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**MUST: SEMINAR ON DIPLOMACY FEATURING SINGAPORE'S FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UN TODAY KICKS OFF UNIVERSITY 22-YEAR CELEBRATIONS** P2

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**North Korea** fired a suspected long-range missile toward the sea yesterday in what would be its first such test since 2017, according to its neighbors' militaries, raising the ante in a pressure campaign aimed at forcing the United States and other rivals to accept it as a nuclear power and remove crippling sanctions. The launch, which extended North Korea's barrage of weapons tests this year, came after the U.S. and South Korean militaries said the country was preparing a flight of its biggest-yet intercontinental ballistic missile.



**South Korea** Three months after being pardoned for one of South Korea's worst government-corruption scandals, former President Park Geun-hye went home yesterday after being released from a hospital. She slowly walked out of Samsung Medical Center in Seoul as cameras flashed and dozens of supporters shouted: "Park Geun-hye! President!" "I express my greetings to our people for the first time in five years. My health has really improved, thanks to your worries," Park said.



**Australia** yesterday accepted a longstanding New Zealand offer to resettle boat refugees it had sent to the remote island nation of Nauru. Australia has faced harsh international criticism for the way it has treated boat refugees. It designed a policy of keeping them far from its shores to deter more of them from trying to make the voyage. But many critics say such policies violate human rights.

More on backpage

# 14+7

Despite alerts on possible outbreak, the gov't shortens hotel quarantine to 14 days for residents coming from outside of mainland-China, followed by 7 days home-isolation

P2-3



## NATO SUMMIT

# BIDEN LEADS WEST JOINT EFFORTS TO NEUTRALIZE PUTIN

P8

COVID-19

# Hotel quarantine shortened to two weeks for

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Health Bureau has announced that from March 28, residents entering the city from non-mainland locations will have their quarantine period shortened to 14 days.

Public health doctor Leong Iek Hou, division chief at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announced the new arrangements at the weekly health press briefing held yesterday.

However, the local government has not lifted its entry ban on non-Greater China citizens.

For the time being, only citizens of Macau, mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan are permitted to enter Macau.

Although the news was welcomed by residents, health self-management for seven days is still required following the two weeks of hotel quarantine.

After concluding two weeks of centralized quarantine at designated hotels, the released arrivals will see their health codes turned yellow, indicating that restrictions apply to their travel within Macau.

Under measures imposed by the Health Bureau, people with yellow health codes are not

ANTHONY LAM



allowed to enter government venues, hotels and resorts, or take public transport. The ban on pu-

blic transport usage is generally not enforced, however, as most bus drivers do not have time to

check the health codes of each passenger.

In addition, released arrivals

## NUMBER OF DOSES

Total doses administered	1,220,674
People with at least one dose	573,533
People with a single dose	68,259
People with two doses	336,047
People with three doses	169,227

## DIPLOMACY TALK TO KICK OFF MUST 22ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

**A** public lecture on diplomacy featuring Singapore's former ambassador to the UN and other speakers will be held on March 25 to begin the 22nd anniversary celebrations of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The lecture will be held in person on the MUST campus in Taipa from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a Zoom livestream available for members of the public. The public lecture, held in English, will feature Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Former President of the UN Security Council and Former Singapore Ambassador to UN, as well as Hao Yufan, Distinguished Professor at MUST and Presidential Chair Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), alongside Professor Jiang Shixue of MUST.

Another key forum, titled Building a Sustainable Future: Post-pandemic Life in the Greater Bay Area and Beyond,



Prof. Kishore Mahbubani

will be held on the morning of March 28, featuring academics and scholars from U.S. and Hong Kong universities.

On the morning of March 26, the university will host a forum to discuss innovation engineering, featuring Professor Ching W. Tang, a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, Professor Wing-Huen Ip of the Academia Sinica in Taiwan, Chair Professor Tong Zhang of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Hong Kong

and Professor Kang Zhang, a computational media and arts academic at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou), alongside other speakers.

On the morning of March 27, after inaugurating its Faculty of Innovation Engineering, MUST will host a forum on interdisciplinary research and the future of higher education.

The full lineup of events and livestream links are available on MUST's website. **AL**

## GOV'T WITHDRAWS PROPOSED REQUIREMENT FOR ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE INSURANCE

**T**HE government has made a U-turn after just two days on its proposal to require those maintaining elevators and escalators to purchase civil liability insurance, a parliamentary committee confirmed yesterday.

The parliament's First Standing Committee had been reviewing the draft of the Elevator and Escalator Safety Legal System bill. In the bill, it was proposed that, going forward, maintenance service providers must purchase such insurance to cover potential third-party liabilities.

On March 22, members of the committee questioned whether such insu-

rance was available in the market and, if so, how wide the scope of its coverage is. In this meeting, the committee obtained a pledge from the government that it would negotiate with the insurance industry about the relevant insurance.

Yesterday, two days after this commitment, the same government officials told the committee that the proposed provision would be deleted, because the government found that this kind of insurance was not available.

Lawmaker Ella Lei, president of the Committee, said that the government's intention was to cover

maintainers' liability should elevators or escalators they have serviced malfunction and cause accidents.

Lei added that this kind of insurance is not available in Hong Kong or mainland China.

With the provision removed, property owners will have the discretion to decide on whether it is necessary to purchase insurance.

The bill proposes two types of maintenance service contracts, namely basic and full service contracts.

As of November 2021, there were 929 engineers eligible to be registered as elevator and escalator technicians. **AL**

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# Macau residents



seventh days following release from hotel quarantine.

Missing any of the four required tests will result in the individuals' health codes turning red. A red health code signals that a person is barred from entering any premises. To resolve the red health code, they will need to obtain a negative NAT result.

Despite the government's recent emphasis on the risks of a possible outbreak in Macau, the decision to shorten hotel quarantine was announced abruptly.

## TEACHERS, STUDENTS FROM ZHUHAI TO GO ONLINE

Luis Gomes, acting department head for non-tertiary education at the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), told yesterday's press conference that considering new SARS-CoV-2 infections were found in Zhuhai on March 17 and 18, teachers and students residing in, or having been to, the cordoned area in the neighboring city should refrain from returning to schools in Macau. Such individuals have been told to remain

in their homes.

Gomes admitted that it was still unclear when they will be allowed back to school because, as of yesterday, no news on the reopening of the cordoned areas in Zhuhai had been announced publicly or delivered to the Macau government.

He recommends that teachers, parents and students stay tuned for possible updates. The DSEDJ will also leave enough time for them to prepare for their return after announcing the resumption of their face-to-face classes.

Asked when NAT validity for travel between Macau and Zhuhai will be extended, Leong said that the local government was constantly monitoring the situation. Communications with its Zhuhai and Guangdong counterparts were also ongoing. When an update becomes available, details will be announced.

