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DEPOSITS HELD BY RESIDENTS IN JULY REGISTERED A SLIGHT INCREASE YEAR-ON-YEAR, THE MONETARY AUTHORITY OF MACAO HAS REVEALED

FIRE BUREAU TO STEP UP EQUIPMENT TO COMBAT FUTURE EV FIRES

LIZ TRUSS: AN HEIR TO THATCHER INTENT ON SHAKING UP BRITAIN



Japan has protested to Russia over multinational military exercises including China that it is conducting on Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, and is seriously concerned about shooting drills by the two countries' warships off Japan's northern coast, an official said yesterday. Beijing has been increasing its military cooperation with Moscow, and has been taking part in the multinational "Vostok 2020" drills in Russia's far east since late August.



Sri Lanka will not accept any international investigation imposed by the U.N. Human Rights Council into alleged rights abuses during the country's long civil war, an official said yesterday. Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Sabry (pictured) said the government is willing to engage with the international community in seeking closure for human rights issues, but that any solution should conform with the country's Constitution.

Afghanistan A suicide bombing outside the Russian Embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday killed two members of the embassy staff and at least one Afghan civilian in a rare attack on a foreign diplomatic mission in Afghanistan. The blast went off at the entrance to the embassy's consular section, where Afghans were waiting for news about their visas, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry and the state news agency RIA Novosti. A Russian diplomat had emerged from the building to call out the names of candidates for visas when the explosion occurred, the agency said.

More on backpage

HENGQIN EXPRESS

Think tank leader Ngan Iek Hang suggests that the government speed up Macau-Hengqin integration so as to boost economic diversification and recovery

XINHUA



CHINA
SEVEN DEAD AFTER POWERFUL QUAKE SHAKES CITY IN LOCKDOWN

AP PHOTO



P6

FIRE BUREAU TO STEP UP EQUIPMENT TO COMBAT FUTURE EV FIRES

THE Fire Services Bureau (CB) will expand its capabilities in response to the possibility of electric vehicle (EV) fires as policies encourage uptake of these vehicles.

Chief of Office Cheong Ioc Ieng of the Office of the Secretary for Security made the announcement in response to lawmaker Ma Io Fong's enquiry. The lawmaker had earlier asked the government about the CB's capabilities against new types of fires that might be caused by EVs.

Cheong noted that the CB had instituted training on combating EV fires for new and current firefighters. Firefighters are taught about different EV structures, the location of batteries, the flow of cables, common causes of fires and techniques for putting out EV fires.

Guidelines were also established with regard to mobile rescue. Firefighters regularly attend meetings and hands-on activities to refine their knowledge in the area.

Furthermore, Cheong

pointed out that the CB is in search of equipment, such as an emergency external braking system and fire extinguishers built specifically for cars.

Regular checks are also conducted to ensure sufficient water and water pressure for the purpose of putting out fires.

Cheong revealed that workshops are regularly held in conjunction with bus operators to familiarize them with fire safety on electric buses. **AL**



MONEY

RESIDENTS' DEPOSITS GROW SLIGHTLY IN JULY, NON-RESIDENTS' DROP 11.8%

RENATO MARQUES

DEPOSITS held by local residents in July registered a slight 0.2% increase year-on-year, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) noted in a monetary and financial statistics release. The total amount of residents' deposits reached MOP660.9 billion in July this year.

Concurrently, deposits from non-residents registered a significant drop (-11.8%) over the same period, down to MOP327.2 billion.

Public sector deposits with banking corporations also dropped in July, down 0.7% to a total of MOP260.5 billion.

As a result, the monetary deposits in the banking sector decreased by 3.4% year-on-year to MOP1,248.6 billion.

The Hong Kong dollar continues to be the currency with the largest market share (48.2%), with the USD in second place with 21.5% followed by the pataca with 20.1%. The renminbi remained in last place, with



a market share of just 7.8%.

Domestic loans to the private sector dropped by 0.4% when compared month-on-month with June, totaling MOP562.4 billion. In the same period, external loans fell 3.6% to MOP762.8 billion, leading total loans to the private sector (MOP1,325.2 billion) which were down by 2.3% when compared with the previous month.

As for broad monetary supply, currency in circulation increased by 1.3% while demand deposits dropped by 3.6%.

At the end of July, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector decreased from 61.3%, at the end of June, to 61.0%. On the other hand, the ratio for both the resident and non-resident sectors increased from 104.9% to 106.1%.

The one-month and three-month current assets-to-liabilities ratios stood at 64.8% and 56.2% respectively.

At the same time, the non-performing loan ratio increased from 0.79% at the end of June to 0.86% at the end of July.

ENVIRONMENT

GOV'T TO BAN IMPORT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUTLERY FROM JANUARY 1

RENATO MARQUES

THE government has banned the import of single-use non-biodegradable plastic cutlery from January 1, 2023, according to an official dispatch from the Chief Executive (CE) published yesterday in the government's official gazette.

In the new dispatch, the CE has increased the number of prohibited products to include all disposable plastic cutlery with the exception of those made from biodegradable plastics.

According to an additional press statement from the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), the CE dispatch will only come into force on January 1 next year to give enough time for the sectors affected by this change to adjust to the new rules and find other solutions to meet their needs.

The bureau also noted that it would organize a presentation to the business sectors affected to clarify the scope of the new



rules as well as specific operational requirements.

The new measure is in line with a series of measures taken previously, starting with the law placing "restrictions on the provision of plastic bags" that was passed in the Legislative Assembly on August 8, 2019, and came into effect in November 2019.

Similarly, last year the government added plastic straws and swizzle sticks to the same list. The import of these products has been banned since Ja-

nuary this year.

According to the government, these measures are timed with the aim of enforcing progressively stronger restrictions on the use of disposable materials.

Among the products already banned from import to Macau are Styrofoam tableware, which includes the boxes used for takeaway food as well as trays used for the packaging of fresh food items such as meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

