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AP PHOTO



**Philippines** Motorcycle-riding gunmen killed a longtime radio commentator in metropolitan Manila in the latest attack on a member of the media in the Philippines, considered one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. Police said Percival Mabasa, 63, was driving his vehicle Monday night when two men on a motorcycle approached and shot him twice in the head in suburban Las Pinas City.

AP PHOTO



**South Korea** A malfunctioning South Korean ballistic missile blew up as it plowed into the ground yesterday during a live-fire drill with the United States that was a reprisal for North Korea's successful launch a day earlier of a weapon that flew over Japan and has the range to strike the U.S. territory of Guam. The explosion and subsequent fire panicked and confused residents of the coastal city of Gangneung, who were already uneasy over the increasingly provocative weapons tests by rival North Korea.

AP PHOTO



**Thailand** Authorities warned yesterday of possible serious flooding in the capital and other parts of the central region from heavy seasonal rainfall expected through the rest of the week. The situation is being worsened by a large volume of water moving downriver from flooding in northern provinces and from discharges from dams filled to capacity. Bangkok has been experiencing flooding since Monday as torrential rain poured into the city, with about 16 centimeters recorded in one area over 24 hours.

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# GOV'T PLANNING MORE EVENTS FOR NEW YEAR, LUNAR NEW YEAR

ANTHONY LAM

**M**ORE fireworks displays and concerts are being considered for New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Lunar New Year, the government has revealed.

On October 1, the government organized a fireworks display that lasted 15 minutes. On the sidelines of a recent event, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), said that the government was considering organizing more than just a fireworks display for the Lunar New Year period.

Lunar New Year will fall in January next year.

Senna Fernandes was satisfied with the limited fireworks displays this year (three displays during the Lunar New Year, and a fourth on October 1). She explained the difficulties, saying that



Covid-19 control measures had made the delivery of fireworks more difficult than during normal times.

She revealed the October 1 fireworks show attracted 58,000 viewers on the MGTO's WeChat.

Senna Fernandes hoped that an event which includes more than just fireworks can be held

during the Lunar New Year period next year, citing resumption of group tours and online travel endorsement applications as preferential factors.

Furthermore, the tourism chief cited quarantine as the main reason for not being able to restart the International Fireworks Display Contest this year.

At another event, Leong Wai Man, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), revealed that the bureau is considering restarting HUSH band show at the Hac-Sa Beach and two shows to countdown to the new year.

The countdown show has been suspended two years in a row due to Covid-19 restrictions.

While discussing the countdown shows, the IC president hoped to present two shows this year on New Year's Eve and the evening of New Year's Day. For the time being, the IC cannot disclose if any external entertainers will be performing at the shows.

Moreover, the IC will also host the HUSH band show at Hac-Sa Beach again this November. The beach will be the main venue and ferries will be arranged to transport audiences from Macau to the supporting venue in Coloane, Leong said.

She added that the bureau was also considering hosting flash mob shows in association with local entertainers and artists. Preliminary plans include staging flash mob magic, music and singing shows in popular locations such as the Senado Square and Rua do Cunha.

It was also revealed (on another occasion) that the IC has been developing virtual reality (VR) experiences based on the Ruins of St Paul's as well as other VR and augmented reality (AR) experiences based on other tourist attractions.

## GAMING

# Casino woes: September revenues down 50% y-o-y

LYNZY VALLES

**S**EPTEMBER has been another bleak month for the city's casinos as revenues plunged 49.6% year-on-year to MOP2.96 billion, another blow to the sector as China's lockdown continues across the country.

Although September's revenue rose 35% from the previous month, the base in August was very low as the sector suffered in the wake of the travel halt caused by the city's largest outbreak in mid-June to July.

The results, however, were in line with the median analyst estimate of a 50% year-on-year decline, a slump that has continued since March. The results are down 87% from pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

Some cities in China are



returning to lockdowns ahead of the Communist Party Congress later this month, where President Xi Jinping is expected to secure this third term in power.

Up until now, the mainland remains the city's largest market.

Meanwhile, the sector is

anticipating the resumption of group tours from mainland China, which are expected as soon as late October, along with the reinstatement of digital travel endorsement applications.

Tours will restart gradually from the provinces of Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiang-

su, Fujian and the municipality of Shanghai, with Guangdong being the frontier.

However, gaming analysts are less optimistic about their return as their spending power is not high and they have never been a major driver for the city's casinos.

As gaming operators await to secure new 10-year licenses to operate casinos, which will be announced before the end of the year, analysts have expressed concern about cash burn rates in the gaming sector and are particularly doubtful of the ability of gaming companies to survive under harsh operating conditions.

The maximum number of gaming tables for all casinos in the city is capped at 6,000, while gaming machines will be capped at 12,000 from 2023.

The annual gaming revenue generated by each gaming table should be MOP7 million, while the minimum cap for the annual gaming revenue generated by each gaming machine is set at MOP300,000.

## TWO SEPTUAGENARIANS INJURED ON MOVING WALKWAY

**A**FTER three days in operation, a moving walkway installed in the new pedestrian tunnel on Guia Hill has allegedly injured two female pedestrians aged 76 and 77 years.

The new tunnel was only opened to the public on October 1.

The two septuagenarians have been taken to the public hospital for medical attention. Injuries to their left elbows and waists were recorded.

After preliminary inspections, the Fire Services Bureau (CB) found that the moving walkway was operating normally and suspected the cause of the accident to be the victims tripping and falling.

The moving walkway has been suspended for service.

Meanwhile, according to local media outlet All About Macau, some social media users were cynical about the accident, making remarks such as "malfunctioning is part of Macau's culture" and "just get used to [regular malfunctioning]" in mockery of the incident.

In contrast, some users suggested that the suspension was only necessitated by regular adjustments. **AL**

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# CE: Resumption of mainland e-visas to Macau will boost economy

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE resumption of the electronically-issued permits for travel to Macau (e-visas) under the individual travel scheme, as well as of tour groups from the mainland to Macau, will boost the volume of mainland visitors and, with it, the local economy, Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng said on the sidelines of the National Day reception.

Ho's comments were made following last week's announcement by the central government authorities of the resumption of these visas and of a simplified immigration process for tour groups to Macau announced one week earlier.

"No outbound tour groups had been organized from the mainland for nearly three years," the CE said, noting that Macau would be the first destination outside the mainland to receive mainland tour groups as early as late this month or early November.

At the current stage of re-



sumption of tour groups to Macau, only people from the so-called "four provinces and one city" group, that is, Guangdong,

Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Fujian provinces, as well as Shanghai municipality, will be eligible.

