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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®
Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys
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www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 5068
THURSDAY
05 Nov 2026
T. 24º/ 28º
Air Quality Moderate
" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "
MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00
2305 4271

LAS VEGAS SANDS CEO PATRICK DUMONT AND WIFE SIVAN ACQUIRE 69% STAKE IN THE MAVERICKS, WHICH PLAYED IN MACAU LAST MONTH, ESPN REPORTS P6

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CHARGED DOWN

Less than a year after switching to electric bikes, some delivery riders are considering a return to petrol-powered bikes over reliability concerns, the Times has learned P3

RENATO MARQUES



AP PHOTO



Cambodia The U.S. cruise ship MV Odyssey departed Cambodia this week without passengers after abruptly suspending its three-year voyage because of soaring fuel costs. Its 203 passengers were ordered ashore last week in Sihanoukville, where nearly 100 remained as of yesterday.

AP PHOTO



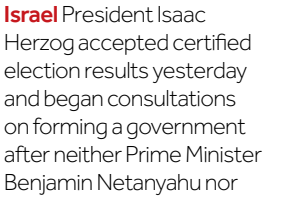
Indonesia deployed more than 20,000 military personnel to Jakarta yesterday amid an investigation into alleged illegal surveillance of President Prabowo Subianto. Three senior police generals were detected, including former police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo, whom the president dismissed as chief of staff.

AP PHOTO



Iranian officials welcomed Democratic victories in the U.S. midterm elections, portraying Republican losses as a rejection of President Donald Trump's war. The reaction came amid continuing diplomatic efforts to prevent renewed large-scale fighting and tensions over the Strait of Hormuz.

AP PHOTO



Israel President Isaac Herzog accepted certified election results yesterday and began consultations on forming a government after neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor challenger Gadi Eisenkot secured a parliamentary majority. Election officials rejected Netanyahu's unsupported fraud allegations, confirming gains by Arab-led parties.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

LABOR

DSAL reports 3,897 workplace accident victims, four deaths

LYNZY VALLES


RENATO MARQUES

THE city's cultural and recreational services sector and its hotel and restaurant industry accounted for more than half of all workplace accident victims recorded in the first nine months of the year, as authorities reported nearly 3,900 workers injured and four fatalities.

A total of 3,897 workers suffered occupational accidents between January and September, a 0.85% increase from the same period last year, according to figures released by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

Four workers died, while seven sustained permanent disabilities. The latter figure marked a sharp decline from the 71 cases recorded in the first nine months of 2025, representing a 90% decrease.

Another 3,886 workers suffered temporary disabilities, including 478 who returned to work on the day of their accidents.

The bureau said no violations of occupational safety and health regulations had been identified in the four fatal cases. However, the findings remain subject to revision depending on court rulings.

Falls were the most frequently recorded cause of workplace injuries, accounting for 1,040 cases, or nearly 27% of the total. These included 210 falls from height and 830 falls on level ground.

Workers being caught in or between objects accounted for another 762 cases, while excessive physical effort or incorrect movements caused 656 injuries. A further 586 incidents involved workers walking into or striking objects.

The figures also included 182 injuries involving means of transport. Of these, 122 occurred while workers were carrying out their duties, while 60 involved employer-provided transportation during commutes to or from work.

Other reported causes included falling objects, which injured 181 workers; exposure to extreme temperatures, affecting 122; and animal-related injuries, involving 48. Exposure to hazardous substances or radiation accounted for 43 cases, while eight workers were injured through contact with electric current.

Women accounted for more workplace accident victims than men, according to the bureau. By age, workers between 25 and 44 made up the largest group, with 2,130 cases, followed by those aged 45 to 64, who accounted for 1,419.

The cultural and recreational activities, lotteries and other services sector recorded the highest number of victims, at 1,213, or about 31% of the total. Hotels, restaurants and similar businesses followed with 986 cases, representing about 25%.

Wholesale and retail trade recorded 262 victims, while real estate activities and business services accounted for 259.

By occupation, administrative employees were the largest group affected, with 895 cases. Service workers, salespeople and related occupations accounted for 819, followed by unskilled workers with 683 and technicians and associate professionals with 404.

Separately, the bureau opened 1,255 investigations involving the same number of workers during the nine-month period.

Investigations resulted in 23 administrative offense cases, all of which have been prosecuted and fined a combined MOP158,500. Authorities also identified one contravention offense across two cases, resulting in total fines of MOP4,000.

The bureau reminded employers that they are legally required to purchase workplace accident insurance for every employee and report all occupational accidents, regardless of the severity of the injuries.

Both local and non-resident workers are entitled to compensation under the law, including two-thirds of their wages for the period they are unable to work, medical expenses and statutory compensation for disability or death resulting from workplace accidents.

TRANSPORT

Bus operators renewed for six years with LRT transfer requirements

YUKI LEI



MACAU'S two bus operators have been granted six-year contract extensions, with new terms requiring greener fleets and greater coordination with the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, following the expiration of their existing contracts at the end of the year.

Under the new contracts, effective January 1, all newly registered operational vehicles must be new-energy vehicles with low-floor designs and step-free boarding at the doors. Vehicles with more than two doors may have additional steps at the rear door.

By January 1, 2030, the LRT system where operators - Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau, S.A. (TCM) and Transportes Urbanos de Macau S.A.R.L. (Transmac) - must ensure that at least 5% of their fleets, excluding range-extended electric vehicles, are powered entirely by electricity. This requirement will rise to at least 10% by January 1, 2032.

Regarding LRT integration, the operators must propose route adjustments, bus stop numbers and locations, vehicle types, service hours and frequencies, with the aim of improving public transport services and coordinating bus operations with the applicable. They must also provide LRT transfer services, with specific transfer arrangements, ticketing requirements and conditions to be determined by the supervisory body.

On smart transport, the operators must provide suitable spaces and cabling in vehicles to accommodate potential smart bus equipment, including satellite navigation, touchscreen displays, onboard units, passenger flow monitoring, assistance devices for visually impaired passengers, and image recognition and data collection equipment.

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

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SOCIETY

Delivery riders consider return to petrol bikes over EV reliability concerns

RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES



SEVERAL riders working for food and goods delivery platforms are considering returning to petrol-powered motorcycles, the Times has learned.

According to a rider who switched to electric vehicles (EVs) less than a year ago, the new vehicles have experienced reliability issues that are jeopardizing his business and reducing his earnings. He also said other riders are facing similar problems.

Speaking to the Times, Viktor Chan, one of the riders affected, said, "I bought the [EV] bike less than 8 months ago, and it has already broken down twice."

Chan noted that, beyond reliability, riders face another issue: the manufacturer's refusal to honor the warranty.

"The manufacturer refuses to repair the bike under warranty. They say the bike is being used for 'heavy duty' and commercial purposes, not private, regular use. They use this as an excuse not to cover the repair costs."

Chan said he is not an isolated case, claiming that several of his co-workers have experienced similar issues.

"Yes, I know at least one more [rider] using the same bike who has also had problems, and another, I think, using a different brand [manufacturer]."

He explained that the issues he has experienced are mechanical and not related to the battery.

"My first problem was [with] the brakes, and now this one I don't know exactly what is wrong, but it's making some noise from the rear wheel and seems that it has no strength, especially going uphill," Chan explained.

When asked whether he was considering switching back to a petrol-powered scooter, he said, "Yes, yes, I am considering this now. Gasoline prices are high now, and bike prices are also quite high, but I am thinking I can find a second-hand one so I can work. I cannot always get stranded while doing deliveries and always take the bike to the [repair] shop. If I cannot work, I don't earn anything. This is how this job is."

