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SECRETARY LEI WAI NONG HAS NO SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF SOARING FUEL PRICES BUT INSISTS THAT 'WE NEED TO DO THE MATH'

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GAMING: A DECADE TO 'CHANGE THE IMAGE OF MACAU,' GOV'T PROPOSES

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WC: SPAIN BRINGS BACK THE 'TIKI-TAKA', SCORES 7

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AP PHOTO



Indonesia On the fourth day of an increasingly urgent search, rescuers narrowed their work yesterday to a landslide where dozens are believed trapped after an earthquake killed at least 271 people, more than a third of them children. Many of the more than 1,000 rescue personnel are using backhoe loaders, sniffer dogs and life detectors — as well as jackhammers and bare hands — to speed up the search in the worst-hit area of Cijendil village, where people are believed still stuck after a landslide set off by Monday's quake left tons of mud, rocks and trees in Cugenang sub-district.

AP PHOTO



Australia A minister likened a mining company blasting ancient rock shelters to the Taliban's destruction of giant Buddha carvings and vowed yesterday to improve protections of Indigenous cultural heritage. Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek (pictured) said Rio Tinto acted lawfully in 2020 when it destroyed two rock shelters in Juukan Gorge in Western Australia state that had been inhabited for 46,000 years. She said Australia's laws would be updated to prevent such destruction of Indigenous sacred sites happening again.

AP PHOTO



Russia unleashed a new missile onslaught on Ukraine's battered energy grid, robbing cities of power and some of water and public transport, too, compounding the hardship of winter for millions. The aerial mauling of power supplies also took nuclear plants and internet links offline and spilled blackouts into neighbor Moldova. Multiple regions reported attacks in quick succession and cascading outages. Ukraine's Energy Ministry said supplies were cut to "the vast majority of electricity consumers."

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LACK OF BUSINESS INTEGRITY

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AP PHOTO



HONG KONG EMIGRES CRAVE TASTE OF MILK TEA FROM HOME

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GAMING

A DECADE TO 'CHANGE THE IMAGE OF MACAU,' GOV'T PROPOSES

RENATO MARQUES

It has been confirmed that the local government is trying to reduce casino activities to irrelevance or something merely residual through diversification of the economy with alternatives to the gaming sector.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, expressed this idea at the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, which he attended for a Q&A session with the lawmakers on the Policy Address for 2023 (LAG23).

Replying to lawmakers' inquiries about the gaming industry and its prospective new era in Macau, Lei said, "the gaming industry is essential but is also the one thing undermining diversification." He added, "this is why we need to do the 1+4 [new economic model that aims to develop four other industries in parallel with gaming]. On the new concessions [to be granted soon], we have made it very clear that we need to develop the non-gaming sector."

Explaining for the first time the government's philosophy for the next 10-year gaming concessions, Lei said, "we need to change the image of Macau [as a gambling destination]." He added, "these next 10 years will be very important for Macau to be able to attract other [than casino] types of visitors. We can't do this online, we need to do it offline, on-site, people must come to see shows, participate in events, go shopping, and many other activities."

Although this idea has previously been recommended by several analysts, this is the first time the local government has spoken publicly about reducing the gaming industry's importance in the local economy to figures potentially much lower than analysts and academics initially forecasted.

The Secretary also revealed that the central government's long-expressed idea of transforming Macau into a "World Centre of Tourism and Leisure" does not include gaming, at least not as Macau's predominant activity. It is expected the gaming industry will be gradually reduced.

RENATO MARQUES



"In the first 20 years [of gaming liberalization] we have been focusing on developing the demand for tourists to visit Macau. In the next 10 years, the focus will be on developing all non-gaming activities. This is the way to create the World Centre of Tourism and Leisure in Macau. Otherwise, there is only one source of tourism, and it will be very hard to compete with neighboring cities and regions," Lei said while adding, "besides the casinos, tourists must be able to enjoy other elements."

The casino concessionaires, starting January 1, 2023, must also have a bigger role "helping the community economy," Lei said, noting that "this is the only way we can have a healthy [gaming] sector."

"Cotai is not the only district that needs to be developed. The other districts also need to be developed," the Secretary said. He also mentioned that Macau has a long history of over 400 years and that the government aims to revive this historical Macau status in the next 10 years through the new gaming concessions.

11 NON-GAMING ELEMENTS NOT ADDRESSED IN DETAIL

Lei's comments were mostly directed at an inquiry from lawmaker Ma Io Fong who had directly questioned the Secretary

on an alleged list of "11 non-gaming elements" to be included in the new gaming concessions.

The Secretary dodged the question. He preferred to speak in more general terms about the orientation of industry. However, according to a report by public radio station TDM Radio, the list exists. Among the listed tasks are the creation of a major art museum, an annual plan for shows

and conventions, the creation of open-air venues to host concerts and other stage shows as well as art displays and exhibitions.

According to the same source, the creation of thematic international-level performances as well as maritime tours is also included, as are skating rings and other items.

Lei's more revealing comments at the AL disclosed that nego-

tiations between the government and the seven bidders on the international tender for the gaming concessions concluded last Tuesday. The Committee analyzing the proposals set last Monday as the deadline for submissions of the bidders' final proposals.

Next in the process will be the Committee's decision about the attribution of provisional concessions.

According to a previous report from the same radio station, the government wanted the investment plans by the new concessionaires to be around MOP100 billion but the same source reported that Galaxy and Venetian had reached an agreement for an undisclosed figure that is likely higher than MOP50 billion. Other bidders would have presented identical figures - or even higher - in their last proposal. This is one of the main issues on the negotiation table between the bidders and the government who wanted the investment plans to be of a higher value.

The Committee's role is to present a final report that analyzes and prioritizes the proposals that bring more advantages to Macau. The Chief Executive (CE) makes the final decision on which bidders will be granted a concession.

According to the rules, the bidders must be informed of the outcome within 15 days of the CE making the decision.

Analysts point to the date of December 20 (Macau's handover anniversary) as the tentative deadline for a final decision to be publicly announced.

'TOURISM +' TO INCREASE IN 2023

ACTIVITIES under "Tourism +" are likely to increase over 2023, the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said at the Legislative Assembly (AL) this week in a reply to lawmaker Ma Io Fong.

At the AL to participate in the Q&A about the Policy Address for 2023 (LAG23), Senna Fernandes explained that the activities under "Tourism +" are likely to increase in 2023 as a new subtype "Tourism + Education" will likely commence, she said. She noted the government has commissioned a travel agency to conduct a study which has since concluded; the final report should be submitted to MGTO this year.

She said the report's conclusion will direct the creation of this new type of tourism program that might also include the maritime tourism that has been ongoing for the past four years.

Senna Fernandes said that since 2018 two companies have been established to develop tourist sea routes. She said that over the past

four years those companies have already completed over 4,000 routes and carried 110,000 people.

The figure includes the MGTO program of local excursions targeting the lack of visitors from abroad and which aimed to keep travel agencies running over the peak of the pandemic period.

She said there are negotiations to extend these trips to different locations, namely by creating more pick-up and drop-off piers, to increase visitor interest in these activities.

One of the ideas advanced at the AL was to create routes that include the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin with several passenger drop-off and pick-up points to create multi-destination routes, she said, noting that such a plan is currently being considered.