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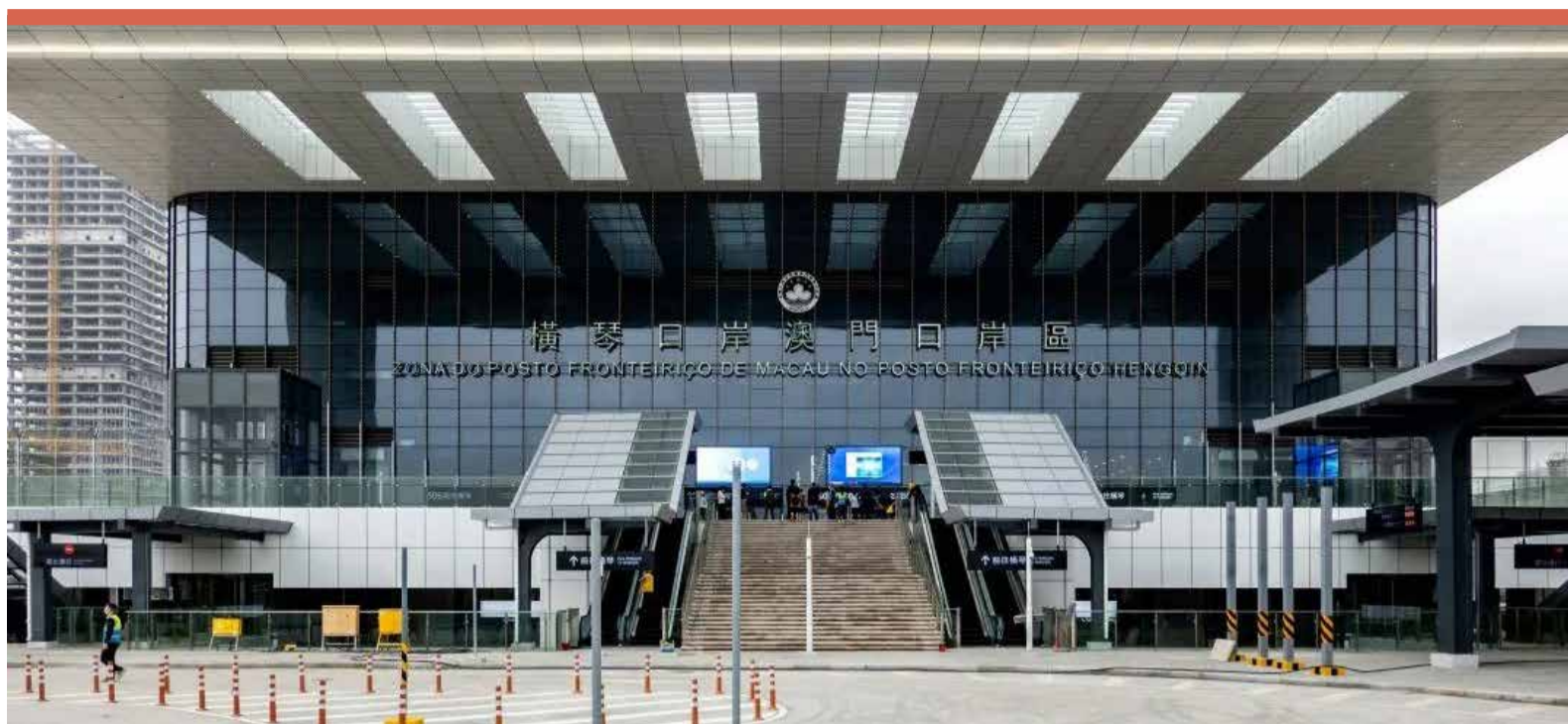
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Group calls for faster Macau-HQ integration to boost recovery

ANTHONY LAM

A local association manager has suggested that the government speed up Macau-Hengqin integration so as to boost economic diversification and recovery.

The deputy executive director of the Collective Wisdom Policy Center, lawmaker Ngan Iek Hang, suggested on behalf of the group's research team that the pace of integration between Macau and Hengqin should be accelerated, with particular emphasis on border clearance.

He suggested that a unified Covid-19 prevention and control mechanism be constructed, so that even if either city experiences an outbreak in the future, interactions between people from

the two places can still occur.

Under this premise, he added, inter-supplementary tourism elements should be considered by the governments of Macau and Guangdong. The two governments could discuss developing a blueprint for short, medium and long term tourism facilities. They could also cooperate in developing major tourism infrastructure. By doing so, he thinks Macau will have new paths to escape its current quandary.

In terms of attracting tourists, the lawmaker suggested the government widen the range of local tourism products, such as organizing festive, religious or seasonal events, which in his opinion will appeal to visitors.

Furthermore, he suggests the government continuously nego-

tiate with its Hong Kong counterparts for border normalization – even with limited capacity – so as to broaden the source of visitors. The government recently issued the green light to passport holders of 41 countries to enter Macau, although quarantine is still mandatory.

NEARLY HALF OF LOCALS WANT CASH STIMULUS

The association recently interviewed 1,331 adult residents in Macau, revealing that 42% of the respondents wanted cash alone for the second MOP10 billion stimulus, while only 9% wanted further top-ups in their consumption subsidy accounts. Nearly 49% of respondents opted for both methods combined.

The government has long announced that it would run a

second round of MOP10 billion in economic stimulus. Although funds have been obtained from the parliament, the executive has not yet released any details of its plan.

The survey also uncovered that 82% of respondents had experienced worsened financial conditions in the past year. Traders, those in the gambling and hotel catering industries, and office workers take the top three places for those most affected. Most of those affected are aged between 30 and 40 years.

Respondents were also asked how the second MOP10 billion stimulus should be released. Some 76% wanted a one-off cash handout, 68% a consumption subsidy, 41% childcare subsidy, 40% household utility subsidy, among other options.

REMOVAL OF QUARANTINE KEY TO GAMING RECOVERY: CLSA

Based on Macau's total gross gaming revenue in August, brokerage firm CLSA said yesterday that Macau has been recovering from the recent wave of pandemic-induced lockdowns at a faster-than-expected pace, but highlighted that the removal of quarantine requirements will remain the key catalyst for recovery. The firm raised the 2022 estimate for Macau's total GGR by 16% and left 2023-24 estimates largely unchanged. The rating for SJM Holdings was upgraded from 'underperform' to 'outperform' to reflect the company's improved liquidity. The ratings for Galaxy Entertainment, Sands China, Melco, MGM China and Wynn Macau were kept at 'buy.'

120 SICK, DEPRESSED FILIPINO WORKERS REPATRIATED FROM MACAU

A total of 120 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) suffering from various health problems have been repatriated from Macau, the Manila Bulletin reported. Philippine Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Susan "Toots" Ople said the OFWs are suffering from various illnesses, including depression and renal failure. The latest repatriation flight landed at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 at 9 a.m. on Friday. They were processed for either transit flights or land transport to their provinces. "Most of the OFWs had already finished their respective contracts of employment, while others came home with a medical illness," said Ople. As MDT reported yesterday, a passenger died onboard the flight.

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Jail sentences not capped at 10 years: Security chief

RENATO MARQUES

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak has clarified in a media statement that the penal framework related to crimes involving matters of national security that will be included in the National Security Law will not be capped at a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment.

The statement was issued by Wong's office

to clarify news reports about the public consultation session on the revision of the law held last Saturday, when the Secretary for Security presented his response to opinions and suggestions from citizens on the criminal framework.

"He only highlighted that, concerning the new crimes to be added, the penal framework for most of them is below 10 years of imprisonment,"

which is on the lower side when compared to the current penal framework for the most serious crimes against state security, ranging from 10 to 25 years of imprisonment.

Wong's office added that "the Secretary for Security never mentioned that the maximum criminal framework for all crimes provided for in the new law would be uniformly adjusted to a maximum of 10 years."

In the public consultation document, the same office noted that "there is also no mention of such an adjustment proposal for the penal framework related to current crimes against the security of the state."

Meanwhile, the series of public consultation sessions continues with an session open to the public today at 7:30 p.m., while a sectoral session dedicated to the administration and justice sector is also scheduled to take place this Friday (September 9) at 3 p.m.

The series of public sessions will close with a final open session to be held on Friday (September 16) at 7:30 p.m.



Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak

OVER HKD3M STOLEN BY SCAMMERS

STAFF REPORTER

THREE cases of financial scamming were reported by the Judiciary Police (PJ) in a press briefing yesterday.

In the first case, the victim was a mainland resident who lost RMB40,000 after being introduced to the suspect by a friend in May.

