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AP PHOTO



Myanmar's military-controlled government announced yesterday it was releasing and deporting an Australian academic, a Japanese filmmaker, an ex-British diplomat and an American as part of a broad prisoner amnesty marking the country's National Victory Day. Australian Sean Turnell, Japan's Toru Kubota, Briton Vicky Bowman, and American Kyaw Htay Oo, as well as 11 local Myanmar celebrities, were among a total of 5,774 prisoners who were being released, Myanmar's state-run MRTV reported.

AP PHOTO



Australia Below the turquoise waters off the coast of Australia is one of the world's natural wonders, an underwater rainbow jungle teeming with life that scientists say is showing some of the clearest signs yet of climate change. The Great Barrier Reef, battered but not broken by climate change impacts, is inspiring hope and worry alike, as researchers race to understand how it can survive a warming world. Authorities are trying to buy the reef time by combining ancient knowledge with new technology.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine Russian airstrikes targeted Ukraine's energy facilities again yesterday as the first snow of the season fell in Kyiv, a harbinger of the hardship to come if Moscow's missiles continue to take out power and gas plants as winter descends. The United Nations announced the extension of a deal to ensure exports of grain and fertilizers from Ukraine that were disrupted by the war.

More on backpage

GP69

BACK ON TRACK



After two editions marred by high pandemic controls, the Macau Grand Prix is roaring back on Guia circuit, not in full steam, but with a taste of the good-old-days with the participation of some top international racers

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AP PHOTO



WORLD CUP 2022

KICK OFF QATAR

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SANDS CHINA FORMULA 4 GP

CHANG LEADS PACK ON DAY ONE

RENATO MARQUES

As expected, the first day of free practice sessions for the Formula 4 (F4) race of the Macau Grand Prix (GP) resulted in the four favorites being ranked in the first four timesheet positions.

After an almost nonexistent first session yesterday morning in which a major incident at the Mandarin Bend caused a red flag, in the second free practice session Macau's Andy Chang took the lead by clocking a lap at 2:30.138.

Chang was only 0.088 of a second faster than another of the contenders for the ultimate win, Hong Kong's Gerrard Xie.

Placing in third was the two-time winner of the F4 race, Macau's Charles Leong just 0.150 of a second away from Chang.

After the second session, whi-

ch was also interrupted midway by another crash, the front runners expressed some disappointment for the very little track time, noting that no one had yet been able to perform their best.

The morning's FP1 session was impossible to resume in time and therefore completely ruined, as GP marshals and other marshal posts staff had to remove the crashed car and debris from the track. They also cleaned and dried the asphalt from all the spilt fluids in this major collision with the barriers. Additionally, the barrier had to be fixed so the session ended without a single lap being completed.

Today the F4 cars will go on track at 9:50 a.m. for the first qualifying session and again at 2:15 p.m. for the second qualifying session that will establish the starting grid for tomorrow's Race 1.



Andy Chang

WYNN MACAU GUIA RACE - TCR ASIA CHALLENGE

Lo dominates first day

RENATO MARQUES

Lo Sze Ho at the wheel of a Hyundai i30N TCR was the fastest yesterday in both free practice sessions in this year's Guia race for touring cars, running under the banner of the TCR Asia Challenge.

The Hong Kong driver dominated both sessions, closing the second yesterday afternoon with the best time of 2:33.679. He was 1.244 seconds faster than Macau's Billy Lo in an Audi RS3 in a troubled session that ended prematurely due to an already world-famous car pileup.

This time the mega crash, involving many cars, happened at Faraway Hill bend in an area with a very tight turn and no visibility from those coming downhill from the Solitude Esses.

Before that, Lo had already been showing dominance throughout the day, topping the ti-



Lo Sze Ho

mesheet of the FP1 session and doing the same on FP2.

In the first session, Lo was seconded by another Hong Kong driver, Andy Yan, in a Honda Civic Type R (FK7) who then dropped to third on FP2. The third best on FP1 was local driver Filipe de Souza in an Audi RS3 LMS TCR. Souza eventually dropped down the table to the seventh position on FP2 due mainly to the performance of two mainland drivers Huang Ruohan and Hu Heng, both competing in Audis

RS3 LMS TCR.

The second practice session also brought up another Hong Kong driver, Jason Mok in a Honda Civic Type R (FK2) who finished the session in fourth position.

Still, until now, Lo has been much faster when compared to the followers with some 4.3 seconds separating the top 5.

The Wynn Macau Guia Race - TCR Asia Challenge goes on track today between 1:20 and 2 p.m. for two consecutive qualifying sessions.

GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT MACAU GT CUP

IMPERATORI SURPRISES BEATING QUARTET OF CHAMPIONS, FOR NOW

RENATO MARQUES

The talent of Swiss-born Hong Kong resident Alexandre Imperatori has been well-known for many years as is his experience of the Guia circuit. Still, not many would have guessed that Imperatori would come out on top after the first two practice sessions of the Macau GT Cup race.

Placing fourth in the first session with the best time of 2:20.911, Imperatori surprised everyone by leading the timesheet after the second session that took place yesterday evening.

The Toro Racing driver, at the wheel of a Porsche 911 GT3 R clocked a 2:18.760 on the last of nine laps during the FP2, beating the until-then leader of the timesheets Edoardo Mortara by 0.031 of a second.

Mortara, back at the wheel of an Audi, had dominated the earlier ses-



Alexandre Imperatori

sion with the best time of 2:19.841 and although he also improved on the FP2 by over 1 second, it was not enough to beat Imperatori on the first day.

Behind this duo came three Mercedes-AMG GT3s driven by Maro Engel, Raffaele Marciello, and Darryl O'Young respectively. They completed the top 5, with Imperatori leading the quartet of former champions of this race.

Of note is that, between

the top 5, there is a gap of less than 1 second with O'Young currently within 0.977 of a second of Imperatori's best time.

More close action is expected today when the GT3 cars go on the track to contest the two qualifying sessions.

The first is scheduled to start at 10:35 a.m. while the last will be closing the program Friday with an expected starting time of 4:30 p.m.

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RENATO MARQUES

MOTORCYCLE GP

YESTERDAY, the Finn Erno Kostamo confirmed that he is in a good position to win the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix (GP) this year.

During yesterday morning's free practice session, Kostamo made the most laps of Guia track (a total of 17), including the best lap of the session with a time of 2:31.069.

Although this was the best lap so far of the Motorcycle GP this year, the lap time exceeds by over 3 seconds the best lap of the first free practice session back in 2019, when Peter Hickman lapped around Guia in 2:28.007.

Still, it is an improvement for Kostamo who three years ago had recorded a 2:32.578 on this very same session.

Seconding Kostamo was the Brit Robert Hodson, another returning rider to Macau and also a contender who took his Kawasaki ZX10RR around the streets of Macau in 2:34.598, over 3.5 seconds slower than Kostamo.

The highlight of the day goes to the German David Datzler whose talents and results have placed him in the group of favorites. A newcomer to Macau, Datzler performed excellently in the first session, being the third fastest with the best time of 2:36.573. Still, he was some 5.5 seconds slower than Kostamo.

Two qualifying session schedules were held today: the first at 7:30 a.m.; and the second at 12:30 p.m. Each of these sessions are 30-minutes in duration and it is expected that after the first day of adjustment of riders and machines, the lap times will start to drop, drawing a clearer picture of who will be the main contenders in the races tomorrow.

Kostamo confirmed as favorite, faster on first session



MGM MTCC/CTCC

Huff sneaks between Lynk & Co armada

ZHANG Zhi Chiang from China has confirmed his credits and leads after the conclusion of the first day in the Macau Touring Car Cup (MTCC) race that, this year, changed its format to include cars running on the China Touring Car Championship (CTCC).

As a result of the change, the race is now mostly running cars with TCR touring car specifications that come from TCR China and Asia championships and others from CTCC with similar specifications.

Although Zhang is leading the timesheets as expected, the major

highlight is the return to Macau of the British racer Rob Huff, the most successful driver in touring cars around Macau who once again took the wheel of an MG to try to battle the Lynk & Co armada that has been dominating both the TCR China championship and the SAIC Lamando. They have a long history of success in the CTCC.

Driving a new MG5 XPower, Huff managed to finish yesterday in second place behind Zhang with a gap of just 0.097 of a second. David Zhu in another Lynk & Co 03 TCR closed the top 3. **RM**



MELCO GBA GT CUP

LUO LEADS GBA TROPHY

TORO Racing's Luo Kai Luo, at the wheel of a Mercedes-AMG GT4, leads the Greater Bay Area (GBA) trophy for GT4 and GTC specification cars.

After two practice sessions yesterday, Luo was the fastest with the best time of 2:33.925, leaving behind all competition and making this race the least contested of any in the Macau Grand Prix program this year.

Placing second behind Luo was Tang Chi Lun, also in a Mercedes-AMG GT4, but almost 5 seconds slower than Luo.

Xie An in yet another



Mercedes-AMG GT4 completed the top 3 but at some 5.754 seconds behind the first.

The best local contestant so far is Lei Kit Meng in a Ginetta G55 GT4 at

some 6.722 seconds from the lead.