## GOV'T COMPARES MACAU TO SINGAPORE

At yesterday's press briefing, Leong compared the vaccination rates of Macau and Singapore, the first time that the government has undertaken such a comparison.

However, there was a time difference between the data presented. The Singaporean data was cut off on March 15, while

## VACCINATION RATE WITH AT LEAST 1 DOSE (%)

Age Group	Macau	Singapore
3-11 (Singapore: 5-11)	46.3	75
12-19	74.7	97
20-29	95.0	98
30-39	99.9	98
40-49	99.9	98
50-59	92.3	97
60-69	73.8	97
70-79	63.0	97
≥80	37.9	95

Macau's ran until March 23.

Leong noted that, in Singapore, the 5-to-11 year age group is the only one that has not reached a 90% vaccination rate. Then, she highlighted that in Macau, the vaccination rate in five out of nine age groups is below 90%.

A point that she did not mention is that two age groups in Macau have reached a nearly 100% vaccination rate, a percentage higher than any in the Singaporean data.

Afterwards, she presented a combination of three bar charts showing data collected in Hong Kong. The public health doctor used this slide to stress the importance of getting vaccinated, because it helps avoid severity of disease in cases of Covid-19.

Leong then announced that the government will again send SMS messages to residents over

the age of 60 years to remind them to get jabbed.

Despite Leong's presentation, a social media user expressed his opinion on the situation on the social media page of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre. The user pointed out that, previously, the government had advertised that adult vaccination would help protect seniors, young people and the vulnerable. Seeing vaccination rates in age groups 20 to 59 years surpassing 90%, the user then questioned why the government is now forcing the young, the old and the vulnerable to get jabbed.

Another user urged the government to provide the numbers of people who died of complications from vaccination and those who died of Covid-19 for comparison.

will not be allowed to travel to mainland China.

During the seven-day self-management period, they are required to take four SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid tests (NATs). The compulsory NATs must be taken on the first, second, fourth and

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**MIECF POSTPONED  
DUE TO PANDEMIC  
OUTBREAKS IN ZHUHAI**

The 2022 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (2022MIECF) originally scheduled to be held at The Venetian Macao from March 31 to April 2 will be postponed to a date yet to be announced due to the pandemic progression, Macao Business reported. According to Macao Expo Group, the decision was made after considering the "latest COVID-19 pandemic situation in the neighbouring regions" with the "exact dates to be announced later". "The organiser is actively following up on the event and notifying participants of the relevant arrangements through various media channels".

**AGTECH EXPANDS  
INTO GBA AFTER  
MACAU PASS  
ACQUISITION**

Alibaba's AGTech Holdings announced yesterday that it has completed the acquisition of Macau Pass Holding and its subsidiaries, which will become an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of AGTech after completion of the transaction. Since granted the financial license by the SAR Government in 2006, Macau Pass has been "propelling the development of a more convenient local electronic payment and promoting its popularity in Macau," AGTech said. While initially used in bus fare payment system, its usage has later been expanded into a wide range of payments such as those for other public transports, car parks, government services, retail consumptions, and food and beverage outlets. There are currently more than three million "MP Cards" holders. The first e-wallet in the city, "mPay" was subsequently issued by Macau Pass.

**REVENUE,  
PROFESSIONAL  
TAXES DECLARATION  
ENTERS FINAL WEEK**

This year's declaration period for revenue Complementary Tax - Group B's companies or liberal professionals will end in a week's time, on March 31. Employed taxpayers will also have their Professional Tax declaration period end on the same day. The Financial Services Bureau recommends that taxpayer make bookings via the government service portal or app before submission. Registered taxpayers can submit the form digitally through the government or bureau apps. Physical submissions may be made at the bureau's headquarters or the government service buildings in Area Preta and Taipa.

**PJ PROBES REPORT ON DARKHOTEL**

**MACAU HOTELS SAFE FROM MALWARE  
ATTACKS, INDUSTRY LEADER SAYS**

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) said they had received a report relating to a threat involving "DarkHotel" malware. Speaking to the Times, a PJ spokesperson declined to provide any details of the contents of the report, but said that the "case is under investigation."

However, local hotels are generally safe from malware attacks such as the "DarkHotel" spear-phishing spyware and malware-spreading campaigns, the president of the board of directors of the Macau Hotel Association told the Times.

Rutger Verschuren told comments follow a report by Trellix, a privately held cybersecurity, that at least 17 hotels in Macau had been targeted with attempted cyberattacks using DarkHotel between November last year and January this year.

According to Verschuren, who is also the Area Vice President for Artyzen Hospitality Group, "most, if not all, hotels in Macau have the latest sophisticated malware security systems in place," so he believes that the industry is protected from this type of threat.

Questioned specifically on the mention, in the report, of one of the Macau hotels managed by his group (Grand Coloane Resort), Verschuren acknowledged that the company had indeed received a warning from its cybersecurity service suppliers about this threat.

"We received from one of our cybersecurity vendors a warning with detailed threat intelligence, with a detailed Indicator of Compromise about this threat, and were on high alert, as always," Verschuren said. He added that the hotel's "sophisticated firewall system and cybersecurity systems are constantly updated and working perfectly without interruptions, and any [cybersecurity threat] such as a phishing message would have come to our IT management's attention."

Verschuren also said that, nonetheless and as a precautionary measure, the company has informed all employees of the potential threat, but noted that the company has so far not experienced malware attempts from "DarkHotel," nor has "any data breach ... occurred. All data is safe."

As to whether he is aware of reports of other hotels potentially being targeted, he said he had not heard from other hotels about this type of threat.

According to the report from Trellix, a company with experience

RENATO MARQUES



in the detection and prevention of major cyberattacks and a vendor of cybersecurity hardware and software, the alleged attacks on 17 hotels in Macau involved an email impersonating the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), with the 'trojan' file disguised as an Excel spreadsheet.

Trellix also said that the attacks, which have been ongoing for several years in different locations including Asia and the USA, normally start with a spear-phishing email directed to the hotel's senior managerial staff, who have database access privileges.

The phishing attacks that follow are usually in the form of fraudulent communications that appear to come from reputable sources, usually via email, and that attempt to steal sensitive data such as credit card information or login and password information.

In relation to the Macau cases, Trellix said it had determined that an email dated December 7, 2021, was sent to seventeen different hotels in Macau. The company said that this information was gathered by analyzing the names and email domains of the chain email.

The cybersecurity company also added that the server used for the campaign was attempting to impersonate a government website domain by using the web address "fsm-gov.com," an address that resembles the web address of the Public Security Forces of Macau (fsm.gov.mo).