According to Ho, the covera-

ge will be expanded in phases, taking into account epidemic conditions on the mainland, and adherence to the "dynamic zero-Covid-19" policy, he noted, adding that government is in talks with other provinces and cities on the matter.

Addressing questions related to the validity periods for nucleic acid testing (NAT) certificates for cross-border travel between the mainland and Macau, Ho said the local government had been trying to negotiate with the mainland authorities to relax these requirements, although there is so far no news on the matter.

Regarding measures to ease travel arrangements for those wishing to travel to Macau via Hong Kong, the CE again stressed the need for Macau to act in line with the mainland's anti-pandemic measures: in other words, that the SAR's policy would depend on the mainland's decision.

The CE noted that the priority will be to reduce the number of days of required quarantine and that the full resumption of travel

between Macau and Hong Kong would come at a later stage.

At present, approximately 100 Hong Kong residents are arriving in Macau per day and undergoing quarantine on arrival, while Macau residents can travel to Hong Kong without the need for quarantine, using a quarantine exemption plan.

## FOUR LAND PLOTS TO BE AUCTIONED FOR HOUSING

In other remarks, Ho said that the government has a plan to make four land plots available for private housing development. These plots will be granted to developers via public auction.

Geological surveys and relevant preparation had been completed on these land plots and an announcement is expected later this month.

The CE also explained that there will be a gap of three to four years from the time the parcels of land are auctioned until the housing units can be placed on the market, noting that the supply will be delivered on time.

## GOLDEN WEEK

# Tourist arrivals over 143,000 in first five days of holidays

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE first five days of the Golden Week National Holiday recorded 143,102 tourist arrivals: figures the government has dubbed "gratifying."

The first day of the holiday recorded the most, with up to 37,442 arrivals, nearly doubling the government's expectations.

Last week, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) estimated the seven-day holiday would attract 20,000 visitors daily, based on over 26,000 visitor arrivals last Friday.

Authorities suggested the figure was the highest number since the June 18 Covid-19 outbreak.

Speaking yesterday at the TDM Forum, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said the government is plea-



sed with the tourist arrivals recorded this year as it is a surge of over 2,100% compared to last year's numbers in terms of average daily arrivals.

Last year, official figures showed there were only 8,159 tourist arrivals recorded during the holiday, typically one of the city's busiest times, a stunning decline of 94% compared to 2020 — and a disappointment for local retailers and the tourism sector generally.

Last week, the Macau Hotel Association told the Times the seven-day holidays had been looking stronger compared to previous holidays this year, such as the Mid-Autumn and the May Labor Day holidays, as it has been seeing arrivals during the holiday period rise at an accelerated pace in the past two weeks.

This is despite the Zhuhai health authority calling mainland resi-

dents to celebrate the National Day at home and avoid going to medium-risk or high-risk areas.

The association previously observed the search traffic for Macau on main online travel agents (OTAs) had increased 130% over this National Holiday as compared to last year, particularly the traffic of October 1 to 3, which is double that of October 4 to 7.

## PUBLIC WORKS

# PEARL OF THE ORIENT OVERPASS DUE TO BE COMPLETED NOVEMBER

**T**HE overpass that links the Areia Preta district with the New Urban Zone A is expected to be completed next month, the government has announced.

The government also takes pride in the fact that the construction has not run behind schedule and, at the time of going to press, has only run 0.8% over budget.

The construction of the overpass began March last year and was estimated to take about 500 working days. The original price tag was MOP179 million.

Recent Covid-19 outbreaks have caused delays to the construction and a slight delay of 15 working days was originally expected. However, the government

has noted that the delays in the schedule have been made up for, and it believes that the project will be completed next month as planned.

Although the government is confident in meeting the deadline, a definite opening date has not yet been announced.

The new overpass will only carry outbound traffic from Areia Preta. In fact, traffic will travel from Areia Preta to Zone A or the Amizade Bridge, depending on which lane drivers choose.

With that said, traffic from Zone A or the Amizade Bridge will not be able to avoid the Pearl of the Orient roundabout before reaching the Areia Preta District. **AL**



# MUST PRESIDENT: PAYLOAD SPECIALIST SELECTION SIGNIFICANT TO MACAU'S SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT



**T**HE payload specialist selection in the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) for the country's manned space program is of great significance to the development of science and related education in the SAR, said an education expert.

Joseph Hun-wei Lee, president of the Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST), told Xinhua Tuesday that the selection, held in Macau for the first time, is expected to inspire research in fundamental physics and education in related disciplines in the SAR, thus laying solid foundation for nurturing the next generation of scientists.

"The move will also inspire young people in Macau to make greater efforts in the pursuit of knowledge and exploration of science," Lee said. "The effect is limitless."

On Monday, the Civil Aviation Authority of the SAR announced the selection program. The target candidates are required to be healthy

Chinese nationals aged between 30 and 45 who are permanent residents of the SAR with a doctoral degree and have engaged themselves for at least three years in the research fields of medicine, biology, psychology, physics or chemistry, mechanical or electrical engineering, astronomy or other disciplines.

**"The development of space science and technology will bring about numerous exciting frontier scientific research"**

JOSEPH HUN-WEI LEE  
MUST PRESIDENT

Hailing the selection as a historic opportunity for Macau, Lee said Macau should increase investments on science and research, further enhance cooperation with the Chinese mainland in this regard and better tap Macau's advantages as an international platform to train more scientists and engineers.

"The development of space

science and technology will bring about numerous exciting frontier scientific research," Lee said, adding that the MUST hopes to engage in cross-disciplinary space research such as stem cell experiments, biological research of microgravity and research on materials.

As early as in 2005, the MUST started to participate in data analysis and research of China's lunar exploration program, later carried out wide cooperation with top-notch national-level science and research institutes.

In 2018, the Ministry of Science and Technology approved the establishment of the State Key Laboratory of

Lunar and Planetary Sciences in the MUST. It represented the first state key laboratory specializing in the field of astronomy and planetary sciences in China.

In recent years, the MUST has taken part in several major national deep space exploration projects, fostering a competitive team of young researchers. **MDT/XINHUA**

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## Gov't reminds guardians of new zip-line guidelines following accident

ANTHONY LAM

**G**UARDIANS and parents should refrain from giving their children a push on the new zip-line facility installed at the Main Reservoir Promenade, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) warned.

An area near the Macao Water Treatment Plant on the promenade had earlier undergone a revamp and new facilities were installed, including a children's zip-line that has the user seated about a meter above ground while sliding from one side to the other.

The area was reopened for public use October 1.