The suspect, named Choi, is a 27-year-old unemployed male resident who claimed that he could exchange the money to Hong Kong dollars.

The suspect told the victim that he could help exchange money with a preferential exchange rate of RMB85.9 to HKD100 while an associate in Hong Kong could help to remit the money, avoiding cross border transaction costs.

The victim believed that the suspect had transferred RMB40,000 to their account.

Later, on May 17, the suspect told the victim that the money had been transferred to the account successfully, providing a falsified image of a money transfer slip via WeChat, in which the suspect had hidden their personal information.

The next day, the victim found

FLORA TANG



that no money had been transferred to their account and lost contact with the suspect.

After investigation, it was revealed that the suspect was involved in another scam case last year, and he was required to report back to the PJ.

The PJ arrested the suspect when he returned to report to the PJ on September 1.

The suspect confessed his crime and claimed that he had cheated the victim to repay a personal loan.

The PJ transferred the suspect's case to the Public Prosecutions Office on the charge of fraud (of a large sum) on September 2.

In the second case, a female victim lost a total of HKD3,000,000.

The victim, a 50-year-old local resident, met the suspect on an online social platform in the second half of March, and entered an online relationship with the suspect in May.

The suspect persuaded the victim to invest online.

The victim opened an account

and downloaded two mobile investing apps for using a virtual currency to invest.

Between early May and August 13, the victim purchased USD3,000 in virtual currency, then, as instructed by the suspect, transferred the virtual currency to another account for trading.

The suspect told the victim that, due to a transaction problem, the victim could not continue to purchase virtual currency in the two apps, and introduced

the victim to another Hong Kong mobile investing app.

The suspect then convinced the victim to purchase virtual currency several times, claiming she could receive a high reward, totaling around HKD3,000,000.

The victim noticed a message on August 28 that her account would be suspended due to her account not being credited USD500,000 within ten days.

The victim realized that she had been cheated when she mentioned the situation to her friend.

In the third case, a male resident lost a total of MOP50,000.

The victim received a phone call on August 26 at 10 a.m. from the suspect, who claimed to be a staff member from WeChat and advised that some fake advertisements had been published from the victim's account. The victim denied this but was later required to download a mobile app to chat with the suspect.

During the chat, the victim was told that they were involved in an illegal fundraising case and wanted by the police.

The victim was required to transfer MOP50,000 to an account on August 29 for funds recovery.

Five days after transferring the money, on September 3, the victim realized he had been scammed.

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Lawmaker Ron Lam calls for better pedestrian paths

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Ron Lam has proposed that the government improve planning and construction of infrastructure for pedestrians, particularly auxiliary facilities for the paths.

Lam recently submitted a written enquiry on the topic to the government. He feels the city is not sufficiently ready for pedestrian-friendly development, which the government had mentioned repeatedly in previous years.

As an example, Lam pointed to the footbridge in Taipa that connects the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) station at Macau Stadium with Edifício Pou Long Garden. The lawmaker noted that the entry and exit of the footbridge do not connect directly with the covered passage, so, on rainy days, pedestrians are not able to easily move between the covered passage and the footbridge.

In light of this, he questioned why the government did not take the situation into account



when the project was planned and built. He also asked whether the government has plans to require entry and exit points for all similar future infrastructure to

be seamlessly connected to covered passages.

Lam also noted that the uphill passage from near the Tap Seac Square to near Yuet Wah College

has stairs only. Referring to 2021 government data, the lawmaker highlighted that 17.1% of the population residing in the vicinity of Avenida de Ferreira do Ama-

ral, which is near the staircase, are aged 65 years or higher.

Additionally, Lam also drew attention to the uphill escalator system on the Guia Hill. The system was built for the convenience of patients, elderly residents and other people visiting the public hospital.

According to the lawmaker, the current system is only half of the original plan, which would have seen a downhill system built where the current uphill system is, while an uphill system would have been built on the adjacent street.

With an uphill system only, pedestrians travelling downhill need to take either the staircase on the next street or walk down the slope beside the escalators, which in the lawmaker's opinion is both dangerous and inconvenient.

Lam therefore questioned whether the government has planned pedestrian passageways and automated people mover systems at the new Central Library which will sit right between the Tap Seac Square and Yuet Wah College. He also asked if plans will be made to improve the escalator system at the Guia Hill.

The Hong Kong Central Library has an indoor pedestrian passage which is not part of the library's reading area, so that pedestrians can avoid detours.

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SEVEN DEAD AFTER POWERFUL QUAKE SHAKES SOUTHWEST CHINA

A strong earthquake killed at least seven people, triggered landslides and shook residents in a major city under lockdown in southwestern China yesterday, state media reported.

The 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck a mountainous area in Luding county in Sichuan province shortly after noon, the China Earthquake Networks Center said.

Sichuan, which sits on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau where tectonic plates meet, is regularly hit by earthquakes. Two quakes in June killed at least four people.

Authorities reported seven deaths, landslides and damage to homes and power interruptions, state broadcaster CCTV said. One landslide blocked a rural highway, leaving it strewn with rocks, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

The quake was felt 200 kilometers away in the provincial capital, Chengdu, where a COVID-19 outbreak has restricted most of its 21 million residents to their compounds under China's strict "zero-COVID" policy.

Resident Jiang Danli said she hid under a desk for five minutes in her 31st floor apartment, while many of her neighbors rushed downstairs.

"There was a strong earthquake in June, but it wasn't very



Fallen rocks are seen on a road near Lengqi Town in Luding County of Sichuan Province yesterday

scary. This time I was really scared, because I live on a high floor and the shaking made me dizzy," she told The Associated Press.

The earthquake and lockdown follow a heat wave and drought that led to water shortages and power cuts due to Sichuan's reliance on hydropower.

The past two months in Chengdu "have been weird," Jiang said.

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 6.6 for yesterday's quake at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers. Preliminary measurements by different agencies often differ slightly.

China's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan. The temblor devastated towns, schools and rural communities outside Chengdu, leading to a

years-long effort to rebuild with more resistant materials.

QUAKE FOLLOWS TYPHOON

The earthquake was felt a day after a typhoon forced cities in eastern China to suspend ferry services and classes while more than 100 flights were canceled in Japan as Typhoon Hinnamnor passed through the region.

In South Korea, yesterday, hundreds of flights were grounded and more than 200 people evacuated as the tropical storm approached the country's southern region with heavy rains and winds of up to 290 kilometers per hour, the strongest storm in decades.

South Korea's weather agency said the country will start to feel the full force of Hinnamnor, the strongest global storm this year, by early today when it is forecast to graze the southern resort island

of Jeju before making landfall near the mainland city of Busan.

Government officials raised concern about potentially huge damage from flooding, landslides and tidal waves. President Yoon Suk Yeol during an emergency response meeting yesterday urged maximum effort to prevent casualties. Prime Minister Han Duk-soo called for proactive efforts to evacuate residents in areas vulnerable to flooding.

As of yesterday afternoon, Hinnamnor was over the open sea 290 kilometers southwest of Jeju. It has dumped 46 centimeters of rain in the central part of Jeju since Sunday, where winds were blowing at a maximum speed of 124 kph and were picking up.

South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety said there were no immediate reports of casualties. At least 11 homes and buildings were flooded in Jeju while more than 200 people were forced to evacuate in Busan and nearby cities because of safety concerns.