The first day of this racing category event was so unbalanced that from a field of 28 cars, currently, nine are out of the race

classification time (115% of the best time) with the last positioned having a personal best lap at 3:45.895 seconds slower on one lap than the first runner. **RM**

SJM MACAU ROADSPORT CHALLENGE

LAMEIRAS LEADS A 35-STRONG FIELD

MACAU'S Luciano Lameiras is leading a 35-strong field for the Macau Roadsport Challenge. This race was the result of the merging of the previous Roadsport category for cars over 1,995cc with the former Macau Touring Car Cup for 1.6 turbo engine touring cars.

Lameiras, in his Mitsubishi Evolution 9, left competitors behind as he clocked a best lap in 2:37.155 at the third of only four laps completed in the FP2 session.

Behind Lameiras placed another local racer - Chu



Hui Fong - in yet another Evo 9 but at 0.860 seconds of the first.

In reality, in the first eight positions, we can find seven Evo 9 cars and one Evo 10. We need to scroll down the list to the ninth position to find the first 1.6-turbo car,

a Peugeot RCZ driven by Ip Tak Meng that has a personal best lap 11.4 seconds slower than Lameiras.

Similarly to what happens in the Greater Bay Area GT Cup, there is currently a very large number of racers who are at risk of

being excluded from the races for not being able to reach a lap time within 115% of the best time. A total of 13 racers are currently in this situation, which would reduce the field to just 22 cars on the grid for race 1 Saturday and race 2 Sunday. **RM**

ANTHONY LAM

THREE shopping festivals will be held near year-end with the 12th Macau Shopping Festival partnering with Chinese travel app Ctrip to boost consumption.

As introduced by the organizing body, this year the festival will exclusively collaborate with tourism promotion platform Ctrip Global Shopping and launch certain campaigns. To enjoy privileges offered during the festival, totaled to over MOP 26 million in monetary value, consumers will be required to log in to the app and obtain e-coupons each day.

Although the organizing body comprises local financial institutions Bank of China (Macau) Ltd., ICBC (Macau) Ltd. and Macau Pass, it was not confirmed that they will run their own shopping privileges.

Timed alongside the Macau Consumer Carnival and organized by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED), the festival is expected to positively effect the local economic recovery by stimulating consumption, the organizing body added.

Meanwhile, this weekend will see the second A+ Child Education, Baby and Mommy Products Expo, as well as the 15th X'mas Shopping Festival on the first weekend in December at the Ma-

SHOPPING EVENTS TO BOOST SALES AS YEAR NEARS CLOSURE



cau Tower. The event organizer wants to create synergies with the Macau Food Festival, which is organized until December 4 off

from the Macau Tower.

The organizer of the parenting product expo will host several competitions for parents and in-

fants to have photo opportunities, besides elevating the atmosphere of the event. Lucky draws will also be hosted to give away

message chairs to winners.

ICBC (Macau) Ltd. will be a partner of the event. Its November-born clients will automatically get pastry coupons. In addition, November-born persons under the age of 11 will also be gifted with pastry coupons. The organizer stressed that coupons will be given on first-come-first-served basis.

The Christmas event, on the other hand, will have a festive mood and highlight products that are good for celebrations.

The two events will see nearly 100 companies setting up 150 booths.

TOURISM OFFICIAL CONFIDENT IN ARRIVALS

Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference, Nick Hoi, deputy director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), reiterated his confidence in tourism arrivals.

He hoped the events that will be held over the last two months will bring the daily arrival count to 20,000.

Further promotions targeting non-Guangdong mainland visitors will be conducted as Air Macau has reported growing numbers of flights and passengers from these origins.

Hoi added the Covid-19 situation is the current glitch in the resumption of group tours from mainland China.

Heritage monitor center opens in compliance with UNESCO standards

ANTHONY LAM

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has formally opened the Macao World Heritage Monitoring Centre to comply with UNESCO and national standards on cultural heritage conservation.

Computerized mechanisms will be introduced to the centre for daily monitoring of the conditions of local cultural heritage.

At a previous Cultural Heritage Committee meeting, it was disclosed that the centre, which is located in an IC premises at No. 5-7, Rua de Sanches de Miranda, will monitor the conditions of the city's 22 architectural structures and eight plazas.

Data will be collected from a wide range of sources, such as the weather bureau, the pollution bureau and the tourism bureau, to evaluate the temperature, humidity



and tourist flow at the aforementioned sites.

Some members of the committee also suggested the use of the public surveillance system, administered by the police, for the supervision over cultural heritage sites.

Equipment was also installed at the sites to gather data.

In a statement released on the opening of the new centre, the IC said: "monitoring is an important means to understand

the overall protection and management status of the city's World Heritage sites, helping to track the trend of changes to certain elements with the passage of time, being therefore an important requirement in the international World Heritage Convention and a crucial topic in China's protection efforts for each heritage site."

Works on establishing the centre commenced in 2019, the IC revealed. The premises is housed

within a building that was once the headquarters of the anti-corruption commission prior to 1999.

The IC announced that, by formulating a monitoring plan for the Historic Centre of Macao that meets the needs of heritage protection, IC has standardized various technical specifications for heritage data collection for the further systematic and automatic monitoring of the World Heritage sites.

COVID-19

GOV'T REPORTS TWO NEW CASES LINKED TO ZHUHAI

AUTHORITIES reported two new Covid-19 cases yesterday involving residents of Zhuhai, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre has announced.

The first case is a 22-year-old resident of the mainland who works in an education center in Fai Chi Kei. She tested negative in two nucleic acid tests (NAT) on November 14 and 15 before testing positive yesterday.

She visited the express delivery area of the Gongbei underground mall in Zhuhai. This area is also linked to two of the recent cases.

The other case involved a 36-year-old mainland resident who lives in Zhuhai and

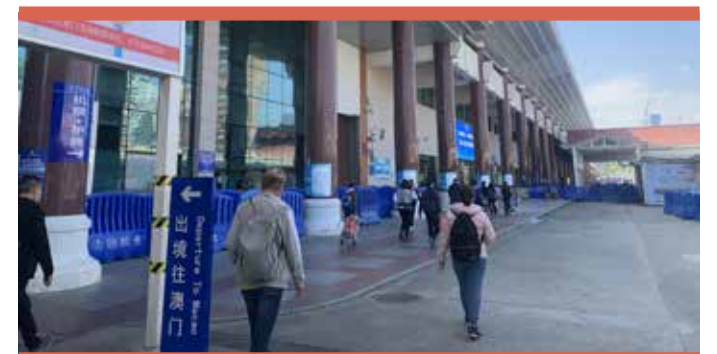
spends most of her time in the pharmacy run by her husband near the Border Gate.

She also tested negative on November 14 and 15, but tested positive yesterday.

Authorities have conducted sanitization works on places she visited such as the Areia Preta Government Service Building and the Public Administration Building in Rua do Campo.

Since Sunday, the city has recorded six cases.

The government has designated Broadway Hotel and Rocks Hotel for red-code holders as the city's policy requires medical observation for those considered close contacts of positive cases. **LV**



ANTHONY LAM

Macau film premieres at Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards

THE Macau film entry in this year's Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan has recently debuted to a full house, according to official images released.

Kissing the Ground You Walked On has garnered three nominations at the film awards. The three nominees are emerging film director Hong Heng Fai for Best New Director, audio technician Ellison Lau Chi Keong for Best Sound Effects and director of photography Charlie Sou Wai Kin for Best Cinematography.

To attend the inaugural screening and a subsequent sharing session, the nominees flew to Taipei and appeared before the audience in person.

One of the two actors in a leading role in the film also participated in the post-screening sharing session.

Based on social media check-ins, many Macau residents currently in Taiwan also paid to attend the debut screening.

The Golden Horse Awards and Film Festival organizers have honored the Macau film, as the sharing session was moderated by Wen Tien-Hsiang, chief executive of the film festival and veteran film critic in the Chinese-speaking world.

During his introductory speech, Wen spoke highly of the Macau film, describing the work as "delicate", with seamlessly matched sound effects and music compositions. Despite being filmed within a tight space, Wen added, Hong managed to present various levels of images and capture appropriately the internal emotions of the roles.

Wen further complimented the expressions of the actors, with particular emphasis on certain passionate scenes, before concluding by highlighting the film as a playful and unique work.

Dubbed the Oscars in the Chinese-speaking world by some, the GHA was inaugurated 60 years ago. Films that have half of their dialog spoken in the Chinese language are eligible for the awards. Silent films will also be eligible if they are directed by an ethnic Chinese director and produced by a crew consisting of a minimum of 50% ethnic Chinese.



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Q&A CARRIE TONG
MANULIFE

INSURANCE MARKET TO 'GROW STRONGER THAN EVER' AMID DEVELOPMENTS IN GBA

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU is said to have become the premier destination for Greater Bay Area (GBA) residents seeking insurance products.

In an interview with the Times, Manulife said that its local business was on the rise amid the pandemic as mainland China visitors return following the border reopening in late 2020.

In the first half of this year, despite the impact of the pandemic, the company said mainland Chinese visitors accounted for about 63% of its annualized premium equivalent (APE) sales.

Data from the insurance company shows that demand from local residents for health and protection is increasing as people are becoming significantly more health conscious after the outbreak of Covid-19.

Amid the downturn, the agency's headcount also grew by 19% in the last 12 months ending June 30.

Currently, Manulife has around 1,000 agents in Macau.

For Carrie Tong, Chief Strategy Officer and head of Macau Branch, Manulife Hong Kong and Macau, Macau's insurance market is forecasted to grow stronger than ever as the government has fully pledged on development of the GBA.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - How is the GBA offering growth potential for the insurance industry?