With some 28,600 km on the odometer, Chan said he rides no more than 800 km per week. Nevertheless, he says his "new" bike already seems more worn out than the one he had for over 10 years.

"Before, I had a Cygnus X… and I had no major problems with it, just regular maintenance like oil changes and tire replacements. I switched to this EV because I thought I could save more money on gas and maintenance, but I was wrong. I really regret it now," he said, adding, "Maybe this bike is okay for people who only use it to go to work or school and then leave it parked all day, but it is not suitable for continuous riding. I don't think it will last more than a year."

He admitted that when he first considered switching from a petrol-powered motorcycle to an electric one, his only concern was battery life, which he says is now the least of his problems.

"The battery is okay. It lasts around 60 to 65 km. I can do a few deliveries in the morning, then charge it while I take my break and do the same in the afternoon. It's not very practical, but it's okay. Of course, with the Cygnus X, I could do around 250 km with a full tank. It would easily last me two days of work."

More than simply lodging a complaint, Chan told the Times he wanted to share his story to help more people understand the practical implications of switching to EVs and alert them to aspects he had overlooked.

"Now I wonder how taxis will cope with these issues, especially as they are also switching to EVs. Maybe the technology is more reliable in cars, but I am no longer so sure. Will they end up breaking down in the middle of the bridge on the way to the airport?"

According to the Environmental Protection Bureau's (DSPA) annual report, State of the Environment in Macau (2025), the number of EVs registered in the territory rose by 34.6% from the previous year to 16,339.

The same report noted that the number of electric motorcycles increased by 36.1% from the previous year to 6,194, driven by the launch of several financial support programs encouraging the replacement of older motorcycles with new electric models.

PONTE 16 CROSSING

Woman in critical condition after bus hits wheelchair user

A woman in her 90s who uses a wheelchair was struck by a bus and trapped underneath it at a signalized pedestrian crossing on Rua do Guimarães Wednesday morning. As of approximately 5 p.m. yesterday, the injured woman was conscious but suffered multiple fractures and required surgical intervention, according to the Public Security Police (PSP).

Officers said it received a report at 10:53 a.m. They found the local woman injured and pinned beneath the bus. Firefighters freed her before she was taken to Conde S. Januário Hospital. The local male bus driver, in his 30s, tested negative for alcohol. Police said the exact cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Public bus operator Transmac said the accident occurred at about 11 a.m. as one of its buses was traveling toward Rua da Ribeira do Patane, near the Ponte 16 bus stop. According to the company's review of video footage, after the pedestrian signal turned red, a wheelchair user moved from the bus's front-left blind spot into the roadway. The driver, who was pulling away slowly, failed to notice the pedestrian in time, and the front of the bus struck the wheelchair user.

No passengers were injured. The company said the incident remains subject to further police investigation and that it will cooperate fully. **YL**



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Four universities improve in QS Asia rankings

All four local universities included in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027 improved their positions, according to the latest rankings released by global higher education research organization Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The University of Macau climbed six places to 96th, while Macau University of Science and Technology rose 21 places to 190th. Macau Polytechnic University recorded the largest improvement among the four institutions, moving up 96 places to 306th. City University of Macau advanced 63 places to 370th. The University of Hong Kong retained the top position, followed by Peking University and Tsinghua University in second and third place, respectively. Hong Kong City University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong also improved their rankings to enter the top five.

IAS increases number of family mediators to 57

The SAR now has 57 family mediators following the appointment of 12 additional professionals by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), the bureau said. The second batch of appointees all hold valid social worker registration certificates and have extensive experience in family services. Before taking up their roles, the mediators completed professional training covering family mediation laws, report writing, procedural guidelines, judicial practices and practical case-sharing sessions.

Elderly man loses MOP2 million in online investment scam

A local elderly man reported losing about MOP2.03 million in an online investment scam after being persuaded to invest in stocks by a woman he met on social media, the Judiciary Police said. The victim met the woman in September and downloaded an investment app at her instruction. Between September and Oct. 28, he transferred a total of RMB575,000 to designated mainland bank accounts. He also handed over HKD1.3 million in cash to a man designated by the scammer in three separate meetings outside his North District residence over three consecutive days from Oct. 28. The victim later discussed the transactions with family members, who suspected he had been scammed and advised him to report the case to police.

YUKI LEI

GOVERNANCE

Gov't expands e-services and cross-border access, officials say



Self-service machines offering Macau government services now cover 12 service points across eight mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), two mainland towns and Hengqin, with a dedicated government services station opening in the cooperation zone in September, the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) said.

Appearing on public broadcaster TDM's radio program Wednesday to discuss the Macao One Account platform and electronic identity applications, bureau director Sonia Chan said the government had added functions this year allowing users to check the progress of identity document applications, submit supplementary documents and take identification photos. It had also increased the number of financial institutions accepting electronic identity.

Notably, a dedicated Macau public services zone opened in September at the government services center of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

It offers 63 services from four Macau departments covering identification, economy and technology, finance and pharmaceutical supervision. Macau officials are stationed there regularly, while cooperation zone staff handle enquiries and document collection outside those hours.

Separately, self-service machines providing Macau government services have been extended to Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan and two towns in Zhongshan, bringing coverage to 12 service points across eight mainland GBA cities, two mainland towns and Hengqin.

The machines now connect to 11 government departments and offer 38 services, including new identity document applications. Residents can receive electronic certificates through Macao One Account or authorize others to collect documents in Macau or the cooperation zone.

Chan said the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport's anti-counterfeiting features rank among the world's best, with no forgeries detected since the second edition was introduced. Responding to a listener's suggestion that passports for children under 18, which are valid for five years, be priced differently from adult passports, as is the case with Home Return Permits, she said fees are the same for children and adults, cover only the cost of production and are comparable to those in neighboring regions.

Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) director Leong Weng In said 18 departments had completed organizational restructuring this year, while work was ongoing on Macao One Account 3.0 and the Business & Associations platform 2.0. The upgrades aim to move government services beyond individual electronic applications toward one-stop processing.

Responding to a listener's suggestion that elderly residents be allowed to authorize their children to handle e-government matters, Leong said the bureau was studying a family-linking function that would allow children to access services such as My Health on behalf of their parents. Voice search would also be added.

Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) director Ng Chi Kin said the government had established a legal coordination working group covering different policy areas and shared technically complex draft bills with the Legislative Assembly's technical team before submission to save time.

He said 13 bills had been submitted and 15 laws enacted this year, including amendments to the Labor Relations Law and Advertising Law, alongside 35 administrative regulations.

The eighth GBA legal departments joint meeting will be held in Macau on November 25 to discuss legislative coordination mechanisms and the development of a GBA commercial mediation and arbitration platform. Meanwhile, rules governing social security and the central provident fund have been revised to facilitate living and business activities in Hengqin. Online applications for post-nuptial agreements accounted for 65% of eligible applications, he added.

Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) president Chou Wai Ieng said a new municipal management and inspection department was established during the bureau's restructuring in June to coordinate urban appearance management and community hazard inspections.

The second phase of the second zone of the waterfront green corridor has opened, while outdoor cafe operating hours have been extended to 10 p.m. The bureau has also issued 58 new licenses, compared with 73 currently valid licenses, more than tripling the number before the relaunch.

The bureau has also conducted citywide cleaning campaigns, inspected "three-nil" buildings and addressed overhead cabling issues. A design scheme for compressed refuse-bin facades will also be extended to refuse rooms where conditions permit.