More than 360 domestic flights and 66 ferry services were grounded nationwide while thousands of fishing boats returned to port. All schools in Busan and nearby southern regions are scheduled to be closed and shift to online classes today, officials said. **MDT/AGENCIES**

HUMAN RIGHTS CHINA RELEASES REPORT ON XINJIANG IN RESPONSE TO BACHELET'S ASSESSMENT

DEFENDING its policies towards the Uighurs, China's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva last week submitted a 131-page response document to the United Nations human rights office report.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) earlier last week has released a long-delayed and damning report into conditions for the Uighur ethnic minority in China's northwestern Xinjiang autonomous region.

The 45-page report released by the OHCHR found that "serious violations" have been committed in Xinjiang under China's application of measures to counter "terrorism" and "extremism".

China has described the UN report as a "farce".

The Chinese and UN reports on Xinjiang and the treatment of Uighurs are diametrically opposed in their views of the situation.

China said it was opposed to the release of the UN report which "ignores the human rights achievements" made by all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

China has pursued a "people-centered approach" in its policies and has embarked on a human rights development plan that aligns with "trends of the times and suits China's national condition".

According to the 131-page report, Beijing "upholds that living a happy life is the primary human right".

"Anti-China forces in the US and the West merely pretend to care about human rights" but were using the Uighur issue as a means to "destabilize Xinjiang and suppress China".

"Such despicable plots are doomed to fail," the Chinese report states.

The document, released on August 31, titled "Fight against terrorism and extremism: Truth and Facts," presents a detailed chronology of "the rampant" extremists' activities in the autonomous region and of the process of "radicalization through religion."

Beijing accuses Washington of cyber-spying on university

CHINA yesterday accused Washington of breaking into computers at a university that U.S. officials say does military research, adding to complaints by both governments of rampant online spying against each other.

Northwestern Polytechnical University reported computer break-ins in June, the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center announced. It said the center, working with a commercial security provider, Qihoo 360 Technology Co., traced the attacks to the National Security Agency but didn't say how that was done.

China and the United States are, along with Russia, regarded as global leaders in cyber-warfare research.

China accuses the Uni-

ted States of spying on universities, energy and internet companies and other targets. Washington accuses Beijing of stealing commercial secrets and has announced criminal charges against Chinese military officers.

The U.S. actions "seriously endanger China's national security," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning. She also accused Washington of eavesdropping on Chinese mobile phones and stealing text messages.

"China strongly condemns it," Mao said. "The United States should immediately stop using its advantages to steal secrets and attack other countries."

The American Embassy in Beijing didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Security experts say the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, and the Ministry of State Security also sponsor hackers outside the government.

Northwestern Polytechnical University, in the western city of Xi'an, is on a U.S. government "entity list" that limits its access to American technology. Washington says the university helps the PLA develop aerial and underwater drones and missile technology.

Yesterday's announcement accused the United States of taking information about the university's network management and other "core technologies." It said Chinese analysts found 41 "network attack" tools that it said were traced to the NSA.

Last year, a Chinese man, Shuren Qin, was sentenced to two years in prison by a federal court in Boston after he pleaded guilty to exporting underwater and marine technology to Northwestern Polytechnical University without required licenses.

The NSA, part of the Department of Defense, is responsible for "signals intelligence," or obtaining communications and other data.

The Computer Virus Emergency Response Center, set up in 1996 by the police department of the eastern city of Tianjin, describes itself as the Chinese agency responsible for inspection and testing of anti-computer virus products.

A report by Qihoo 360 in 2020 said hacking tools

used in attacks on Chinese companies and government agencies in 2008-19 were traced to the Central Intelligence Agency by comparing them with code in CIA tools disclosed by the Wikileaks group.

The virus center accused the NSA of carrying out other "malicious network attacks" in China but gave no details. It said 13 people involved in the attacks had been identified.

The hackers targeted a "zero day," or previously unreported, vulnerability in the school's security, the statement said. It said the break-ins were conducted from servers in 17 countries including Japan, South Korea, Sweden, Poland, Ukraine and Colombia.

The statement described what it said were NSA software tools with names such as "Second Date" and "Drinking Tea" but didn't say which might have been used at the university. **MDT/AP**

ASEAN

Philippine, Indonesia talks on pandemic recovery challenges

ACHMAD IBRAHIM
& NINIEK KARMINI, BOGOR

PHILIPPINE leader Ferdinand Marcos Jr. affirmed deepening economic and security ties with Indonesia on Monday during the first overseas trip of his presidency, while expressing concern about the persistent difficulties Southeast Asian nations have faced after pandemic.

Indonesia is the region's largest economy and a traditional first diplomatic destination for new leaders in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asia Nations.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife, Iriana, hosted Marcos and Philippine first lady Louise Araneta at a ceremony in the colonial-style presidential palace in Bogor, just outside the capital, Jakarta.

At a joint news conference, Marcos said increasing the volume of trade between their nations had been important in their talks. He said the strategic partnership between Indonesia and the Philippines, and also with partners, allies and friends around the world, "Will be of critical importance so that we remain stable as we grow out of the pandemic economy."



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (left) escorted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo

Widodo said his government has proposed to revitalize a ferry line connecting the border cities of Bitung and Davao and opening a direct flight between Manado, in eastern Indonesia and Davao, in the southern Philippines, to spur trade and their countries' economies.

Marcos, the son of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos, arrived in Jakarta on Sunday with his wife

and government officials, including Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, who held separate talks with Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

Manalo has said Marcos intends to raise the case of a Filipino domestic worker on Indonesia's death row for drug trafficking. Arrested in 2010, Mary Jane Veloso has claimed innocence, saying she was duped into carrying a sui-

case containing heroin.

Marcos did not raise the case during the joint news conference with Widodo.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of agreements for economic partnership, as well as cooperation in defense, border security and cultural areas.

"I am pleased that we have renewed the cooperative trilateral between Indonesia, the Philippi-

nes and Malaysia because it is very important in securing waterways from the threat of hostage-taking and kidnapping," Widodo said.

Indonesian government data showed some 44 Indonesians were kidnapped and held hostage by Abu Sayyaf militants in the Philippines between 2016 and 2019. Of the total, one hostage died while the others were freed. Most were migrant workers abducted off Sabah on Malaysia's eastern coast.

They also discussed issues such as territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the war in Ukraine that has upended the world's fragile economic recovery from the pandemic.

"We agreed that ASEAN is going to be the lead agent in the changes that we would like to see in continuing to bring peace to our countries," Marcos said.

Indonesia is the chair of the Group of 20 biggest economy this year and ASEAN next year.

Marcos is scheduled to meet with Indonesian business leaders and members of the Filipino community in Indonesia. He'll later visit Singapore to sign pacts on security, counterterrorism and data privacy.

Marcos took office June 30 after he won a landslide victory in elections 36 years after an army-backed "People Power" revolt booted his father from office. He has refused to acknowledge the massive human rights abuses and corruption that occurred under his father while instead adhering to his campaign message of a vague call for national unity. **MDT/AP**

PAKISTAN

UNHCR rushes aid amid to amid raging floods in country's south

MUNIR AHMED,
ISLAMABAD

THE U.N. refugee agency rushed in more desperately needed aid yesterday to flood-stricken Pakistan as the nation's prime minister traveled to the south where rising waters of Lake Manchar pose a new threat.

