangly silver headdresses and elaborate embroidery work, felt hats and long, layered skirts in a kaleidoscope of colors



draw attention in stark contrast to the drab business suits, routinely dark grey with conservative ties or bows.

It's a visual display of one of the purported ruling concepts of the Chinese Communist Party, that all 56 ethnic groups in the

nation are equal. Yet, the majority Han group has dominated politics and the economy going back thousands of years and continues to do so, making up about 92% of the population.

The vast majority of minority delegates come

from mountainous and border areas, such as Yunnan, Guangxi, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Tibet. While some names may be familiar, such as Uyghurs and Tibetans, most are from smaller or less known groups, some with just a few thousand members.

Many have become virtually assimilated with the Han, including the Manchus who, despite their relatively small numbers, swept down from the Great Wall of China and ruled the country for around 300 years before being overthrown by its first republic.

After taking power in 1949, Mao Zedong declared all were members of a single Chinese nation, regardless of ethnicity, and began a steady campaign to impose a single Chinese language on Han and minority peoples alike.

MDT/AP



AUSTRALIA

# Police say antisemitic terrorism plot in Sydney was 'a hoax'

CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-MCLAY,  
WELLINGTON

**A**N explosives-filled trailer that Australian politicians earlier described as an antisemitic terrorism plot and a foiled mass casualty event was staged by criminals in a complicated hoax - and was never meant to be detonated, police said yesterday.

Law enforcement agencies investigating January's discovery of the trailer on the outskirts of Sydney divulged in a news conference that its placement was concocted by criminals who meant to derive personal gain from tipping off authorities to its presence — a bizarre twist in a saga that followed a monthslong wave of antisemitic crimes in Australia.

The cluster of attacks targeting places where Jewish people live, work and study, including a firebombing of a synagogue and a day-care center and several instances of antisemitic vandalism, were committed by "a very small group, and potentially one individual behind all those matters," Deputy Police Commissioner for the state of New South Wales David Hudson told reporters yesterday.

Authorities in January made the unusual claim that none of the 12 they had then arrested in relation to the spate of crimes in Australia's largest cities Sydney and Melbourne was driven by antisemitic ideology and were instead criminals for hire. Hudson said 14 more arrested



AP PHOTO

A man is arrested in Sydney, yesterday, following a months-long wave of antisemitic crimes in Australia

Monday were not motivated by hate either.

But he added he has no doubt that antisemitism in Australia — which has dominated news media and the political sphere following the recent spate of crimes — has experienced "an escalation over the past 18 months" since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on Israel that triggered the war in Gaza.

The revelation — leaked to the public before law enforcement planned to announce it — that a trailer was found in January outside Sydney, packed with explosives used in the mining industry and containing a list of Jewish targets,

prompted state and national leaders to say it represented an escalation in potential extremist violence.

But investigators said Monday that they "almost immediately" believed that the trailer's appearance was "part of a fabricated terrorist plot, essentially a criminal con job," but kept their suspicions a secret, according to Australian federal police deputy commissioner Krissy Barrett.

The trailer was easily found and the explosives were visibly displayed. "Also there was no detonator," Barrett said, adding that it was "never going to cause a mass casualty event."

Instead, those who staged the caravan planned to then inform the authorities of an impending attack against Jewish Australians, said Barrett. Why investigators believed they had done so was not simple.

Barrett and Hudson, speaking on behalf of a joint law enforcement effort assembled to arrest the perpetrators of antisemitic crimes, said they believed those who faked the trailer plot meant to attract attention from authorities, divert police resources, create fear and leverage the situation for personal gain. That might have included attempts to use information about an attack to bargain with police for

lesser sentences in other criminal proceedings.

"We believe the person pulling the strings wanted changes to their criminal status but maintained a distance from their scheme and hired alleged local criminals," Barrett said. That person remains at large, she added.

Authorities have said since January that they believe overseas interests are orchestrating the crimes, although they haven't been more specific. They also haven't divulged which local criminal groups might have been hired to undertake the attacks, which have included hateful graffiti.

It wasn't the only time this has happened, Barrett added. "Too many offenders working in a criminal gig economy are accepting these tasks for money," she said.

The 14 people arrested Monday face charges in relation to the more than a dozen attacks investigators believe were orchestrated.