On Tuesday, however, a boy was injured while playing on the facility, leading to operations being suspended for over an hour. At about 6:40 p.m. the same evening, the suspension was lifted, and



the facility reopened.

Paramedics found the boy bleeding with fractures to his forehead. He remained conscious after the accident and was sent to the private Kiang Wu Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) noted that further investigations will be required to determine the cause of the accident.

Another parent has told a Radio Macau program that the parent's daughter was injured while playing on the zip-line.

Although as of press time the cause of the accident has not been announced, the IAM issued a statement to remind guardians and parents to be mindful of safety while their children are playing at the promenade, "with particular emphasis on the children's zip-line," as the statement noted.

The IAM pointed out that the zip-line facility uses a steady incline to allow players to move from one side to another. External force is not necessary to facilitate its operation.

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



# DSAL monitoring 'potential loophole' for TNR job promotions

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) is closely monitoring the Macau job market to ensure that the law is strictly observed in the promotion of non-resident workers (TNRs), the bureau said in reply to a Times inquiry.

DSAL cited Law No. 21/2009 - Law on Employment of Non-resident Workers, which states that "employers can only arrange for

non-residents to engage in occupational activities that they are permitted to engage in. Otherwise, the employer's behavior constitutes an administrative violation [punishable] by a fine that ranges from 5,000 to 10,000 patacas per employee." The bureau added:

"If employers intend to transfer or promote a non-skilled TNR to a professional skill [job category], they must submit an application to this bureau together with relevant documents, such as the TNR's

academic qualifications and professional qualifications for holding the position. [Employers should also submit proof] that there are no other local workers in the company who could be promoted to the position [instead]. This bureau will make a comprehensive analysis [of all documentation] according to the law."

Although DSAL said that it examines all cases carefully and according to the regulations, the bureau also noted, "If employees

believe that their employment and labor rights have been harmed, or if they have learned of violations to the Law on the Employment of Non-resident Workers, [these employees] should report to the bureau [and the bureau will launch] investigations to protect the legitimate rights and interests of local employees."

The Times inquiry was prompted by reports published on social media as well as information from various sources indicating that

some local employers have been promoting TNRs to professional roles to preserve their TNR quotas for the renewal of blue cards.

Another source also told the Times that these workers were offered significantly lower salaries than those paid to locals who had previously filled the same post.

These practices are allegedly occurring in several sectors but are especially common in the hotel industry, food and beverage, and other service-related industries such as retail.

On the topic of the salary, DSAL also noted that the payment of different wages for the same position is an illegal practice noting that according to the same law (21/2009), "non-resident workers must be paid the same remuneration as local workers when they provide the same work. Therefore, when examining and approving applications for TNRs, this bureau will take into account the salary levels of the relevant industries and positions in the labor market, the salary levels of the positions offered and registered by the bureau as well as the salary levels of local and non-local employees applying for the same positions in the company."

DSAL also said that it will take into consideration other factors such as the size of the company, and will ensure that salaries are the same or similar to ones offered to local workers hired for identical or comparable roles.

Several lawmakers cited cases of employers exploiting this loophole allowing TNRs to be promoted in situations not considered by the labor laws. These lawmakers made inquiries to the government on behalf of the labor sector at the Legislative Assembly before the close of the legislative year on August 31.

## LABOR

# Unemployment rate rises to 5.5%

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE city's unemployment rate continues to rise as the city struggles through the fallout from the pandemic crisis that has caused a downturn in the local economy.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicates that the general unemployment rate (4.3%) and the unemployment rate of local residents (5.5%) for June-August 2022 rose 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points from the previous period (May-July 2022) respectively, a record high since 2008.

The downturn, according to the government, was also due to fresh graduates entering the labor



market.

The underemployment rate was 16.5%, up 3.1 per-

centage points.

A survey previously published by the Macao New

Chinese Youth Association (MNCYA) shows that a total of 47% of interviewed

residents were willing to accept non-permanent work (gig work). Flexible working hours, the ability to accumulate working experience and earn a higher income, were the main reasons cited.

Meanwhile, the labor force living in Macau totaled 379,200 and the labor force participation rate was 68.9%.

Total employment was 362,900 and the number of employed residents totaled 278,300, up 1,600 and 4,300 respectively from the previous period.

To combat the lack of employment, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) will hold the "Youth Career Expo in 2022" on October 8 to 9 at The Venetian Macao in cooperation with different industry institutes to provide more job opportunities to local residents.

Analyzed by industry,

employment in hotels, restaurants and similar activities and financial activities increased.

The number of the unemployed increased by 700 from the previous period to 16,300; the number of those seeking their first job went up by 600 to 2,000, with first job seekers as a proportion of the total unemployed rising by 3.3 percentage points to 12.0%. Among the unemployed searching for a new job, most of them were previously engaged in gaming and junket activities and in the construction sector.

The number of the underemployed increased by 12,000 from the previous period to 62,600, with the majority working in gaming and junket activities, hotels, restaurants and similar activities and retail trade.

ECONOMY

# HONG KONG SHARES SOAR 5%, LEADING ASIAN MARKET GAINS

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

**H**ONG Kong's share benchmark soared more than 5% yesterday as Asian shares tracked gains on Wall Street.

New Zealand's share benchmark rose 0.7% after its central bank hiked its benchmark interest rate to 3.5%, saying inflation remained too high and labor scarce. The half-point rate hike was the fifth in a row made by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand since February.

Statistics New Zealand said inflation was running at 7.3% and unemployment at 3.3%. The rate hike came on the same day the government announced its finances were in better shape than forecast.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong rose 5.3% to 17,988.86, catching up with gains elsewhere as markets reopened following a holiday Tuesday. Markets in mainland China remained closed for a holiday.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.3% in morning trading to 27,079.49. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 1.5% to 6,797.80. Shares in Australia got a boost after the Reserve Bank of Australia ordered a smaller-than-expected 25 basis points interest rate hike on Tuesday.

South Korea's Kospi added 0.6% in morning trading to 2,221.43.

Analysts said the latest data on South Korea's inflation may push the Bank of Korea to raise interest rates at its meeting set for next week, but such hikes were



expected to slow in pace as inflation is brought under control.

"We expect headline inflation to rise again in October. Gasoline prices will likely decline further, but city gas and power rates were raised at the beginning of October and fresh food prices will also probably rise ahead of winter," said a report by Robert Carnell, regional head of research Asia-Pacific at ING.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed more 2.8% to 30,316.32. The S&P 500

had its best day since May 2020 on Tuesday as the market clawed back more of the ground it lost over the past miserable several weeks. It surged 3.1% to 3,790.93.