Two UNHCR planes touched down in the southern port city of Karachi and two more were expected later in the day. A third plane, with aid from Turkmenistan also landed in Karachi. While the floods in recent weeks have touched much of Pakistan, the southern Sindh province, where Karachi is the capital, has been the most affected.

More than 1,300 people have been killed and millions have lost their homes in flooding caused by unusually heavy monsoon



rains in Pakistan this year that many experts have blamed on climate change. In response to the unfolding disaster, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last week called on the world to stop "sleepwalking" through the crisis. He plans to visit flood-hit areas on Sept. 9.

On Sunday, engineers

cut into an embankment in the sides of Lake Manchar in an effort to release rising floodwater to save the city of Sehwan and several nearby villages from possible destruction by flooding waters, which have damaged 1.6 million houses since mid-June.

Prime Minister Shahbaz

Sharif was met by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto in the city of Sukkur on the swelling Indus River, from where they toured the flood-hit areas by helicopter. Murad Ali Shah, the province's chief minister, briefed Sharif about the damages caused by floods in Sindh.

Floods have affected more than 3.3 million in this Islamic nation of 220 million and the devastation has caused \$10 billion in damage, according to government estimates. The provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been the most affected and the majority of people killed were women and children. Afghan refugees living in Pakistan have also been affected. Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghans fleeing the violence in their country over the past four decades and currently has about 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees.

More than 420,000 Afghan refugees are estimated to be in the worst-affected areas in Pakistan, living side by side with their host communities

Also Sunday, UNICEF

delivered relief supplies, including medicines and water-purifying tablets, as part of the U.N. flash appeal for \$160 million to support Pakistan's flood response. UNICEF is also appealing for \$37 million for children and families.

"The floods have left children and families out in the open with no access to the basic necessities of life," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF's representative in Pakistan.

Planes carrying aid from other countries are also expected later yesterday in response to an appeal from Sharif, who has appealed to the international community to help Pakistan.

With the two UNHCR planes, 38 planes have brought in aid from countries including China, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan. **MDT/AP**

UK

Liz Truss: An heir to Thatcher intent on shaking up Britain

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

As a child, Liz Truss marched in demonstrations against Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. As an adult, she came to admire Britain's first female leader — and now she is about to enter No. 10 Downing St. with a Thatcherite zeal to transform the U.K.

Truss, Britain's foreign secretary, was named winner yesterday in the contest to replace the scandal-plagued Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and the country's prime minister. The party said Truss won the votes of around 57% of Conservative members, compared with about 43% for ex-Treasury chief Rishi Sunak.

Truss, 47, will become Britain's third female prime minister, after Thatcher, who governed from 1979 to 1990, and Theresa May, who held office from 2016 to 2019.

Conservative Party members have embraced Truss' vows to slash taxes and red tape and keep up Britain's staunch support for Ukraine. Some see echoes of the Iron Lady — as Thatcher was known — in Truss' vision of a "network of liberty" binding democracies around the world.

To critics, Truss is an inflexible ideologue whose right-wing policies won't help Britain weather the economic turmoil set off by the pandemic, Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mark Littlewood, a libertarian commentator who has known Truss since their university days, said Britain's new leader is less a conservative than a "radical," who — like Thatcher — wants to "roll back the intervention of the state" in people's lives.

"I'm expecting a lot of fireworks and a lot of controversy and a lot of action," he said.

Born in Oxford in 1975, Mary Elizabeth Truss is the daughter of a math professor and a nurse, who took her on anti-nuclear and anti-Thatcher protests as a child, where she recalled shouting: "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie — out, out, out!"

In a 2018 speech, she said she began developing her own political views early, "arguing against my socialist parents in our left-wing household."

The family lived in Paisley, Scotland, before moving to Leeds in northern England, where Truss attended a public high school — something that



British lawmaker Liz Truss speaks after winning the Conservative Party leadership contest at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London

sets her apart from her many privately educated Conservative colleagues.

During the leadership campaign, Truss emphasized her relatively modest background. But she riled some former classmates and teachers when she said students at her school were "let down by low expectations, poor educational standards and a lack of opportunity." The school's alumni include academics, judges and several other members of Parliament.

Truss went on to Oxford University, where she studied philosophy, politics and economics — the degree of choice for many aspiring politicians — and was president of the university branch of the Liberal Democratic Party. The economically centrist Lib Dems back constitutional reform and civil liberties, and Truss was an enthusiastic member, putting up "Free the Weed" posters that called for decriminalization of marijuana and arguing in a speech for the abolition of the monarchy.

Littlewood, who was a fellow member of the Oxford Lib Dems and now heads the Institute for Economic Affairs, a free market think tank, remembers Truss as "headstrong and determined and outspoken."

"You were never in any doubt where she stood on an issue or a person," he said.

After Oxford, Truss joined the Conservative Party — "when it was distinctly unfashionable," she later said.

She worked as an economist for energy company Shell and telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless, and for a right-of-center think tank while becoming involved in Conservative politics and espousing free market Thatcherite views. She served as a local councilor in London and ran unsuccessfully for Parliament twice before being

elected to represent the eastern England seat of Southwest Norfolk in 2010.

She won the safely Conservative seat after a bump on the way — some local Conservatives were outraged when it was revealed she had had an affair with another MP when both were married to other people. Truss won over her critics, and her marriage survived. She and husband Hugh O'Leary, an accountant, have two teenage daughters.

She founded the Free Enterprise group of Thatcherite Tory lawmakers who produced "Britannia Unchained," a political treatise that notoriously included the claim that British workers are "among the worst idlers in the world."

David Laws, a former Cabinet minister who worked with Truss in government a decade ago, recalled her as energetic and "mind-bogglingly ambitious," comparing her in his memoir to "a young Margaret Thatcher on speed."

Truss got her first Cabinet job as food and environment secretary in 2014, making her biggest impression with a much-mocked speech in which she thundered that it was "a disgrace" that Britain imports two-thirds of its cheese.

In Britain's 2016 referendum on whether to leave the European Union, Truss backed the losing "remain" side, though she says she was always a natural euroskeptic. Since the vote, she has won over Brexiteers with her uncompromising approach to the EU.

She became justice secretary, but she was demoted to a more junior role in the Treasury by May in 2017. When May was toppled by her repeated failure to break a political deadlock over Brexit, Truss was an early backer of Boris Johnson to replace her. When

he won, Johnson made Truss trade secretary, a role in which she Instagrammed her way around the world signing post-Brexit trade deals and raising her profile.

In September 2021, she was appointed foreign secretary, Britain's top diplomat. Her performance has drawn mixed reviews. Many praise her firm response to the invasion of Ukraine, and she secured the release of two British citizens jailed in Iran, where her predecessors had failed.

But EU leaders and officials who hoped she would bring a softer tone to Britain's relations with the bloc have been disappointed. Amid trade wrangling, Truss introduced legislation to rip up parts of the binding U.K.-EU divorce agreement signed by both sides. The 27-nation bloc is taking legal action against Britain in return.

Truss has sometimes suggested the frequent comparisons to Thatcher are sexist, but at other times she has encouraged them. She has posed in a British Army tank in Eastern Europe, evoking an image of Thatcher during the Cold War. In a televised leadership debate, Truss sported a pussy-bow blouse just like one Thatcher used to wear.