The strange twist caps a summer where antisemitic crimes roiled Sydney and Melbourne, home to 85% of Australia's Jewish population. One person has been physically hurt — a worshipper who suffered burns in a fire that was set at a Melbourne synagogue in December.

There was "some comfort to be taken by the Jewish community," in the fact that the worst episodes were not ideological acts of hatred, Hudson said. But the crimes have had "a chilling effect on the Jewish community" and provoked unwarranted suspicion of other groups, Barrett added.

The high profile attacks are not the only ones police are investigating. Nearly 200 more people have been charged since October 2023 in the state of New South Wales, where Sydney is located, with crimes linked to antisemitism, police told The Associated Press in February. MDT/AP

KOREAS

# North fires several ballistic missiles after the US and S.Korea began military drills

**N**ORTH Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea Monday, South Korea's military said, hours after South Korean and U.S. troops kicked off their large annual combined drills, which the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile firings, North Korea's fifth missile launch event this year, were detected from the North's southwestern Hwanghae province. It called the weapons close-range but didn't say how far they flew. The military said South Korea bolstered its

surveillance posture and is closely coordinating with the United States.

Earlier Monday, the South Korean and U.S. militaries began their annual Freedom Shield command post exercise, their first major combined training of President Donald Trump's second term. The allies have already been engaging in diverse field training exercises in connection with the Freedom Shield training.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned Monday the latest training risks triggering "physical conflict"



AP PHOTO

U.S. Army's armored vehicles prepare to cross the Hantan river at a training field in Yeoncheon, near the North/South border

on the Korean Peninsula. It called the drills an "aggressive and confrontational war rehearsal" and reiterated leader Kim Jong Un's stated goals for a "radical

growth" of his nuclear force to counter what he claims as growing threats posed by the U.S. and its Asian allies.

This year's training came after the South Korean and

U.S. militaries paused live-fire training while Seoul investigates how its fighter jets mistakenly bombed a civilian area during a warm-up drill last week.

About 30 people were injured, two of them seriously, when two South Korean KF-16 fighter jets mistakenly fired eight MK-82 bombs on a civilian area in Pocheon, a town near the North Korean border, on Thursday. The bombing occurred while South Korean and U.S. forces were engaging in a live-fire drill ahead of the Freedom Shield exercise.

The initial assessment from the South Korean air force was that one of the KF-16 pilots entered the wrong coordinates and failed to visually verify the target before proceeding with the bombing. The second pilot had the correct coordinates but focused only on maintaining flight formation and dropped the bombs on the first pilot's instructions without recognizing the target was wrong, according to the content of the latest briefing provided to The Associated Press.

Gen. Lee Youngsu, chief of staff of the South Korean air force, bowed and apologized Monday over the injuries and property damage caused by the bombing, which he said "should have never happened and must never happen again." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



What could go wrong? Trump and Zelenskyy in the Oval Office at the White House on Feb. 28

EXPLAINER

# What to know ahead of the talks between the US and Ukraine in Saudi Arabia

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

**S**AUDI Arabia is to host talks today between the United States and Ukraine in a new diplomatic push after an argument erupted during President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Feb. 28 visit to the White House.

The oil-rich kingdom may seem like an unusual venue for talks aimed at smoothing over relations after the blowup. But Saudi Arabia under its assertive Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been positioning itself as an ideal location for possible peace negotiations between Kyiv and Moscow — and even the first face-to-face talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump.

Here's what to know about why this meeting is taking place and Saudi Arabia's role:

## WHY ARE THESE TALKS HAPPENING?

U.S. and Ukrainian officials will meet after the Oval Office meeting between Zelenskyy, Trump and U.S. Vice President JD Vance descended into an extraordinary 10-minute argument before journalists.

Trump at one point admonished Zelenskyy by angrily saying: "You're gambling with World War III, and what you're doing is very disrespectful to the country." Zelenskyy ended up leaving the White House without signing a deal that included granting the U.S. access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals.