Twitter surged 22.2% after Elon Musk said he would go ahead with his \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company, abandoning efforts to get out of the deal.

The Nasdaq composite climbed 3.3% to 11,176.41. Small company stocks also made solid gains, lifting the Russell 2000 ad-

vanced 3.9% to 1,775.77.

The two-day rally has hit markets as investors look for signs that central banks might ease up on aggressive rate hikes aimed at taming the hottest inflation in four decades. Australia's central bank made an interest rate hike that was smaller than previous ones.

In the U.S., a government report on job openings showed the number of available jobs in the U.S. plummeted in August compared with July. It's a sign

that businesses may pull back further on hiring and potentially cool chronically high inflation, which could allow the Federal Reserve to slow the pace of rate increases.

Investors are watching closely as central banks raise interest rates to make borrowing more difficult and slow economic growth to try to tame inflation. Investors are hoping that they will eventually ease off their aggressive rate hikes and the move by Australia's central bank is a hopeful sign for some.

Investors worry that the rate hikes, especially the increases from the Fed, could go too far in slowing growth and send economies into a recession. The Fed has already pushed its key overnight interest rate to a range of 3% to 3.25%, up from virtually zero as recently as March.

Economic growth is already slowing globally and the U.S. economy contracted during the first two quarters of the year, which is considered an informal signal of a recession.

Wall Street will get a more detailed look at the employment situation in the U.S. this week, with a report on hiring by private companies due out Wednesday, the latest tally of weekly applications for unemployment benefits on Thursday and the government's monthly jobs report for September on Friday.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell 34 cents to \$86.18 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It surged \$2.89 to 86.52 on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard for pricing, lost 30 cents to \$91.60 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar was nearly unchanged at 144.12 Japanese yen. The euro cost 99.72 cents, down from 99.87 cents. **MDT/AP**

DIRE STRAIT

# Taiwan vows to respond to China's 'military flight incursions'

**T**AIWAN'S minister yesterday said the island will respond to incursions into its airspace by Chinese warplanes and drones, but gave no details on specific actions.

Responding to questions from legislators, Chiu Kuo-cheng said China's newly aggressive stance had changed what Taiwan would define as a "first strike" that would necessitate a response.

China stepped up its military exercises, fired missiles into waters near Taiwan and sent warplanes across the dividing line in the

Taiwan Strait in response to an August visit to the island by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking American official to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

China denies the existence of the median line in the Formosa Strait and challenged established norms by firing missiles over Taiwan into Japan's exclusive economic zone.

"We initially said we do not make the first strike ... if they haven't done the first strike, which means firing a projectile or a missile," Chiu said. "But the situation has obviously changed."

Asked by legislator Lo Chih-cheng of the governing Democratic Progressive Party if an incursion into Taiwanese airspace by a Chinese warplane would count as a first strike, Chiu responded in the affirmative.

Taiwan has thus far responded to Chinese incursions into its air defense identification zone by issuing warnings, scrambling jets and activating anti-air missile defenses.

The growing frequency of such incursions has spurred a push in Taiwan to optimize its geographi-

cal advantages in resisting a much more powerful foe through asymmetrical warfare, such as the use of mobile weapons systems suited to repelling an invasion force.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also brought a new focus on China's vow to bring Taiwan under its control, by force if necessary.

Also yesterday, Deputy Economics Minister Chen Chern-chyi said the government was prepared to ensure adequate supplies of food, energy and other critical goods, including those crucial for the high-tech

manufacturing industry, in the event of Chinese aggression.

China's military drills in August were "largely seen as a rehearsal for a potential blockade of the island," a move that would spark a global financial crisis and by the U.S. law trigger a response from the U.S., Taiwan's chief ally.

"We have a system. We do inventory every month," Chen told lawmakers. "We will insure we have a certain period of stockpile in Taiwan, including food, including critical supply, minerals, chemicals and

energy of course."

Chen also said Taiwan was firm in safeguarding trade secrets and key national technologies and ensuring its top scientific talent is not poached by China. Export controls are in place to ensure Taiwanese products cannot be used in the Chinese military, he said, adding those measures were being constantly updated in consultation with allied nations and any loopholes were swiftly plugged.

"Those measures, we will implement very firmly," Chen said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Elementary school students find shelter near a building on their way to school soon after a report of North Korea's missile launch, in Misawa, Aomori prefecture, northern Japan

## KOREAS

# North sends missile soaring over Japan in escalation

HYUNG-JIN KIM,  
KIM TONG-HYUNG  
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, SEOUL

**N**ORTH Korea conducted its longest-ever weapons test Tuesday, a nuclear-capable ballistic missile that flew over Japan and could reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and beyond, forcing the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and halt trains.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries responded by launching fighter jets that fired weapons at a target off South Korea's west coast in a show of strength against North Korea.

The North Korean missile launch was its most provocative weapons demonstration this year, as it pushes to develop a fully fledged nuclear arsenal capable of threatening the U.S. mainland and its allies with the goal of wresting concessions from those countries, some experts say.

The United States, Britain, France, Albania, Norway and Ireland called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council. Diplomats said it is likely to be held today [Macau time], but it's not certain whether it will be open or closed.

North Korea has test-fired about 40 missiles over about 20 different launch events this year as its leader, Kim Jong Un, refuses

to return to nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

The United States strongly condemned North Korea's "dangerous and reckless decision" to launch what it described as a "long-range ballistic missile" over Japan.

"The United States will continue its efforts to limit (North Korea's) ability to advance its prohibited ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programs, including with allies and U.N. partners," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement.

South Korea and Japan earlier said the missile had an intermediate or longer range. If the launch involved a long-range missile, it could be a test of a weapon capable of targeting the U.S. homeland, some experts say.

### THE FIFTH ROUND IN TEN DAYS

The launch is the fifth round of weapons tests by North Korea in the past 10 days. The testing spree is an apparent response to two sets of military drills -- one between Washington and Seoul and the other involving Washington, Seoul and Tokyo -- off the Korean Peninsula's east coast last week.

North Korea regards such drills involving the United States as an invasion rehearsal. It was expected to react strongly this time because both exercises involved a

U.S. aircraft carrier, which North Korea views as more provocative.

Japanese authorities alerted residents in its northeastern regions to evacuate to shelters, in the first "J-alert" since 2017 when North Korea fired an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile twice over Japan in a span of weeks during a previous run of weapons tests.