"We suspect the group was trying to lay the foundations for a future campaign involving these specific hotels. After researching the event agenda for the targeted hotels, we did indeed find multiple conferences that would have been of interest to the threat actor," Trellix said.

Past targets of the "DarkHotel" malware have been reported as primarily executives in investment and development, government agencies, defense industries, electronics manufacturers and energy policymakers, with most victims being located in South Korea, China, Russia and Japan, according to reports from BBC News and NBC News in 2014 and 2017.

The threat, also known by the alias "Tapaoux," has also been referenced by another international cybersecurity company, Kaspersky Lab, as an advanced and persistent threat since 2014.

**COVID-19 MIGHT HAVE  
PLAYED A MITIGATING ROLE**

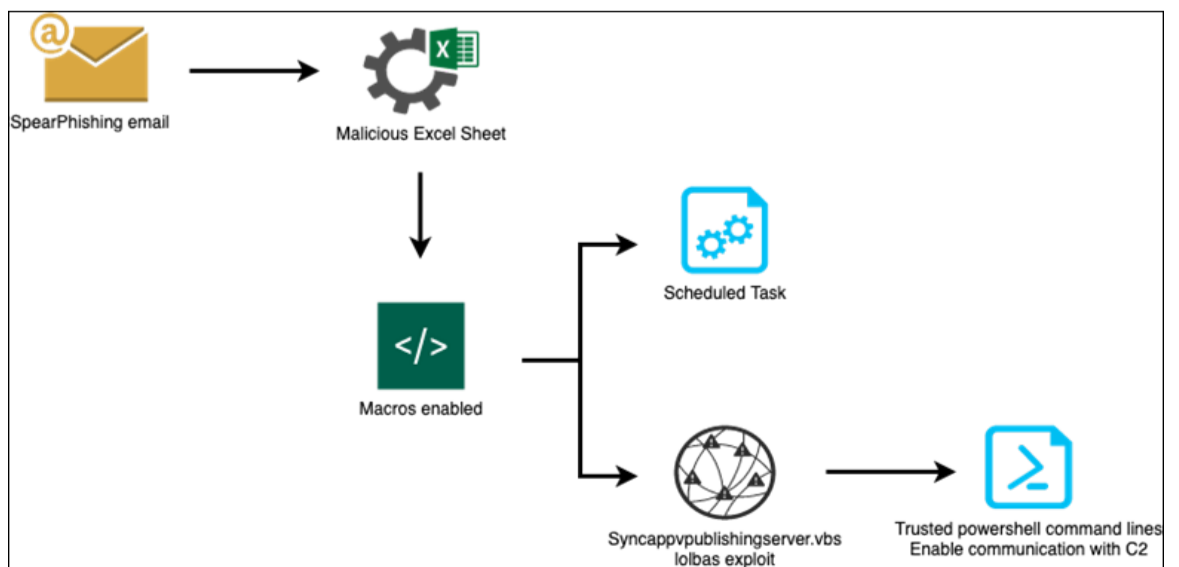
According to the Trellix report, the phishing attacks may have been prevented due to the impact of Covid-19 in Macau and mainland China.

The main goal of the malware is to target a large number of users on the same WiFi network, such as the large concentration of people at major events and fairs.

"However, as most of the events were canceled or postponed due to the rapid rise of Covid-19 cases in Macau and China, the attacks stopped on January 18," the company concluded.

The Grand Coloane Resort was also operating as one of the major quarantine hotel facilities in Macau for almost two years, and therefore not able to host events as it had before the pandemic, when it used to host golfing and other events.

The Times has also attempted to obtain comment from other hotels referenced in the Trellix report, as well as a response from the Office for Personal Data Protection and the MGTO on the topic, but did not receive a response from any of these entities by press time.



# Melco Simple Acts of Kindness 2.0 initiatives led by Lawrence Ho

## 16,000 CSR participants in 1,100 volunteer activities Benefiting elderly, children and SMEs from the local community

**S**INCE 2020, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Chairman & CEO Mr. Lawrence Ho has deployed the company's workforce en masse to support the local community during work hours, encouraging colleagues to care for the community through Simple Acts of Kindness. The philosophy is based on the principle that little things can have big impact, and each person can do something to touch people's hearts.

In 2021, the company recorded well over 16,000 CSR participations in more than 1,100 volunteer activities – benefiting elderly, children, SMEs and more from the local community through collaborations with local NGOs and Melco's community partners.

This year, Simple Acts of Kindness 2.0 continues brings warmth and care to the local community. Recently, Mr. Lawrence Ho and Melco Chief Advisor Dr. Kent Wong were joined by dozens of volunteers in a visit to Macao Federation of Trade Union (FAOM) Coloane Ka Ao Elderly Nursing Home. The volunteers were welcomed by FAOM Chairman, Mr. Lee Chong Cheng; Dean of Ka Ho Nursing Home, Ms. Ung Vai Ha and Deputy Dean, Ms. Lau Wing Sze. After appreciating volunteers' performances for the elderly beneficiaries, Mr. Ho participated in a board game with the seniors, learning first-hand how the game helps to exercise their cognitive skills.

After the visit, Mr. Ho and the volunteers went to Hak Sa Beach to help at a cleanup – clearing rubbish and debris in cooperation with Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM). He said, "As a company that was born in Macau, it is crucial to give back to the community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we launched 'Simple Acts of Kindness' to encourage colleagues to participate in volunteer-



ism. In 2020, over 8,000 colleague participants have taken part in volunteering, it makes me proud to see that in 2021, that number has doubled to over 16,000."

Separately, Mr. Ho and Dr. Kent Wong led a further team of Melco volunteers in a visit to the UGAMM Lok Chun Center last week. They were welcomed by UGAMM's Deputy Chairman and Secretary General Mr. Mok Wai

Seng. Mr. Ho and the volunteers participated in a play session with children of UGAMM members, where volunteers dressed as clowns taught the children the art of balloon twisting. After successfully creating balloon poodles with his young teammate, Mr. Ho presented gifts to the children attendees, adding, "I wish to thank our community partners for their year-round service to the Macau

community. I thank my colleagues for their participation and encourage more colleagues to actively participate in volunteering activities to give back to the community, it is very rewarding."

Over the past four months, to support the local community and SMEs in Macau, Melco volunteers actively reached out to 37,420 households and 1,980 SMEs in the Altira and Mocha

neighborhoods, mobilizing more than 500 volunteers to provide assistance, including in cleaning and disinfection, arranging warehouses and storefronts, helping with small repair works and other support. A total of around 100 support tasks have been carried out so far – helping local enterprises and neighborhood communities with anti-epidemic efforts through leveraging support from community partners such as UGAMM.