Carrie Tong (CT) - With the rapidly developing GBA, Macau's insurance market is set to grow ever stronger. Since the signing of the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the GBA in 2017, development within the GBA has accelerated, from building infrastructure to knowledge and talent exchange within cities, contributing to the region's economic growth. Yet, insurance penetration and density remain low in the region.

According to KPMG's GBA industry research report, the insurance penetration of nine GBA cities in mainland China was 5.5% in 2019, close to Macau's 5.9% but only one-fourth of Hong Kong's 20.8%.

In terms of insurance density, insurance premium per capita in Hong Kong amounted to nearly RMB70,000, more than nine times of the nine mainland GBA cities (RMB 7,400) while it was



about RMB29,000 for Macau. There is tremendous opportunity for the insurance industry to grow in GBA.

MDT - What percentage is Manulife targeting to penetrate in the GBA (any cities in particular)? Any data available in terms of Macau, Hong Kong and other mainland cities?

CT - With a low insurance penetration rate, the GBA potential is huge. [...] What I can tell is after the border between Macau and mainland Chi-

na re-opened in late 2020, Macau has become a premier destination for GBA residents looking for top quality protection products. We have recorded very strong results in 2021 with an increase of 126% in APE sales.

In the first half of 2022, despite the impact of the pandemic, Manulife Macau's in-force premium grew by 22% year-on-year, outperforming the market average growth of 5%. Mainland visitors

accounted for about 63% of our APE sales in the first half of 2022.

With mainland visitors able to travel to Macau using e-visa from November 2022, we expect the demand from the mainland to come back soon and will continue to increase.

“ Macau became the premier destination for GBA residents looking for top quality protection products

CARRIE TONG
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AND HEAD OF MACAU BRANCH, MANULIFE
HONG KONG AND MACAU

To better understand the needs of mainland Chinese customers, Manulife conducted a survey late last year with nearly 1,600 respondents from nine mainland GBA cities who have visited Hong Kong in the last 36 months and currently own or are interested in purchasing insurance products in Hong Kong in the next two years.

Results from the survey showed that 91% of the respondents are eager to visit Macau within the

first six months. 24% even said they will visit Macau within the first few weeks.

Results further show that respondents have the desire to purchase not just one insurance product, but close to three on average. Respondents are most interested in purchasing critical illness and personal accident products, attracting 40% and 33% respectively. Additionally, respondents are interested in long-term savings insurance, universal life insurance and investment linked insurance.

Among the respondents, 86% who are married plan to buy insurance for spouses, while 62% of parents are looking to buy insurance for their children, showing the growing trend of protecting family members.

MDT - How has the sector been affected by the pandemic, and how has Manulife been promoting its policies amid this crisis?

CT - In general, pandemic dri-

ves investments in personal health, people are now more aware of critical illness and medical products since the outbreak of Covid-19. [...] When we look at the GBA market, Macau became the premier destination for GBA residents looking for top quality protection products as the city remains the only location with quarantine-free travel.

To deliver seamless customer experience, we are investing over HKD400 million in 2021 and 2022 to further transform and upgrade digital applications and experiences for our agents and our customers.

Understand that most mainland visitors only stay two to three days during their visit in Macau, we are optimizing the process and enhancing customer experience for mainland visitors to purchase insurance and make payment. With mainland visitors able to travel to Macau using e-visa from November 2022, we anticipate their demand will continue to increase

MDT - What policies are mostly wanted by Macau residents, and what are your plans on boosting the sector in the city?

CT - We see demand for health and protection is increasing as people are becoming significantly more health conscious after the outbreak of Covid-19. Not only do they seek long-term health protection, but they are also seeking comprehensive and flexible insurance products. [...] We have also strengthened our product mix to provide customers in the region with tailored quality health and protection products.

MDT - Does Manulife see greater potential in Hengqin in terms of penetrating the local market, or the GBA market because of the strengthened Macau-Hengqin relations?

CT - The Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and the overall GBA development plan are key strategic projects strongly supported by the national government and local governments in the region. We believe that it will achieve significant long-term growth, and deepen service trade liberalization across the border, benefiting the insurance and other industries. We will continue to accelerate investment in Macau and Hong Kong where the two cities will serve as important platforms for us to meet our customers.

AP PHOTO



ZERO-COVID

Guangzhou plans 250,000 quarantine beds to fight virus

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA'S southern metropolis of Guangzhou announced plans yesterday to build quarantine facilities for nearly 250,000 people to fight surging coronavirus outbreaks even as the national government tries to reduce the impact of anti-disease controls that have confined millions of people to their homes.

Guangzhou, a city of 13 million people and the biggest of a series of hot spots across China with outbreaks since early October, reported 9,680 new cases in the past 24 hours. That was about 40% of the 23,276 cases reported nationwide.

China's infection numbers are low compared with the United States and other major countries, but the ruling Communist Party is trying to isolate every case. Repeated closures of neighborhoods, schools and businesses are fueling public frustration and clashes with health workers.

"The epidemic situation in Guangzhou still is very serious," said a city official, Wang Baosen,

according to the South Metropolis Daily newspaper.

Authorities in Guangzhou sent 95,300 people from the city's Haizhu district to quarantine centers or for hospital treatment, the government announced.

Access to the district of 1.8 million people was suspended last week following outbreaks, but some controls were lifted Monday. Videos on social media that said they were shot in Guangzhou showed angry residents knocking over barriers set up by white-garbed health workers.

Guangzhou will add 246,407 beds, including 132,015 in hospital isolation wards and 114,392 for people who are infected but have no symptoms, the city government said. A series of rapid construction initiatives in China since the 2020 start of the pandemic have built hospitals with thousands of beds in as little as a week.

A spike in infections has led officials in areas across China to confine families to cramped apartments or order people into quarantine if a single case is found in their workplace or neighborhood.

Guangzhou is one of a number of populous cities that have been trying to respond to outbreaks with more flexible tactics.

The Communist Party promised last week to cut the cost of anti-virus controls by reducing the length of quarantines and changing other rules. However, party leaders said they will stick to the "zero COVID" strategy at a time when other countries are easing restrictions and trying to live with the virus.

That flexibility might be preparation for China to reopen, but a timetable is unclear, said economists Helen Qiao, Benson Wu and Xiaoqing Pi of Bank of America in a report. They pointed to Guangzhou, Chongqing and Shijiazhuang, which all are coping with outbreaks.

"Their responses and reopening paths will be useful for other cities to prepare for their reopening," they said. "No matter what measures they undertake, we do expect a short-term shock on the local economic activities."

Economists and health experts have said "zero COVID" might stay in place for up to another year because the government

needs to vaccinate millions of elderly people before it can lift curbs that keep most foreign visitors out of China.

Also yesterday, authorities faced more public anger after a second child's death was blamed on overzealous anti-virus enforcement.

The 4-month-old girl died after suffering vomiting and diarrhea while in quarantine at a hotel in the central city of Zhengzhou, according to news reports and social media posts. They said it took her father 11 hours to get help after emergency services balked at dealing with them and she finally was sent to a hospital 100 kilometers away.

The death came after the ruling party promised this month that people in quarantine wouldn't be blocked from getting emergency help following an outcry over a 3-year-old boy's death from carbon monoxide poisoning in the northwest. His father blamed health workers in the city of Lanzhou, who he said tried to stop him from taking his son to a hospital.

Internet users expressed anger at "zero COVID" and demanded

officials in Zhengzhou be punished for failing to help the public.

"Once again, someone died because of excessive epidemic prevention measures," one user wrote on the popular Sina Weibo platform. "They put their official post above everything else."

At a news conference, a health official said the government is trying to deal with "simple and crude" over-enforcement in response to public complaints.

The government has received 130,000 complaints including of local officials improperly isolating visitors arriving from low-risk areas, according to the official, Shen Hongbing, the deputy director of the National Bureau of Disease Control.

"We have sorted out the problems reported by the masses," Shen said. He didn't mention the girl's death in Zhengzhou.

A total of 1,659 cases were reported in Henan province, another hot spot where Zhengzhou is located.

Access to a Zhengzhou industrial zone that is home to the world's biggest iPhone factory was suspended this month following outbreaks. Apple Inc. said deliveries of its new iPhone 14 model would be delayed.

The 4-month-old girl in Zhengzhou and her father were sent into quarantine Saturday, according to news reports and social media.

An account on social media that said it was written by the father, identified as Li Baoliang, said he started calling the emergency hotline at noon on Monday after she suffered vomiting and diarrhea. It said the hotline responded that the girl wasn't sick enough to need emergency care. The account said health workers at the quarantine site called an ambulance but the crew refused to deal with them because the father had tested positive for the virus.

The girl finally arrived at a hospital at 11 p.m. but died despite efforts to revive her, the account said.

The account attributed to the father complained that staff at the emergency hotline acted improperly, nearby hospitals weren't ready to help and the hospital where they ended up failed to provide "timely treatment" and gave him "seriously false" information.

The Zhengzhou city government said the incident was under investigation, according to news reports.