Trains were suspended in the Hokkaido and Aomori regions until the government issued a notice that the North Korean missile appeared to have landed in the Pacific. In Sapporo city, the prefectural capital of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, subways were also temporarily halted, with stations packed with morning commuters.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters the launch "is a reckless act and I strongly condemn it."

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "reckless nuclear provocations" would meet a stern response from the South and the broader international community. His military separately warned that North Korea's repeated missile launches would deepen its international isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to bolster their deterrence capacities.

Later Tuesday, four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-15s conducted a joint strike drill

in which one of the South Korean planes fired two precision-guided Joint Direct Attack Munition bombs into an island target. The exercise was aimed at demonstrating the allies' ability to accurately strike North Korean targets with "overwhelming force," the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

According to South Korean and Japanese estimates, the North Korean missile fired from its northern province bordering China traveled 4,500-4,600 kilometers (2,800-2,860 miles) at a maximum altitude of 970-1,000 kilometers (600-620 miles). Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said that it landed in the Pacific about 3,200 kilometers (1,990 miles) off the northern Japanese coast and that there were no reports of damage to Japanese aircraft or ships.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said the missile flew farther than any other weapon fired by North Korea. Before Tuesday's launch, the 3,700-kilometer flight of a Hwasong-12 in 2017 was North Korea's longest. It has previously tested intercontinental ballistic missiles at steep angles so they flew shorter distances to avoid neighboring countries.

The missile's flight distance shows it has enough range to hit Guam, home to U.S. military bases that have sent advanced warplanes to the Korean Peninsula in shows of force during past pe-

riods of tension with North Korea. In 2017, North Korea threatened to make "an enveloping fire" near Guam with Hwasong-12 missiles amid rising animosities with the then-Trump administration.

North Korea last test-fired a Hwasong-12 missile in January. At the time, it said the launch was meant to verify the overall accuracy of the weapon.

### GUAM WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE

Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said this week's launch of a suspected Hwasong-12 missile would demonstrate a capacity that "truly places Guam within striking distance." He said North Korea likely wanted to confirm the missile's operational capabilities as it is being mass-produced.

Kim Dong-yub, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said North Korea could have tested the Hwasong-12 again, or even an intercontinental ballistic missile, closer to what would be a normal ballistic trajectory but shorter than its full range. If it was an ICBM, the purpose of the launch would be to test whether the warhead could survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric reentry, Kim said.

The missiles fired during the past four rounds of launches were short range and fell in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Those missiles are capable of hitting targets in South Korea.

Heo Tae-keun, South Korea's deputy minister of national defense policy, told lawmakers Tuesday that North Korea is preparing to test a new liquid-fueled ICBM and a submarine-launched ballistic missile, as well. He said North Korea also maintains a readiness to conduct a nuclear test in what would be its first such bomb detonation in five years and its seventh in total.

Last month, North Korea adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some cases, a move that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine. Saturday, Yoon warned of a "resolute, overwhelming response" from South Korean and U.S. militaries if North Korea uses nuclear weapons.

Some foreign experts say North Korea needs to master a few remaining technologies to acquire functioning nuclear-armed missiles. Each new test pushes it closer to being able to reach the U.S. mainland and its allies with a host of missiles of varying range.

Some experts say North Korean leader Kim will eventually will return to diplomatic talks and use his enlarged arsenal to pressure Washington to accept his country as a nuclear state, a recognition he thinks is necessary to win the lifting of international sanctions and other concessions. **MDT/AP**

GLOBAL ECONOMY

# OPEC+ weighs large oil cutback to boost sagging prices

DAVID MCHUGH,  
FRANKFURT

**T**HE OPEC+ alliance of oil-exporting countries yesterday will debate a potentially large cut in the amount of crude it ships to the global economy — a move that could help Russia weather a looming European ban on oil imports and raise gasoline prices for U.S. drivers just ahead of national midterm elections.

Energy ministers from the OPEC cartel, whose leading member is Saudi Arabia, and allied non-members including Russia are meeting in person at the group's Vienna headquarters for the first time since early 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A production cut could benefit Russia by establishing higher prices ahead of a European Union ban on most Russian oil imports, a sanction over the invasion of Ukraine that takes effect at the end of the year, analysts at Commerzbank say.

Russia "will need to find new buyers for its oil when the EU embargo comes into force in early December and will presumably have to make further price concessions to do so," the analysts wrote in a note. "Higher prices beforehand — boosted by production cuts elsewhere — would therefore doubtless be very welcome."

Moscow also faces a separate push by the U.S. and the other Group of Seven wealthy democracies to impose a price cap on Russian oil by Dec. 5. The EU agreed yesterday on new sanctions that are expected to include a price cap on Russian oil, an EU official said.

Oil prices surged this summer as markets worried about the loss of Russian supplies from sanctions over the war in Ukraine, but they slipped as fears about recessions in major economies and China's COVID-19 restrictions weighed on demand for crude.

The fall in oil prices has been a boon to U.S. drivers, who saw lower gasoline prices at the pump before costs recently started ticking up, and for U.S. President Joe Biden as his Democratic Party

AP PHOTO



gears up for congressional elections next month.

It's unclear how much impact a production cut would have on oil prices — and thus gasoline prices — because members are already unable to meet the quotas set by OPEC+. Yet Saudi Arabia may be unwilling to strain its relationship with Russia even if the world's largest oil exporter had any reservations about cutbacks and has recently drawn leaders from Biden to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to talk about energy supplies.

The Commerzbank analysts said a small trim would likely see oil prices fall further, while the group would need to remove at least 500,000 barrels day from the market to bolster prices.

Such a production cut "would undoubtedly signal to the market the determination and resolve of the cartel to support oil prices," said UniCredit economist Edoardo Campanella. But supply would drop by less than announced.

"If the group cuts target production by 1 million barrels per day, actual output would likely drop by about 550,000 barrels per day — as countries like Russia or

Nigeria that are producing below quota would see their formal target decline but remaining above what they can currently produce," Campanella said.

At its last meeting in September, the group reduced the amount of oil it produces by 100,000 barrels a day in October. That token cut didn't do much to boost lower oil prices, but it put markets on notice that OPEC+ was willing to act if prices kept falling.

International benchmark Brent has sagged as low as \$84 in recent days after spending most of the the summer months over \$100 per barrel. U.S. oil prices fell below \$80 per barrel Friday. Ahead of the meeting, U.S. crude traded at \$86.38 and Brent at \$91.66.

The White House declined to comment before OPEC leaders made a final decision on oil production, but press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday that the U.S. would not extend releases from its strategic reserve to increase global supplies.

"We're not considering new releases," Jean-Pierre said.