Senna Fernandes, citing official MGTO statistics, noted that "Tourism + Sports" is the type of "Tourism +" that is attracting more young adults with many of the interested being people in between the early 20s and mid-30s. RM

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CORRUPTION

Anti-graft watchdog busts alleged breach of confidentiality

ANTHONY LAM

A company proprietor in the construction sector has been arrested for allegedly engaging in anti-competitive practices by stealing commercial secrets from his former employer, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has revealed in a statement.

The corruption watchdog said the proprietor had colluded with former colleagues to obtain such information, so he could attract customers by providing lower-priced quotes.

In the statement, the commission revealed the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) had referred the case. However, before or after the MP's referral, CCAC received another report about private sector bribery. The CCAC subsequently conducted investigations.

It was discovered that before his retirement, a former member of senior management had se-

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cretely headhunted some workers of his former employer. He was preparing to open a similar construction consultancy firm the day after his retirement.

He had also revealed his willingness to undercut the prices of his former employer.

As a result, he unfairly competed with his former employer in successfully tendering for contracts. The former employer claimed it had consequently recorded a loss of over MOP1 million.

The investigation also uncovered the involvement of a secretary

of the former member of senior management, who remained at the complainant's company after the main suspect's retirement.

Aware of her former boss's activities, she followed his instructions and repeatedly provided him with documents and infor-

mation containing trade secrets of the company using a company email account and mobile phone applications.

She also published recruitment advertisements for the new company in private. Her acts aimed to help the former member of senior management compete for business with his previous company through unfair competition.

The CCAC believed the conspiracy committed by the two parties had not only violated the inherent duties of employees but was also contrary to the important value of business integrity.

The CCAC believed the conspiracy was contrary to the important value of business integrity

The two parties, as accomplices, allegedly perpetrated offences such as breach of secrecy as stipulated in the Penal Code and the illegal acquisition, use or provision of computer data under the Law on Combatting Computer Crimes.

AD

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COMPOSITE INTEREST RATES FOR PATAKA, HKD RISE IN Q3

The composite interest rates for the pataca (MOP) and the Hong Kong dollar (HKD) rose from 0.56% and 1.05% at the end of June to 0.88% and 1.71% at the end of September, the Monetary Authority announced yesterday. The composite interest rates for the MOP and the HKD rose 32 basis points and 66 basis points respectively, reflecting a general increase in the funding costs of the local banking sector in the third quarter of 2022, according to the authority. Macau's composite interest rates are the weighted average interest rates of all interest-bearing liabilities and non-interest-bearing demand deposits on local banks' books, said the authority.

CEM'S NEW PAC ON SUBSTATION COMMENCES OPERATION

Local energy supplier CEM has commenced operations on the new Pac On Substation. The facility, the largest in Macau, will allow the local power grid to operate more smoothly and with increased safety, especially in unsettled weather conditions, CEM company officials have said. The substation represents an investment of around MOP1.4 billion and was jointly built by CEM and China Southern Power Grid. The facility is also the first 220kV substation and adopts the one-and-a-half breaker connection mode, which enhances the reliability of the power supply and the flexibility of operation and delivery of electricity to the population. The substation's commencement represents an increase of 55% of the company's power supply capacity to the whole power grid, also making the same power grid more reliable and resistant to situations of potential power shortage.

UM CREATES DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Yesterday the University of Macau (UM), through its Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), launched its Department of Marine Science and Technology, dedicated to promoting research in Macau's regional oceans and nurturing talent in this field, the University said. The official establishment of the new department occurred yesterday during the first Hong Kong-Macao Ocean Forum. The forum was attended by several experts and scholars in this field who exchanged ideas on the theme of marine environmental safety and sustainable development. In his presentation speech, UM's Vice Rector Ge Wei said the development and utilization of Macau coastal areas as well as coastal environmental protection, disaster prevention, and mitigation have always been hot topics in the local community. This fact had justified the 2020 creation at UM of the Centre for Regional Oceans to develop studies and theories using innovative technologies in offshore civil engineering, ocean environment and ecology, and ocean disaster prevention.

ANTHONY LAM



SECURITY

PJ STAGES MOCK ABDUCTION RESCUE

ANTHONY LAM

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) staged a mock operation wherein they rescued a female university student kidnapped by a gang of three men. The simulation was presented to the press yesterday afternoon.

A PJ spokesperson explained after the event that the main objective was to familiarize inspectors with operational protocols and procedures, as well as the mode of conducting internal and external communications and coordination in the case where a major event or crime arises.

The spokesperson added the PJ had deployed 80 inspectors and other auxiliary officers to conduct the drill.

Before the mock rescue, the police briefed the press at its headquarters to familiarize journalists with the operation.

Ho Wai Lok, head of section at the PJ's Organized Crime Division, said a mock abduction occurred on November 11. The PJ received a report from a local university rector about a bicycle left unattended at a zebra crossing in the campus, leading to a suspicion that a student has been kidnapped.

To make the drill more authentic, the PJ hired a film crew to produce videos of the scene where the fake victim was supposedly kidnapped. Later, drone shots showed the location where the fake victim was being held.

Ho explained that a case of

such severity would trigger the contingency mechanism and initiate the Crisis Contingency Control Centre. The center consists of 10 bodies within the PJ, such as Ho's division, the Interpol sub-branch in Macau, as well as several other bodies concerning information technology.

Ho highlighted that in the mock case, the bank transfer interception mechanism was also triggered. It was used to suspend

a partial payment of ransom conducted over bank wire transfer to a mainland bank account.

Furthermore, the PJ also obtained a warrant to intercept communications. The PJ pretended the kidnappers had contacted the victim's parents over Chinese chat platform WeChat. In the mock investigation, PJ's mainland counterpart was notified.