Furthermore, to strengthen the health protection and well-being of children in Macau, Melco Simple Acts of Kindness volunteers have assisted seven local schools and nurseries, including Kwong Tai Middle School Macau, Escola Dom João Paulino, Escola Estrela do Mar, Macau Caritas School, Sacred Heart Canossian College Chinese Section, Creche I da Associação das Mulheres Oriundas de Fukien de Macau and Centro De Educacao Cenoura on cleaning and disinfection. Since last November, volunteers have dedicated a total of 200 service hours to the cause, contributing to a safer living environment in Macau.

Additionally, to send warmth and care to the elderly at the Peng On Tung Center Tele-Assistant Services Center, UGAMM – Cheng I Elderly Integrated Service Center - Cheng Chong Building and FAOM Centro de Dia "Chong Pak Chi Ka" during a recent cold spell, Melco volunteers delivered and donated blankets to the elderly to help them battle the winter weather. Volunteer participant and Assistant Director of Mocha Operations, Mr. Michael Chiu, said, "I realized that small, simple acts can make the elderly feel warm and cared for. I hope more fellow colleagues will join and participate in such meaningful volunteering organized by the company."

Melco's proactive and innovative CSR initiatives, as highlighted by its ongoing Simple Acts of Kindness initiative, has been recognized by 2020 Industry Community Awards as winner of the 'Community Award – Asia'. The company was also named 'Outstanding Corporate for Volunteerism' for the third consecutive year by Association of Volunteers Social Service Macao.





Burned trees and debris are scattered along the stepped hillside near the China Eastern crash in Wuzhou city, Guangxi province

MU5735

# SEARCHERS FIND WING, ENGINE PARTS AFTER PLANE CRASH

NG HAN GUAN,  
WUZHOU

**HUNDREDS** of people in rain gear and rubber boots searched

muddy, forested hills in southern China yesterday for the second flight recorder from a jetliner that crashed with 132 people aboard.

No survivors have been found since the China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 dived into a mountainous area Monday during a domestic flight, but au-

thorities say they still are looking.

Some human remains and engine parts were found, as well as items from the cockpit and some belongings to passengers, officials said. State TV showed searchers on a denuded slope trying to dislodge a white wing section with the airline's red-and-blue logo.

One of two black box recorders, believed to be the cockpit voice recorder, was found Wednesday. Its outer casing was damaged but the orange cylinder was relatively intact, investigators said.

China Eastern, one of China's four major airlines, said Thursday the Shanghai-based carrier and its subsidiaries have grounded a total of 223 Boeing 737-800 aircraft while they investigate possible safety hazards.

China Eastern earlier said the grounding of planes was a precaution, not a sign there was anything wrong. The airline has said the plane that crashed was in good condition and its flight crew was experienced and in good health.

The plane that crashed was flying from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province in China's mountainous southwest, to Guangzhou, a major city and export manufacturing hub in the southeast. Authorities say there were no fo-

reign passengers aboard.

Investigators have said it is too early to discuss possible causes. An air traffic controller tried to contact the pilots several times after seeing the plane's altitude drop sharply but got no reply, officials have said.

The government has yet to release the pilots' names, but news reports identified the captain as Yang Hongda. The co-pilot, according to news reports, was Zhang Zheng, a veteran with 32,000 hours of flying time in a 30-year career.

An unidentified former colleague of Zhang cited by the online news outlet The Paper said he was a mentor to young pilots who had a "sunny disposition" and captained the air academy's basketball team.

A second co-pilot, Ni Gongtao, was flying with them to gain experience, according to news reports.

On Thursday, pumps were being used to drain a pit at the center of the crash site as light rain hampered work for a second day.

"The rainstorm made the job harder," said Zheng Xi, fire chief of the Guangxi region, at a news conference. Zheng said muddy roads were so hard to get through that some searchers walked to the site carrying tools and other equipment.

More than 300 searchers were taking part, said Huang Shangwu, a deputy fire chief.

"The water pumping yesterday greatly contributed to the finding of the

black box," Huang told reporters at a command center near the crash site.

The Boeing 737-800 was cruising at 29,000 feet (8,800 meters) when it crashed, starting a fire that could be seen in NASA satellite images.

The government has sealed off a large area around the crash site and tried to control information about the disaster.

Foreign media were escorted into the zone for the first time Thursday. Police and other vehicles were parked along the highway. Journalists were driven down small roads covered in red-brown mud to the command center.

When they passed a woman in tears who was being led away, security officials used open umbrellas to try to block the journalists from filming from their vehicles.

Searchers have been using hand tools, metal detectors, drones and sniffer dogs to comb the heavily forested and steep slopes. Wallets, identity and bank cards and human remains have been found.

The "black boxes," usually painted orange so they can be easily found, are considered key to figuring out what caused the crash.

Cockpit voice recorders can capture voices, audio alerts and background sounds from the engine or switches being moved. The flight data recorder stores information about speed, altitude and direction, as well as pilot actions and performance of important systems. **MDT/AP**

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DIPLOMACY

# FM Wang makes surprise stop in Afghanistan

KATHY GANNON, KABUL

CHINA'S foreign minister made a surprise stop yesterday in Afghanistan's capital to meet with the country's new Taliban rulers — even as the international community fumes over the former insurgents' broken promise to reopen schools to girls beyond the sixth grade.

The official Bakhtar News Agency announced that Wang Yi will meet with Taliban leaders "to discuss various issues, including the extension of political relations, economic, and transit cooperation."

The Taliban, who seized power last August during the last, chaotic weeks of the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan after 20 years of war, have been seeking international recognition in order to open up the country's economy, which has been in free fall since their takeover.

China has not shown any in-

clination to recognize the Taliban government but has avoided criticizing the new rulers despite their repressive rules directed particularly at women, who are denied the right to work and full access to education.

On Wednesday, the Taliban unexpectedly reversed plans to reopen schools in Afghanistan to girls above the sixth grade, renegeing on their promise in a move apparently meant to appease their hard-line base at the expense of further alienating the international community.

China has also kept its embassy in Kabul open and has offered limited emergency assistance.

The U.S.-led coalition unseated the Taliban in 2001 after they refused to hand over al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in America. The Taliban returned to power in mid-August and installed an all-male, Taliban-only administration. The international community has been urging them to open up the

government to ethnic minorities and women.

Wang is one of the highest-level visitors to Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. China has economic and mining interests in Afghanistan and Afghans familiar with past talks between the Taliban and Chinese officials say Beijing wants Taliban commitments to prevent China's Uighur opponents from setting up operations in Afghanistan.

Last July, before the Taliban seized power, Wang hosted a senior Taliban delegation with their top leader, Abdul Ghani Baradar, in the Chinese city of Tianjin. At that meeting, Wang sought assurances the Taliban would not allow anti-China groups to operate under their rule and referred to the Taliban as "a pivotal military and political force in Afghanistan."