Biden has tried to receive credit for gasoline prices

falling from their average June peak of \$5.02 — with administration officials highlighting a late March announcement that a million barrels a day would be released from the strategic reserve for six months. High inflation is a fundamental drag on Biden's approval and has dampened Democrats' chances in the midterm elections.

Gasoline prices recently turned up because of refinery outages in California and Ohio, and vary widely, from over \$6 per gallon in California to under \$3 in some parts of Texas and the Gulf Coast, according to motoring club federation AAA. The national average of \$3.80 is up slightly but down from a record high on June 14.

One major factor weighing on oil prices has been fears of recessions in places like the U.S. and Europe and slowdowns due to China's strict COVID-19 measures.

Higher inflation is sapping consumer purchasing power, while central banks are raising interest rates to cool off overheating prices, a step that could slow economic growth. Oil prices at their summer highs, and higher natural gas prices boosted by Russian cutbacks to Europe, helped fuel inflation. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 2000 MILOSEVIC QUILTS, STREET CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE



Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has resigned, following mounting pressure to quit over allegations of vote-rigging.

The Yugoslav Constitutional Court, which only yesterday morning annulled the 24 September presidential elections, now admits Vojislav Kostunica was the true winner.

The Yugoslav army has also publicly withdrawn its support for Mr Milosevic, allaying opponents' fears he might still be able to stage a military comeback.

Mr Kostunica met the former president who is reported to have shaken his hand and congratulated him on his victory.

Mr Milosevic's resignation was officially declared to the Yugoslav people in a televised address at 2230 local time.

Standing before a Yugoslav flag, he wished "success to all citizens of Yugoslavia", and spoke of his intention to spend time with his family.

But he appeared defiant in the face of those happy to see the back of him when he said he would eventually help his party regain force and "contribute to future prosperity".

Yesterday it is estimated over half a million Serbs descended on the capital of Belgrade in a protest against election rigging that ended in Mr Milosevic's capitulation.

Tonight many were still on the streets celebrating what has so far been a relatively peaceful transition.

Mr Kostunica has urged the Serbian people to drive Mr Milosevic away, but "not with the violence with which he used on us for so many years".

Already, war crimes investigators are pressing for Mr Milosevic's immediate extradition to the Hague to face trial for war crimes.

Speaking in Kosovo, Carla Del Ponte Chief Prosecutor, War Crimes Tribunal said:

"I truly believe that this is the only solution if there is to be a true and lasting peace in the Balkans and if the people of Yugoslavia are to enjoy a democratic existence."

But in Belgrade, ordinary Serbs for the present are more interested in rebuilding their lives after years of economic hardship and war.

Asked what should happen to Mr Milosevic now that he was no longer in power, one woman simply said:

"Actually for me I don't care about him. I care about me, my family and my future."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Mr Milosevic was extradited to the Hague in 2001. He is the first head of state to be tried at the International Criminal Court.

He was put on trial for war crimes in Kosovo, Croatia and Bosnia, and for genocide in Bosnia. Serbia's economy was crippled by nearly 10 years of war and sanctions. It was politically isolated until Milosevic was ousted from power.

Milosevic was Yugoslav president for 13 years during which time he espoused a passionate brand of ethnic Serb nationalism.

Some 250,000 people died in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war and about 20,000 people lost their lives in the 1991 Croatian war.

Milosevic died in a cell at the UN War Crimes Tribunal before the court reached its final verdict.

The post mortem examination revealed he had died of a heart attack. His supporters claimed it had been triggered by the wrong medication.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
You'll find it easy to deal with government agencies or large institutions. Deceit with coworkers is apparent. Exercise programs will be effective.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
You can make progress if you deal with the right individuals. You will enjoy getting together with friends. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Take the time to help old friends or relatives who have had a stroke of bad luck.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Love and romance are evident. Children may be difficult to handle. If you can't get ahead in the company you're with, perhaps it's time to move on.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
You might just as well let others do their own thing. Don't get intimately involved with a coworker. You can't help everyone.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Take a look at your legal position. Try not to be too emotional with those around you. Take time to find out all you can. Don't share your dilemma with those you work with.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. Partnerships may be strained if one of you has been erratic and hard to deal with. Elders may get you going today.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag. Problems with financial investments could make you nervous.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Be cautious who you deal with financially. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. This will not be the best day to sign deals or to take care of other people's financial matters.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

  

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	4	17	fine
Changchun	-1	10	fine
Chengdu	16	19	overcast
Chongqing	20	22	overcast
Fuzhou	24	29	overcast
Guangzhou	24	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	19	27	cloudy
Haikou	24	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	18	21	overcast
Harbin	0	8	cloudy
Hefei	11	13	rain
Nanjing	12	15	rain
Shanghai	18	21	rain
Taipei	25	28	cloudy
Wuhan	12	16	rain
Hong Kong	27	31	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	9	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	4	19	overcast
Paris	7	19	clear
London	13	19	overcast
New York	14	23	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Former seaport in W Israel; 6- For one; 10- Take down \_\_\_; 14- Of a pelvic bone; 15- Baths; 16- Kemo \_\_\_; 17- Shield; 18- Warner \_\_\_; 19- Party-thrower; 20- Old verb ending; 21- Chicago's airport; 23- Actor's parts; 24- Short literary composition; 26- Biblical brother; 27- Still; 29- Whoopi's role in "The Color Purple"; 31- Baby's cry; 32- Female horses; 33- Canonized Mle.; 36- Typical instance; 40- Diarist Anais; 41- Chair designer Charles; 42- Against; 43- Siouan speakers; 44- Equipped with pinions; 46- Gillette razors; 48- Model airplane wood; 49- Be of use to; 50- Pen's inferior, they say; 52- Back talk; 55- Roundish projection; 56- Muffin topper; 57- In unison; 59- Six-stringed instrument; 60- Folk singer Joan; 61- Category; 62- Flurries; 63- New Year's word; 64- Enthusiastic;

**DOWN** 1- Swing music; 2- Got off; 3- Anglers; 4- \_\_\_ Schwarz; 5- Beyond; 6- In check; 7- Run smoothly; 8- It's blown among the reeds; 9- Letter addenda; 10- On solid ground; 11- Painter Uccello; 12- Clampett player; 13- Understands; 22- Haberdashery item; 23- Mikhail's wife; 25- Thin stratum; 26- One of the Baldwins; 27- Traditional prayer ending; 28- Cab; 29- Sidewalk eateries; 30- Greek goddess of strife; 32- Silent performer; 33- Songfest; 34- Carry; 35- The wife of Geraint in Arthurian lore; 37- Corolla part; 38- Neighbor of Cambodia; 39- License plates; 43- Projecting windows; 44- Automotive vehicle; 45- Methuselah's claim to fame; 46- Evade; 47- Forbidden; 48- Alcoholic drink; 49- Thomas Edison's middle name; 50- Kill; 51- "Pure Guava" band; 53- As to; 54- Jury member; 56- Delivery room docs; 58- Lunar plain;