Kyiv hoped that deal would ensure the continued flow of U.S. military support that Ukraine urgently needs as it battles Russia in the war that began after Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

## WHERE WILL THESE TALKS TAKE PLACE?

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday identified the location for the talks as Jeddah, a port city on the Red Sea. It's not clear why the kingdom picked Jeddah as opposed to Riyadh, the Saudi capital where the initial Russia-U.S. talks took place on Feb. 18. However, Jeddah has hosted other diplomatic engagements in the past and is home to royal palaces.

The Foreign Ministry said the kingdom would continue to pursue "a lasting peace to end the Ukrainian crisis."

"The kingdom has continued these efforts over the past three years by hosting many meetings on this matter," the ministry said.

## WHO WILL ATTEND THE TALKS?

Zelenskyy visits Saudi Arabia ahead of the talks. He earlier delayed a trip to the kingdom after traveling to the neighboring United Arab Emirates, which also has been considered as a possible venue for peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow.

Zelenskyy wrote online that a team including his chief of staff Andriy Yermak, Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha and Defense

Minister Rustem Umerov traveling with him to Saudi Arabia will take part in the talks. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the American team for the Ukrainian talks and meet with Prince Mohammed.

Sybiha also spoke on Friday with Rubio ahead of the talks. Sybiha described it as a "constructive call."

Trump himself sounded upbeat on Air Force One on Sunday when speaking to journalists.

"I think you're gonna have eventually — and maybe not in the distant future — you're gonna have some pretty good results coming out of Saudi Arabia this week," Trump said.

## WHY ARE THESE TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA?

Since assuming power in Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed took an aggressive posture both at home and abroad. His public image reached its nadir with the 2018 slaying of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, believed by the United States and others to be at the prince's orders.

In the last two years, however, Prince Mohammed instead has reached a détente with Iran, hosted Zelenskyy for an Arab League summit and been involved in negotiations over the wars in Sudan and the Gaza Strip. Riyadh also maintained ties to Russia through the OPEC+ oil cartel while Western nations levied sanctions

against it. That's reasserted the role the kingdom long has perceived itself as having — being the leader of the Sunni Muslim world and a dominant force in the Middle East.

Hosting Russia-U.S. talks, possibly drawing Trump to the kingdom for his first foreign trip in this term through investments and other possible meetings only raise Saudi Arabia's profile further as a neutral territory for high-stakes negotiations. Saudi Arabia's autocratic government, compliant media and distance from the war also allows for talks to take place in a tightly controlled country with relative privacy.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WAR?

Trump remains focused on reaching some kind of peace deal to stop the war. His approach toward Ukraine so far has relied far more on stick than carrot — limiting their access to intelligence and weaponry. While conciliatory toward Putin, Trump recently also threatened new sanctions against Russia over its ceaseless attacks on Ukrainian cities.

If Ukraine and the U.S. reach some sort of understanding acceptable to Trump, that could accelerate his administration's push to talks. However, the rest of Europe remains skeptical as they have been sidelined from the talks. The European Union last week agreed to boost the continent's defenses and to free up hundreds of billions of euros for security. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1985 GORBACHEV BECOMES SOVIET LEADER



There is a new man in charge at the Kremlin - Mikhail Gorbachev has taken over following the death of Konstantin Chernenko.

Chernenko, 73, died yesterday after a long illness - but his death was only announced to the Soviet people this morning. Sombre music preceded the news on radio and television and scheduled programmes were cancelled.

The speed of naming of his successor - at 54 the youngest man to take over as general secretary

In another break with tradition, Mr Gorbachev has announced arms talks with the Americans in Geneva will go ahead tomorrow.

Chernenko lasted only 13 months in the top job. He was in poor health when he was appointed and his death was caused by heart failure brought on by problems with his lungs and liver.

He is the third Soviet leader to die in just over two years. Leonid Brezhnev died in 1982 after 18 years in power. He was 75. Yuri Andropov died 18 months later aged 69.

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will attend Chernenko's funeral on Wednesday - but the United States President Ronald Reagan will not be going.

The BBC's Moscow correspondent, Tim Sebastian, says Mr Gorbachev's appointment marks a dramatic change in leadership in Moscow.

He says Mr Gorbachev is a dynamic figure who has moved rapidly through the Soviet hierarchy.

"There seems little doubt the Gorbachev administration will look different. More outgoing, more approachable, more concerned with its public image," he reported.