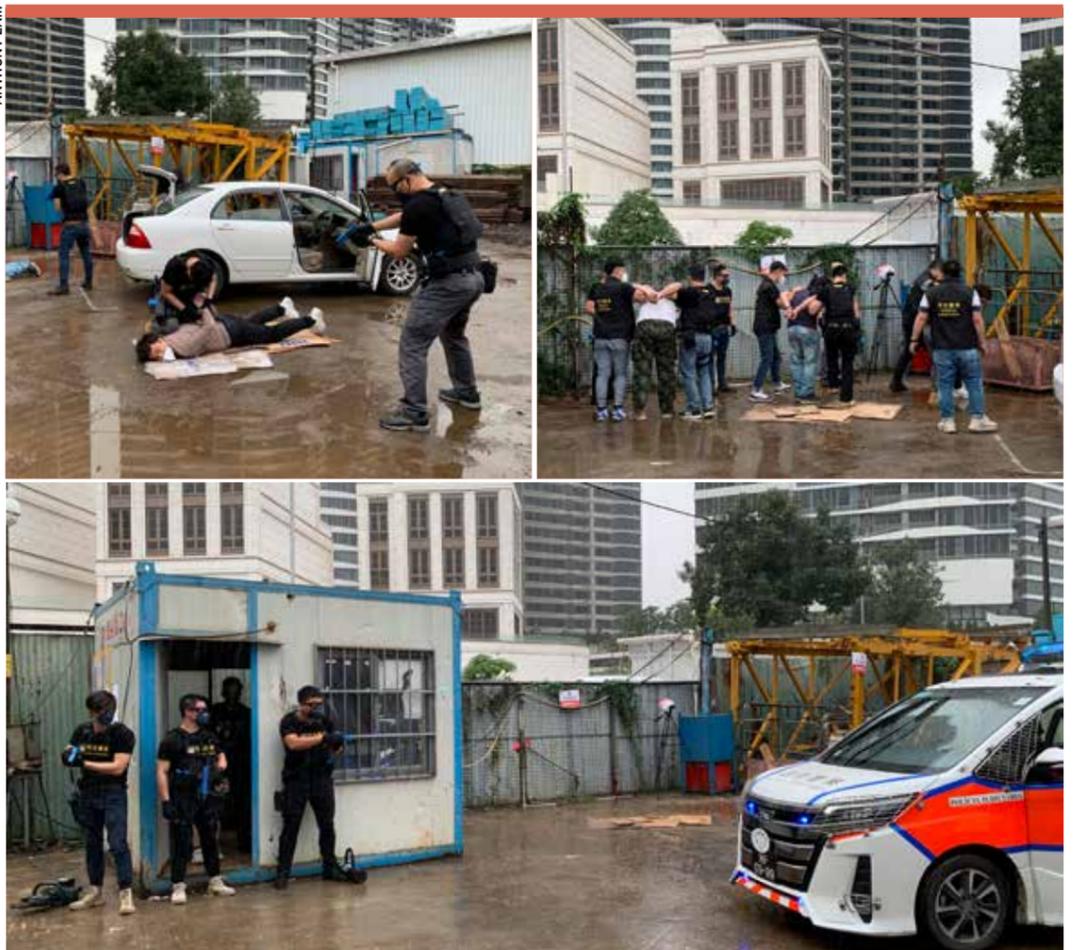
To make the drill further mi-

mic real-life, the PJ pretended the kidnappers used fake car license plates and kept swapping cars to increase the difficulties of PJ's investigations.

At the end of the drill, PJ inspectors managed to apprehend all the actor-suspects and rescue the victim.

The PJ does regular drills to ensure the smooth running of procedures of investigations and operations.

ANTHONY LAM



Melco helps realize the dreams of local elderlies through Simple Acts of Kindness 2.0

SINCE 2020, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Chairman & CEO Mr. Lawrence Ho has deployed the company's workforce en masse to support the local community during work hours, encouraging colleagues to care for the community through Simple Acts of Kindness. Based on the philosophy that even small actions can have a big impact, and that each person can do something to touch people's hearts, almost three years on, the initiative continues to provide various types of support to the local Macau community.

So far in 2022, Melco has supported local NGOs and its community partners through nearly 18,000 volunteer participations in almost 1,800 activities, benefitting 1,556 local non-governmental organizations/institutions, SMEs, schools and nurseries.

In recent months, Simple Acts of Kindness 2.0's 'Small Dreams' program has been launched to help local elderlies and youth realize their wishes through individualization and customization. To help make seniors' dreams come true, Melco has been working hand in hand with local NGOs including Macau Caritas Asilo de Sao Francis Xavier Home for the Aged, UGAMM Cheng I Elderly Service Center and Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) Ka Ho Nursing Home.

Granny Pun and Granny Ng each aspired to become nurses in their youth but were deprived of the opportunity due to lack of family resources. To help the ladies achieve their dreams, Melco volunteers organized a Nursing Student Internship Experience which comprised sharing sessions from Kiang Wu Nursing School Associate Professor Ms. U Wai Ng and the institution's nursing interns. The ladies graduated from the program and were presented certificates by Ms. U while being dressed in nursing uniforms, and were later gifted framed photos of the occasion as memorabilia.

In another 'Small Dreams' pursuit, keen dancer and sports lover Granny Ma was gifted with a pair of dancing shoes and invited to join a series of Flamenco classes led by a Melco volunteer and professional dancer, to help realize her Flamenco-dancing dream. Although she was only able to only complete part of the course due to health issues, Granny Ma wrapped up the program with a stunning dance performance at an elderly gathering



activity in front of a 50-strong audience comprising members of three local elderly centers.

Appreciative of the volunteers' time and efforts, Granny Ma said, "My wish has been fulfilled. The teacher (Melco Volunteer) taught me so well, and it was all easy to understand. What I have learnt will always stay with me. Whenever I think of the Flamenco music, my heart begins to dan-

ce. I am grateful for the teacher's patience and care, that feeling is hard to describe in words... Thank you for helping me realize my dream."

The activity series also saw Melco volunteers help Granny Chan accomplish the dream of revisiting her old neighborhood, former workplace and the Macao Giant Panda Pavilion. Granny Chan said, "Due to my age and

lack of mobility, even the seemingly easy things in life like outings are now hard to come by. I was so happy to have Melco volunteers accompany me to help me realize my dreams, taking me to the places I always wanted to go to and enjoying the foods I love. It has brought me a lot of joy seeing real pandas and monkeys, as well as receiving the really thoughtful gifts of a neck scarf and furry

slippers from the volunteers to bring me warmth for the winter."

In another case, being in her 60's and with strong self-care abilities, Ms. Chan was once ill when she decided to join her husband with dementia as resident of FAOM Ka Ho Nursing Home. Sometimes feeling daily life in the home had become too mundane, Ms. Chan's wish was to go out more than just once a month to meet with old friends and neighbors, but was unable to due to the home's staffing arrangements.

Before joining the care home and to make ends meet, Ms. Chan enjoyed selling her homemade baked goods to neighbors. In view of this, Melco arranged for Ms. Chan and two other fellow residents to learn professional pastry skills and exchange ideas with Studio City's Bi Ying restaurant chef. Today, Ms. Chan can continue her small pastry business to enrich her daily life, about which Deputy Dean of FAOM Ka Ho Nursing Home, Ms. Lau Wing-Sze said, "I am thrilled that several seniors in our community have been able to participate in Melco's 'Small Dreams' activity. In addition to making the dreams of the elderly come true, Melco's professionals helped our residents gain skills and knowledge to increase their confidence and improve their sense of self-worth. Melco's volunteers made the most thoughtful arrangements, accompanying and taking good care of the elderlies while helping to add color to their lives."



Economy chief has no definite answer to high fuel prices

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong has no solution to the issue of soaring fuel prices but insists that “we need to do the math.”

His comment was made during a recent parliamentary session, in response to lawmakers Nick Lei's and Ella Lei's questions.

Nick Lei said fuel prices often, if not always, rise. Among the five brands selling the commodity in Macau, four had maintained a “tacit congruence” between their prices. He queried whether this was a reasonable phenomenon.

Furthermore, global petroleum prices have consistently fallen since July this year, but there had been no notable decrease in prices for vehicle fuel or fuel for other uses. Lei said, despite the city adopting a free market economy, the government is responsible for supervising and even controlling commodity prices with low replenishment rates.

Ella Lei questioned the effecti-

ANTHONY LAM



veness of the work of the Consumer Council in requesting price structures from sellers, assuming that had even been done. The Consumer Rights Protection Law grants the council the right to make such requests.

Ella Lei said the worst part is that the council of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) has no apparatus to implement measures or policies to combat the situation.