In the capital, Beijing, access to elite Peking University was suspended Wednesday. People who visited a vegetable market in the city's southeast where a case was found were ordered into quarantine in a hotel at their own expense. Some shopping malls and office buildings have been closed. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

AFTER EXCHANGE, CHINA CALLS CANADA'S MANNER 'CONDESCENDING'

A Chinese spokesperson yesterday accused Canada of acting in a "condescending manner" following a testy exchange between President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that underscores the depths to which the bilateral relationship has fallen.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning's comments came after Xi chastised Trudeau at the G-20 summit on Wednesday over media reports on an earlier meeting during which Trudeau expressed concern about Chinese interference in Canada's internal affairs.

The apparently spontaneous exchange with a translator present was captured on video.

Mao denied China had ever interfered in the internal affairs of other nations and said Canada was responsible for the downturn in ties.



President Xi Jinping talks with Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after taking part in the closing session at the G20 Leaders Summit in Bali

"Canada should take concrete actions to create conditions for the improvement of China-Canada relations," she said at a daily briefing. The con-

versation was "quite normal and should not be interpreted as President Xi criticizing or blaming anyone."

Mao added that there had been a clear lack of respect from the Canadian side.

"China has no problem at all with having a candid dialogue with other countries," she said. "But we hope such a candid dialogue will be based on equal treatment and mutual respect, rather than criticizing the other in a condescending manner."

In his comments to Trudeau, Xi said, "Everything we discussed has been leaked to the paper; that's not appropriate."

"And that's not ... the way the conversation was conducted, if there is sincerity on your part," Xi said, at which point Trudeau interrupted and stepped toward Xi.

"In Canada, we believe in free and open and frank dialogue and that is what we will continue to have," Trudeau said. "We will continue to look to work constructively together, but there will be things we will disagree on."

"Let's create the conditions first," Xi responded. The two shook hands after the brief encounter.

Mao said nothing Xi said should be interpreted

as a threat.

"As you can see from the video, I think it is quite normal for the two heads of state to have a brief conversation during the G-20 summit. The two sides were just stating their respective positions," she said.

Trudeau first spoke with Xi at the G-20 last Tuesday. A senior Canadian government official said the two spoke about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea and climate change, and that Trudeau also raised "our serious concerns around interference activities in Canada." The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Asked later at a news conference about the confrontation, Trudeau said, "not every conversation is always going to be easy, but it's extremely important that we continue to stand up for the things that are important for Canadians."

Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly also said she discussed Chinese interference with her Chinese counterpart at the G-20.

Joly remarked last week that China is "an increasingly disruptive global power" and warned businesses against deepening

their ties, saying there were "geopolitical risks."

China-Canada ties nosedived after China jailed two Canadians shortly after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies and the daughter of the company's founder, on a U.S. extradition request in December 2018.

They were sent back to Canada last year, the same day Meng returned to China after reaching a deal with U.S. authorities in her case, leading many to label China's action "hostage politics."

Canada has banned wireless carriers from installing Huawei equipment in its high-speed 5G networks, joining allies in shunning the company that has close links with the ruling Communist Party and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army. China has described the charges against Huawei and Meng as a politically motivated attempt to hold back China's economic and technological development.

More recently, Canadian police charged a Hydro-Québec employee on Monday with espionage for allegedly sending trade secrets to China.

Earlier this month, Canadian public broadcaster CBC closed its China bureau after applications to base a new reporter in Beijing were met with what it called "months-long silence from Chinese officials."

The apparently unscripted remarks from Xi marked a rare display of public candor from the usually highly composed veteran politician. Known as an ardent nationalist who has vowed to always put China's interests first, Xi recently had himself granted a third five-year term as leader of the ruling Communist Party, while packing top bodies with loyalists.

In one earlier such incident during a visit to Mexico in 2009 while serving as vice president, China told Chinese students that, "There are a few foreigners, with full bellies, who have nothing better to do than try to point fingers at our country."

"China does not export revolution, hunger or poverty. Nor does China cause you headaches. Just what else do you want?," Xi said in remarks caught on camera. **MDT/AP**

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HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH KOREA

NORTH Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile toward its eastern waters yesterday, hours after the North threatened to launch "fiercer" military responses to the U.S. bolstering its security commitment to its allies South Korea and Japan.

The missile fired from the North's eastern coastal Wonsan area at 10:48 a.m. landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to its neighbors. After detecting the launch, South Korean, U.S. and Japanese militaries quickly condemned the launch that they say threatens stability in the region.

It was North Korea's first ballistic missile firing in eight days and the latest in its barrage of tests in recent months. North Korea previously said some of the tests were simulations of nuclear attacks on South Korean and U.S. targets. Many experts say North Korea would eventually want to enhance its nuclear capability to wrest bigger concessions from its rivals.

Earlier yesterday, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui warned that a recent U.S.-South Korea-Japan summit accord on the North would leave tensions on the Korean Peninsula "more unpredictable."

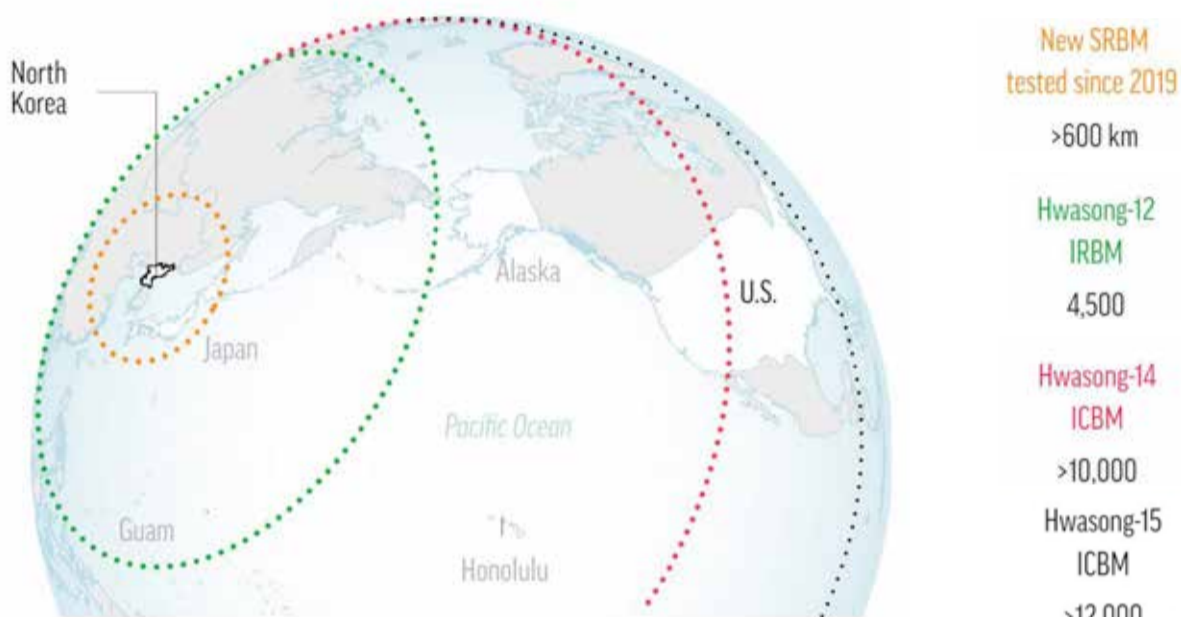
Choe's statement was North Korea's first official response to U.S. President Joe Biden's trilateral summit with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on the sidelines of a regional gathering Sunday in Cambodia. In their joint statement, the three leaders strongly condemned North Korea's recent missile tests and agreed to work together to strengthen deterrence. Biden reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend South Korea and Japan with a full range of capabilities, including its nuclear arms.

"The keener the U.S. is on the 'bolstered offer of extended deterrence' to its allies and the more they intensify provocative and bluffing military activities on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, the fiercer (North Korea's) military counteraction will be, in direct

Kim fires missile after threatening 'fiercer' step

Estimated range of North Korea's missiles

The ballistic missile inventory includes mobile systems designed to be fired from various vehicles and submarines. North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missiles have a range greater than 10,000 kilometers.



proportion to it," Choe said. "It will pose a more serious, realistic and inevitable threat to the U.S. and its vassal forces."

Choe didn't say what steps North Korea could take but said that "the U.S. will be well aware that it is gambling, for which it will certainly regret."

South Korea's Defense Ministry responded later that the purpose of the trilateral summit was to coordinate a joint response to curb and deter advancing nuclear and missile threats by North Korea. Spokesperson Moon Hong Sik told reporters that security cooperation among Seoul, Washington and Tokyo was contributing to solidifying a U.S. extended deterrence to its allies.

The North Korean missile launched flew about 240 kilometers at the maximum altitude of 47 kilometers, said South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. It called the launch "a grave provocation" that undermines peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

Japan's Defense Ministry said that repeated missile launches by North Korea threaten the peace and safety of Japan, the region and the international society. The

U.S.-Pacific Command said yesterday's launch "highlights the destabilizing impact of (North Korea's) unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs."

After the launch, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the South Korean and U.S. militaries staged missile defense drills earlier to review a combined readiness to North Korean provocations. But South Korean military officials refused to provide further details of the exercises, including whether they were already scheduled or were arranged after detecting signs of an imminent North Korean missile launch.

North Korea has steadfastly maintained its recent weapons testing activities are legitimate military counteractions to U.S.-South Korean military drills, which it views as a practice to launch attacks on the North. Washington and Seoul have said their exercises are defensive in nature.