There have been reports that militants from among the Turkic Muslim Uyghur minority native to China's northwestern region of Xinjiang have found shelter in Af-



Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at a two-day gathering of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Islamabad this week

ghanistan. China has carried out a campaign of repression against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, including locking a million or more away in political re-education camps.

The overseas East Turkistan Islamic Movement has for years fought a low-level insurgency against Chinese rule. It has been aligned with the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan — known as the Islamic State in Kho-

rasan Province — an enemy of the Taliban.

Despite consistent and documented reports of Beijing's crackdown the Uyghurs, Wang was welcomed as a special guest in Pakistan earlier this week, at a summit of foreign ministers from the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

At the summit, Wang called for negotiations to end the war in Ukraine. MDT/AP

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PUTIN'S WAR

# US to expand Russia sanctions, accept 100K Ukraine refugees

**T**HE United States will expand its sanctions on Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine, targeting members of the country's parliament and the central bank's gold reserves, the White House announced yesterday.

At the same time, Washington will increase its humanitarian assistance by welcoming 100,000 Ukrainian refugees and providing an additional \$1 billion in food, medicine, water and other supplies.

The White House announced the initiatives as U.S. President Joe Biden and world leaders gathered in Brussels for a trio of summits in response to the Russian invasion, seeking new ways to limit the economic and security fallout from the conflict.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the day's first meeting, an emergency NATO summit, where he called for "military assistance without limitations." He pleaded for anti-air and anti-ship weapons, asking "is it possible to survive in such a war without this?"

"It feels like we're in a gray area, between the West and Russia, defending our common values," Zelenskyy said during the video address. "This is the scariest thing during a war — not to have clear answers to requests for help!"

A U.S. official, who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said Western nations are discussing the possibility of providing anti-ship weapons amid concerns that Russia will launch amphibious assaults along the Black Sea coast.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg opened the closed-door summit with a sober warning that the alliance must boost its defenses and "respond to a new security reality in Europe."

"We gather at a critical time for our security," he said, addressing the leaders seated at a large round table. "We are united in condemning the Kremlin's unprovoked aggression and in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Stoltenberg said the alliance is "determined to continue to impose costs on Russia to bring about the end of this brutal war."

In addition to the NATO summit, Brussels is also hosting



Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Macron (in background) and other leaders during an extraordinary NATO summit in Brussels

separate summits of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and if the European Union. Biden is attending all three meetings and will hold a news conference afterward.

While the West has been largely unified in confronting Russia after it invaded Ukraine, there's wide acknowledgement that unity will be tested as the costs of war chip at the global economy.

The bolstering of forces along NATO's eastern flank, almost certainly for at least the next five to 10 years if Russia is to be effectively dissuaded, will also put pressure on national budgets.

"We need to do more, and therefore we need to invest more. There is a new sense of urgency and I expect that the leaders will agree to accelerate the investments in defense," Stoltenberg said before the summit.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said the U.S. wants to hear "that the resolve and unity that we've seen for the past month will endure for as long as it takes."

The energy crisis exacerbated by the war will be a particularly hot topic at the European Council summit, where leaders from Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece are hoping for an urgent, coordinated bloc-wide response. EU officials have said they will seek U.S. help on a plan to top up natural gas storage facilities for next winter, and they also want the bloc to jointly purchase gas.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has dismissed calls to boycott Russian energy supplies, saying it would cause

significant damage to his country's economy. Scholz is facing pressure from environmental activists to quickly wean Germany off Russian energy, but he said the process will have to be gradual.

"To do so from one day to the next would mean plunging our country and all of Europe into recession," Scholz said Wednesday.

Poland and other eastern flank NATO countries will also be looking for clarity on how the United States and fellow European nations can assist in dealing with their growing concerns about Russian aggression as well as a spiraling refugee crisis. More than 3.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine in recent weeks, including more than 2 million to Poland.

Biden is scheduled to visit Poland on Friday, where both issues are expected to be at the center of talks with President Andrzej Duda. Another significant moment could come shortly before Biden returns to Washington on Saturday. The White House said he plans to "deliver remarks on the united efforts of the free world to support the people of Ukraine, hold Russia accountable for its brutal war, and defend a future that is rooted in democratic principles."

Sullivan said Biden and fellow leaders would aim to "set out a longer-term game plan" for what forces and capabilities are going to be required for the alliance's eastern flank countries.

Four new NATO battle-groups, which usually number between 1,000-1,500 troops, are being set up in Hungary, Slo-

vakia, Romania and Bulgaria.

All the while, national security officials from Washington to Warsaw are increasingly worried that Putin might deploy chemical, biological or even nuclear weaponry. Sullivan said the allies would consult on how to respond to "potential contingencies" of that sort.

Biden said this week that the possibility of chemical weapons use by Russia was a "real threat."

Stoltenberg declined yesterday to discuss whether such a strike is a red line that would draw the alliance into war with Russia. "I will not speculate beyond the fact that NATO is always ready to defend, to protect and to react to any type of attack on a NATO allied country," he said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov in a CNN interview this week said that Russia could consider using its nuclear weapons if it felt there was "an existential threat for our country."

Ursula von der Leyen, head of the European Union's executive arm, said before Biden's visit that she wants to discuss the possibility of securing extra deliveries of liquefied natural gas from the United States for the 27-nation bloc "for the next two winters."

The EU imports 90% of the natural gas used to generate electricity, heat homes and supply industry, with Russia supplying almost 40% of EU gas and a quarter of its oil.

Biden arrived in Brussels with Americans increasingly accepting of the need for the U.S. to help stop Putin, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1980 BRITAIN WILL GO TO MOSCOW OLYMPICS



The British Olympic Association (BOA) has voted by a large majority to defy the government and send athletes to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Fifteen sports voted to accept the invitation to participate in the Olympics in July.

Only hockey opposed travelling to Moscow, while fencing, equestrian, swimming and yachting deferred the decision.

The decision is a blow to the government which issued a statement claiming Downing Street "seriously regrets" the BOA decision.

Earlier this week the government placed pressure on the BOA not to attend the games after the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan last year.

Sir Denis Follows, the chairman, said the "rather heavy letter" received from Mrs Thatcher after a commons debate had been placed before the committee ahead of the meeting.

He added while he was sympathetic to the government's stance "we believe sport should be a bridge, and not a destroyer".

Earlier this week Michael Heseltine, secretary of state for the environment, outlined the government's hope of taking sporting sanctions against the Soviet Union in a parliamentary written answer in the House of Commons.

Mr Heseltine stressed there would be no government funding or attendance in support of the BOA's presence in the games in Moscow.

Monique Berlioux, the director of the international Olympic Committee, said earlier this week the IOC might provide funds for teams attending the games against their government's wishes.