She questioned how officials

would improve the current condition with literally no tool in hand.

In response, the senior official only said new terms and conditions will be added to land lease contracts concerning new gas stations. The aim is to require sellers to provide options, such as gas products of lower octane levels.

The senior official, nonetheless, warned that sellers will determine whether new products will be profitable for them to incur auxiliary costs. AL

GBA

SHENZHEN MEETING ENCOURAGES MORE INT'L EXCHANGES

REPRESENTATIVES from member organizations of the Shenzhen People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries have unanimously agreed that concerted efforts should be made to further strengthen exchanges between Shenzhen and other nations, according to the association's autumn meeting held in Nanshan District this week.

The meeting aimed to mobilize all walks of life in Shenzhen to actively participate in international exchanges and cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and enhance the connections and friendships among the association's members.

“As an important window for the world to understand China and a core city in the GBA, Shenzhen should take practical actions and responsibilities to integrate the city's international exchange resources and actively engage in international exchanges and cooperation in the region,” said Cao Saixian, president of the association.

In her keynote speech at the meeting, Cao gave a detail-

led review of the association's efforts in promoting the city's international exchanges and cooperation since the start of this year, covering fields such as economy and trade, technological innovation, culture, education and friendship cities.

Cao also revealed the association's five key tasks for 2023, which include expanding multilevel international communication channels, strengthening people-to-people exchanges, reinforcing technological as well as economic and trade cooperation, supporting social organizations to go global and improving the city's international communication capacity.

Seven representatives from different sectors also gave talks on internationalization and nongovernmental international exchanges at the meeting.

Shenzhen People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, established in 1984, has a total of 120 member organizations.

The inaugural meeting of the association's first council was held Oct. 26, 2021.

MDT/SHENZHEN DAILY

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NEW CHINATOWNS

Hong Kong emigres crave taste of milk tea from home

IN London, Wong Wai-yi misses the taste of home.

A year ago, the 31-year-old musician was in Hong Kong, earning a good living composing for TV and movies and teaching piano. Today, she makes about half as much in London working part-time as a server alongside her musical pursuits. She chose the job in part because staff meals allow her to save money on food.

It's a difficult adjustment. And Wong, who left Hong Kong with her boyfriend in January, has turned to a beloved hometown staple to keep her grounded: milk tea. She brings the beverage to parties with Hong Kong friends and gives bottles to co-workers as gifts.

"It's like reminding myself I am a Hong Konger. It will be fine as long as we are willing to endure the hardships and work hard," said Wong, who left as part of an exodus that began after Beijing passed a law in 2020 that curtailed civil liberties.

As tens of thousands leave Hong Kong for new lives abroad, many are craving a flavor from childhood that's become a symbol of the city's culture: the sweet, heavy tea with evaporated milk that's served both hot and cold at diner-like restaurants called cha chaan tengs. Workshops are popping up to teach professionals to brew tea like short-order cooks, and milk tea businesses are expanding beyond Chinatowns in Britain.

In Hong Kong, milk tea is an unassuming beverage, something you use to wash down sweet French toast off a plastic plate. It's so beloved that members of Hong Kong's protest movement have called themselves part of a "Milk Tea Alliance" with activists from Taiwan, Thailand, and Myanmar, who drink similar beverages.

Following a law that silenced or jailed most political opposition, over 133,000 residents have secured a special visa that allows them to live and work in the U.K. and apply for British citizenship after six years. Official figures have not been released on how many have gone but most recipients are expected to do so, given the visa's



Eric Tam, an insurance manager who moved to Liverpool with his family in June, poses for a photo after an interview in Hong Kong earlier this month

cost.

The pathway was introduced last year in response to China's 2020 enactment of the National Security Law, which the U.K. called "a clear breach" of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. However, this has been contested by China and Hong Kong governments which defend that the agreement expired on handover day, back in 1997.

Exiled activist Lee Ka-wai said that immersing himself at a Hong Kong-style cafe in London with a cup of milk tea was a "luxury."

The 26-year-old fled Hong Kong in March last year out of fear of being arrested. He is wanted by the city's anti-graft body for allegedly inciting others to boycott the legislative election in December 2021. As an asylum seeker in Britain, he is not allowed to work and is living on savings.

Even if the taste is right, he said, the feel of a cha chaan teng and the sounds of customers chatting in Cantonese cannot be replicated.

"It's strange because I can feel a sense of home overseas. But it also has another meaning — there's something that cannot be replaced," he said. "What we long for most is to go home and see a better Hong Kong. But we can't."

Some emigrants, like

Eric Tam, a 41-year-old manager at an insurance company, enroll in milk tea lessons before leaving. Visiting Hong Kong this month, he stocked up on a milk tea blend, a recipe that evolved from British teas in the colonial era.

While tea is easy to find in England, he said, the taste isn't the same: "British milk tea is just watery milk," said Tam.

Before moving to Liverpool with his wife and two younger daughters in June, Tam signed up for lessons at the Institution of Hong Kong Milk Tea. The two-year-old organization teaches students skills like pouring tea back and forth between a kettle and a plastic container to enhance its flavor before mixing it with evaporated milk.

Yan Chan, the school's founder, estimated that about 40% of the 2,000 people who have studied with her were planning to emigrate.

Milk tea only began to emerge as a symbol of the Hong Kong identity over the last 15 years, said Veronica Mak, associate professor at the sociology department of Hong Kong Shue Yan University.

Mak said that many young people began to think about Hong Kong identity after the government removed Queen's Pier, a landmark from the city's colonial past, in 2007. Childhood me-

mories, marketing and a fashion for localism came together to make milk tea a totem of Hong Kong culture.

"When you ask young

people what kind of milk tea they like to drink, they will tell you it's the bubble milk tea," she said, referring to a drink from Taiwan. "But when you

come to the identity part ... they will not say the bubble tea but the local style milk tea."

Most milk tea lovers interviewed told the Associated Press that milk tea isn't political. But Tam said it's a form of silent resistance.

"We can choose to preserve the culture that we want to keep. It cannot be destroyed even if other people try," he said.

Contemporary Asian tea culture is catching on globally. Outside Chinatowns, at least five Hong Kong-style milk tea brands have emerged over the past two years in Britain. One set up a pop-up cafe in the trendy London neighborhood of Shoreditch in September, attracting Londoners and tourists as well as Hong Kong emigres.

Eric Wong, a tea wholesaler, began selling bottled milk tea in 2021 after moving to the UK, and offers milk tea workshops. He said he's making 500 to 1,000 bottles of milk tea a week, and his south London business broke even after about six months. **MDT/AP**

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PANDEMIC

AUTHORITIES EXPAND LOCKDOWNS AS COVID-19 CASES HIT DAILY RECORD

PANDEMIC lockdowns are expanding across China, including in a city where factory workers clashed this week with police, as the number of COVID-19 cases hits a daily record.