In the past several years, annual military training between Seoul and Washington had been scaled back or canceled to support now-dormant diplomacy with North Korea and guard against the

COVID-19 pandemic. But in recent months, South Korean and U.S. troops

have expanded their regular exercises and resumed trilateral training

with Japan in response to North Korea's push to enlarge its nuclear and missile arsenals.

In her statement yesterday, Choe said "the U.S. and its followers staged large-scale war drills for aggression one after another, but they failed to contain North Korea's overwhelming counteraction."

There have been concerns that North Korea might conduct its first nuclear test in five years as its next major step toward bolstering its military capability against the United States and its allies.

U.S. and South Korean officials say North Korea has finished preparations to conduct a nuclear test explosion in its remote testing facility in the northeast. Some experts say the test, if made, would be meant to develop nuclear warheads to be placed on short-range missiles capable of hitting key targets in South Korea, such as U.S. military bases.

Yesterday's launch came a day after members the Group of 20 leading economies ended their summit in Indonesia. **MDT/AP**

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ANALYSIS

Have China and India shifted stance on Russia-Ukraine war?

FOSTER KLUG, NUSA DUA

CHINA and India, after months of refusing to condemn Russia's war in Ukraine, did not stand in the way of the release this week of a statement by the world's leading economies that strongly criticizes Moscow.

Could this, at last, signal a bold new policy change by Beijing and New Delhi to align themselves with what the United States and its allies believe is the best way to end a war that has brought death and misery to Ukraine and disrupted millions of lives as food and energy prices soar and economies crack?

There's certainly an eagerness by a world weary of war to see it as the beginning of a shift by the burgeoning global powers.

Look close enough, however, and there's enough subtlety, not to mention spots of vagueness, in both the official statement released at the end of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and in actions from China and India themselves, to raise questions about whether a real change is underway.

Their positions will become clearer in coming weeks, but for now both nations, which have significant trade ties with Russia and have so far stopped short of outright criticism of the war, may simply be looking out for their own interests and keeping future options open.

Figuring out what exactly happened in Bali matters because there's growing worry that without political and diplomatic pressure by China and India, Russia will be far less likely to end its war.

The conflict in Ukraine loomed large over the two-day summit on Bali, which was attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. News early Wednesday of an explosion that rocked eastern Poland prompted U.S. President Joe Biden to hastily arrange an emergency meeting with Group of Seven and NATO members at the summit.

The backroom wrangling at the G-20 over how to address Russia's invasion in its statement was "very, very tough," summit host Indonesian President Joko Widodo



said. "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy," the statement said.

The less-than-universal language — "most members" — signals the presence of dissent, as does an acknowledgement that "there were other views and different assessments" and that the G-20 is "not the forum to resolve security issues."

The final product, however, was seen by some as a strong rebuke of a war that has killed thousands, heightened global security tensions and disrupted the world economy.

The public statement used language from a March U.N. resolution that deplored "in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and demanded "its complete and unconditional withdrawal" from Ukrainian territory.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the G-20 summit's "surprisingly clear words" on Ukraine "wouldn't have been possible if important countries hadn't helped us to come together this way — that includes India and it also includes, for example, South Africa."

"This is something which shows that there are many in the world who don't think this war is right, who condemn it,

even if they abstained in the votes at the United Nations for various reasons," Scholz said. "And I am sure that this is one of the results of this summit: the Russian president stands almost alone in the world with his policy."

John Kirton, director of the G-20 Research Group, called it a "big breakthrough" and an "active shift" by China and India in which they joined the "democratic side of the great immediate geopolitical divide."

Privately, however, some diplomats were wary about declaring that China has shifted its stance on Russia.

Chinese President Xi Jinping may have simply made a decision to not be seen as a spoiler or outlier during face-to-face meetings with other leaders in Bali. The statement also allows China to avoid going all-in with a Russia that is looking more and more isolated as it increases attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

What Beijing hasn't done is change — or even publicly question — its fundamental relations with Russia.

China has closely aligned its foreign policy with Russia in recent years, as pipeline projects and natural gas sales have brought them closer economically.

It has refused to publicly criticize Russia's aggression or even refer to it as an invasion, while criticizing sanctions and accusing the

United States and NATO of provoking Putin, although it has warned against allowing the conflict to go nuclear.

It was unclear whether China pushed for the softening language in the G-20 statement acknowledging "other views and different assessments" and that the G-20 is "not the forum to resolve security issues," but Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Beijing's Renmin University, said it has pushed for such phrases on other occasions.

For India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also avoided criticism of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Modi, however, indicated for the first time in public India's discomfort with the attack when he met Putin in September.

"I know that today's era is not of war," Modi told Putin.

That message "resonated very deeply across all the delegations and helped to bridge the gap across different parties and contributed to the successful outcome of the document" in Bali, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters.

Navdeep Suri, a retired Indian diplomat, said he sees a subtle shift in India's position in dealing with Russia. And "China has (now) gone along with such tough language, including the unconditional and complete withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine." MDT/AP

this day in history

1978 MASS SUICIDE LEAVES 900 DEAD



The bodies of 914 people, including 276 children, have been found in Guyana in South America.

Most of the dead - members of the People's Temple Christian Church - had consumed a soft drink laced with cyanide and sedatives.

However, the body of the People's Temple charismatic leader, Jim Jones, was said to have a bullet wound in the right temple, believed to be self-inflicted.

The deaths are being linked to the earlier killings of five people, including US Congressman Leo Ryan, on a nearby airstrip.

Mr Ryan had led a fact-finding mission to the church's jungle settlement - Jonestown - after allegations by relatives in the US of human rights abuses.

Last year Jim Jones and most of the 1,000 members of the People's Temple moved to Guyana from San Francisco after an investigation began into the church for tax evasion.

People who had left the organisation told the authorities of brutal beatings, murders and a mass suicide plan but were not believed.

In spite of the tax evasion allegations, Jim Jones was still widely respected for setting up a racially-mixed church which helped the disadvantaged.

Leo Ryan's delegation arrived in Jonestown on 14 November and spent three days interviewing residents.

They left hurriedly earlier on Saturday after an attempt on Mr Ryan's life, taking with them about 20 People's Temple members who wished to leave.

Delegation members told police as they were boarding planes at the airstrip a truckload of Jim Jones' guards arrived and began to shoot.

When the gunmen left five people were dead: Congressman Ryan, a reporter and cameraman from NBC, a newspaper photographer and one "defector" from the People's Temple.

A producer for NBC News, Bob Flick, survived the attack.

Mr Flick said: "Every time someone fell down wounded they would walk over and shoot them in the head with a shotgun."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The US House of Representatives carried out an investigation into the events in Guyana. It concluded there was no evidence of US government complicity as was widely alleged. In December 1986 a church member, Larry Layton, received a life sentence for aiding and abetting the murders of those who died at the airstrip.

Layton had gone to the airstrip pretending to be a defector then produced a gun and injured two people.

The bodies of 412 people who committed suicide were never claimed by relatives - they are buried in a mass grave in Oakland, California.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Opportunities for travel and socializing are evident. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly today. Look into ways that you can make extra cash.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Losses are evident. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Uncertainties regarding your home and family are evident.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You will have the ability to capture the interest of others. It is best not to upset the apple cart if you learn information that may damage a colleague's reputation.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You may want to sign up for courses that will encourage you to have more confidence in yourself. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. Try spending the day catching up on any responsibilities that need to be taken care of.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Empty promises will cause confusion. Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. You can discuss your findings behind closed doors with your boss.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Secret love affairs may be enticing; however, you must be prepared for the restraints that will follow. Take a second look; difficulties with appliances, water, or electricity in your home may be evident.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Don't expect others to live up to their promises and you won't be disappointed or find yourself stuck with delays.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Someone close to you will get upset easily if you are insensitive to their needs. Try not to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. Don't deny yourself today. Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Try to visit a country that excites you.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You may have ignored or neglected your mate lately. Travel should open doors that lead to exciting new adventures. Changes involving your domestic scene may be unpleasant.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	16	fine
Changchun	-6	8	cloudy
Chengdu	11	17	cloudy
Chongqing	13	17	cloudy
Fuzhou	16	25	overcast
Guangzhou	20	26	rain
Guiyang	9	17	overcast
Haikou	23	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	12	18	rain
Harbin	-6	6	cloudy
Hefei	7	16	overcast
Nanjing	8	17	rain
Shanghai	11	17	rain
Taipei	20	24	cloudy
Wuhan	10	20	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	24	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-3	-4	snow
Frankfurt	3	11	showers
Paris	4	12	rain
London	3	11	overcast
New York	-1	7	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 6- Mimicry; 11- Dark, as a light; 14- Like soft-boiled eggs; 15- Lasso; 16- Rocky hilltop; 17- Plumber's tool; 18- Meddle; 20- Non-Rx; 21- Stimulate; 23- Pub game; 24- Use a prie-dieu; 26- Like some markets; 28- Boot part; 30- Small canyon; 31- Diamond flaw?; 32- Bring about; 33- French possessive; 36- Driving aids; 37- Feeble peevish complaint; 38- Wyoming resource; 39- Coal scuttle; 40- 9 to 5; 41- Facet; 42- Leaves port; 43- Protected from the sun; 44- Reprieve; 47- Approaches; 48- John of England; 49- Exude slowly; 50- Male cat; 53- Case; 56- Steak order; 58- Clean air org.; 59- Russian range; 60- Siouan speakers; 61- "Conquest of Space" writer Willy; 62- Unfettered; 63- Negates;

DOWN 1- About; 2- Parent's sister; 3- Exhausted; 4- Cuttlefish excretion; 5- Spectacles or goggles; 6- Disney mermaid; 7- Pub quantity; 8- Chow down; 9- Road with a no.; 10- Running back's pursuit; 11- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 12- Armed strongholds; 13- Newly made; 19- Payment for travel; 22- Like cool cats; 25- Sgts., e.g.; 26- Tied; 27- Scottish Gaelic; 28- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 29- Nabisco cookie; 30- Profits; 32- Whence Pinocet; 33- Poisonous mushroom; 34- Effortlessness; 35- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 37- Order in the court; 38- Burn slightly; 40- Profitable; 41- Light four-wheeled carriage; 42- Predicament; 43- Oh yeah? ___ who?; 44- Drive back; 45- Run away with a lover; 46- Wander; 47- Snare; 49- Lubricates; 51- Like Nash's lama; 52- Imbroglio; 54- Guadalupe gold; 55- Philosopher ___-tzu; 57- Heat meas.;

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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	
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END OF AN ERA

MESSI AND RONALDO LOOK SET FOR FINAL SHOT AT WORLD CUP GLORY

JAMES ROBSON

THE World Cup stage is set for perhaps one final shootout between the two greatest soccer players of their generation — and to many, the two greatest of all time.