It came as National Olympic committees from the United States and 15 Western European countries who met in Brussels earlier this week rejected calls for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Many countries joined the US-led boycott of the summer games of the 22nd Olympics in 1980 because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.

Almost 6,000 competitors from 81 countries arrived to compete in 22 sports compared to the 10,000 athletes expected. The Soviet Union took home 197 medals, Britain took home 21.

The International Olympics Committee condemned the boycott and said athletics should not be concerned with politics although sport had long been a tool in international affairs.

At the time South Africa was banned from participating because of its policy of discriminating against blacks.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Things aren't as they appear. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. You may need help with your financial situation.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. You can make drastic changes in your professional direction today. Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. It might be time to do some of those chores at home. You may be more emotional than usual.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Emotionally, things may not run so smoothly. Hard work will payoff if you refrain from expressing your opinion to superiors. You will find travel and lectures most stimulating.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
It's time to make professional changes. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends or relatives if you wish to avoid any hassles.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. Do a little extra work at home.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. You are best to work at home, clearing up overdue projects.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Try to find another time to present work or ideas today. Don't fall into the trap. You will probably have to defend your mate.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Upheavals may occupy your day. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. You are best to work at home, clearing up overdue projects.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. You may have more to do with children today; keep an open mind. You can ask for favors but don't take them for granted.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Don't let others saddle you with guilt that isn't warranted. Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your future.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

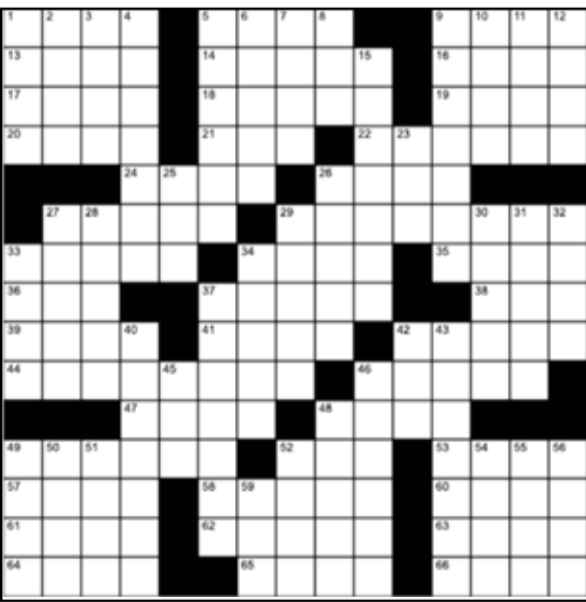
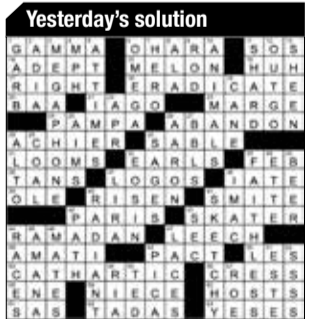
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	3	15	cloudy
Changchun	-2	10	cloudy
Chengdu	12	18	overcast
Chongqing	14	21	cloudy
Fuzhou	11	19	overcast
Guangzhou	13	18	rain
Guiyang	8	15	showers
Haikou	20	28	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	6	21	cloudy
Harbin	0	8	cloudy
Hefei	6	19	overcast
Nanjing	5	19	cloudy
Shanghai	8	18	cloudy
Taipei	16	21	overcast
Wuhan	4	19	rain
Hong Kong	24	27	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	3	8	rain
Frankfurt	3	19	clear
Paris	5	21	clear
London	4	17	overcast
New York	8	17	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Impulsive; 5- Formerly, formerly; 9- Exec's note; 13- Baht spender; 14- Russian revolutionary leader; 16- Operatic solo; 17- Actor Jannings; 18- Swiftly; 19- "\_\_\_ you dare!"; 20- Offer; 21- Graffiti; 22- Van Gogh masterpiece; 24- Low card; 26- Elevator man; 27- Deluge; 29- Sailing vessel; 33- Fancy pancake; 34- Affectedly dainty; 35- Sleeps briefly; 36- Flight; 37- Wild rose; 38- Accelerate; 39- Latin lesson word; 41- Waterfall; 42- Remove dirt with a broom; 44- Minatory; 46- Wrong; 47- Prepare to be shot; 48- Border on; 49- Choose by divine election; 52- Greek letters; 53- Riviera resort; 57- Alley; 58- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 60- Hydroxyl compound; 61- Not "fer"; 62- Gum; 63- Thrust with a knife; 64- Fast fliers; 65- Riga resident; 66- Lone;

DOWN 1- Hwys.; 2- Words of woe; 3- Travel on water; 4- Summit of an earthy mound; 5- In seventh heaven; 6- Settle a loan; 7- Fly in the ointment; 8- Twitch; 9- 4th president of the U.S.; 10- Archer of myth; 11- Pit; 12- Cereal grain; 15- Nor's partner; 23- \_\_\_ Grande; 25- Lobster eggs; 26- Body of salt water; 27- Picture border; 28- Geneva's lake; 29- Move to and fro; 30- Nostrils; 31- Sporting blades; 32- Invitation request; 33- A type of bake; 34- Triple; 37- Air bubble; 40- Modern humans; 42- Dallas sch.; 43- See; 45- Chile \_\_\_ carne; 46- Missing; 48- Examine account books; 49- Woeful word; 50- Badgers; 51- Put a lid \_\_\_; 52- It smells; 54- Keen about; 55- Wyoming resource; 56- North Sea feeder; 59- Fam. reunion attendee;



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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AD

DRIVE IN

# IN 'AFTER YANG,' AN ANDROID'S DEATH OPENS NEW DOORS

JAKE COYLE,  
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

**T**HE two features by the South Korean-born filmmaker and video essayist Kogonada – his auspicious debut “Columbus” and the new “After Yang” – are distinct for their richness in rare qualities. A meditative quiet presides. The pace is unhurried. The compositions are pristine.

“Columbus” was set in the Indiana city – an improbable haven of modernist architecture – and centered on the wandering conversations of an out-of-towner (John Cho) and a young tour guide (Haley Lu Richardson). The clean lines and formal beauty around them seemed to foster serenity and rumination.

In “After Yang,” which debuts Friday in theaters and on Showtime, is likewise wistful and sleekly ordered but is set in a seemingly more distant world. Adapted from short story by Alexander Weinstein, “After Yang” takes place in a future with eerily human-like androids called “technosapiens.” Jake (Colin Farrell), Kyra (Jodie Turner-Smith) and their daughter Mikea (Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja),

AP PHOTO



From left: Colin Farrell, Jodie Turner-Smith, Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja and Justin H. Min in a scene from “After Yang”

have one, Yang (Justin H. Min) who makes a seamless member of their family – an older brother to Mikea and a kind of surrogate parent and homeschooling teacher to assist the busy Jake (a tea shop owner) and Kyra (a corporate executive).