"But its aims and its approach seem likely to be familiar. Despite his lively and flexible manner, Gorbachev is still a strict, orthodox Marxist in no sense has he shown himself to be a liberal."

Mr Gorbachev's acceptance speech gave a hint of the changes to come. He spoke of his desire to freeze the deployment of weapons and reduce the international nuclear weapons stockpiles.

Mrs Thatcher has already indicated her approval at his appointment. Following his recent visit to Britain, she said: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Mikhail Gorbachev radically changed the course of Soviet foreign policy, signing a number of agreements with the United States on nuclear disarmament. He introduced a policy of openness or "glasnost" and he was also the architect of "perestroika" or deep political and economic reforms. But his reforms led to severe economic hardship at home. Growing nationalist movements spearheaded by the Baltic states led him to propose a loose federation of Soviet states. But this proved the last straw for communist hardliners. In August 1991 he survived a coup attempt - largely thanks to the support of the Russian authorities, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Rely on trusted family and friends for support. Let passion fill your heart. Someone thinks you're wonderful; reflect it back. Develop a sizzling romance.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Fill your home with love. Good fortune blesses your family. Find a structural breakdown and fix it. Enjoy domestic arts. Cook something delicious.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 A creative project flowers. Craft, plot and edit. Launch your expression into the world. Participate in a larger conversation. Get the word out.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Silver flows in. Divert some to savings. Spend on equipment upgrades and business investments. Make solid investments with reliable allies. Make a lucrative move.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Play that ace you've been holding. Take charge and manage practical details to win. A personal dream lies within reach; get team support.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Reflect on recent changes. Mark a transition with an intimate ritual. Share private reflections. Consider suggestions yet make your own determinations. Plot your course.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Celebrate a recent win with your team. Share acknowledgments and honor. Take stock of what worked and what didn't. Together you're a powerful force.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Take your career to new levels. Develop a promising opportunity. Keep gaining skills. Do market research. Align your work for a tailored niche.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Breakthroughs with your travel and educational goals develop. You're learning something fascinating. Get inspired to contribute talents in a satisfying direction. Plan carefully.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Things come together for a shared financial venture. Take advantage of a lucrative opportunity. Collaborate for mutual benefit. Haul in a healthy harvest.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Enjoy sweet moments with your partner. Don't worry about the past or future. Count your blessings. Make happy plans. Visualize perfection. Imagine possibilities together.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Prioritize health and wellness. Savor regular exercise practices. Avoid pushing beyond physical limitations. Gain happy points by reconnecting with nature. Take a walk outside.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	7	16	cloudy
Changchun	2	13	rain
Chengdu	7	18	overcast
Chongqing	11	17	overcast
Fuzhou	14	25	rain
Guangzhou	17	26	cloudy
Guiyang	5	23	cloudy
Haikou	19	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	22	cloudy
Harbin	0	10	showers
Hefei	6	22	fine
Nanjing	8	21	cloudy
Shanghai	10	20	cloudy
Taipei	16	24	rain
Wuhan	8	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	23	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	7	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	5	15	rain
Paris	3	13	rain
London	1	8	cloudy
New York	6	17	sunny

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Sir \_\_\_ Newton was an English mathematician; 6- Perfect, something to aspire to; 11- \_\_\_ standstill; 14- Vice \_\_\_; 15- Nabisco's \_\_\_ Wafers; 16- Chat room chuckle; 17- Wipe out; 18- Titled women; 19- Prizm maker; 20- Leaves port; 22- Surgery souvenirs; 24- Montgomery's state; 28- Edmonton team; 29- Numerical symbol; 30- Trio; 32- \_\_\_-Tass (Russian news agency); 33- Begat; 35- What \_\_\_ mind reader?; 39- Nevada senator Harry; 40- Dressing ingredient; 41- Tirade; 42- Sea eagle; 43- Stable compartment; 45- Words to Brutus; 46- Country in the Himalayas; 48- Expulsion; 50- Goddess of wisdom; 53- Tank; 54- I \_\_\_ vacation!; 55- "Goodnight" girl; 57- Santa \_\_\_, CA; 58- Doled (out); 60- Abu \_\_\_; 65- Syr. neighbor; 66- Borden bovine; 67- We're Off \_\_\_ the Wizard; 68- Was ahead; 69- Big cats; 70- Alternate;