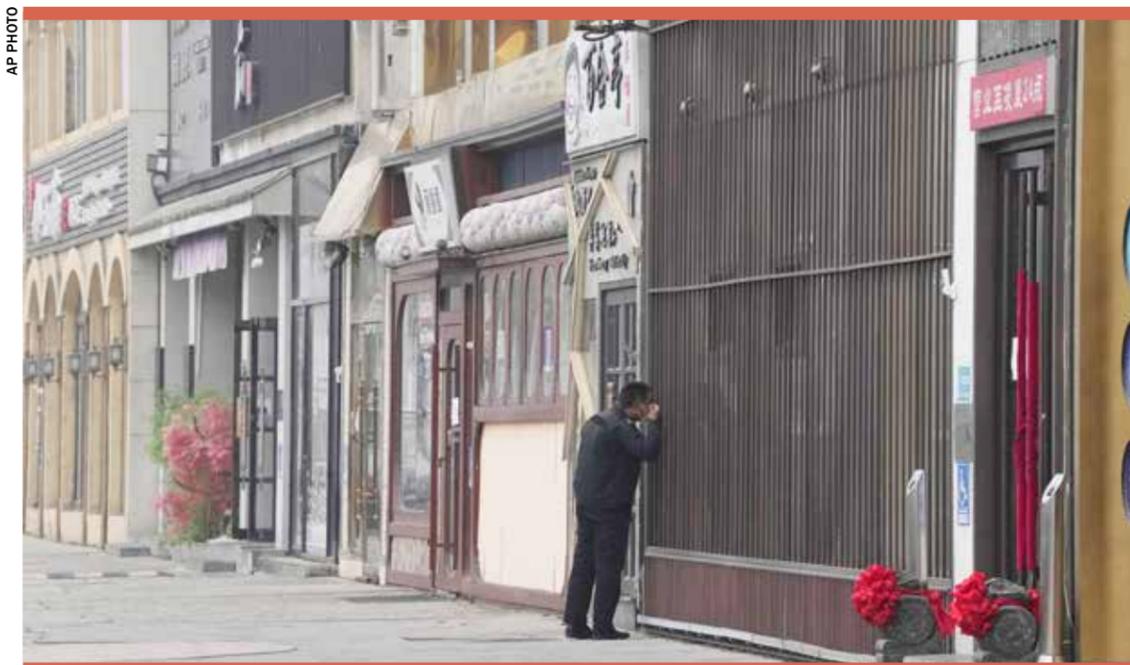
Residents of eight districts of Zhengzhou, home to 6.6 million people, were told to stay home for five days beginning yesterday except to buy food or get medical treatment. Daily mass testing was ordered in what the city government called a “war of annihilation” against the virus.

During clashes Tuesday and Wednesday, Zhengzhou police beat workers protesting over a pay dispute at the biggest factory for Apple's iPhone, located in an industrial zone near the city. Foxconn, the Taiwan-based owner of the factory, apologized yesterday for what it called “an input error in the computer system” and said it would guarantee that the pay is the same as agreed to and in official recruitment posters.

In the previous 24 hours, the number of new COVID cases rose by 31,444, the National Health Commission said yesterday. That's the highest daily figure since the coronavirus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

The daily caseload has been steadily increasing. This week, authorities reported China's first COVID-19 deaths in six months, bringing the total to 5,232.

While the number of cases and



deaths is relatively low compared to the U.S. and other countries, China's ruling Communist Party remains committed to a “zero-COVID” strategy that aims to isolate every case and eliminate the virus entirely. Most other governments have ended anti-virus controls and now rely on vaccinations and immunity from past infections to help prevent deaths and serious illness.

Businesses and residential communities from the manufacturing center of Guangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north are in various forms of lockdowns, measures that particularly affects blue-collar migrant workers. In many

cases, residents say the restrictions go beyond what the national government allows.

Guangzhou suspended access Monday to its Baiyun district of 3.7 million residents, while residents of some areas of Shijiazhuang, a city of 11 million people southwest of Beijing, were told to stay home while mass testing is conducted.

Beijing opened a hospital in an exhibition center. It suspended access to the Beijing International Studies University after a virus case was found there. Some shopping malls, and office buildings were closed and access was blocked to some apartment compounds.

Suggesting some of those measures might be at least semi-permanent, workers were erecting a 2-meter (7-foot)-high fence around the aging, low-rise brick apartment buildings in Beijing's Hongmiao Beili community.

A half dozen people in hazmat suits manned the entrance to a lane running through the community, standing behind waist-high steel barriers usually used for crowd control.

Authorities had announced measures to try to reduce disruptions from pandemic controls by shortening quarantines and making other changes. Some Chinese have expressed frustration

and confusion about the apparent policy flip-flops on social media.

A key issue is concern about how vulnerable people are to the virus. Few Chinese have caught COVID or even been exposed to the virus, so only a small percentage are thought to have built up effective levels of virus-fighting antibodies.

China has an overall coronavirus vaccination rate of more than 92%, with most people having received at least one dose. But far fewer older Chinese — particularly those over age 80 — have gotten the shots.

The government is trying to contain the latest wave of outbreaks without shutting down factories and the rest of its economy as it did in early 2020. One tactic is using “closed-loop management,” under which workers live in their factories with no outside contacts.

Foxconn, the world's biggest contract assembler of smartphones and other electronics, is struggling to fill orders for the iPhone 14 after thousands of employees walked away from the factory in Zhengzhou last month following complaints about unsafe working conditions.

The protests on Tuesday and Wednesday were driven by disagreements over payment of workers who were recruited to replace those who left. Workers scuffled with police and some were beaten. Some were arrested.

Foxconn denied what it said were comments online that employees with the virus lived in dormitories at the Zhengzhou factory. It said facilities were disinfected and passed government checks before employees moved in. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippines asks China for explanation over latest sea feud

THE Philippines has sought an explanation from China after a Filipino military commander reported that the Chinese coast guard forcibly seized Chinese rocket debris in the possession of Filipino navy personnel in the disputed South China Sea, officials said yesterday.

Sunday's incident off Philippine-occupied Thitu island is the latest flareup in the long-seething territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. China has denied its coast guard forcibly seized the debris from the Filipino sailors.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson in Manila, Maria Theresa Daza,



said without elaborating that a diplomatic note was relayed to China for “clarification from the Chinese

side over the incident.” Vice Adm. Alberto Carlos, who heads the military's Western Command,

said the Filipino sailors, using a long-range camera, spotted the debris drifting in strong waves near a sandbar about 800 yards (540 meters) offshore. They set out on a boat and retrieved the floating object and started to tow it back to Thitu Island.

As they were traveling back to the island, “they noticed that a China coast guard vessel with bow number 5203 was approaching their location and subsequently blocked their pre-plotted course twice,” Carlos said in a statement.

The Chinese coast guard vessel then deployed an inflatable boat with personnel who “forcefully retrieved said floating object by cutting the towing line”

attached to the Filipino sailors' rubber boat. The sailors decided to return to their island, Carlos said, without detailing what happened.

Chinese coast guard ships have blocked Philippine supply boats delivering supplies to Filipino forces in the disputed waters in the past but seizing objects in the possession of another nation's military constitutes a more brazen act.

China's Foreign Ministry in Beijing has denied that the debris was seized forcibly.

“The Philippine side salvaged and towed the object first. After friendly consultation at the site, the Philippine side returned the object to China, and China expressed appreciation for

that,” ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Monday. “There was no such thing as interception or forcible seizure at the scene.”

Responding to China's denial, top Philippine defense official Jose Faustino Jr. stood by the accounts of the Filipino navy personnel and said the debris was “rudely” taken from them by the Chinese coast guard.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he would also seek clarification when he visits Beijing in January to meet China's leader Xi Jinping.