GOVERNANCE

CE visits Shanghai for 9th China International Import Expo

The Chief Executive (CE), Sam Hou Fai, is visiting Shanghai to attend the opening ceremony of the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) and related activities, the Government Information Bureau (GCS) said.

The CE is accompanied by Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng.

The CIIE is being held from November 5 to 10, with representatives from 162 countries, regions and international organizations participating.

The government has organized a delegation of local entrepreneurs to travel to Shanghai to participate in the "Pavilion of Food and Beverage from Macau and Portuguese-speaking Countries" and the "Service Trade Exhibition Area - Macau and Portuguese-speaking Countries' Professional Service Pavilion."

The two exhibition areas aim to showcase "Made in Macau" and Macau-branded products, food and beverages from Portuguese-speaking countries, and specialized services offered by participating companies.

The CE is expected to return to Macau tonight.

During the CE's absence, Secretary for Administration and Justice Wong Sio Chak will serve as acting chief executive. **RM**

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AVIATION

China Southern's Guangzhou link targets 100,000 annual passenger movements at Macau airport

NADIA SHAW



CHINA Southern Airlines expects its new Macau-Guangzhou service to generate more than 100,000 passenger movements annually at Macau International Airport. The route will launch Dec. 10 with one daily round-trip service, Jiang Hui, general manager of China Southern's Macau branch, told Chinese-language Macao News Daily.

Bookings will be available only as part of itineraries connecting with other China Southern flights through Guangzhou. Based on an estimated 150 passengers per flight, the Macau-Guangzhou service would generate 300 passenger movements a day, or about 109,500 annually, the report said. That figure includes arrivals and departures by visitors and residents, rather than representing additional tourists.

The report added that traffic could exceed 500,000 movements annually if demand supports five daily round-trip services. China Southern will assess bookings before increasing frequencies.

Flights will operate from Guangzhou to Macau in the morning before continuing to Beijing, with return services routing through Macau to Guangzhou. Jiang said the arrangement would better accommodate demand for morning departures to Beijing.

Jiang said more than 380 weekly international flights would offer connections through Guangzhou to Macau, with over 320 weekly onward international flights available to passengers departing Macau.

China Southern will also explore fifth-freedom traffic rights for services continuing through Macau to other destinations, allowing it to carry passengers who board in Macau to those onward destinations. Any expansion would depend on commercial demand, Jiang said.

Last year, Macau airport handled more than 7.5 million passenger movements, down from over 9.6 million in 2019.

Jiang attributed part of the shortfall to travelers using Hong Kong International Airport via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and to Zhuhai airport's expanding mainland network. He added that weaker passenger traffic could discourage airlines from launching new routes, further limiting Macau's air connectivity.

Macau International Airport passenger movements

Year	Foot traffic
2025	7,521,344
2024	7,641,495
2023	5,151,080
2022	599,185
2021	1,147,015
2020	1,173,231
2019	9,611,427

AVIATION

Industry group meets gov't to advance market liberalization and hub development

RENATO MARQUES



THE government's newly established Civil Aviation Industry Development Working Group held its first meeting Wednesday to discuss measures to liberalize the aviation market, improve access for home-based airlines and develop the "Macao Pearl River West Bank International Air Transport Hub (Port)."

Chaired by Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam, the meeting focused on how the government and the aviation industry could work together to advance these objectives, the Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement.

Tam urged members to "strengthen cross-sector collaboration, comprehensively advance the high-quality development of Macau's civil aviation industry, support the achievement of the development goals and strategic positioning outlined in the Third Five-Year Plan, and help Macau integrate more effectively into and serve our mother country's overall development."

He noted that introducing new home-based airlines and developing the aviation hub would involve a wide range of considerations, including the macroeconomic environment, tourism market development, infrastructure capacity and national security.

Tam expressed hope that members would work together to improve the quality of Macau's civil aviation industry and generate new momentum for its sustainable development.

The Working Group has two dedicated subgroups: one responsible for licensing matters related to commercial passenger air transport services, and the other tasked with formulating a specific action plan for developing the aviation hub.

At the meeting, the Civil Aviation Authority briefed members on the current state of the local civil aviation industry, the licensing regime for new home-based airlines and progress on key infrastructure projects.

Nearly 200,000 checks yield 4,859 violations, SSM says

Health Bureau (SSM) inspectors carried out 199,685 checks in the first three quarters of the year, averaging 731 a day, and found 4,859 violations. On tobacco control, inspectors recorded 4,226 cases of illegal smoking, 560 cases of people carrying e-cigarettes across the border and 68 other breaches. Restaurants accounted for the highest number of smoking violations, with 786 cases, followed by public transport stops with 523. At casinos, 462 inspections uncovered 494 cases. On alcohol control, five suspected breaches were recorded, including one case in which an adult allegedly gave beer to a child. The offence carries a fine of up to MOP20,000.

43rd Walk for a Million set for Dec. 13

The 43rd Walk for a Million will take place on December 13, starting at 10 a.m. on Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-sen near the Kun Iam Statue. Participants will gather there and in front of the Macau Science Centre. The route will run along Sai Van Lake to the Barra Temple forecourt, covering about three kilometers and taking roughly an hour to complete at a walking pace. This year's event marks the 27th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland. Activities will include dragon and lion dances, performances by the Police Band and school bands, stage shows and a Drunken Dragon dance.

Woman injured by falling knife in Ilha Verde

A woman in her sixties was injured Wednesday afternoon when a utility knife reportedly fell from a height and struck her near an industrial building on Rua da Ilha Verde. The Fire Services Bureau (CB) said it received a report at about 1:40 p.m. An ambulance crew found the local woman conscious and in stable condition, with minor injuries. The woman said she had been struck by the falling knife and was taken to Conde S. Januário Hospital for treatment. No property damage was reported. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) is investigating the suspected falling-object incident.

Customs seizes 180 suspected blue shark fins at Hengqin Port

Customs officers seized 180 endangered blue shark fins from a Macau-registered passenger vehicle entering mainland China through Hengqin Port on September 3, authorities said Tuesday. The fins, weighing a total of 6.8 kilograms, were found on the vehicle's rear seats and floor mats after the driver failed to declare them. The species is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Customs reminded travelers that trading, carrying or mailing endangered species without the required permits is prohibited, warning that serious cases could result in criminal liability.

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FINANCE

Retail e-payment transaction value rises 12.6% in September

RENATO MARQUES

ELECTRONIC payment transaction values at restaurants and similar establishments and in retail trade increased by 5.4% and 12.6% year over year, respectively, in September 2026, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

In the first nine months of the year, transaction values in the two sectors grew by 2.2% and 13.3%, respectively.

For restaurants and similar establishments, transaction value rose 5.4% year over year to MOP1.10 billion in September. Western restaurants and Chinese restaurants recorded increases of 11.5% and 5.1%, respectively.

In the first nine months of 2026, transaction value in the sector increased by 2.2% year over year to MOP10.41 billion.

In retail trade, transaction value totaled MOP4.24 billion in September, up 12.6% year over year. Watches, clocks and jewelry retailers and cosmetics and sanitary articles retailers recorded notable increases of 47.4% and 34.8%, respectively, while pharmacies registered a decline of 9.7%.

Retail trade transaction value totaled MOP42.96 billion in the first nine months of the year, representing a 13.3% year-over-year increase.

DSEC noted that e-payment transaction values accounted for about 70% to 80% of receipts in the two sectors. As the statistics exclude cash transactions, the bureau advised considering quarterly and annual data when assessing the sectors' overall business performance.

The bureau added that its survey covered major merchant acquirers, which account for about 95% of Macau's total electronic payment transaction volume.