By stressing her modest background, she is evoking comparisons to grocer's daughter Thatcher, said Victoria Honeyman, associate professor of British politics at the University of Leeds — "the working-class girl done good."

Truss' own personality is hidden behind a stern public persona. Friends say she has a fun-loving side rarely glimpsed in public, and enjoys karaoke and blasting out tunes by Taylor Swift, Whitney Houston and Destiny's Child.

Truss' perceived loyalty to Johnson, who remains popular with many Tories, also helped her win. Many party members cited Sunak's decision to quit Johnson's Cabinet in July as a mark against him. Truss didn't resign, saying she was a "loyal person" — though she had been courting party members for months at "fizz with Liz" events to build support for a potential leadership bid.

Conservatives have embraced Truss' optimistic message of liberation through less government, which is reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's "morning in America" boosterism.

The wider British electorate is likely to prove a harder audience to win over. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1997 DIANA'S FUNERAL WATCHED BY MILLIONS

Britain and the world have said farewell to Diana, Princess of Wales, at the end of an unprecedented week of mourning.

A four mile procession brought her coffin to Westminster Abbey, where politicians and celebrities joined the Royal Family in a subdued congregation.

Over a million people lined the route of the funeral cortege to the abbey and along her final journey to the Spencer family home in Northamptonshire.

The day began at 0908 BST, when the coffin left Kensington Palace on a gun carriage.

Some of the crowd wept, some applauded quietly, but most watched in silence.

On top of the coffin was a poignant reminder that this woman loved by millions was also a mother — a card to "Mummy" from one of her sons.

The two princes, William and Harry, joined their father, grandfather and the princess's brother walking behind the coffin.

Other members of the Royal Family watched the funeral cortege pass from the gates of Buckingham Palace.

The union jack on top of the palace was lowered to half mast for the first time ever.

Both Diana's sisters read tributes to her at the funeral service and Elton John played his re-worked version of Candle in the Wind.

Her brother, Lord Spencer, made a funeral address in which he described as Diana the "very essence of compassion, of duty, of style, of beauty".

He used the speech to blame the media for her death, calling her the "most hunted person of the modern age".

The grieving earl also pledged to protect William and Harry and prevent them suffering a similar fate.

The sometimes controversial oration was greeted with spontaneous applause.

A very public day of mourning ended with a private ceremony when Diana was finally buried on an island in the heart of her family estate at Althorp.



Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Diana's death resulted in an outpouring of grief never before seen in the UK.

It was estimated that a total of 2.5 billion people watched the princess's funeral, a testament to her global celebrity.

Her image remained as iconic in death as it had been in life, and within weeks of her funeral there was worldwide demand for memorabilia of the princess.

The French authorities concluded their investigation into the crash two years later. It found the driver, Henri Paul, to be three times over the drink-drive limit and breaking the speed limit.

The photographers chasing the car were severely criticised for their behaviour, but no criminal action was taken against them.

An inquest into the princess's death was opened in the UK in 2004. It has been adjourned while the Metropolitan police carry out an investigation into the crash.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Intellectual stimulation is what you are looking for. Trouble could be brewing at home. Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 You haven't been watching your spending habits and you may have been neglecting your duties. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 You can have a working relationship with children if you exercise patience and understanding of the dilemmas they face. You are best to sit back and think it through, rather than add to the ranting and raving.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Be sure to keep communication open with those you live with. Family responsibilities are mounting. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Invite friends or relatives into your home. You will tend to overeat today.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Don't let relatives make demands of you. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. Property investments should payoff.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Try not to be so demonstrative. A change in position could be better than you thought. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Try to think things through. You can make changes to your living quarters, but not everyone will be pleased with your efforts.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Go out with friends. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You will not be able to contain your emotions today. Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises. Your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Put all your energy into moneymaking ventures. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with?	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvements.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	14	29	fine
Changchun	10	21	cloudy
Chengdu	19	32	cloudy
Chongqing	22	35	fine
Fuzhou	27	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	35	fine
Guiyang	16	30	fine
Haikou	25	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	20	30	fine
Harbin	10	21	cloudy
Hefei	19	33	cloudy
Nanjing	20	31	cloudy
Shanghai	21	30	fine
Taipei	25	29	rain
Wuhan	21	34	fine
Hong Kong	26	31	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	7	13	cloudy
Frankfurt	17	30	overcast
Paris	16	28	showers
London	16	21	rain
New York	19	23	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Strike breaker; 5- Summarize; 10- Aggregate; 14- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 15- Tarnish; 16- Food thickener; 17- Put down; 18- Quality; 19- Cosmonaut Gagarin; 20- Last letter of the Greek alphabet; 22- Chinese game; 24- Formerly, formerly; 27- Fly; 28- Source of caviar; 32- Family tree member; 35- Part of HRH; 36- Santa's reindeer, e.g.; 38- Atty.-to-be exams; 40- Make ___ for it; 42- Halfhearted; 44- Lose one's cool; 45- Unite; 47- Flat-topped hills; 49- Pet for King Solomon; 50- Urges; 52- Educated; 54- Stead; 56- Pig; 57- Moisture; 60- Domingo, for one; 64- Henry VIII's sixth; 65- Melodies; 68- It's used to walk the dog; 69- Legal rights org.; 70- Part of Hispaniola; 71- K-6; 72- Composition in verse; 73- John of England; 74- Drop off.

DOWN 1- Farm structure; 2- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 3- Gallic girlfriend; 4- Burrowing, carnivorous mammal; 5- Queue after Q; 6- Where it's at; 7- A type of bake; 8- Rap sheet info; 9- Constrictor; 10- A city's first lady?; 11- Son of ___; 12- Puppeteer Tony; 13- Hindu title; 21- Jason's craft; 23- Monopoly board corner; 25- Faction of a group, often religious; 26- Emblem; 28- Ersatz; 29- Wearies; 30- Encroach; 31- Scruffs; 33- Artificial waterway; 34- Military camp; 37- Flat circular plates; 39- Rushed, drove too fast; 41- Monetary unit of Bhutan; 43- "James and the Giant Peach" author; 46- "___ Brockovich"; 48- Chimney residue; 51- Do a slow burn; 53- Complied; 55- Everyday; 57- Texas city; 58- Della's creator; 59- Agitated state; 61- ___ contendere; 62- Court cry; 63- Capital of Italy; 64- Soft food for infants; 66- DDE's command; 67- Transgression;

Yesterday's solution

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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MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD 17,500

CHUN LEONG | 1 BEDS HKD 8,200

BUCKINGHAM | 2 BEDS HKD 13,900

HELLENE G. | 3 BEDS HKD 12,500

NAM LONG | 1 BED HKD 8,500

COLOANE V. | 1 BED HKD 9,300

COLOANE V. | 2 BEDS HKD 10,500

COLOANE V. | 2 BEDS HKD 10,000

FOR SALE

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NOVA TAIPA | 4 BEDS HKD 12,880,000

BAI YUEN GRD. | 3 BEDS HKD 12,800,000

MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD 12,980,000

HELLENE G. | 4 BEDS HKD 9,588,000

NAM LONG | 1 BED HKD 3,780,000

HELLENE G. | 2 BEDS HKD 9,900,000

TAIPA STUDIO | 1 BED HKD 3,980,000

NOVA PARK | 2 BEDS HKD 10,800,000

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AD

DAVID MCHUGH, FRANKFURT

ENERGY

OPEC and allied oil-producing countries, including Russia, cut their supplies to the global economy by 100,000 barrels per day, underlining their unhappiness with crude prices that have sagged because of recession fears.