Faustino said a separate Philippine investigation was underway after Filipino villagers on Thitu reported hearing unexplained explosions on Sunday. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA

Long-time reformist leader Anwar named as premier

EILEEN NG, KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA'S king named reformist opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as the country's Prime Minister, ending days of uncertainty after divisive general elections produced a hung Parliament.

Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah said Anwar, 75, was sworn in as the nation's 10th leader at the palace yesterday evening at the palace.

Anwar's Alliance of Hope led Saturday's election with 82 seats, short of the 112 needed for a majority. An unexpected surge of ethnic Malay support propelled Former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's right-leaning National Alliance to win 73 seats, with its ally Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party emerging as the biggest single party with 49 seats.

The stalemate was resolved after the long-ruling bloc led by the United Malays National Organization agreed to support a unity government under Anwar. Such a tie-up was once unthinkable in Malaysian politics, long dominated by rivalry between the two parties. Other influential groups in Borneo island have said they will follow the king's decision.

"His Royal Highness reminds all parties that the winners do not



Anwar Ibrahim shows his inked finger to the media after voting at a polling station in Seberang Perai, Penang state last week

win all and the losers do not lose everything," a palace statement read. The monarch urged Anwar and his new government to be humble, and said all opposing parties should reconcile to ensure a stable government and end Malaysia's political turmoil, which has led to three prime ministers since 2018 polls.

The palace statement said the

king was satisfied Anwar is the candidate who is likely to have majority support but didn't give details of the new government.

Police have tightened security nationwide as social media warned of racial troubles if Anwar's multiethnic bloc wins. Anwar's party has urged supporters to refrain from celebratory gatherings or issuing sensitive statements to

avoid risk of provocation.

Anwar's rise to the top caps his roller-coaster political journey and will ease fears over greater Islamization. But he faces a tall task in bridging racial divides that deepened after Saturday's poll, as well as reviving an economy struggling with rising inflation and a currency that has fallen to its weakest point. Malays form two-thirds of

Malaysia's 33 million people, which include large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

"He will have to make compromises with other actors in the government that means that the reform process will be a more inclusive one," said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia political expert. "Anwar is a globalist, which will assure international investors. He has been seen to be a bridge builder across communities, which will test his leadership moving forward but at the same juncture offers a reassuring hand for the challenges that Malaysia will face."

Anwar was a former deputy prime minister whose sacking and imprisonment in the 1990s led to massive street protests and a reform movement that became a major political force. It marked a second victory for his reformist bloc yesterday, after historic 2018 polls that led to the first regime change since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

Anwar was in prison at the time for a sodomy charge he said was politically motivated. He was pardoned and was due to take over from Mahathir Mohamad. But the government collapsed after Muhyiddin defected and joined hands with UMNO to form a new government. Muhyiddin's government was beset by internal rivalries and he resigned after 17 months. UMNO leader Ismail Sabri Yaakob was then picked by the king as the prime minister.

Many rural Malays fear they may lose their privileges with greater pluralism under Anwar. Fed up with corruption and infighting in UMNO, many opted for Muhyiddin's bloc in Saturday's vote. **MDT/AP**

KOREAS

Kim's sister makes insulting threats to Seoul over sanctions

THE powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made insult-laden threats against South Korea yesterday for considering unilateral sanctions on the North, calling the South's new president and his government "idiots" and "a running wild dog gnawing on a bone given by the U.S."

Kim Yo Jong's diatribe came two days after South Korea's Foreign Ministry said that it was reviewing additional unilateral sanctions on North Korea over its recent barrage of missile tests. The ministry said it would also consider sanctions and clampdowns on North Korea's alleged cyberattacks — a new key source of funding for its weapons program — if the North

conducts a major provocation like a nuclear test.

"I wonder what 'sanctions' the South Korean group, no more than a running wild dog gnawing on a bone given by the U.S., impudently impose on North Korea," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media. "What a spectacle sight!"

She called South Korea's new conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol and his administration officials "idiots who continue creating the dangerous situation." She added that South Korea "had not been our target" when Moon Jae-in — Yoon's liberal predecessor who sought reconciliation with North Korea — was in power. It could be seen as a possible attempt to help

foster anti-Yoon sentiments in South Korea.

"We warn the impudent and stupid once again that the desperate sanctions and pressure of the U.S. and its South Korean stooges against (North Korea) will add fuel to the latter's hostility and anger and they will serve as a noose for them," Kim Yo Jong said.

Kim Yo Jong's official title is a vice department director of the Central Committee of the North's ruling Workers' Party. But South Korea's spy service believes she's the North's second-most powerful person after her brother and handles relations with South Korea and the United States.

While it's not the first time Kim Yo Jong has used crude invectives on South

Korea, North Korea is still expected to further escalate military tensions on the Korean Peninsula given she's in charge of relations with South Korea and wields some influences on the North's military, said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

South Korea quickly shot back at Kim Yo Jong's insults on Yoon, saying it's "very deplorable for her to denounce our head of state with rough, substandard words and show no basic forms of etiquette." Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement that it also strongly condemns what it called "her impure attempt to incite antigovernment struggles and shake our system" in South Korea. **MDT/AP**



The powerful sister: Kim Yo Jong

PUTIN'S WAR

Pope links plight of Ukrainians today to Stalin's 'genocide'

NICOLE WINFIELD, VATICAN

POPE Francis yesterday [Macau time] linked the suffering of Ukrainians now to the 1930s "genocide artificially caused by Stalin," when the Soviet leader was blamed for creating a man-made famine in Ukraine believed to have killed more than 3 million people.

Francis' linking of the plight of Ukrainian civilians today to those killed by starvation 90 years ago, and his willingness to call it a "genocide" caused by Josef Stalin, marked a sharp escalation in papal rhetoric against Russia. As of this year, only 17 countries have officially recognized the famine, known as the Holodomor, as a genocide, according to the Holodomor Museum in Kyiv.

In comments at the end of his weekly general audience, Francis renewed calls for prayers for the "terrible suffering of the dear and martyred Ukrainian people." He recalled that Saturday marks the 90th anniversary of the start of the famine, which Ukraine commemorates every fourth Saturday of November with a Day of Memory.

"Saturday begins the anniversary of the terrible genocide of the Holodomor, the extermination by starvation artificially caused by Stalin between 1932-1933," Francis said. "Let us pray for the victims of this genocide and let us pray for so many Ukrainians — children, women, elderly, babies — who today are suffering the martyrdom of aggression."

Academic opinion re-



AP PHOTO

mains divided about whether the famine constitutes a "genocide," with the main question being whether Stalin intentionally wanted to kill Ukrainians as an attempt to quash an independence movement against the Soviet Union, or whether the famine was primarily the result of official incompetence along with natural conditions. Regardless, the "great famine" seeded lingering Ukrainian bitterness toward Soviet Russian rule.

The Vatican, in its 2004 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, lists Ukrainians along with Armenians and Jews as victims of 20th century genocides and said "attempts to eliminate entire national, ethnic, religious or linguistic groups are crimes against God and humanity itself, and those responsible for such crimes must answer for them before

justice."