SPORTS

LVS chief Dumont and wife take controlling 69% stake in Mavericks

NADIA SHAW

LAS Vegas Sands chairman and CEO Patrick Dumont and his wife, Sivan, have acquired Miriam Adelson's shares in the Dallas Mavericks, giving the couple a controlling 69% stake in the NBA franchise, which played in Macau last month, according to ESPN.

The transaction, reported Tuesday, shifts ownership within the family that bought control of the team from Mark Cuban in December 2023 at a $3.5 billion valuation.

Adelson, Sivan's mother and Dumont's mother-in-law, previously led the ownership group, while Dumont became the Mavericks' governor and representative on the NBA's board.

ESPN's Tim MacMahon reported that the purchase took place in October and that Adelson had maintained "minimal involvement" in the franchise. The ESPN report did not disclose the transaction's valuation.

"It's really about long-term investment in the city of Dallas," Dumont told ESPN.

"The Dumont family is really committed to building what we hope will be the best arena in the NBA, a really significant investment in the city that will help create the new 40-year home for the Dallas Mavericks, a great experience for our fans and inspire our team to win championships. That's really what we're focused on."

The ownership change follows the Mavericks' October visit to Macau, where they faced the Houston Rockets at The Venetian Macao. Sands China signed an agreement with the NBA in late 2024 to host annual preseason games through 2029, linking the resort operator's entertainment strategy with professional basketball.



Dumont became chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands on March 1, 2026, succeeding Robert Goldstein. He also chairs Sands China.

The Mavericks stake is held by Dumont and his family, rather than representing a stated corporate acquisition by Sands.

Cuban still retains 27% of the franchise, while minority shareholder Mary Stanton holds the remaining 4%. Those holdings, together with the Dumonts' 69%, account for the team's entire ownership.

The transition also comes amid disagreement between Cuban and the owners who succeeded him. Speaking on the Intersections Podcast in March, Cuban said he did not regret selling but regretted his choice of buyers. He cited the emotional demands of ownership and family considerations in explaining his decision to sell.

Cuban said the decision was driven in part by the emotional toll of owning the team and by his desire to avoid placing his children in a position where they might feel expected to take over the business.

"Because it's a big emotional commitment, right? You hear the passion and everything. Now, imagine going up and down like that every single game. You know, that's hard," Cuban said. "My kids, they were coming of the age where they would be of the mindset maybe they want to work at the Mavs, and I didn't want that for them."

"I don't regret selling. I regret who I sold to. Yeah, I made a lot of mistakes in the process and I'll leave it at that," he said.

The Dumonts also have an option to acquire another 20 percentage points from Cuban before the end of 2027 at the original valuation, potentially increasing their stake to 89%. According to ESPN, Dumont has indicated that he intends to exercise the option.

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy wins eight accolades at HR Excellence Awards



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) received eight accolades at the HR Excellence Awards 2026, including the Grand Winner Award, recognizing its efforts in talent development, leadership training, employee wellbeing and corporate governance.

Organized by Human Resources Online, the awards also saw GEG secure five Gold awards for employee development, leadership development, internship recruitment and development, employee volunteerism and ESG strategy. It received a Silver award for employee care and wellbeing and a Bronze award for learning and development.

GEG said it had provided nearly 36,000 promotion and horizontal career opportunities, delivered more than 16 million cumulative training hours and conducted over 6,000 training programs.

The company also works with the Labour Affairs Bureau and local education institutions on training and career development initiatives. It recently donated MOP1 million to the Macao University of Tourism Development Foundation to support industry-academia collaboration and tourism talent development.

Wynn hosts closing party for Bocuse d'Or Asia-Pacific 2026



Wynn hosted the closing party for the Bocuse d'Or Asia-Pacific 2026 at Wynn Palace on Nov. 2, following the two-day culinary competition held in Macao for the first time.

The event, hosted by the Macao Government Tourism Office from Nov. 1 to 2, brought together about 250 chefs, judges, industry professionals and international media representatives. Wynn served as the competition's official Hospitality Partner.

Japan, Thailand and China secured first, second and third place, respectively, while New Zealand and Malaysia finished fourth and fifth. The five teams qualified for the Bocuse d'Or Grand Final in Lyon, France, in January 2027.

Peter Chan, executive chef of Wynn Macau, served as honorary president of the regional competition, becoming the only chef from Macao to receive the distinction.

The closing reception featured dishes from seven Wynn restaurants and bars, alongside Macanese and Portuguese specialties. Wynn said its participation reflected its support for culinary talent development and Macao's positioning as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times
MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DIPLOMACY

China warns Philippines to be cautious over South China Sea

HUIZHONG WU, BANGKOK

AP PHOTO



Foreign Minister Wang Yi

CHINA said Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned his Philippines counterpart in a phone call about alleged interference in their nations' relationship and urged the Philippines to act with caution in their South China Sea dispute.

Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Theresa Lazaro said she and Wang had "a frank and constructive" discussion on the direction of their bilateral relationship in the call Tuesday night. "Both sides emphasized the need for continued diplomatic dialogue and the proper management of differences anchored on mutual respect," Lazaro said in a post on X without elaborating.

China and the Philippines have overlapping claims to the South China Sea, which have escalated into clashes between sailors and collisions between navy vessels in recent years. The tensions over their territorial claims have surfaced in their diplomatic exchanges lately.

Wang said the bilateral relationship was facing "malicious interference" by certain Filipino politicians, and that the Philippines should "strengthen restraints on the relevant people, and speak with a unified, reasonable voice on policy towards China," according to a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Wang also said the Philippines should be "cautious in their words and deeds" on the issue of the South China Sea.

The call came after a tense back and forth between the sides in recent weeks. The Philippines defense secretary called China a "troublemaker" in the region. In response, China's ambassador to the Philippines said it was nonsense, but that "if we want to use force, we may easily win. But no, we will not choose force and we love peace."

Those remarks ignited a strong response from the Philippines, including President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who said the statement sounded like a threat.

Despite the strong warning from the Chinese side, both sides agreed that they would keep talking, according to the Chinese statement.

Another topic raised between the two diplomats was the possible resumption of long-stalled talks between the Philippines and China on a proposed joint oil and gas exploration in the Reed Bank, according to a Philippine official, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly.

The offshore area is claimed by both Beijing and Manila but lies within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines. The economic zone is a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of water from a country's coastline where it has exclusive rights to explore and harness resources under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Philippine efforts to explore for oil and gas in the Reed Bank have been hampered for years because of opposition from Beijing, which claims sovereignty over the area along with most of the South China Sea.

Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei have also been involved in the increasingly tense territorial standoffs in the sea, a key global trade route.

MDT/AP

HONG KONG

Activist Joshua Wong awaits sentencing today

AP PHOTO



A Hong Kong court is set to hand down a sentence to pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong Thursday for his second conviction under the national security law that has effectively stifled the city's democracy movement.

Wong, 30, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to collude with foreign forces to endanger national security in September, facing a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Pleading guilty typically reduces a sentence.

The court hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday and is expected to last 30 minutes.

The former student leader of the democracy movement was already serving a prison term of four years and eight months after entering a guilty plea in a separate national security case linked to an unofficial primary for the pro-democracy camp.

To Beijing, Wong is an anti-China figure who supports Hong Kong independence, a political stance China views as a red line.

To his supporters, Wong was a voice for a younger generation born in the final years of British colonial rule before the city was handed back to China in 1997.

In 2021, Wong became one of 47 activists charged in the city's biggest national security case for his role in the unofficial primary. He was sentenced in November 2024 and had been expected to be freed in January 2027.