DOWN 1- Now \_\_\_ seen everything!; 2- Sun. talk; 3- First name in Notre Dame football; 4- Donkey; 5- Roman general; 6- Gandhi's land; 7- Clock face; 8- Shade trees; 9- Bass, e.g.; 10- Timmy's dog; 11- Aquarium buildup; 12- \_\_\_ is human; 13- At \_\_\_ for words; 21- Iowa city; 23- Most lucid; 24- Ablaze; 25- Unit of volume; 26- Once more; 27- Weighted; 28- Old California fort; 30- Experiment; 31- Hades; 34- Very small quantity; 36- Dull finish; 37- \_\_\_ alia; 38- Take \_\_\_ for the worse; 43- Health resort; 44- Pork cut; 47- Tooth covering; 49- Familiar with; 50- For want of \_\_\_; 51- High-strung; 52- Listened; 53- Gives up; 55- Wishing won't make \_\_\_; 56- Bridle part; 59- Whitney; 61- Sexy; 62- Powdery residue; 63- Fuzzy buzzer; 64- Suffix with cloth;

**Yesterday's solution**

**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



It's prime time to **BUY & RENT!**

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com  
 www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

**Nam Long**  
 HKD 6,988,000 4 bed 2 bath

**Hellene Garden w/ 1 CP**  
 HKD 7,500,000 4 bed 3 bath

**Manhattan F Unit**  
 HKD 10,800,000 3 bed 2 bath

FOOTBALL

# MBAPPÉ AND VINÍCIUS SCORE AS REAL JOINS BARCELONA AT TOP OF LA LIGA

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

REAL MAD 2, RAYO VAL 1

**K**YLIAN Mbappé and Vinícius Júnior scored goals in a five-minute span in the first half and Real Madrid held on to beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1 yesterday [Macau time] and move level on points with Barcelona at the top of the Spanish league.

Mbappé scored in the 30th minute and Vinícius doubled the lead in the 34th to give Madrid the same 57 points as Barcelona, which had its match against Osasuna on Saturday postponed after the death of first-team doctor Carles Miñarro Garcia.

There was a moment of silence at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in honor of the Barcelona doctor.

Barcelona remains ahead of Madrid on the head-to-head tie-breaker.

"It's a nice feeling because the goal was to get the three points," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We could have been up 3-0 in the first half but it ended 2-1.

AP PHOTO



And in the second half we had opportunities to go up 3-1."

Rayo hit back with a goal from Pedro Díaz in first-half stoppage time. It hasn't won in four straight league matches, with three losses and a draw.

Ancelotti rotated his squad ahead of Wednesday's match at Atletico Madrid in the round of 16 of the Champions League.

Madrid won the first match 2-1.

Ancelotti substituted both Mbappé and Rodrygo.

"I had no problem replacing the forwards," he said. "We needed to defend toward the end of the match."

**ATLETICO FALTERS**

Atletico wasted a chance to re-take the league lead after conce-

ding two late goals in a 2-1 loss at Getafe.

Diego Simeone's team scored first with a penalty kick converted by Alexander Sorloth in the 75th, but it couldn't hold on to the lead after Ángel Correa was sent off with a straight red card for a hard foul.

Midfielder Mauro Arambarri equalized for the hosts in the 88th

and scored the winner two minutes into stoppage time.

Correa was initially shown a yellow card but video review changed it to a red card. The forward was seen insulting the referee after being sent off and later apologized on social media.

Atletico is one point behind Madrid and Barcelona.

**OTHER RESULTS**

Fourth-placed Athletic Bilbao was frustrated by a 1-1 home draw with Mallorca.

Antonio Raíllo put the visitors ahead in the 56th and Nico Williams equalized a couple of minutes later.

Sixth-placed Real Betis defeated 10-man Las Palmas 1-0 with a 65th-minute goal from Diego Llorente. The visitors played a man down after Dário Essugo was sent off in the 61st.

Sevilla won 1-0 at Real Sociedad thanks to a 46th-minute goal by Chidera Ejike in a match between midtable clubs.