If this is science fiction, it is only just so. Kogonada’s interests are quotidian and his movie, far from offering grand dystopic vistas, is

hermetically sealed in dim, stylish interiors. Our glimpses of Yang are largely in flashback; at the start of the film, he has malfunctioned. The technician who examines him (Ritchie Coster), having opened up Yang’s core, lends the verdict that he’s a goner, beyond reboot. The whole thing is a little illicit; Yang was bought used and refurbished, and such prying into

his hardware, like an iPhone, isn’t permitted by the company that made him.

Yang’s passing, though, unlocks new questions for Kyra and, in particular Jake. Yang’s memories are recovered, offering a highly unusual window into the inner lives of the technosapiens. How did life look through Yang’s eyes? Could he have been a more alarming pre-

sence – a domestic spy – than the docile robot he appeared?

No, “After Yang” is not here to ponder the more frightful sides of technology but use them to reflect back on humanity.

The air in “After Yang” is laudably contemplative but stale. It’s a movie you want to cheer because of its sincerity and thoughtfulness. A meticulously photographed sci-fi about family, identity and memory starring Colin Farrell? Yes, please!

But “After Yang,” noble yet inert, struggles to come alive. It’s less the deliberate pacing than the film’s hushed tones, whispered dialogue and mannered movements that give Kogonada’s calm chamber piece the airlessness of a very well-styled terrarium.

Still, I didn’t find myself forgetting the movie’s melancholy mood. Farrell, who’s starring simultaneously, unrecognizably as the Penguin in “The Batman,” is here far more unadorned. This is Farrell at his most soulful, and he gives “After Yang” a sweetness that leaves a lasting impression. “After Yang” may not reach the heights it’s seeking, but it’s easy to respect it for trying to tackle profound questions and reach a register of high-minded reflection.

“After Yang,” an A24 release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for some thematic elements and language. Running time: 96 minutes. ★★★

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TASTE OF EDESIA

# Zest of Spring

IRENE SAM, MDT

**T**HE Ritz-Carlton Café is collaborating with French artisanal jewellery brand Les Néréides again throughout March and April. With Les Néréides Set Lunch Menu, diners are to experience French gastronomic craftsmanship highlighting this season's best ingre-

dients. Inspired by two of Les Néréides' collections, Lovely Lemon collection celebrates everything lemon, from its pearly white blossom and brightly yellow fruit, to the tangy aroma of the lemon tree—widely considered to be “the happiest scent in the world.” Meanwhile, Valentina's Orchard is an ode to the terroir of northern Italy and

the beautiful fruits and flowers that it produces. The collection boasts a succulent selection of jewels that will take you on an idyllic tour of a sun-soaked orchard, picking chili, apricot, fig, almond and raspberry along the way.

The vivacious spirit and colourful palette of the collections are heartily reflected in the menu, which comprises an array of refined dishes with a strong focus on citrus flavours and classic French influence. First, the luxurious Red Shrimp Carpaccio, with its invigorating lemon zest curd

and pesto, awakes one's palate. Then, a selection of main courses includes the Orange Glazed Mallard Duck Breast, whose ingenious pairing of mandarin and Cointreau sauce offers a double-dose of the orange's signature sweet-tart taste and the Steak Frites, which puts an Asian spin on this French gastronomy staple with the addition of the yuzu béarnaise sauce. Finally, the Orange Cremeux Sable, complete with citrus confit and lemon sorbet, is a loving homage to the individualities of different citrus fruits.

## FASHION NATURE IN CITY

**T**HIS Spring, The North Face Urban Exploration launches their Urban Traverse capsule collection in the seasonal theme “In City. In Nature.” Integrating nature into urban aesthetics, the Urban Traverse collection deeply reflects on the relations of the wild and the concrete jungle, bringing innovative integration of style and practicality for a new generation of urban explorers. Exploration is a mindset. From wide city streets to small hidden backyards; from top of the

skyline down to the deep urban jungle, travel without limits and redefine exploration in the city and in nature.

Featuring waterproof and lightweight materials, the Urban Traverse Capsule is designed to equip and protect you on every journey. This collection leverages splicing techniques and a variety of fabrics that integrate utility, style and innovation. Featuring DRYVENT, the M D2 Dryvent Jacket is equipped with a fully-laminated waterproof

shell with moisture-wicking and wear-resistant functions. In addition, the pieces deliver excellent ventilation and windproof performance. This season sees khaki as the main color focus. It contrasts with the subtle rose accent, and is matched with the goblin blue embellishment at the hood. Designed with multi-pocket features, climbing rope details, a detachable hood, elastic shrink cuffs and Velcro buttons, the collection is as practical as it is stylish.



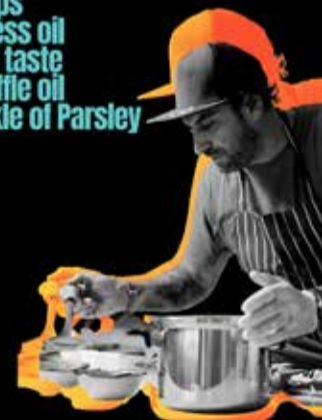
## INGREDIENTS

- 4 Potatoes
- Truffle Oil
- 1 bunch Parsley
- 2l Canola Oil



## KNOW HOW

- Wash and wipe potatoes
- Cut julienne style (skinny sticks)
- Heat oil
- Fry Chips
- Drain excess oil
- Season to taste
- Drizzle truffle oil
- Finish with sprinkle of Parsley



## RECIPES

www.eighty8s.com



BY ALEX TORRÃO  
MDT

**OPINION**

**World Views**

Long T. Bui, University of California  
 MDT/The Conversation



**CALLING ASIANS 'ROBOTIC' IS A RACIST STEREOTYPE WITH TROUBLED HISTORY**

When U.S. figure skater Nathan Chen won the gold medal in men's figure skating at the 2022 Winter Olympics, a Washington Post article attributed his win to a fierce, focused, "robotic" zeal. This robotic characterization draws on a dated stereotype of Asians as stoic, unfeeling workaholics.

In my book "Model Machines: A History of the Asian as Automaton," I argue that the image of Asians as robotic serves as the perfect example of how majority cultures characterize a certain kind of minority as model workers and threats.

In the United States there has been a popular belief that Asian people are ruthless competitors obsessed with technical achievement, whether as classical pianists, spelling bee champs or math whizzes. This was one of the bases for the model minority myth. However, projections of the model minority often fuse into Asian roboticism, the notion that Asians act or behave like technological beings.

What happens when someone is seen as the perfect kind of human automaton?