But Wong was charged again for the collusion-related case in June 2025.

The prosecution alleged that Wong and Law had agreed in or around 2016 to conduct international lobbying to achieve their goal of democratic self-determination. It said the pair had been calling for sanctions and other adverse measures against Hong Kong and China before the security law was enacted. It pointed to Wong's visits to the U.S. and other international advocacy efforts.

After the law was introduced, Wong, Law and others continued to pursue their agreement, the prosecution said.

While Law and others worked from abroad, Wong supported the effort from Hong Kong through foreign media outlets and social media to draw foreign countries' attention and bolster the request for sanctions, blockade or other hostile measures against China and Hong Kong, it said.

Wong admitted to the accusations in court in September.

In pleading for a lesser penalty, Wong's lawyer Derek Chan urged the court to impose a sentence that would give his client some hope.

Chan said in September that Wong has spent nearly six years in prison and he has had a "lengthy opportunity to reflect" on his path. He said Wong did not waste his time behind bars. He read books and has matured substantially in his thinking. Wong hopes to take care of his parents after being released, Chan added.

After he pleaded guilty, Tiffany Chin, a former member of Scholarism, a now-dissolved group co-founded by Wong, told reporters that while Wong was mentally prepared, he was also facing "a great deal of psychological or mental pressure."

AGENCIES

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AP PHOTO



Democratic Senate candidate Texas state Rep. James Talarico speaks at an election night event in Austin, Texas

USA

Democrats win House and Senate as voters rebuke Trump and Republicans

JILL COLVIN, MARY CLARE JALONICK A& WILL WEISSERT, WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS won control of both chambers of Congress, delivering a decisive rebuke of Republican governance and ushering in a new era of congressional resistance to President Donald Trump.

Tuesday's midterm (yesterday, Macau time) elections laid bare voters' frustrations over high prices, the Iran war and government corruption. Democrats flipped states that have voted Republican for decades and that Trump won by double digits two years ago.

James Talarico won a stunning Senate victory in Texas, where no Democrat had won statewide office in more than 30 years. Annie Andrews upset Sen. Darline Graham in South Carolina. Trump had thrown his weight behind both losing candidates.

In Michigan, progressive Abdul El-Sayed defeated Republican Mike Rogers. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, a veteran of difficult elections, lost to Democrat Troy Jackson.

The results marked an unraveling of the coalition that returned Trump to the White House, with young people and Latinos moving away from Republicans, according to The AP Voter Poll. Only about one-third of Hispanic voters backed Republicans in their local House races.

Trump spent nearly every day of the campaign's final month holding rallies but could not stop the losses.

Democratic control will reshape Trump's final two years and hamstring his legislative agenda. Party leaders have signaled investigations of administration officials and scrutiny of how Trump has enriched his family. Impeachment of Trump and Cabinet officials remains possible.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Elon Musk, a former top Trump adviser, are among potential investigation targets.

Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer called the results a "generational remake of the Senate map." House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Americans were demanding transformational change.

Trump sought to shift blame, posting before West Coast polls closed that he was not on the ballot, despite weeks of asking voters to act as though he was. He vowed to veto Democratic legislation.

In a late-night Fox News interview, Trump rejected suggestions of a personal defeat, saying voters "didn't like the candidates." After warnings about noncitizen voting and election lawsuits, he said he would accept the results.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Republicans would work with Trump to resist Democratic efforts to reverse their policies.

Republicans had expected their Senate majority to survive. Instead, Democrats won across conservative states.

Josh Turek defeated Rep. Ashley Hinson in Iowa, while Adam Hamilton ousted Sen. Roger Marshall in Kansas, becoming the state's first Democratic senator since 1932. Sherrod Brown defeated Sen. Jon Husted in Ohio, and Roy Cooper won North Carolina's open seat.

Trump endorsed scandal-plagued Ken Paxton and helped him defeat incumbent Sen. John Cornyn in Texas' Republican primary, despite warnings about the electoral risks. Talarico then defeated Paxton.

Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff won reelection in Georgia, defeating Rep. Mike Collins. In New Hampshire, Rep. Chris Pappas defeated former Sen. John Sununu to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

Alaska remained unresolved, with the Trump administration seeking to block certification if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan lost, citing another candidate with the same name. Mississippi's Senate race was also too early to call.

House Democrats won multiple seats in Iowa, Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania, alongside pickups in Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Utah. Iowa's previously all-Republican delegation will include three Democrats.

Republicans poured tens of millions of dollars into districts Trump had comfortably won, but their financial advantage failed to contain the losses.

The AP Voter Poll found about three-quarters of voters felt angry or dissatisfied with the country's direction. Three-quarters rated the economy "not so good" or "poor," and about 8 in 10 reported financial hardship from inflation.

Roughly half identified government corruption and living costs as crucial to their congressional vote. About 6 in 10 said Trump put personal interests ahead of the country's.

Democrats remained only modestly more popular: Just under half viewed the party favorably, compared with about 4 in 10 for Republicans.

Republican redistricting efforts also faltered. Democrats gained targeted districts in Florida and Texas, where Republicans had hoped to add as many as nine seats.

Democrats also dominated governor's races. Incumbents Josh Shapiro, JB Pritzker, Wes Moore, Maura Healey and Kathy Hochul won reelection. In Texas, Gina Hinojosa defeated Gov. Greg Abbott, who sought a fourth term.

Ohio Democrat Amy Acton defeated Republican Vivek Ramaswamy following backlash over an advertisement featuring her estranged mother.

Georgia's Keisha Lance Bottoms will become the first Black female governor of any state. Florida's Byron Donalds became the first Black Republican elected governor.

Jeffries, positioned to become the first Black House speaker, outlined a 100-day agenda addressing living costs and administration oversight.

The results could strengthen potential Democratic presidential contenders while complicating the ambitions of Vice President JD Vance and other Republicans hoping loyalty to Trump would propel their careers.

this day in history

1952 Landslide victory for Eisenhower



General Dwight D Eisenhower has swept to victory in the American presidential elections with the largest number of popular votes ever recorded for a presidential candidate.

The new president-elect gained 31,552,768 popular votes and has won, or is leading, in 38 states. This gives him 431 electoral college votes, significantly more than the 266 he needed for a majority.

The results suggest that many of the Southern states, traditionally Democrat, have swung to the Republicans for the first time in 35 years.

General Eisenhower's rival, Democrat Adlai E Stevenson, won 25,409,335 votes, securing 10 states and 100 electoral college votes.

The results come after months of one of the hardest-fought campaigns ever.

General Eisenhower's popularity among the American people as a military hero, having commanded his country's troops through Europe during World War II, has now been translated into votes.

During the run-up to polling day commentators had predicted a much closer-run battle than it turned out to be.

In a victory speech, delivered in the Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel in New York, the president-elect said to the American people: "I recognise clearly the weight of the responsibilities that you have placed upon me and I assure you that I shall never in my service in Washington give short weight to those responsibilities."

President Truman, who will not officially hand over to General Eisenhower until January next year, sent a telegram congratulating the incoming president on his "overwhelming victory."

He has invited General Eisenhower to the White House for talks on the transition process.

Defeated Governor Stevenson also issued a statement: "The people have rendered their verdict, and I gladly accept it. General Eisenhower has been a great leader in war. He has been a vigorous and valiant opponent in the campaign.

"These qualities will now be dedicated to leading us all through the next four years." [...]

Courtesy BBC News

In context

General Dwight D Eisenhower was sworn in as the 34th president of the United States of America on 20 January 1953.