Sociedad hasn't won in four matches in all competitions. Sevilla had lost two in a row. **MDT/AP**

AD

律師事務所



**C&C**  
LAWYERS  
& NOTARIES  
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha ° 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues ° 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata ° 趙魯 Zhao Lu °\* 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °  
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo  
白穎怡 Icília Berenguel  
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins  
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °  
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳芷喬 Joana Chan

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong  
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng  
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U  
陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家及外地註冊律師

JURISTS AND LAWYERS  
QUALIFIED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:  
林思潔 Jessie Lin  
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
伍福賢 Domingos Ng  
許栢桓 Rui Fernandes Brás

WWW.CCADVOG.COM  
TEL: (853) 2837 2642/ 2837 2623

° 私人公證員 Notary Public \* 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER  
"DEIGNAN AWARD"  
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN MACAU (2023)



RUGBY

# England overpowers Italy in Six Nations to keep alive title chances ahead of final round

ENGLAND 47, ITALY 24

ENGLAND kept alive its Six Nations rugby title hopes by running in seven tries in a bonus-point 47-24 win over Italy at Twickenham yesterday [Macau time] that extended its perfect all-time test record against the Azzurri.

Going into the tournament's final round on Saturday, England is in second place and a point behind France ahead of their matches against Wales away and Scotland at home, respectively.

France will be guaranteed the title with a bonus-point victory over the Scots in Paris.

England at least has a chance, though, after securing a third straight win in this year's Six Nations — and this time by a landslide after one-point



England's Marcus Smith dives over the line to score a try

nailbiters against France and Scotland.

With the score at 14-14 just after the half-hour mark, a 32nd straight victory over the Italians wasn't guaranteed but England was ruthless in the second half, which hooker Jamie George said was "probably the

blueprint of how we want to play."

"It wasn't perfect, by any means, but our intent to move the ball and get bums off seats is what we were trying to do," said George, who made his 100th appearance for England.

Left winger Ollie Sleighthol-

me finished with two tries — one in each half — while Tom Willis, Tommy Freeman, replacement Marcus Smith, Tom Curry and Ben Earl also went over for England. Flyhalf Fin Smith nailed six of his conversions.

A negative for the home team was the sight of center Ollie Lawrence coming off in the eighth minute with an apparent knee injury. Later in the game, Lawrence emerged wearing a protective boot to sit on the bench.

England's only loss so far has been the 27-22 defeat at Ireland in Round 1, so the outlook is positive for coach Steve Borthwick and his players after consecutive losses to New Zealand, Australia and South Africa in the autumn put the team under pressure.

"We tried to attack from

anywhere," England replacement Luke Cowan-Dickie said. "We knew it was going to be risky but we want to show the fans that we don't want to kick as much and play with the ball."

All England can do now is beat Wales — a rival on a record 16-game losing run — and hope for a favor from Scotland.

Italy had three tries, the best coming from Ross Vintcent when the No. 8 galloped clear after running onto an inside pass from livewire fullback Ange Capuozzo. That converted score brought the teams level at 14-14 after 32 minutes.

Capuozzo and Tommaso Menoncello grabbed the other tries for the Azzurri, who couldn't manage a fourth try for a losing bonus point. They stayed in fifth place on four points, one more than Wales in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon.

"We had some brilliant moments," Italy captain Michele Lamaro said, "but we switched off in periods."

Italy closes with a home match against third-place Ireland, which is two points behind France and one behind England. Italy vs. Ireland kicks off "Super Saturday" before Wales vs. England and then France, minus injured star player Antoine Dupont, takes on Scotland. MDT/AP

AD

WWW.MACAUCLOSER.COM  
生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE



蛇年帶來挑戰與變革，但亦有新機遇！

THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE BRINGS CHALLENGES AND CHANGES, BUT NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL!



知得更多，活得更好 KNOW MORE, LIVE BETTER

DOUBLE YOUR REWARDS



BOA VIDA Lifestyle Membership



MOP 2,388

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Room, dining and spa discounts up to 50%

Complimentary vouchers value up to MOP 5,000

Enjoy more Good Things in Life! Exclusive discounts now eligible at additional designated dining venues



T +853 2856 7888



DISCOVER MORE

**OPINION**

**World Views**

Will Weissert, MDT/AP



**TRUMP LOVES THE GILDED AGE AND ITS TARIFFS**

In President Donald Trump's idealized framing, the United States was at its zenith in the 1890s, when top hats and shirtwaists were fashionable and typhoid fever often killed more soldiers than combat.