Insofar as Asian lives are reduced to caricature, and their humanity disavowed, what emerges is a negative stereotype of Asians as uncreative cogs raised by "tiger parents" who teach their children total obeisance to authority, education researchers in Australia write.

Mental perceptions then shape social interaction. In a 2009 study, social psychologists discovered that white people read East Asian faces as machinelike, bearing less-than-human qualities. This imaginary association bears a history, as media scholar Lisa Nakamura points out. When you brand someone as robotic, "you're saying that what they make is not unique or worthy of recognition. Which is the history of Asian labor in the U.S."

When everyday people are rendered as robots, any sort of human rights are denied, and all sorts of abuses can occur.

As the China-U.S. trade war heated up in 2019, right-wing conspiracist Alex Jones claimed that Asians were like fearless "robots coming to kill you."

The implication is that Chinese, Koreans and Vietnamese are a swarm of cyborgs who think alike and will attack in unison. Jones also stated that Native Americans — bearing some ancient link to Asia — are easy to "mind-control."

Indeed, these disparaging references recall a long history of dehumanizing Asians and other groups.

As global capitalism developed alongside European colonialism, the thought that robots are mankind's servants aligned with the treatment of colonial populations. In their 2019 book "Surrogate Humanity: Race, Robots, and the Politics of Technological Futures," Neda Atanasoski and Kalindi Vora write that this "sliding scale of humanity" turned living subjects into objects of control.

The U.S. picked up on this in its quest for empire.

In the 19th century, Chinese workers were considered by Anglo-American politicians to be the world's best laboring machines. This justified both their exploitation by and exclusion from the United States.

During World War II, U.S. military propaganda portrayed the Japanese soldier as a programmed warrior of the state, more animal than human. Amid the Cold War, the fiction of inexhaustible workers linked up with the fear of the masses in Asian communist nations.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese prostitutes were derided as "sex machines" by U.S. soldiers.

Today, Chinese factory workers are referred to as robots by their corporate managers, while promoters of South Korean popular music, or K-pop, categorize their singing idols as entertainment machines. Workers push against these insults, asserting their desires and freedom.

Margaret Rhee, author of "Love, Robot," says that the Asian as robot figure raises moral questions of solidarity, equality and justice. This resists the casting of Asians as material things.

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center published a video essay, "Inhuman Figures," that looks at this sense of Asians as tireless workers, robots, indistinguishable copies, clones and forever foreigners.

They supposedly lack human empathy and are, therefore, not deserving of compassion.

Whether subhuman or superhuman, Michelle N. Huang explains, Asians are never human enough.

[Abridged]

Japan qualified for a seventh successive World Cup after beating Australia 2-0 in Sydney and ending the Socceroos' chances of automatic qualification yesterday.

The result also qualified Saudi Arabia from Asia Group B.

Japan was on top of the group with 21 points, two ahead of Saudi Arabia.

Australia remained in qualifying contention in third place. It faced a playoff against

the third-place team from Group A, currently the United Arab Emirates, and a possible final game against South American opposition.

The two late goals from substitute Kaoru Mitoma ended an entertaining game during which Japan had been wasteful. Takumi Minamino came close on five occasions.

On Tuesday, Japan hosts Vietnam, bottom of the group with just one win, while Australia travels to Jeddah to take on Saudi Arabia.



**PORTUGAL'S NEW SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT GETS OFF TO BUMPY START**

BARRY HATTON, LISBON

PORTUGAL is getting a new foreign minister, finance minister and defense minister as the center-left Socialist Party prepares for its third straight term in government, with blunders and missteps marking the run-up to its swearing-in.

The Socialists won January's general election in a landslide, capturing 119 seats in the 230-seat parliament for a four-year term.

António Costa, the Socialist Party leader who has been prime minister since 2015, was due to present the names of his new Cabinet members to Portugal's president at an audience yesterday [Macau time].

But the names were leaked to the media several hours before the audience, which the head of state — a former leader of the main opposition Social Democratic Party — then abruptly canceled. Costa denied the leak had come from his office.

That embarrassment came after a snafu over voting from abroad in the Jan. 30 ballot forced a rerun of mail-in votes cast by Portuguese living in the rest of Europe and delayed the new government's swearing-in until March 30.

Red-faced officials have



Portugal PM António Costa

admitted the 2022 state budget — seen as key to relaunching the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic and amid economic fallout from the war in Ukraine — may be approved by parliament only in June.

Costa, who is widely expected to take up a high-profile international post before his term ends, has burnished his liberal credentials by appointing more women than men to his 17-member Cabinet in a first for Portugal. The Cabinet has nine women.

The defense minister will be a woman for the first time, as Helena Carreiras moves over from her post as head of the National Defense Institute, a government agency.

She replaces João Gomes Cravinho, who moves to foreign minister in place of Augusto Santos Silva.

Santos Silva becomes speaker of parliament and is

tipped to make a run as the Socialist candidate for president of Portugal.

Fernando Medina, a former mayor of the capital, Lisbon, is the new finance minister. He has little experience in national public finances but is one of Costa's close political allies and potentially a future party leader.

Medina lost his job in last year's municipal elections after admitting that Lisbon City Council had shared the personal details of Lisbon-based dissidents and protesters with foreign embassies, including those of Russia and Israel.

In its previous two terms the Socialists have ruled as a minority government, requiring the support in parliamentary voting of their left-of-center allies, but they now have enough seats to push through legislation without any backing. MDT/AP



UK Authorities said 29 people were taken to the hospital with breathing difficulties on yesterday after a "high quantity of chlorine gas" leaked in a swimming pool at the London sports complex that hosted the 2012 Summer Olympics. The London Fire Brigade said around 200 people were evacuated after the chlorine gas was discharged inside the Aquatics Center at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London due to a "chemical reaction."



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness told Prince William and Kate that the British commonwealth intends to become fully independent in an unexpected announcement that comes as other countries consider cutting ties with the monarchy. Holness also noted that there are "unresolved" issues as he greeted Prince William and Kate in front of a media scrum. "We are moving on," he said. "We intend to...fulfill our true ambitions and destiny as an independent, developed, prosperous country."



Sports The British government will allow Chelsea to sell some tickets again after easing the terms of its sanctioning license, ensuring the Champions League quarterfinal against Real Madrid is not played at an empty Stamford Bridge while denying the west London club the ability to gain financially. The reigning European and world champions had been banned from selling tickets after owner Roman Abramovich was sanctioned for his ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin amid the ongoing invasion on Ukraine.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Chris Jackson



Britain's Kate, Duchess of Cambridge and Prince William laugh as Lieutenant Colonel Rob Money puts a bearskin hat on his 20-month-old daughter Gaia Money's head at the 1st Battalion Irish Guards' St. Patrick's Day Parade at Mons Barracks, England.