He immediately set to work on trying to appease the situation in Korea and in July of the same year he instigated the signing of a truce which brought peace along the country's borders.

He was also heavily involved in negotiations with Russia regarding the development of nuclear weapons, most notably the hydrogen bomb which both countries were working on.

He was elected for a second term as president in November 1956, even though he had suffered a heart attack earlier in the year.

He finally left office in 1961. He died after a long illness in March 1969.

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YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Relations with partners, spouses and close friends are excellent today! In fact, a platonic relationship could turn romantic. It's a fantastic day for romance, as well as dealing with members of the general public.

Taurus
Apr. 20-May. 20

A work-related romance might be blossoming for many of you. Others might see ways to use money and resources from work to improve your job and your domestic world.

Gemini
May. 21-Jun. 21

Social occasions, romantic get-togethers and fun times with kids are on the menu for you today. Enjoy schmoozing with everyone! You'll be emphatic in discussions related to your job and work.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

This is a wonderful day to socialize, especially with younger people. You will also enjoy entertaining at home or doing something to make your home look more attractive.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're happy with your surroundings today and pleased to interact with others. Your energy is pumped, in part because you're in contact with family members you haven't seen in a while.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today the Moon is in your sign, which means things will tend to go your way. However, commit to nothing important, because today is a Moon Alert all day!

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22

You'll find it easy to charm everyone today because you're enthusiastic and happy! You might have strong ideas about financial matters. Be smart and postpone speaking up about these ideas until tomorrow.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You're enthusiastic to talk to everyone today because you have something to say! Nevertheless, you make a great impression on everyone, including authority figures. Tonight: Friendly discussions.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You continue to be high-viz today. In particular, friends and groups are supportive of you. Issues related to higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law will shine.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You're happy with the impression you create on everyone today, and you're pleased with the practical and financial support from another party or your spouse or partner.

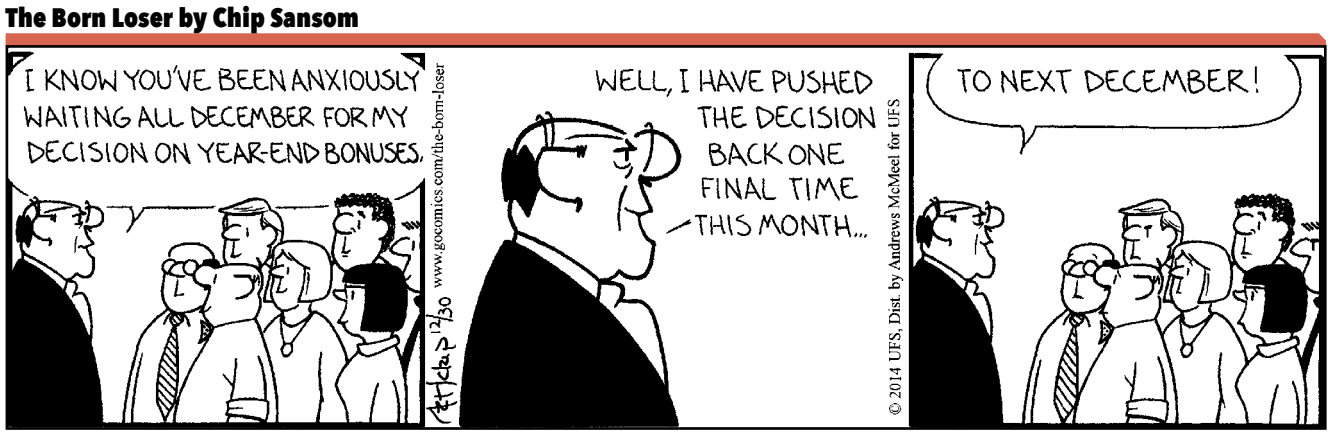
Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're powerful. You look good to everyone and your style of relating to those who are close to you is positive! Travel is blessed. Romance with someone from afar or someone different might be meaningful.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20

Today you're happy because financial and practical support is forthcoming ! In particular, it makes you feel better about your job. Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with someone else.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

6				5		1		3
2				8		9	6	
			2				8	4
	5	6	8	4				
1	4		5		2		3	6
				9	1	4	5	
8	9				4			
	6	1		2				8
5		2		3				9

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

CHINA	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	4	18	fine
Changchun	0	1	cloudy
Chengdu	14	20	cloudy
Chongqing	15	19	overcast
Fuzhou	22	30	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	23	31	thunderstorms
Guiyang	13	16	showers
Haikou	25	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	24	fine
Harbin	-6	2	snow
Hefei	10	21	cloudy
Nanjing	13	21	cloudy
Shanghai	15	18	overcast
Taipei	20	26	rain
Wuhan	9	22	cloudy
Hong Hong	26	29	sunny

WORLD	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Moscow	0	4	snow
Frankfurt	1	11	sunny
Paris	2	10	sunny
London	7	11	cloudy
New York	17	21	rain

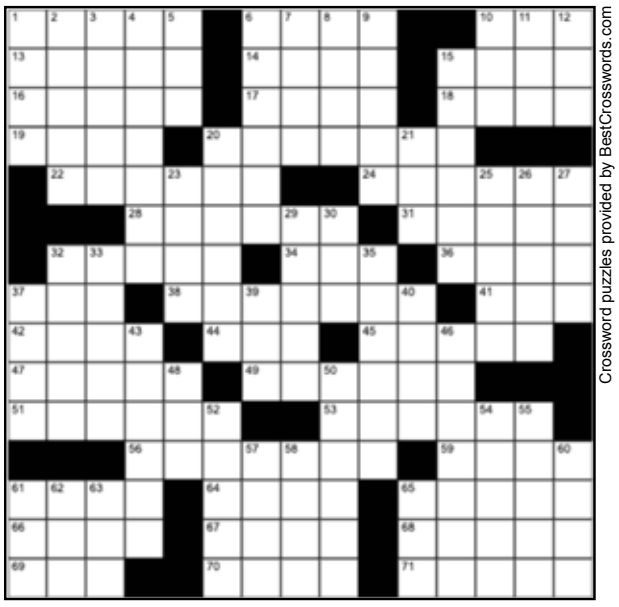
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 6- Bridge; 10- Pub order; 13- Chart anew; 14- Bear on high; 15- Lofty poems; 16- Gather; 17- Denier's words; 18- Panhandles; 19- Singer Amos; 20- Commander in chief of a fleet; 22- Midday nap; 24- Foreigners; 28- Alarms; 31- Arctic abode; 32- Singer LaBelle; 34- Notable time; 36- 911 respondents; 37- Structural engineer's software; 38- Erik of "CHiPs"; 41- ... man ___ mouse?; 42- Arch type; 44- Young goat; 45- Suckle; 47- Dish of raw vegetables; 49- Executor's concern; 51- Momentarily; 53- Does penance; 56- Quarantine; 59- ___ above; 61- Give a ring; 64- Corona fruit; 65- Dean Martin's "That's ___"; 66- Comply with; 67- Winter Palace ruler; 68- Doctrine; 69- Dundee denial; 70- Caesar and others; 71- Like a lot;

DOWN 1- I smell ___!; 2- Floor models; 3- Japanese porcelain; 4- Least difficult; 5- FedEx rival; 6- Ice cream topped with syrup; 7- Senior moment?; 8- Italian wine region; 9- Currency unit in Nigeria; 10- Citrus drink; 11- Journey segment; 12- Snaky curve; 15- Bind morally; 20- In danger; 21- The Greatest; 23- Web locale; 25- St. ___ fire; 26- ___ Dame; 27- Slammin' Sammy; 29- Dweebs; 30- Madrid Mrs.; 32- Heathen; 33- "A Passage to India" heroine; 35- Congenitally attached; 37- Mozart's "___ fan tutte"; 39- Overtime cause; 40- Car; 43- Effortlessly; 46- Gave a new title; 48- ___ Plaines; 50- Spuds; 52- Young male horses; 54- Low-budget prefix; 55- Less doubtful; 57- Actress Virna; 58- Diary of ___ Housewife; 60- Head of France?; 61- Chile ___ carne; 62- Lawyers' org.; 63- Golfer Trevino; 65- ___ loss for words;

Yesterday's solution

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



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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GOLF

Title-chasing McIlroy says there's no risk playing in Abu Dhabi amid tensions in Middle East

AP PHOTO



Rory McIlroyof Northern Ireland

STEVE DOUGLAS, SPORTS WRITER

RORY McIlroy has played down safety concerns about competing at the Abu Dhabi Championship this week, amid tensions in the Middle East that have impacted the sports calendar in the region.