It was the Gilded Age, a time of rapid population growth and transformation from an agricultural economy toward a sprawling industrial system, when poverty was widespread while barons of phenomenal wealth, like John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan, held tremendous sway over politicians who often helped boost their financial empires.

"We were at our richest from 1870 to 1913. That's when we were a tariff country. And then they went to an income tax concept," Trump said days after taking office. "It's fine. It's OK. But it would have been very much better."

The desire to recreate that era is fueled by Trump's fondness for tariffs and his admiration for the nation's 25th president, William McKinley, a Republican who was in office from 1897 until being assassinated in 1901.

Though Trump's early implementation of tariffs has been inconsistent — with him imposing them, then pulling many back — he has been steadfast in endorsing the idea of 21st century protectionism. There have even been suggestions that higher import tariffs on the country's foreign trading partners could eventually replace the federal income tax.

Experts on the era say Trump is idealizing a time rife with government and business corruption, social turmoil and inequality. They argue he's also dramatically overestimating the role tariffs played in stimulating an economy that grew mostly due to factors other than the U.S. raising taxes on imported goods.

And Gilded Age policies, they maintain, have virtually nothing to do with how trade works in a globalized, modern economy.

"The most astonishing thing for historians is that nobody in the Gilded Age economy — except for the very rich — wanted to live in the Gilded Age economy," said Richard White, a history professor emeritus at Stanford University.

Trump says high tariffs and low interest rates, like those the U.S. had after the Civil War, can hastily pay down today's federal debt and fatten government coffers while boosting domestic manufacturers and enticing foreign producers to move to the U.S.

It's not a new theme for him.

"I am a Tariff Man," Trump declared in a 2018 online post. Campaigning for a second term last fall, Trump said of the McKinley era, "We were a very wealthy country, and we're going to be doing that now." Today, he says "tariff" is his favorite word and represents «a very powerful weapon that politicians haven't used because they were either dishonest, stupid or paid off in some other form."

The White House has rushed to raise tariffs on imports from China and on aluminum and steel made abroad while promising that import levies will soon increase on the European Union, as well as new, foreign-made cars, microchips and pharmaceuticals. Trump also increased tariffs on Canada and Mexico, though he later delayed most of them.

He has similar plans for potentially every country the U.S. does business with, saying broad "reciprocal" import taxes are coming April 2nd and will be consistent with levies other countries charge U.S. manufacturers to export their goods.

Dartmouth College economics professor Douglas Irwin said Trump advocating for modern tariffs by pointing to the 1890s is flawed.

"We did grow rapidly in the late 19th century," he said. "But it's a stretch to attribute it to tariffs." [Abridged]

**CANADA'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER HAS MANAGED THE FINANCIAL CRISIS, THEN BREXIT AND NOW**

THE BUZZ

Canada's next prime minister has helped run two Group of Seven economies in crisis before and now will try to steer Canada through a looming trade war brought by U.S. President Donald Trump, a threat of annexation and an expected federal election.

Former central banker Mark Carney will become prime minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him its leader yesterday [Macau time] in a landslide vote with 85.9% support.

Carney, 59, replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but remains prime minister

until his successor is sworn in in the coming days. Carney is widely expected to trigger an election the coming days or weeks amid Trump's sweeping tariff threats.

"We didn't ask for this fight. But Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves," Carney said. "The Americans, they should make no mistake, in trade, as in hockey, Canada will win."

Carney said Canada will keep its initial retaliatory tariffs in place until "the Americans show us respect."



AP PHOTO

**MICRO-WINERIES IN CYPRUS HOPE TO GIVE HOMER'S WINE A COMEBACK**

**MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS, NICOSIA**

**P**RAISED by the ancient Greek giants Homer and Euripides for its superb quality nearly 3,000 years ago, Cyprus' Commandaria is the world's oldest recorded and named wine.

Despite its rich heritage, the sweet wine has struggled to find its niche in the global market. Now a number of micro-wineries in this east Mediterranean island nation are reviving traditional wine-making techniques and giving Commandaria a chance at a long-awaited comeback.