Francis has repeatedly called for peace and an end to the war, has sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine and has called incessantly for prayers for the "martyred" Ukrainian people. But he has generally declined to assign blame or even name Russia or President Vladimir Putin, and has repeated the Kremlin's complaints that NATO was "barking at its door" in its eastern expansion.

The Vatican has a tradition of not calling out aggressors, believing that behind-the-scenes diplomacy is more effective than public denunciation. The Holy See is also eager to maintain relations with the Russian Orthodox Church, which has strongly backed the Kremlin in the war.

According to the Holodomor Museum, 16 states in addition to Ukraine have

recognized the famine as genocide: Australia, Ecuador, Estonia, Canada, Colombia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the United States and the Vatican. Some other countries, such as Argentina, Chile and Spain, have condemned it as "an act of extermination."

Francis in 2015 riled Turkey when, from the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, he publicly declared the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians a genocide. This summer, during an airborne press conference returning home from Canada, Francis concurred that the attempt to eliminate Indigenous culture in Canada through a church-run residential school system amounted to a cultural "genocide," though he neglected to say so when he was in Canada itself. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1998 'CORRUPT' TURKISH GOVERNMENT FALLS

The government of Turkey has collapsed after losing a no-confidence motion over corruption allegations.

The Turkish assembly voted by an absolute majority - 314 votes to 214 - in favour of an opposition motion of no confidence in the coalition government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

Mr Yilmaz has been accused of tampering with the \$600m sale of a state bank, and of links with the Turkish mafia.

He has denied the charges, saying he is being brought down by the mafia, and is taking legal action to clear his name.

He warned the country's economic and foreign policy would suffer as a result.

"If you bring this government down, you will make the gangs laugh," he said. "Of all governments past and present, ours has been the most determined to go after gangs."

He was referring to a police crackdown on organised crime which led to the arrest of several prominent mafia bosses over the past few months.

Mr Yilmaz came to power nearly 17 months ago after Turkey's first pro-Islamic government was forced out of power by the military.

He had acknowledged that he expected to lose the vote of confidence after key coalition partner the People's Republican Party withdrew its support from his coalition.

This is the fourth administration to collapse since the rightist-led government of Tansu Ciller fell from power in 1995.

Its demise comes as Turkey struggles to overcome annual inflation of 62% and high government debts.

It is also likely to prolong the argument between Turkey and Italy over the extradition of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has applied for political asylum in Rome.

Correspondents say Turkey now faces a further period of political uncertainty as there is no obvious successor as prime minister and no party looks capable of forging a strong parliamentary majority.

The President, Suleyman Demirel, is now holding talks with other factions in parliament to see if any are capable of forming a new government.

They include the largest party in parliament, the pro-Islamist Virtue Party, which is strongly opposed by Turkey's secular politicians and by the military.

There is strong support for an early election, probably in April next year, but the military is thought to favour postponing any poll until 2000.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Turkey spent the next six weeks in political limbo after two attempts to form a new coalition - by former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and then by independent deputy Yalim Erez - failed. Then former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller made a political about-turn to support the coalition put together by Bulent Ecevit after all.

Mr Ecevit continued as Turkey's prime minister until 2002, when growing economic and political turmoil resulted in the resignation of several of his senior ministers.

In November 2002 the Islamist-based Justice and Development Party won a landslide election victory. A change in the constitution was necessary before the party's leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, could become prime minister. Although his party has Islamist roots Mr Erdogan insists it is committed to secularism. He has identified EU entry as a top priority and has introduced reforms designed to bring Turkey more closely into line with entry requirements.

GREECE

MIGRANT BOAT HAD SAILED FROM LIBYA WITH 483 PEOPLE

GREEK authorities say a dilapidated fishing boat crammed with migrants that was towed to port after losing steering in rough seas south of Crete was carrying a total of 483 people who had sailed from Libya.

The coast guard said yesterday that those on board were Syrians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Palestinians and

Sudanese and included 336 men, 10 women, 128 boys and nine girls. They were all transferred Wednesday afternoon to a ferry docked in southern Crete for temporary housing.

The passengers had been crammed into a 25-meter fishing boat that had set sail from Libya and had been heading to Italy, the coast

guard said. Passengers on board made a distress call when the vessel ran into trouble and lost steering while sailing in the Mediterranean off the southern Greek island of Crete in the early hours of Tuesday.

A major rescue operation was mounted, involving a Greek frigate, two coast guard vessels, five nearby

merchant ships and two Italian-flagged fishing boats. The adverse weather conditions, with strong winds and rough seas, prevented the passengers from being transferred to any of the other vessels, and the fishing boat was eventually towed to a port in southeastern Crete by one of the Italian-flagged fishing vessels. **MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Hassles with in-laws could put a damper on your day. You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Romance will unfold if you take trips or get together with friends. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. You should be on the road.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Don't allow colleagues to put unreasonable pressure on you. You can get into weight loss programs or go out and change your image with a new look in clothing, hairstyle, and attitude.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You can mix business with pleasure to get favorable results. Your lack of attention may have been a factor. Social activity should be on your agenda.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Consider making pleasure trips or participating in entertainment that will require energy. Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety. You have so much to offer; open up and let your thoughts be known. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Take time to catch up on gossip and make plans to do a little adventure travel. It's a good time to make changes to your living quarters that will give you more space.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Don't be a pest or a troublemaker today. Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters. Organize social events or family gatherings.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. You'll find it easy to deal with government agencies or large institutions.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can enhance your reputation if you treat family and friends with respect and dignity. Relatives will want to get together. Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Depression may put a damper on your day. You may have a problem with someone you live with if you don't include them in your gathering. Spend some time on yourself.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

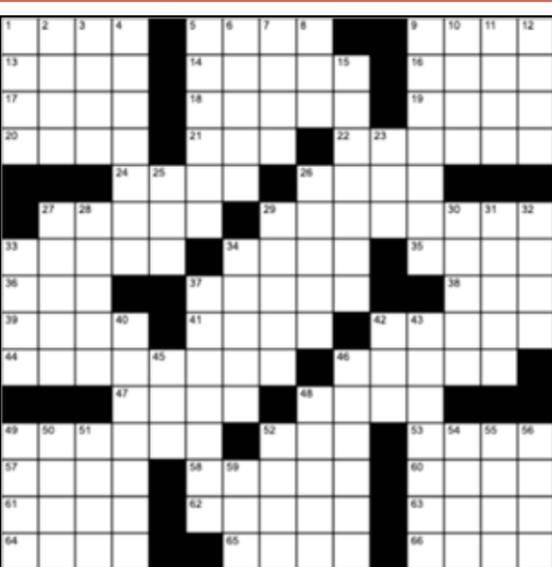
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	2	10	fog
Changchun	-4	3	cloudy
Chengdu	13	18	cloudy
Chongqing	14	17	cloudy
Fuzhou	18	21	overcast
Guangzhou	17	21	overcast
Guiyang	11	16	overcast
Haikou	24	27	rain
Hangzhou	11	18	cloudy
Harbin	-9	1	snow
Hefei	8	18	fine
Nanjing	12	19	cloudy
Shanghai	13	19	cloudy
Taipei	20	21	rain
Wuhan	11	20	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	26	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-9	rain
Frankfurt	3	9	rain
Paris	4	12	overcast
London	6	12	overcast
New York	4	11	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Figure (out); 5- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 9- Lumpy fuel; 13- Biblical birthright seller; 14- Egyptian peninsula; 16- Gymnast Korbut; 17- Contact, e.g.; 18- Parlor game; 19- Encounter; 20- Worry; 21- Half and half; 22- Resist; 24- Bushy hairstyle; 26- "Twittering Machine" artist; 27- Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"; 29- Antiwar activist; 33- In agreement; 34- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 35- Irritate; 36- Foxy; 37- Brown; 38- No-win situation; 39- Story; 41- Samovars; 42- Aired again; 44- Agreeable; 46- 1977 George Burns film; 47- Skeddaddles; 48- Langston Hughes poem; 49- Lament; 52- Colony member; 53- Chuck; 57- From the U.S.; 58- Hostess Mesta; 60- Yeah, right; 61- Catch; 62- Register as a participant; 63- Foal's father; 64- Bring on board; 65- Fast fliers; 66- Dick Tracy's love;