Surely, this year's tournament in Qatar presents Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo with one last chance to win the ultimate trophy. Even by their own remarkable powers of endurance, it is unlikely either will be around for the next tournament in 2026 when Messi will be 39 and Ronaldo 41.

Pele and Diego Maradona — perhaps the only two players who can still challenge the supremacy of Messi and Ronaldo in the history books — earned their reputations from their achievements on this stage.

Pele won the trophy three times with Brazil, while Maradona led Argentina to the title in 1986 with a performance of such individual brilliance that it left an indelible mark on the tournament.

For all their genius, Argentina's Messi and Portugal's Ronaldo have yet to emulate the two men they have spent their careers trying to surpass.

These are the final stages of their storied careers, which have seen them share 12 Ballon d'Or awards, nine Champions League titles, 18 league titles and plenty of other accolades. But to add the World Cup would be

the ultimate at a time when both players are seeing their powers wane.

Messi has recently spoken like a man who finally accepts he cannot go on forever.

"I'm lucky to be able to be at this World Cup at 35 years old," the Argentine told DirectTV in October. "After this World Cup, we will see what could happen with my career."

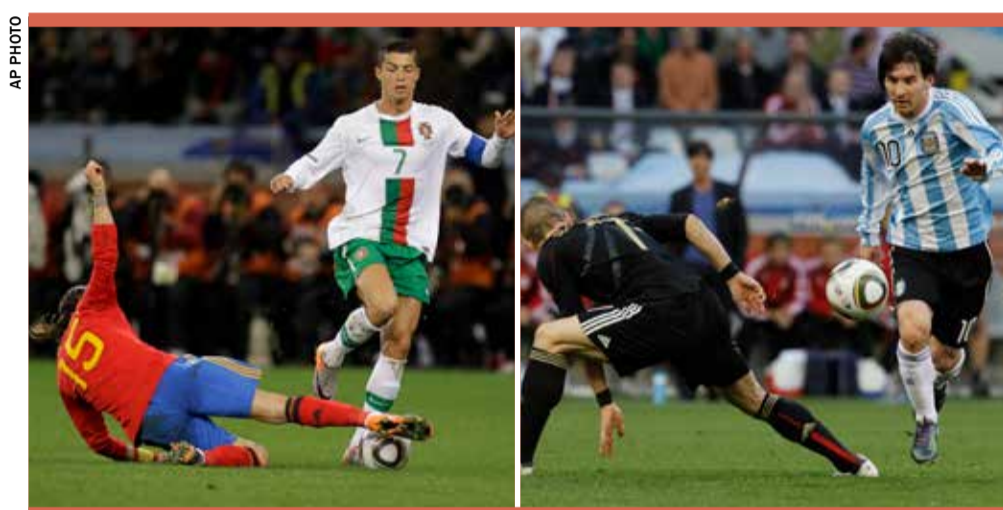
Meanwhile, Ronaldo heads to Qatar with his career in disarray after failing to secure a move away from Manchester United and being dropped by manager Erik ten Hag. Last month, he was dropped from the squad and had to train apart from the first team as punishment for refusing to come on as a substitute against Tottenham.

This week, things got messier when CR7 heavily criticized ten Hag and United's leadership in an explosive interview with Piers Morgan.

At this point, it's impossible to judge what condition he might be in mentally or physically at the World Cup.

Likewise, it's impossible to rule out a player who has repeatedly set new standards even into the twilight of his playing days. He recently scored his 700th career club goal.

Of the great rivals, Messi appears to have the edge right now. Even if he may not have replicated his best years at Barcelona since joining Paris Saint-Germain, he is



proving more influential in his second season in France, with the goals flowing once again.

That both are in a position to compete at the World Cup is a testament to the way they have looked after their bodies.

Former England physiotherapist Dave Hancock, who went on to become director of training and performance for the New York Knicks and is now CEO of sports data management app Apollo, believes soccer players have followed the lead set by American athletes.

"You see that in a lot of American sports," Hancock told The Associated Press. "I've seen that over the years looking after people like Kevin Durant, and Saquon Barkley, privately."

"If you look at Tom Brady, he's 45. He has his own guy. There is a team around them so they realize the longer they play the more money they are going to earn."

Hancock said Messi and Ronaldo share the same mental traits — even if they are physically different.

"They are slightly different players and different, what we call somatotypes, which is their body physique," he said. "But clearly those guys playing at the highest level for so long have understood what they need to do to sustain it, whether that is working in the gym, watching what they eat, sleep."

"With all these guys, if you look at any industry, the best of the best will either keep recreating themselves, but will keep continuing to work at being the best of the best."

Neither Messi nor Ronaldo will be defined by the World Cup even if it continues to elude them. Times have changed and club soccer has largely overtaken the international game in terms of profile and popularity because of the success of the Champions League and the Premier League

in particular.

Fans around the world have been able to witness the brilliance of Messi and Ronaldo on a twice-weekly basis, which was never the case with Pele or Maradona.

Their respective feats for Barcelona and Real Madrid, especially, created a rivalry unlike any seen in the sport, with the Ballon d'Or almost becoming a personal duel for more than a decade, while their scoring tallies were driven to ever-increasing heights.

Such have been their achievements at the highest levels of the club game that any argument suggesting they need to prove themselves in international competition have been rendered redundant. Not least because both have ended their barren runs with their national teams with Ronaldo inspiring Portugal to victory at the 2016 European Championship and Messi winning the Copa America with Argentina last year.

But the World Cup is the final frontier — and perhaps an opportunity for one of these remarkable players to write one glorious final chapter. **MDT/AP**

GROUPS & ODDS

Group	Ranking	Odds
Group A		
Netherlands	8	15
Senegal	18	140
Ecuador	44	280
Qatar	50	501
Group B		
England	5	10.5
United States	16	240
Wales	19	301
Iran	20	551
Group C		
Argentina	3	6.5
Mexico	13	210
Poland	26	251
Saudi Arabia	51	901
Group D		
France	4	8.5
Denmark	10	34
Tunisia	30	901
Australia	38	701
Group E		
Spain	7	10
Germany	11	13
Japan	24	426
Costa Rica	31	1001
Group F		
Belgium	2	20
Croatia	12	67
Morocco	22	301
Canada	41	501
Group E		
Brazil	1	5
Switzerland	15	131
Serbia	21	126
Cameroon	43	551
Group F		
Portugal	9	19
Uruguay	14	52
South Korea	28	551
Ghana	61	501

RANKING: FIFA, OCTOBER 2022
ODDS TO WIN WC: ODDSchecker.COM, NOV 17, 2022

BY THE RULES

UNDERSTANDING FIFA'S VAR TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS VAR?

VAR is a Video Assistant Referee. These qualified officials watch matches on numerous screens and are given the option to repeat the action in slow motion to review calls.

HOW ACCURATE IS VAR?

Before VAR was introduced in the English Premier League in 2018-19, the percentage of correct key match decisions was 82%. With the use of VAR, the percentage of correct key match decisions between 2019-20 rose to 94%, according to a Premier League report. Over the span of 2019-2020,

109 calls were overturned by VAR, making it an average of one overturned call per 3.5 matches.

WHEN WAS VAR INTRODUCED?

VAR was first tested in the 2012-13 Dutch league season. In 2018, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) approved trials and then the use of VAR in football. In 2018, VAR was introduced to the Premier League for the 2019-20 season, pending testing. Testing was then confirmed successful and VAR was officially introduced.

In 2020, the IFAB decided to have FIFA be in charge of VAR.

WHEN DOES VAR GET INVOLVED IN A MATCH?

The only time VAR interferes is if the on-field referee asks for a call to be reviewed. That said, VAR cannot overrule a referee but can provide advice. The VAR will communicate with the on-field referee when needed.

HOW WILL VAR BE USED AT THE 2022 WORLD CUP?