The decision yesterday by energy ministers means the cut for October rolls back the mostly symbolic increase of the same amount in September. The move follows a statement last month from Saudi Arabia's energy minister that the group could reduce output at any time.

Oil producers such as Saudi Arabia have resisted calls from U.S. President Joe Biden to pump more oil to lower gasoline prices and the burden on consumers.

But worries about slumping future demand have helped send prices down from June peaks of over \$120 per barrel, cutting into the windfall for the government budgets of OPEC+ countries but proving a blessing for drivers in the U.S. as pump prices have eased.

The energy ministers said in a statement that the September increase was only for that month, and that the group could meet again at any time to address market developments.

OPEC+ CUTS OIL SUPPLIES TO THE WORLD AS PRICES FALL



AP PHOTO

Other factors are lurking that could influence the price of oil. For one, the Group of Seven major democracies plan to im-

pose a price cap on imports of Russian oil and what effect that might have on the market. The price level for the cap has not yet been set.

Meanwhile, a deal between Western countries and Iran to limit Tehran's nuclear program could ease sanctions and see more than 1 million barrels of

Iranian oil return to the market in coming months. However, tensions between the U.S. and Iran appear to have risen in recent days: Iran seized two U.S. naval drones in the Red Sea, and U.S., Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes flew over the Middle East on Sunday in a show of force.

Oil prices have gyrated in recent months: Recession fears have pushed them down, while worries of a loss of Russian oil because of sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine pushed them up.

Recently, recession fears have taken the upper hand. Economists in Europe are penciling in a recession at the end of this year due to skyrocketing inflation fed by energy costs, while China's severe restrictions aimed at halting the spread of the coronavirus have sapped growth in that major world economy.

Those falling oil prices have been a boon to U.S. drivers, sending gasoline prices down to \$3.82 per gallon from record highs of over \$5 in June.

That month, fears that U.S. and European sanctions would take Russian oil off the market helped push Brent to over \$123. Those concerns are still out there because European sanctions aimed at Russian oil shipments won't take effect until the end of the year. **MDT/AP**

AD

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TENNIS

Coco Gauff, 18, reaches US Open quarterfinals for first time

HOWARD FENDRICH,
NEW YORK

COCO Gauff raised a fist, then wagged her right index finger, responding to, and riling up even more, a loud-louder-loudest Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd that was standing and screaming. Gauff's U.S. Open opponent, Zhang Shuai, covered both ears with her hands to shield them from what she described later as a "Boom!" of sound.

Gauff and her fans were reacting excitedly to quite a point, one in which the 18-year-old Floridian raced to her right for a defensive forehand, then changed directions to sprint and slide into a backhand that drew a netted volley from Zhang. Just four points later, Gauff was a quarterfinalist at Flushing Meadows for the first time.

Gauff, the French Open runner-up in June, came back in each set to beat China's Zhang 7-5, 7-5 yesterday [Macau time] to become the youngest American to make it this far at the U.S. Open since Melanie Oudin was 17 in 2009.

"Here, I can't hear myself scream. Makes me want to do it more. I think I'm feeding off the momentum a lot. I enjoy it," said No. 12 seed Gauff, who meets No. 17 Caroline Garcia of France on Tuesday. "New York is bringing out a side of me that I haven't had since I was 15, so it's nice."

Nick Kyrgios is playing much better than he ever has at Flushing Meadows, too, building off the momentum of his run to the Wimbledon final in July, and he eliminated defending champion and No. 1-ranked Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The 23rd-seeded Kyrgios was up to some of his usual behavior — warned for cursing, yelling at his guest box, playing to the crowd — but he also outplayed Medvedev in a high-quality match.

"I'm just glad I'm finally able to show New York my talent," said Kyrgios, never past the third round at the U.S. Open until now. "I haven't had too many great



Coco Gauff, of the United States, celebrates after defeating Shuai Zhang, of China

trips here."

He'll play No. 27 seed Karen Khachanov on Tuesday, when the other's men's quarterfinal on the top half of the bracket is 2022 French Open runner-up Casper Ruud against 2021 Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini.

Medvedev will relinquish the top spot in the rankings after the U.S. Open, with Ruud joining Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz as players with a chance to replace him.

After trailing 5-4 in the opening set, then 5-3 in the second, which she was a point from losing, Gauff was buoyed by spectators who cheered her every point and chanted "Let's go, Coco!" as the end neared. She improved to 4-0 in Ashe this year after having never previously won a match at the biggest arena in Grand Slam tennis.

How loud was it?

"It got so raucous in there that I got a headache. I had to take an Advil," said Gauff's father, Corey. "I kept pinching myself. I'm like, 'My gosh, all of these people here for my daughter.' You dream about this, but you never know if you're going to realize that. She was pumping herself up and they responded to her. It sent chills up my spine."

Zhang, at 33 the oldest woman to reach the fourth round, said it was more noise than she's ever heard at a match.

She praised Gauff's play,

calling her "a superstar" and adding: "Everything is very good. She's so much younger than me. Her energy is so much better. She's faster. She's powerful."

They competed mostly from the baseline, and the longer the exchanges, the more success Gauff found: She claimed a 45-26 edge in points that lasted five or more strokes.

Garcia is coming off a hard-court title at Cincinnati and stretched her winning streak to 12 matches by defeating No. 29 Alison Riske-Amritraj of the U.S. 6-4, 6-1.

"I'm super excited, actually, to play Coco — in U.S., in New York, quarterfinal of a Slam. It's great," Garcia said.

The other quarterfinal on that half of the women's field will be between Ajla Tomljanovic, the player who beat Serena Williams in the third round, and No. 5 Ons Jabeur, who was the runner-up at Wimbledon. Tomljanovic got past Liudmila Samsonova 7-6 (8), 6-1 at Louis Armstrong Stadium in a matchup between unseeded players, while Jabeur defeated No. 18 Veronika Kudermetova 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Tomljanovic is a 29-year-old Australian who is now into her third Grand Slam quarterfinal after making it that far at Wimbledon the past two years. On Wednesday, Tomljanovic beat Williams in three sets in what is expected to be the

last match of the 23-time Grand Slam champion's career.

In Gauff-Zhang, the whirring of the Ashe retractable roof being pulled shut

accompanied the start of the second set because of showers that started soon after, and it took a while for the artificial lights to reach full strength. The match

proceeded, even though it was rather dark — and quite humid — indoors.

Zhang started getting a bit better of the back-and-forth midway through the second set, and when she hit a backhand winner of her own, she broke to lead 5-3.

Last year's U.S. Open doubles champion — she and Sam Stosur beat Gauff and Caty McNally in the final — served to force a third set, and was a point away from getting there, but Gauff steeled herself and stood her ground.

That set point was frittered away when Zhang sent a backhand long. Gauff smacked — what else? — a down-the-line backhand winner for her third break point of that game, then delivered a good return to a corner that drew a long backhand to make it 5-4 and start a four-game, match-closing run.