Makers hope to tap rich legends around the ruby red wine.

It's said to have won the world's first known wine competition during the 13th century rule of French King Philippe Augustus. English King Richard the Lionheart is said to have served it to guests at his 1191 wedding in Cyprus. And 14th century Mayor of London Henry Picard reputedly indulged the leaders of England, France, Scotland, Denmark and Cyprus in the Feast of the Five Kings.

The wine, known as "nama" in antiquity, was renamed by the medieval Knights Hospitaller, who set up headquarters during the Third Crusade at an estate known for its wine production that they named Grande Commanderie.

The island's Ortho-

dox Church later adopted Commandaria as its communion wine during Byzantine times.

Production peaked when Venice ruled Cyprus in the 15th and 16th centuries and prized the wine for its sweetness and complex bouquet.

Now bottles are sold for around 20 euros (\$20) to up to 150.

The wine's notes of honey, raisin, walnut, fig, carob, cinnamon, coffee and caramel are attributed to the island's rich volcanic soil, said Christakis Nicolaou, community leader of Zoopigi village, home to the Commandaria museum.

Annual production of the wine in recent years hovered at around 200,000 bottles because demand tapered off, according to Savvas Constantinou, a beverage inspector with Cyprus' agriculture and environment ministry.

One factor is the exclusion of some 800,000 Commandaria-loving Russian tourists as a result of sanctions imposed following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Wine expert Demetri Walters, who holds the prestigious title of Master of Wines, said Commandaria sales haven't gained much traction abroad primarily because of a lack of marketing. For instance, the island's main producer KEO have been slow to understand the potential of the wine, particularly their older vintages.

"A shame, as their

Commandaria wines are very good," Walters told the Associated Press. "The unique and antique history, the extraordinary quality across the two styles and the terrific value for money...Everyone who tastes it for the first time with me is blown away by the complexity of the wine."

Walters said although sweet wines are "out of fashion" except in the specialist trade, this is slowly changing for Commandaria. He said the wine was entered the UK market in recent years, but as a niche offering.

Wineries such as Revecca in the mountain village of Ayios Mamas have found a steady domestic and foreign following, with sales on an upward swing since it opened in 2015.

Its Commandaria last year won top prize at the national wine competition. The winery employs three people and produces 3,000 bottles a year.

Winery curator Nikolas Christodoulides said he's experimenting with bespoke varieties catering to clients' tastes.

"Our focus is on improving quality rather than being fixated on quantity," Christodoulides said. The approach has worked for one Israeli couple who, according to Christodoulides, flies to Cyprus just to replenish their stock.

Commandaria is made with dark Mavro and white Xynisteri grapes that are indigenous to Cyprus.



AP PHOTO

**India** Dozens of Tibetan exiles scuffled with police outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi yesterday, marking the 66th anniversary of Tibet's failed uprising. Protesters, also rallying in Dharamshala, condemned China's rule. India recognizes Tibet as part of China but hosts Tibetan exiles.

**Russia** Moscow expelled two British diplomats yesterday over alleged espionage, calling their actions a security threat. London rejected the accusations as "malicious and baseless." Diplomatic expulsions have escalated amid tensions over the Ukraine war, with both nations previously removing officials in tit-for-tat moves.



AP PHOTO

**Russian** forces used a gas pipeline to attack Ukrainian units from behind in Kursk, war bloggers reported. Ukraine confirmed sabotage groups infiltrated through the pipeline. Meanwhile, Trump questioned Ukraine's survival without U.S. aid, while France announced new military support for Kyiv. More on p8



AP PHOTO

**Germany** A one-day strike at 13 German airports, including Frankfurt and Munich, led to mass flight cancellations yesterday. Over 3,500 flights were affected as airport security, ground staff, and public-sector workers walked out amid ongoing wage disputes, disrupting travel for hundreds of thousands.



AP PHOTO

**Bollywood** Kiran Rao's film Laapataa Ladies, India's failed Oscar entry, dominated the 2025 IIFA Awards, winning 10 honors including Best Picture and Best Director. The comedy, tackling patriarchy and gender roles, marked a shift in Bollywood storytelling. The Jaipur event drew major industry stars.