After the successful use of VAR technology at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, it will be applied again in 2022. The technology will include 12

tracking cameras at matches underneath the stadium roof, which will track the ball and players. VAR tracks up to 29 data points of each athlete, 50 times per second, determining their exact position on the pitch, FIFA reported. Additionally, a sensor will be placed inside the center of Al Rihla, the official ball for Qatar, to add extra detection. The ball sends data 500 times per second to the video operation room. While more tests will be conducted before the 2022 World Cup, the combination of the technology will make play as accurate as possible.

WORLD CUP WATCH

European clubs have 73% of players selected

GRAHAM DUNBAR, GENEVA

EUROPEAN soccer shapes to have some World Cup winners with 73% of players at the tournament coming from clubs in the sport's richest continent.

That's despite Europe providing just 40% of the World Cup teams with 13 qualifying slots in the 32-nation lineup in Qatar.

Bayern Munich is the best represented club with 17 players selected for the World Cup, with Barcelona and Manchester City each having 16, according to research published this week by European soccer consultants LIT Sports.

Just 27% of more than 830 players selected for World Cup duty play with clubs in other continents, LIT Sports said. Qatari club Al Sadd has 15



France 2018: the title holders

players at the tournament that starts Sunday.

That total is slightly up on the 26% figure at the 2018 World Cup where each of the 32 squads had 23 players instead of the current 26. FIFA allowed three extra players in squads

named because of the effects of disruption and fixture congestion during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outside Europe, the United States and Saudi Arabia were tied for the countries whose clubs have supplied the most

World Cup players. Each has 35 in squads that had to be notified to FIFA by a Monday deadline.

European clubs have the wealth and lure of playing in competitions like the Champions League to ensure employing most of the best non-European talent. The overseas players have helped to raise standards in Europe whose national teams have won the past four World Cup titles: defending champion France, Germany, Spain and Italy.

Argentina's Lionel Messi has played his entire professional career in Europe; Sadio Mané moved from Senegal as a teenager; and Neymar left Brazil at age 21 before he played at a World Cup.

Argentina is leaning heavily on the top-five European leagues by calling up 23 players, including Messi from Paris Saint-Germain, from clubs in England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

The concentration of talent is such that 70 players were selected for the World Cup from Italian clubs, according to LIT's research, even though the national team did not qualify.

The second-tier English Championship has 29 players selected, though none for England.

The World Cup means home comforts for the seven players selected for countries other than Qatar who play for clubs in the host nation. MDT/AP

PAUSE AT G-20, FIFA HEAD CALLS FOR WORLD CUP CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE

FIFA President Gianni Infantino urged world leaders to call for a ceasefire in Russia's war against Ukraine during the World Cup that starts this week. Just days after asking World Cup teams to avoid the political and human rights issues swirling around host nation Qatar and focus just on soccer, Infantino seemed to stray from his own advice on a trip from the Arabian Gulf to Indonesia for the Group of 20 meeting. The World Cup that starts this weekend could be "that positive trigger," Infantino said, for seeking peace after nearly nine months of what FIFA described as "conflict in Russia and Ukraine."

ETIQUETTE TOURNAMENT DRAWS ATTENTION TO EQUAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING ATTIRE

Official-looking flyers have circulated on social media describing cultural expectations for fans attending the World Cup in Qatar. Some include rules for women's attire: Shoulders and knees must be covered. Problem is, it's bogus. While the local organizing committee suggests that fans "respect the culture," no one will be detained or barred from games in Qatar because of clothing choices. But persistent rumors swirling around appropriate garb and modesty at football's biggest tournament have also drawn attention to the country's record on equality. The local organizing committee includes a section on cultural awareness in its fan guide.

SAFEGUARD PLAYERS GET PROTECTION FROM SOCIAL MEDIA ABUSE

FIFA and the global soccer players union have launched a moderation service aimed at protecting World Cup players from abuse on social media during the tournament. FIFA said that the more than 830 players in Qatar can access a "dedicated monitoring, reporting and moderation service" that aims to filter hate speech targeted at them. The World Cup starts Sunday, just days after Twitter fired a swath of contractors working on content moderation teams that were tracking hate and trying to enforce rules against harmful posts.

BEFORE VAR MARADONA 'HAND OF GOD' WORLD CUP BALL SOLD FOR \$2.4M

The ball punched in by Diego Maradona for his "Hand of God" goal at the 1986 World Cup has been sold at auction for nearly \$2.4 million by the referee who missed soccer's most famous handball. Ali Bin Nasser, the Tunisian former match official who refereed the quarterfinal game between Argentina and England in Mexico, owned the 36-year-old Adidas ball that was sold at Graham Budd Auctions in London for 2 million pounds (\$2.37 million) yesterday. Bin Nasser said before the auction he felt it was the right time to share the item with the world and expressed hope the buyer would put it on public display.

UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Mon	Nov 21	00:00	Qatar	Ecuador	H 3.45, D 3.1, A 2.4
Mon	Nov 21	21:00	England	Iran	H 1.38, D 4.8, A 12

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Football transcends elite level

THE World Cup begins this weekend in Qatar and the attention of the football world will be on the first Middle Eastern nation to host the tournament.

But football is not only about watching the world's greatest players compete on the biggest stage. The sport transcends the elite level and is really the people's game.

Children and adults alike have kickabouts — some in organized matches at the grassroots level and others just for the fun of it on dirt roads and beaches. Wherever they can really.

Some play barefoot or in sandals because they can't afford the expensive footwear that professionals use.

A boy in Buenos Aires tries to make a save with a huge mural of late Argentina great Diego Maradona on a building in the background. A group of girls in the United States play on a field wearing rainbow-colored socks. Afghan boys dribble on rocky and dusty ground in Kabul.

Ultimately, all you need is a ball and a desire to play the beautiful game.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

'THE MENU' WITH ANYA TAYLOR-JOY, SERVES UP SATIRE

WHAT are we eating? A Rolex?

So quips Margot (Anya Taylor-Joy) in Mark Mylod's "The Menu" as she waits with her date, Tyler (Nicholas Hoult), a devoted foodie who has landed them a reservation at the exclusive restaurant Hawthorne. Like the opening of Rian Johnson's upcoming "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," an eclectic, upscale bunch gathers eagerly on a dock to be ferried to a private island.

The movie, like their meal, unfolds as a series of courses, each more elaborate, and sinister, than the last. This is such rarified haute cuisine that entries are promised that will not just represent food realms like protein and fungi but "entire ecosystems." A paired pinot wine is said to feature "a faint sense of longing and regret." Julian Slowik (Ralph Fiennes), Hawthorne's celebrity chef, presides over the restaurant less like a cook than a military commander or, possibly, a god. "Do not eat," Slowik tells the diners. "Taste." He is, to say the least, not someone James Corden would want to quibble with.

The world of fine dining has, for a while now, been ripe for satire. And "The Menu" happily su-



Ralph Fiennes (left) and Anya Taylor-Joy in a scene from the film "The Menu"

pplies a heaping plate of it. The film, which opens in theaters Friday, may be aimed at somewhat low-hanging fruit and may ultimately not have all that much to chew on. But Mylod, who directed a number of the episodes to "Succession," brings an icy, stylish flare in another kind of cleverly staged eat-the-rich comedy that — particularly thanks to the elite eye-rolling of Taylor-Joy and Fiennes' anguished artist — is still a very tasty snack.

The screenwriters Seth Reiss and Will Tracy, both veterans of the Onion, bake an amuse bouche of commentaries on class and service industry dynamics into an increasingly unhinged, and bloody, romp that may not offer too many surprises but consistently hits a satirical sweet spot.

Dining alongside Margo and Tyler are a trio of tech bros (Arturo Castro, Rob Yang, Mark St. Cyr), a movie star (John Leguizamo) and his assistant (Aimee Carre-

ro), a prominent food critic and her editor (Janet McTeer, Paul Adelstein) and a married couple who are Hawthorn regulars (Reed Birney, Judith Light). From the beginning, the question of whether they're worthy of the brilliance they're about to be served is a pervasive tension — a feeling that accelerates absurdly and disturbingly as the evening wears on.

Elsa (Hong Chau), their guide and the restaurant's manger, certainly doesn't seem to think so.

She deliciously tours them through all things Hawthorne, inviting the guests to watch the chefs in the open kitchen "while they innovate," announcing dishes like "a breadless bread plate" and generally stealing the show. Her pretentiousness is merciless and grows increasingly less subtle. In the ear of one complaining tech bro she whispers: "You will get less than you desire and more than you deserve."

The same, perhaps, could be said of "The Menu," a film with many tantalizing ingredients. Of all the patrons, Margot fits in the least, something that Julian recognizes immediately. His immaculately orchestrated morality play isn't intended to have a place setting for her. As we can see in how she winces when Tyler describes the "mouthfeel" of a meal, she doesn't worship at the same altar of high cuisine. But even as "The Menu" teeters unevenly in its third act and things get gruesomely less appetizing, its greasy last bites succeed in capturing one common aspect of molecular gastronomy: "The Menu" will leave you hungry.