It is the first of lucrative, back-to-back season-ending events in the United Arab Emirates over the next two weeks that will determine who wins the year-long Race to Dubai title, which crowns the No. 1 player on the European tour.

McIlroy is third in the standings, behind Eugenio Chacarra and Patrick Reed, as he chases a record-tying eighth season-long title.

The tour decided to stick to the upcoming schedule of Abu Dhabi and Dubai amid increased security concerns in the Middle East because of the Israel-Iran war. Last month saw deadly attacks on Saudi Arabia, which shares a border with the UAE.

"I don't think I would ever feel unsafe," McIlroy, one of golf's most high-profile players, said Wednesday — a day before the Abu Dhabi Championship begins. "You know, even if something were to happen, like I still wouldn't feel unsafe.

"You know, the UAE has great defense systems. Yeah, I think the

FOOTBALL

Lyon regrets timing of coach Paulo Fonseca's departure for Sporting

SAMUEL PETREQUIN, SPORTS WRITER

LYON coach Paulo Fonseca is leaving to join Sporting Lisbon, the Ligue 1 club said on Wednesday.

The seven-time French champion said in a statement that it regretted Fonseca's departure, "particularly given its timing midway through the season."

Lyon said Fonseca, who joined in January 2025, had been approached after Sporting parted ways with coach Rui Borges this week.

Fonseca had announced there was a possibility he could leave the French club following Lyon's 2-0 win against Angers on Sunday.

AP PHOTO



Paulo Fonseca moves from Lyon to Sporting Lisbon

Lyon is flying high, third in the Ligue 1 standings after nine matches, just three points behind leader Paris Saint-Germain.

"In light of his clearly expressed wishes, the management considered that continuing a working relationship that could no longer guarantee the total commitment essential to the project's success was not in the club's best interests," Lyon said.

"At such a crucial stage of the season, Olympique Lyonnais believes that everyone at the club must be fully committed and focused on its objectives."

Lyon said that Jorge Maciel would take charge until the upcoming international break, pending the appointment of Fonseca's successor. He will lead the squad against Real Sociedad in the Europa League on Thursday, followed by Sunday's away match at Brest in Ligue 1.

Lyon said Sporting would pay five million euros ($5.6 million) in compensation for the early termination of Fonseca's contract, which ran through the end of June 2027.

Sporting is third in the Portuguese league, already nine points behind leader Porto. In the Champions League, it has three wins from four games.

Fonseca won the Portuguese Supercup with Porto in 2013 and the Portuguese Cup with Braga in 2016. He also coached Shakhtar Donetsk, where he won three league-cup doubles (2017, 2018, 2019) and the Ukrainian Supercup in 2017.

The Portuguese coach then led AS Roma between 2019 and 2021 before joining Lille in June 2022, where he built one of the best attacking and efficient sides in France despite operating on a limited budget.

More recently, he was less successful at AC Milan, producing only 12 wins in 24 matches across all competitions. **MDT/AP**

only thing would be that if they closed the air space and you were stuck here for a period of time, like people were at the start of year, but like I would still feel safe. I wouldn't feel like I would be in any danger."

McIlroy said he has remained in close contact with the tour about the security situation in the UAE.

"If everyone deems that it's safe to be here, then who am I to say otherwise?" the No. 2-ranked Northern Irishman said.

"You know, this is important to me. I want to play well. I want to end my year well. I wanted to have a chance to win another Race to Dubai. I don't feel like there's any risk coming here but if I did feel like there was a risk, I feel like the reward is worth it."

No. 3-ranked Matt Fitzpatrick raised concerns in September about Dubai hosting the final event of the European season, saying it was a "no-brainer" to switch to a different country.

"But I'm not a sponsor, I'm not paying the bills and all that sort of stuff," Fitzpatrick told the BBC.

Fitzpatrick is among some big names not playing this week in Abu Dhabi, though he is assured of being in the 50-man field for the World Tour Championship in Dubai next week — if he opts to play.

OTHER SPORTS AFFECTED BY THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Asian Tour already has postponed one of its most prestigious events, the PIF Saudi International that was scheduled for Nov. 18-21.

The 2027 Asian Cup soccer tournament, scheduled to start Jan. 7, has been pushed back to December, while the season-ending WTA Finals in women's tennis were moved from Saudi Arabia to Indian Wells, California.

This weekend's Qatar Grand Prix in MotoGP won't include Japanese team Yahama, which pulled out over safety concerns. Season-ending Formula 1 races in Qatar and Abu Dhabi are still on the calendar, though the Saudi Grand Prix was canceled this season and the Bahrain race relocated to Malaysia.

MCILROY VYING WITH CHACARRA AND REED FOR THE TITLE

McIlroy is looking to join Colin Montgomerie on eight Race to Dubai titles — in the Scot's day, it was called the Order of Merit — but needs a big final two weeks.

McIlroy is around 1,000 points behind Chacarra and 330 behind Reed. The winner this week will gain 1,500 points, second place gets 1,000, while third gets 565.

The winner of the World Tour Championship next week picks up 2,000 points.

McIlroy, Reed and Chacarra are in the same group for the opening two rounds in Abu Dhabi. The reigning Masters champion has had many tussles with Reed down the years, but has never played with Chacarra.

"You look at Eugenio and Patrick as former LIV players but coming back and going through the process of trying to build their way back through the game and through this tour," McIlroy said, "and ultimately both of them are going to get a PGA Tour card again next year.

"I have a lot of respect for them with the way that they have done it." **MDT/AP**

TENNIS

Player Burrage receives death threats, abuse on social media

BRITISH tennis player Jodie Burrage has received death threats and a torrent of abuse on social media after she was defeated in her first main-draw singles match on the WTA Tour in 16 months.

Burrage shared a recording of a lengthy reel of abusive messages she received on Instagram following a 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 loss to Vaishnavi Adkar in the round of 32 at the Chennai Open on Tuesday.

Alongside the video, Burrage wrote: "Nice welcome back to the tour. I remember why I left."

Many of the abusive messages appeared to be from gamblers unhappy that the 27-year-old Burrage had lost.

World Tennis, the sport's governing body, said in December 2024 that "angry gamblers" were responsible for 48% of the more than 12,000 posts on social media platforms from January to October that year which were deemed abusive by a monitoring service.

In July this year, the WTA said in a report into online abuse of players that 89% of accounts responsible for serious abuse in 2024 did not reappear in 2025, and that it secured the removal of 66% of serious abusive posts or comments, while escalating 35 accounts to law enforcement.