Everyone's known how talented Gauff is for a while now. After all, at 15, she became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history in 2019, beat Venus Williams in the first round of the main draw and made it all the way to the fourth. **MDT/AP**



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FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL

DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



THE DILEMMAS OF BALANCING SINO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

Australia has a sui generis evolution — from being Terra Australis Incognita to a penitentiary settlement, to “the lucky country” (due to an abundance of resources and distance from past wars). From a cultural and civilizational viewpoint, it is a Western country, with a liberal democracy based on an Anglo-Saxon political and electoral system, a member of the Commonwealth and with strong ties to the U.K. and the U.S.

Given its geographic setting, successive Australian governments have long assumed a strategy of Asian integration, both in terms of population composition and in economic terms.

In terms of population, in 2020 there were 7.6 million immigrants living in Australia, comprising about 30% of its population. The second- and third-largest contingents of immigrants came from India and China (721,000 and 650,000, respectively). In 2016, 13.4% of the Australian population had been born in an Asian country (compared to only 5.5% in 1996), constituting almost half of the foreign-born population. In 2016, 26% of births in Australia had at least one parent born in Asia.

With regard to foreign trade, a China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) was signed in December 2015. By 2020, 31% of Australia’s exports in goods and services were bound for China. Australian foreign direct investment (FDI) in China reached \$7 billion in 2020; in turn, China is the sixth largest direct investor in Australia, accounting for about 4% (\$44 billion in 2020) of total FDI in Australia (excluding Chinese capital flows via Hong Kong, Singapore and other financial hubs).

In terms of external security, in 1951 Australia formed, with the U.S. and New Zealand, a joint defensive military alliance in the South Pacific: ANZUS. In September 2021, Australia developed its alliances further by forming another three-party military alliance with the U.S. and the U.K. — AUKUS.

Over the past two years, China has imposed high tariffs and punitive measures on some Australian products (such as wine, lobster and barley) as a result of criticisms made by the previous Australian government. These sanctions would appear to be merely a warning, not least because several of these products eventually found their way into the Chinese market via Southeast Asian countries or Hong Kong.

This situation is all the more bizarre because the economic interdependence between the two countries is clear. For example, China is dependent on Australia for some key raw materials, such as iron ore, without which the production of steel and many other products in China are compromised. Without steel (and China cannot quickly find an alternative supplier) the Chinese construction sector would collapse, and with it a significant part of the Chinese economy.

Australia and several countries in Southeast Asia (Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and the Far East (Japan, South Korea) have for several years managed a balance between external security partnerships with Western countries, most notably the U.S., and economic integration with China. This balance seems frail and dilemmatic, but is proving to be sustainable and should remain so — everyone has much to gain from the status quo, and much to lose by altering it.

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Russia imposed personal sanctions yesterday on 25 Americans, including actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller, in response to U.S. sanctions against Russians stemming from the conflict in Ukraine. U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was on the new sanctions list, as were several American senators: Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Rick Scott of Florida, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. Russia’s Foreign Ministry said the group, which also included business leaders, academics and government officials, would be

banned permanently from entering Russia. Previous rounds of Russian sanctions against Americans have included President Joe Biden and members of his family, as well as lawmakers and business leaders. The U.S. has sanctioned numerous Russians, including government officials and business people. Penn and Stiller have been outspoken critics of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Penn is an activist involved in relief work, among other causes. Stiller is a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.



From left: Director Martin McDonagh, Kerry Condon, Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and Graham Broadbent in Venice, yesterday

FILM

FARRELL AND GLEESON REUNITE WITH MARTIN MCDONAGH IN VENICE

LINDSEY BAHR, VENICE

Martin McDonagh has returned to the Venice International Film Festival with “The Banshees of Inisherin,” which is having its world premiere today [Macau time] in competition.

It’s his first film since “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” and a reunion with his “In Bruges” stars Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson.

Farrell on Monday said that he and McDonagh have talked about working together again, and they have a “mature agreement” where they’ll accept if the other wants to pass.

And yet, Farrell said, he also can’t imagine “ever passing on anything (McDonagh) writes because he’s such an extraordinary writer and I’m always so deeply moved emotionally and psychologically by the worlds he creates and the characters that he designs.”

The film is set in 1923 on a remote island off Ireland’s west coast. It tells a story about longtime friends Padraic (Farrell) and Colm (Gleeson) at a

fraught moment when Colm suddenly decides to end the relationship. He’s decided that Padraic is dull, and Padraic, in turn, is shattered.

“It’s hard to ghost someone on an island,” Farrell laughed. His character, he said, is the “human manifestation of a little donkey.”

Kerry Condon plays Padraic’s sister Siobhan and Barry Keoghan is the tormented young Dominic, who try to help Padraic mend things.

“He has an innocence where he can’t comprehend why his friend of so many years has cut him out,” Farrell said. “It shakes him to his core ... He lives in a beautiful life and that beauty is taken away by Brendan’s Colm.”

Gleeson liked how the film examined male friendship in a different way. But, he said, despite the time that it’s set in, it is a “modern film” in how it presents these two friends.

“The way the idea that these men would talk to each other in a natural way about feelings is debatable if it would transpire at that

point,” Gleeson said.

The film also marks McDonagh’s first production in Ireland, which he said was “a dream of mine.” They shot mostly in Inishmore, where his father was from. And before production started, they had several weeks of rehearsals in Galway. Farrell said it “felt so beautiful to be back where Martin’s plays had been performed.”

Venice is a bit of a good luck charm for McDonagh, who in 2017 received the festival’s top screenwriting prize for “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” which would go on to be a box office smash, get him a best picture and screenplay nomination at the Oscars and win two acting Oscars for Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell.

“The Banshees of Inisherin” is competing for the Golden Lion and other top awards this year, against films like Todd Field’s “TÁR” and Darren Aronofsky’s “The Whale,” before it opens in theaters on Oct. 21.

The 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival runs through Sept. 10. MDT/AP

Latvia Authorities said that a search and rescue operation has so far found no sign of survivors from a small plane that crashed in the Baltic Sea. Air traffic controllers lost contact with the private plane, carrying four people, shortly after it took off from the Spanish city of Jerez on Sunday afternoon. Several European countries scrambled fighter jets as the plane made its way across the continent but were unable to see or contact anyone in the cockpit



Canada A manhunt continued yesterday for two men suspected of stabbing to death 10 people in an Indigenous community and a nearby town in one of the deadliest mass killings in Canada’s history. The men are also suspected of injuring 15 people in the series of knife attacks that led the James Smith Cree Nation to declare a state of emergency and shook residents of the nearby village of Weldon.

Puerto Rico Two people aboard jet skis were killed by lightning in waters along southern Puerto Rico, police said yesterday. Authorities said lightning first struck a 36-year-old man driving a jet ski and then made contact with a 26-year-old woman who was a passenger on another nearby. The driver of that watercraft was not injured.



Kenya’s Supreme Court has unanimously rejected challenges to the official results of the presidential election and upheld Deputy President William Ruto’s narrow win in East Africa’s most stable democracy. Ruto is expected to be sworn in on Sept. 13. Opposition candidate Raila Odinga had alleged irregularities in the otherwise peaceful Aug. 9 election.