"The Menu" a Searchlight Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong/disturbing violent content, language throughout and some sexual references. Running time: 107 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

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

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

- 高文軒 Adelino Correia °
- 羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues *
- 馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
- 陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
- 白穎怡 Iclília Berenguel
- 冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
- 馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
- 飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
- 杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
- 莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
- 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
- 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
- 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
- 陳芷喬 Joana Chan
- 顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
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- 斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
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- 伍福賢 Domingos Ng



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LIFESTYLE SUSTAINABLE FLAVOUR

CLOUDY Bay releases Sauvignon Blanc 2022, a vibrant and fruity yet balanced and mouth-watering flavour bottle. The 2022 season was more challenging after three near-perfect vintages. The weather was unsettled during flowering with extensive rain during winter. Luckily, Sauvignon Blanc flowered successfully. The tough condition reinforced and reminded us of the importance of the vineyard teams and the work they have to do in order to ensure the quality of the fruits. Growing process may have been hard but harvest took place under excellent conditions and grapes were picked at perfect maturity. The 2022 Sauvignon Blanc has a zesty and vibrant nose, with notes of juicy citrus and makrut lime underpinned by subtle white nectarine and passionfruit notes, making it the perfect bottle to be shared with loved ones.



TASTE OF EDESIA

Salon de Thé

IRENE SAM, MDT

DESIGNED by fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld, The Book Lounge at THE KARL LAGERFELD offers an array of refined yet artistic tea delicacies, French confectioneries, and signature beverages; including the latest “L'apéro Saint-Germain-Des-Prés” and “Tea Time at The Book Lounge” promotions.

Widely praised since its launch, the contemporary tea set “Tea Time at The Book Lounge” encapsulates the essence of modern French gourmet with both sweet and savoury options. The savoury Les Friands selections include: Balik Salmon with Cucumber and Mint Cream, Lobster with Carrot, Yogurt and Orange Blossom, Foie Gras Terrine with Peach, Ginger White and Balsamic Gel and Tuna Tataki with Avocado Tzaziki, while the La Gourmandize offers sweet treats such as:

Strawberry Tartlet, KL Macaron, Ispahan, Éclair and Finger Hazelnut Chocolate. The tea set also offers several types of Scones and Chef Cyril’s “Sweet Touch”: Madeleine. Once the guests are seated, they can indulge in their choice of fresh tea and premium honey, prepared directly from a fresh infusion trolley.

The Book Lounge also features its series of signature one- or two-pound cakes, including: Hazelnut Chocolate Grand Cru Praline, Rose Ispahan, Peach Verbena Cake, and the must try Le Framoisier. An elegant display of French patisserie is for guests to order or purchase. One can take taste buds on an epicurean journey with the enticing flavours of the KL éclairs, such as the passion fruit or orange blossom éclairs; or perhaps the smoked salmon with lemon and chives or cream cheese with cooked ham éclairs, and more.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE LODZ 1050 METRES SAND

2022-11-18|Fri|20:50

FAMOUS Supreme find a good race to get in this Friday night, although the wide gate does have some bearing on him but with his fast gate speed this could turn out to be a plus for **Famous Supreme**. Back to his pet distance of 1050 metres, this sand freak should find edge to put this field away. He is fit and ready and treat that last race of his as his prep for Friday night's race. He should turn the table and return with good odds for his connection as he looks capable in taking a big step forward from this contest. Keep him very safe in your bets.

Race 4 Horse no. 4 Famous Supreme Win & Place bets.



OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**STRATEGIC AUTONOMY
 KEY TO FRANCE, EU**

President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday vowed to bolster communication and coordination in response to global challenges ranging from climate change to food security. They made the commitments on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, during their first face-to-face meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The high-level exchanges the two countries have maintained and the joint stand they seek to take are a boon to the world amid the complex and volatile international situation.

Saying the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict stretch beyond Europe's frontiers, both leaders agreed on the urgency for de-escalation and the need to prevent any use of nuclear weapons.

The talks between the two leaders underscored the close coordination between the two countries and the great importance the two sides attach to their relations, which were upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2004, the first between China and a major Western country.

The two countries have developed robust economic and trade relations in recent years, and see eye to eye with each other on such key global issues as multilateralism, economic globalization and climate change. All this has laid a solid foundation for the sound and healthy development of Sino-French relationship.

Indeed, among the major Western powers France stands out with a foreign policy tradition that features independence from external influence, a virtue that has been inherited by nearly every French leader since General Charles de Gaulle. In fact, France was the first Western country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1964.

Thus it comes as no surprise that Xi, during his talks with Macron, emphasized a spirit of independence and autonomy when speaking on how to further develop China-France and China-EU relations. He noted that both China and France are important forces in the multipolar world, and the two countries should respect each other's core interests and major concerns and deepen pragmatic cooperation in such areas as green energy, aviation and nuclear energy.

As a key member of the European Union, France can also play a key role in promoting China-EU economic and trade cooperation, since the mutual trust and friendship between China and France, and the strategic autonomy France upholds are conducive to the strengthening of China-EU relations.

Last year, China-EU trade exceeded \$800 billion for the first time while investments exceeded \$270 billion. In the first eight months of this year, total trade between China and the EU amounted to \$575.22 billion, up 8.8 percent year-on-year, and the EU's investment in China totaled \$7.45 billion, up 121.5 percent year-on-year.

All this bodes well for future Sino-French and Sino-EU relations.

The long border between Finland and Russia runs through thick forests and is marked only by wooden posts with low fences meant to stop stray cattle. Soon, a stronger, higher fence will be erected on parts of the frontier.

Earlier this month, Polish soldiers began laying coils of razor wire on the border with Kaliningrad, a part of Russian territory separated from the country and wedged between Poland and Lithuania.

Cameras and an electronic monitoring system also will be ins-

talled on the area that once was guarded only by occasional patrols of border guards.

The fall of the Berlin Wall more than 30 years ago symbolized hope for cooperation with Moscow.

Now, Russia's war in Ukraine has ushered in a new era of confrontation in Europe — and the rise of new barriers of steel, concrete and barbed wire. These, however, are being built by the West.

More on macaudailytimes.com



AP PHOTO

**EXEC WHO CLEANED UP
 ENRON CALLS FTX MESS
 'UNPRECEDENTED'**

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

THE new CEO of the collapsed cryptocurrency trading firm FTX, who oversaw Enron's bankruptcy, said he has never seen such a "complete failure" of corporate control.

John Ray III, in a filing with the U.S. bankruptcy court for the district of Delaware, said there was a "complete absence of trustworthy financial information."

"Never in my career have I seen such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy financial information as occurred here," Ray said. "From compromised systems integrity and faulty regulatory oversight abroad, to the concentration of control in the hands of a very small group of inexperienced, unsophisticated and potentially compromised individuals, this situation is unprecedented."

Ray noted that many of the companies in the FTX Group, particularly those in Antigua and the Bahamas, didn't have appropriate corporate governance and many had never held a board meeting. The

group also had cash management procedural failures, including the absence of an accurate list of bank accounts and account signatories. There was also insufficient attention paid to the creditworthiness of banking partners.

Ray also addressed the use of corporate funds to pay for homes and other items for employees.

"In the Bahamas, I understand that corporate funds of the FTX Group were used to purchase homes and other personal items for employees and advisors. I understand that there does not appear to be documentation for certain of these transactions as loans, and that certain real estate was recorded in the personal name of these employees and advisors on the records of the Bahamas," he said.

So far, debtors have found and secured "only a fraction" of the group's digital assets that they hope to recover, with about \$740 million of cryptocurrency secured in new cold wallets, which is a way of holding cryptocurrency tokens offline, said Ray.

Ray was named CEO of FTX less than a week ago when the company filed for bankruptcy protection

and its CEO and founder Sam Bankman-Fried resigned. The embattled cryptocurrency exchange, short billions of dollars, sought bankruptcy protection after the exchange experienced the crypto equivalent of a bank run.

In its bankruptcy filing, FTX listed more than 130 affiliated companies around the globe. The company valued its assets between \$10 billion to \$50 billion, with a similar estimate for its liabilities.

Bankman-Fried was recently estimated to be worth \$23 billion. His net worth has all but evaporated, according to Forbes and Bloomberg, which closely track the net worth of the world's richest people.

FTX's failure goes beyond finance. The company had major sports sponsorships as well, including Formula One racing and a sponsorship deal with Major League Baseball. Miami-Dade County decided Friday to terminate its relationship with FTX, meaning the venue where the Miami Heat play will no longer be known as FTX Arena. Mercedes was planning to remove FTX from its race cars starting last weekend. **MDT/AP**



USA A federal judge yesterday handed down a 20-year prison sentence to a Chinese national who was convicted of trying to steal trade secrets from multiple U.S. aviation and aerospace companies, including the theft of proprietary airplane engine fan technology. Judge Timothy Black in Cincinnati rejected arguments by Yanjun Xu's attorneys that a long sentence was too harsh and the just under five years that Xu has served since his arrest was sufficient punishment. Prosecutors had asked for a 25-year sentence.



USA House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is expected to address her plans with colleagues today [Macau time] in the wake of Democrats narrowly losing control of the House to Republicans in the midterm elections. Pelosi's decision to either seek another term as the Democratic leader or to step aside has been widely anticipated. It would come after the party was able to halt an expected Republican wave in the House and the Senate but also in the aftermath of a brutal attack on her husband.



UK The British government has blocked a Chinese-owned company's takeover of a Wales-based microchip maker, calling it a risk to national security. Nexperia, a Netherlands-based firm owned by China's Wingtech, announced last year that it had acquired a 100% stake in Newport Wafer Fab, one of Britain's biggest semiconductor manufacturers. The government said that Business Secretary Grant Shapps (pictured) issued an order "requiring Nexperia to sell at least 86% of Newport Wafer Fab to prevent against potential national security risks."