**Friday's solution**

W	A	C	O	S	L	A	M	P	S	I	
E	L	A	M	A	E	S	O	P	N	A	P
N	O	R	A	P	O	P	P	I	A	B	E
T	U	R	N	I	S	E	R	E	N	A	D
I	F	H	E	S	E	E	K				
T	A	D	A	I	R	S	L	I	E	S	T
E	T	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	N	E	E
E	L	E	V	E	C	L	A	T	O	R	N
N	A	D	I	A	T	R	E	P	E	E	J
A	S	S	E	R	T	S	E	L	L	E	S
C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	C	A	R	T
A	M	I	A	P	L	A	Z	A	H	A	S
P	A	L	M	O	T	O	E	S	C	A	S
E	N	E		I	S	N	T	E	T	T	

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Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Inter beats Barça; Napoli, Bayern win big

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

**B**ARCELONA'S high-powered attack faltered against Inter Milan and the Italian club gained an edge in the battle for second place in their Champions League group yesterday [Macau time], while Bayern Munich and Napoli continued to impress and Club Brugge earned a surprising third straight victory.

Inter defeated Barcelona 1-0 at home to move into position to grab the second qualifying spot in Group C, which is led by Bayern Munich after it comfortably defeated Viktoria Plze 5-0 to set record of 31 straight matches unbeaten in the competition's group stage.

Napoli impressed with a 6-1 win at Ajax, while Belgian champion Club Brugge also kept a perfect record with a home victory against Atlético Madrid, which saw Antoine Griezmann miss a penalty kick.

Liverpool picked up its second win by beating Rangers 2-0, while Porto earned its first victory by defeating Bayern Leverkusen by the same score.

A moment of silence was held before all matches in memory of the victims of the stadium tragedy in Indonesia.

## INTER 1, BARCELONA 0

Hakan Çalhanoğlu scored the winner in first-half stoppage time to give Inter the win over Barcelona and sole possession of second place in the group dominated by Bayern.

Inter prevailed as its defense successfully contained striker Robert Lewandowski and Barcelona's attack, which had outscored opponents 24-4 in nine matches.

Barcelona loudly complained after it had a goal disallowed by a handball and was then denied a penalty for another handball by Inter in stoppage time.

"I'm mad because it wasn't fair," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez (right) and teammate Edin Dzeko celebrate at the end of a win over Barça

said. "We don't understand anything. The referee needs to explain what happened publicly."

The victory eased some of the pressure on Inter coach Simone Inzaghi after the team's poor start to the season.

Inter now faces Barcelona at the Camp Nou in the next round. The Catalan club is three points behind Inter and six behind Bayern.

## BAYERN 5, V. PLZEŇ, 0

With the home victory over Plze, Bayern surpassed a 30-match unbeaten run set by Real Madrid in the group stage of the Champions League between 2012-17.

Bayern, which got two goals from Leroy Sané, also hasn't lost at home in Europe's premier competition since a 3-2 defeat to Manchester City in 2013. It has won 25 games and drawn one in Munich since then.

Bayern played without Thomas Müller and Joshua Kimmich because of coronavirus infections.

## AJAX 1, NAPOLI 6

Napoli kept up its momentum by handing Ajax its worst ever European defeat, surpassing its 5-1 loss to Bayern

Munich in 1980.

"It was a difficult, painful evening for us. Not worthy of Ajax," said the Dutch team's coach, Alfred Schreuder.

Napoli has now scored 13 goals in three Group A matches this Champions League campaign. It leads Serie A, where it also remains unbeaten.

Liverpool stayed close in the group by reaching six points after defeating Rangers at home with goals by Trent Alexander-Arnold and Mohamed Salah. It was Liverpool's second consecutive European win after defeating Ajax and losing to Napoli in the group opener.

Ajax stayed third with three points, while Rangers had zero.

## BRUGGE 2, ATLETICO M 0

Club Brugge's dream run in the Champions League continued with the win over Atlético for an unprecedented third straight victory to start the group stage.

Ferran Jutglà scored a goal and added an assist as the Belgian club moved six points in front of all other teams in Group B.

It was the second consecutive loss in the European competition for

Atlético, which dropped to last place after Porto picked up its first poin-

ts with a 2-0 win against Bayer Leverkusen, which missed a penalty kick.

## MARSEILLE 4, SPORTING 1

After not scoring in two opening losses in Group D, Marseille ended Sporting's perfect record with some help by the visiting goalkeeper's blunders in a 4-1 win.

Antonio Adan made mistakes on the first two goals and was shown a 23rd-minute red card for handling the ball outside his area.

Sporting, looking for its third straight win, had opened the scoring in the first minute. The Portuguese side still leads the group with six points, two more than Tottenham and Eintracht, which drew 0-0 in Germany.

The game in Marseille, played without fans because of fan trouble last month, was delayed by more than 20 minutes after the bus carrying the visiting team's players was caught in traffic and arrived late at the at the Velodrome stadium. MDT/AP



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**FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS**

OPINION

China Daily

Dong Chuan, China Daily\*

RED TOURISM GROWING  
IN POPULARITY

“Red tourism”, a subset of tourism in which people visit locations and memorials of historical significance to the Communist Party of China, has given a much-needed shot in the arm of the domestic tourism industry in summer. And many believe red tourism will bloom further during the National Day Golden Week holiday.

Ticket bookings for red tourism sites in June increased by five times month-on-month on Ctrip, China’s leading travel service platform, with local and short trips to red tourism sites being the choice of about 88 percent of such tourists. And the search for the term “red tourism” on Mafengwo, a Chinese travel service and social-networking platform, increased by 300 percent during the summer holidays.

Red tourism is not only about the joy of visiting a new place and taking in the wonderful sights. It is also about gaining knowledge about history and being inspired by the stories of the people who contributed to the founding of the People’s Republic in 1949 and worked for the wellbeing of the Chinese people.

By rediscovering history and passing on the stories of the Chinese revolution and its heroes to the next generations, people can uplift their spirit.