Last month, Coco Gauff said she received an "insane" amount of racist comments on social media following a controversial point in a match against home player Sun Xinran at the China Open. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



British tennis player Jodie Burrage

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®
Times

OPINION



Our Desk

Yuki Lei

Two passport stories, one question of belonging

Two stories about Macau passports have surfaced in recent weeks, and together they raise something more interesting than either does alone: who gets to decide what a Macau document - or a Macau identity - means?

The first is bureaucratic. A Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport holder was refused boarding at Beijing airport while transiting to Mexico, despite a valid visa-free arrangement. Ground staff cited an internal WeChat message saying Macau passports were now treated as Chinese ones. The Identification Services Bureau checked with the Mexican consulate in Hong Kong, which confirmed that the policy was unchanged and found no problem with the traveler's documents. When the bureau approached the airline, its account differed from the consulate's. The matter remains open.

The second is cultural. A social media post defending the identity of Macau residents who hold Portuguese passports - arguing that Portuguese citizenship carries duties as well as rights, and that following Portuguese politics and society is a civic responsibility rather than an affectation - drew a long thread of replies. Some agreed warmly. Others were dismissive: "Macau people don't even care much about Macau, do they really care about Portugal?" One commenter praised the Portuguese passport as "the one thing Macau people born under Portuguese rule will always have over Hong Kong people." Another wrote, simply, "Everyone wants a Portuguese passport."

The two stories connect at a point that is easy to miss. In the first, an airline decided - on the strength of an unverified message - that a Macau passport meant something different from what the consulate said it meant. In the second, commenters are deciding for themselves and for each other what holding a Portuguese passport says about who someone is. Both involve an outside party asserting authority over an identity, and in both cases that assertion is being challenged.

What the airline case shows is that documents carry meaning only insofar as institutions agree on it. A passport's value rests on a chain of recognition - issuing state, receiving state, and carrier - and when one link acts on rumor rather than official information, the whole chain wobbles. The traveler did everything right: checked with the bureau and the consulate and consulted the IATA database. It still wasn't enough.

What the social media thread shows is that identity works differently. It isn't conferred by a database or a consulate; it's lived, argued over, defended and sometimes resented. The Portuguese passport holders in that thread are not asking anyone's permission to feel Portuguese. Nor should they need to. As the original post notes, Portugal's constitution guarantees equality regardless of birthplace, and Macau's own character has always been plural - Chinese and Portuguese coexisting, not competing.

The connection between the two stories is this: a society that takes identity seriously should also take the institutions that recognize it seriously. If a Macau passport can be waved away at a check-in counter on the strength of a chat message, that is a failure of institutional diligence - and it undermines, in a small way, the confidence that makes plural identity possible. Equally, if holding a second nationality is treated as grounds for suspicion, that too narrows the space in which Macau's plural character can flourish.

Neither story is resolved. The bureau is still pursuing the airline. The comment thread has moved on. But both point the same way: recognition, whether by a carrier or by a neighbor, should rest on facts and the law - not on assumptions about who someone is supposed to be.

SEVERAL FLIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE SEARCHED AND DIVERTED AFTER HOAX BOMB THREATS

THE BUZZ

Several flights across Europe received hoax bomb threats that prompted searches, diversions and, in one case, an escort by the Italian Air Force until landing, officials said.

The flights included Polish airline LOT, Scandinavian Airlines, Wizz Air and Ryanair. The hoax threats came a day after a plane headed for Bulgaria was diverted to Hungary after receiving a similar bomb threat while in the air. No one was injured.

Matthew Borie of Osprey Flight Solutions, which advises airlines on flight threats, gave several hypotheses for the as-yet unexplained incidents: A single threat triggers copycat incidents; an individual or a group makes multiple threats; or operations of "hybrid warfare" by state actors or their supporters.

Such threats were "not a new phenomenon" and came at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and signs of "disruption," like attacks on supermarket refrigeration systems, drone incursions in Europe and mysterious triggers to alert apps — even as hybrid threats abound.

The focus on Europe means "there could be a Russian angle," said Borie, the company's co-founder and chief intelligence officer. "We need to keep in mind, though, that Iranian hybrid warfare is just as active in certain pockets of Europe as well."

AP PHOTO



North Korea launches missiles and protests against US claims on Binance hack

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH KOREA launched multiple missiles toward the sea on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, hours after Pyongyang said it saw no need to resume diplomacy with Washington in protest of accusations that North Korean hackers were behind the recent cryptocurrency heist at Binance.

Observers say North Korea was likely pressuring the U.S. to drop what it calls its hostility against the North and offer concessions if it wants to restore ties between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the launches of several missiles fired toward North Korea's eastern waters. It said South Korean and U.S. authorities were analyzing details of the launches. It said South Korea maintains a readiness to repel any potential provocations by North Korea.

Earlier Wednesday, Kim's sister, senior official Kim Yo Jong, again disputed an FBI announcement that North Korean hackers were responsible for the hack at Binance, calling it "an extension of Washington's invariable hostile policy toward" Pyongyang.

"It is our clear stand that we have no need to sit face to face with such unreliable and hostile persons," she said. "The choice for peace includes dialogue of course, but this is not surely equated with national interests for us."

In a Tuesday statement, she described the FBI announcement as "a trite provocation."

Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, said Friday that hackers stole more than $6 billion in what appears to be the largest cryptocurrency heist on record. The FBI later said the theft was orchestrated by North Korean hackers, attributing the attack to a hacking group known as TraderTraitor, which was also behind a $1.5 billion hack of the Bybit exchange last year.

In recent months, North Korea has accelerated its weapons tests in a likely bid to increase its leverage in potential diplomacy with the U.S. after Trump expressed his eagerness to restore diplomacy with Kim Jong Un. The news of the latest launches came amid vote counting in the U.S. midterm elections.

Also Wednesday, North Korea's state KCNA news agency released a photo showing parts of a warship under construction that would likely be its biggest naval vessel. KCNA said Kim Jong Un expressed satisfaction this week during a visit to the Nampho Shipyard over the warship that it said "is incomparably huge" relative to its 5,000-ton destroyers. Kim previously said North Korea planned to build a 10,000-ton strategic guided missile cruiser.

Tensions between the two Koreas have also deepened since mine blasts at their border in September wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul accused North Korea of burying the mines south of the border and demanded an apology. Pyongyang has denied responsibility for the explosions and warned of retaliation if provoked.

North Korea later threatened to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and place new weapons systems along the border. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Ukraine Russian attacks disrupted electricity and water supplies around Kyiv yesterday as rescuers searched rubble in southern Ukraine following Monday's bombing of a school and shelter. Authorities confirmed 37 deaths in Komyshuvakha and warned another 38 people might remain trapped.

France A cyberattack targeted refrigeration systems at three French blood storage facilities Monday, attempting to raise temperatures to dangerous levels. Monitoring alarms prevented damage to plasma supplies, and authorities confirmed yesterday no blood products were lost. Cybersecurity and health officials are investigating.

AP PHOTO



Ethiopia Former U.S. government contractor Abraham Teklu Lemma pleaded guilty yesterday [Macau time] to supplying classified intelligence to Ethiopian officials for military operations against rebels. Prosecutors said he transmitted secrets between 2021 and 2023, including satellite imagery, and faces a potential prison sentence exceeding 21 years.

AP PHOTO



South Africans voted yesterday in local elections testing the declining support of the African National Congress, which lost its national parliamentary majority in 2024. Some 546 parties contested municipal councils amid voter frustration over deteriorating public services, including water shortages and sanitation.