Red tourism can also be used as a leverage to revitalize rural areas because most of the revolutionary bases and red tourism sites are in the countryside. By exploiting such sites to raise the incomes of rural residents, the authorities can create a new driving force for integrated rural development. Since red tourism is a labor-intensive sector involving catering, accommodation, entertainment and other related businesses, which creates jobs and helps increase farmers’ incomes, it can boost local development.

Ctrip data show that in the first half of 2022, more than 30 percent of all tourists visited red tourism sites in rural areas, which was 10 percent more than the previous year. Yet red tourism faces certain developmental problems, mainly because some local government officials have failed to make the best use of red tourism resources for economic development.

In fact, some local departments have adopted a cavalier attitude toward research, restoration and conservation of former revolutionary bases. Disputes over resources, projects and ownership between different departments and jurisdictions are not uncommon either, owing to the lack of unified planning. Superficial descriptions of some historical figures, organizations and past events at different red tourism sites lessen the importance of the sites and leave visitors flabbergasted.

To better develop red tourism, local governments also need to build infrastructure that merges with the surroundings and is coherent with the red tourism sites in rural areas. Improving supporting infrastructure and services including ensuring uninterrupted water and electricity supply, and providing smooth transport and telecommunication services will make the red tourism sites in the countryside even more attractive.

While the historical and spiritual value of red tourism should be highlighted with the help of scholars and experts, the management and staff training at tourism sites should be strengthened. For example, tourism officials should conduct on-the-spot investigation and learn from well-run sites to improve their own services.

Red tourism sites also need more professional planning. The tourism authorities, for instance, could consider integrating cross-regional and cross-provincial sites associated with the Long March and the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) to better develop red tourism. They could also consider developing a “red plus tourism model” based on local conditions and by incorporating local characteristics to enrich the experience of tourists.

And while digital technology can be used to offer virtual tours and panoramic displays of red tourism sites to the people and new media platforms can help promote and market derivative products, supportive policies are needed to ensure the steady and healthy development of red tourism.

\*The author is deputy director of the international exchanges office at Beijing Language and Culture University.

Solomon Islands agreed to sign an accord between the United States and more than a dozen Pacific nations only after indirect references to China were removed, the Solomon Islands foreign minister said.

“There were some references that put us in a position where we’ll have to choose sides, and we did not want to be placed in a position where we have to choose sides,” Jeremiah Manele told reporters in Wellington.

His remarks represented the first time Solomon Islands has publicly acknowledged it had initial concerns about the agreement and ex-

pressed why it had a change of heart.

The accord was signed in Washington last week, with President Joe Biden telling visiting Pacific leaders that the U.S. was committed to bolstering its presence in the region and becoming a more collaborative partner.

The administration pledged the U.S. would add \$810 million in new aid for Pacific Island nations over the next decade. The summit came amid growing U.S. concern about China’s military and economic influence in the Pacific.



Men weep as they offer prayer outside Kanjuruhan Stadium where a soccer stampede killed more than 100 people on Saturday, in Malang, East Java

INDONESIAN LEADER  
SAYS LOCKED GATES  
CONTRIBUTED TO DEATHS

AGOES BASOEKI,  
MALANG

INDONESIA’S President Joko Widodo said yesterday that locked gates had contributed to the crush at the soccer stadium that left 131 dead and over 400 injured when police fired tear gas and set off a panicked run for the exits.

Widodo made the statement after touring the Kanjuruhan soccer stadium in East Java’s Malang city for a first-hand look at the scene of one of the world’s deadliest disasters at a sporting event. He also visited the victims recovering at Saiful Anwar General Hospital and pledged a thorough investigation into what had transpired on Saturday night.

Police continued to insist that the gates were open but were too narrow and could only accommodate two people at a time when hundreds were trying to escape.

Indonesia’s national soccer association said that because of a lack of workers, only a few people were ordered to open the gates, and they had not yet reached some doors when spectators began rushing to escape tear gas fired

by police in an attempt to control fans who had entered the pitch.

Police acted after some of the 42,000 Arema FC fans ran onto the field in anger after their team was defeated 3-2, its first loss at home against visiting Persebaya Surabaya in 23 years.

“As an illustration, I saw the problem was there are locked doors, steep stairs and panic,” Widodo said in a news conference. “But all of this will be concluded later by an inquiry team.”

Widodo said that he spoke by phone with FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Monday to brief him on the investigation. They also discussed Indonesia’s preparations in hosting the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Widodo said that Infantino ensured him that “FIFA is ready to help us to improve our football management.”

“I think we really need a total evaluation of our entire football management of the matches, stadiums, spectators, time and security,” he said. “So that this stadium disaster will never occur again.”

According to recommendations by FIFA and

the Asian Football Confederation, exits at stadiums must be unlocked at all times during a game for safety purposes. Those rules don’t necessarily apply to domestic or national leagues but nevertheless are a safety standard, as is the recommendation against the use of tear gas as a crowd-control measure.

The deaths at the stadium included 17 children while 440 people were injured. At least 61 remained in the hospital as of yesterday, 29 of them in critical condition.

Widodo ordered that the injured are given the best medical treatment and said the government will pay their bills. He also said the government will provide 50 million rupiah (\$3,300) to each family that lost their loved ones.

Several institutions and the East Java provincial administration will give an additional compensation of between 10 million and 15 million rupiah (\$650 and \$1,000) to each of the victims’ families.

The Football Association of Indonesia has banned Arema from hosting any matches attended by its supporters in Malang until next year. MDT/AP

**Afghanistan** A suicide bomber struck at the center of Taliban power yesterday, setting off a blast at a government ministry building in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing at least two people, a Taliban official said. The afternoon explosion went off inside the mosque of Afghanistan’s Interior Ministry, which is responsible for security and law enforcement in the country.



**European Union**

countries agreed yesterday to impose a price cap on Russian oil and other new sanctions after Moscow illegally annexed four regions in Ukraine amid its monthslong war, EU officials said. Diplomats struck the deal in Brussels that also includes curbs on EU exports of aircraft components to Russia and limits on steel imports from the country, according to an official statement from the Czech rotating EU presidency.

**Russian** President Vladimir Putin signed laws that claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russia’s territory while his country’s military struggled yesterday to control the illegally annexed areas. The documents finalizing the annexation, carried out in violation of international laws, were published on a Russian government website. In a defiant move, the Kremlin held the door open for further land grabs in Ukraine.



**Serbian** special police raided a makeshift camp near the border with Hungary and detained alleged people smugglers found there yesterday along with weapons, money and about 200 migrants. The police operation by the Tisa River came two days after the governments of Serbia, Hungary and Austria agreed to take joint action to curb an increased arrival of migrants into their countries.