DOWN 1- Ego; 2- Consumer; 3- Having a sound mind; 4- Bear the weight of; 5- Go with; 6- Device with 88 keys; 7- Concerning; 8- Vulgar, ill-bred fellow; 9- Close friend; 10- Ersatz butter; 11- Matures; 12- Overdue; 15- Set apart; 23- Delt neighbor; 25- Opponent; 26- "Hyperion" poet; 27- Religion of the Muslims; 28- Holmes's creator; 29- Cut back; 30- Part of TNT; 31- Greek epic poem; 32- Sharp; 33- Nick and Nora's pooch; 34- Viscounts' superiors; 37- Group within a group; 40- Swallow greedily; 42- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet; 43- Boastful person; 45- Relief; 46- Furry swimmers; 48- Bay; 49- Potato preparation; 50- Old Dodge model; 51- In the neighborhood; 52- Skills; 54- Drama award; 55- Sun. speeches; 56- Canonized Fr. women; 59- Nav. officer;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Manhattan
HKD12,500,000 3 beds 2 bath

Nova Taipa
HKD 14,500,000 3 beds 2 bath

Kok Wui
HKD 7,800/mth 2 beds 1 bath

AD

AP PHOTO



A TENT WITH A VIEW

REMOTE DESERT CAMPS HOUSE FANS ON A BUDGET

ISABEL DEBRE, AL KHOR

FOR scores of foreign soccer fans, the road to the World Cup in Doha starts every morning at a barren campsite in the middle of the desert.

Visitors who found hotels in central Doha booked up or far beyond their budget have settled for the faraway, dust-blown tent village in Al Khor, where there are no locks on tents nor beers on draft.

Others simply wanted an adventure. On Wednesday a DJ blasted electronic dance music around a fire pit as a smattering of

fans lounged on beanbags, sipped sodas and gazed up at big screens roughly an hour from Doha.

"I'm here because I couldn't find anywhere else," said Haidar Haji, a 27-year-old architectural engineer from Kuwait. He said it was a pain to trek into Doha every morning from the tent village, but he had no other option. "The hotels were just too expensive. It was crazy."

Even so, Al Khor fan village is not cheap. Haji said he's paying \$450 a night for his sparse makeshift shelter, which authorities advertise as a "perfect destination for a truly enjoyable

and lavish stay." The tents are equipped with plumbing and basic furniture. The site has a swimming pool and upscale Arabic restaurant.

From the moment that Qatar was named host of the World Cup, fears mounted over how the tiny country would find rooms for the massive influx of 1.2 million fans — equal to almost one-third of the population.

Qatar's frenzied building program delivered tens of thousands of rooms through new hotels, rented apartments and even three giant cruise ships. But soaring prices have forced many

thrifty fans into remote desert campsites and giant fan villages in Doha's outer reaches, including one near the airport consisting of corrugated box rooms.

At Al Khor Village, many fans complained about the isolation, and lack of alcohol.

"Honestly, you can find more alcohol in Tehran," said Parisa, a 42-year-old Iranian oil worker who declined to give her last name, citing the political situation in Iran. She was gazing into space in the campsite common area, and said she had little idea how to fill her time. Doha's swanky hotel bars were miles away. "We thought they would open up more for the foreigners to have fun."

Paola Bernal from Tabasco, southern Mexico, wasn't sure what to expect from the first World Cup in the Middle East. But she said she's been surprised by how long it takes to traverse the world's tiniest host country. The buses from the campsite are a "mess," she said, and stop running at 10 p.m., forcing fans to fork out large sums for Uber rides.

"There are such long distances, I don't know how," she said. Although some stadiums are linked to Doha's gleaming new metro network, they often require a 2.5 kilometer (1.5 mile) walk from the stations. Other grounds can only be reached by bus, with some drop-off points a trek from stadium

gates — and desirable bars and restaurants even further afield.

Al Khor's arid grounds are no selfie-taker's paradise. But Nathan Thomas, a site designer, said he was very pleased with the "authentic Arabian" result. The only major worry, he said, is security. Not every tent is in eyeshot of a guard post. Tents have no locks. Their flaps easily untie.

"We keep telling people it's a safe country, don't worry," he said.

From the Free Zone Fan Village, in the desert south of Doha, fans were lugging suitcases across large swaths of artificial turf under the glare of stadium lights. The manufactured cabins are some of the cheapest available accommodation, starting at roughly \$200 a night. Every few minutes, low-flying planes roar over the village to the old airport, which has been reopened to handle daily shuttle flights to the tournament. Banners plastered on the trailers urge fans to "Cheer up."

Just days before the tournament, social media filled with images of toilets that had yet to be installed and wires still coiled on the dirt to hook up water and electricity.

Many complained of excessively long waits to check in. A crowd of guests waiting in line Wednesday night said they couldn't get their rooms because the reception desk wasn't sure who had already checked out. "We wanted good vibes, good energy, to be with other people," said Mouman Alani from Morocco. "This is very disorganized."

One camper on Twitter lambasted the site as "Fyre Festival 2.0," referring to an infamous music festival billed as a luxury getaway that left fans scrambling for makeshift shelters on a dark beach.

"When we went to our room, it was all messed up," said Aman Mohammed, a 23-year-old from Kolkata, India, at the common area on Wednesday. He said he waited two hours under the searing sun for a cleaner to arrive the day before. "It was stinking so bad, like a bad bathroom. It was pathetic."

But, he insisted, there was no false advertising. The website shows scores of colorful metal boxes side by side in a vast dusty lot. And despite his disappointment, he said, the World Cup was ultimately about the soccer.

"(Cristiano) Ronaldo is playing his last World Cup, I'm here just to see him," Mohammed said, referring to the superstar competing for Portugal in the tournament. "To attend this is a dream for me since I was a child." **MDT/AP**

WEEKEND MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Fri	Nov 25	18:00	Wales	Iran	H 2.18, D 3.25, A 4
Fri	Nov 25	21:00	Qatar	Senegal	H 6.4, D 3.8, A 1.67
Sat	Nov 26	00:00	Netherlands	Ecuador	H 1.84, D 3.67, A 4.9
Sat	Nov 26	3:00	England	United States	H 1.6, D 4.33, A 6.3
Sat	Nov 26	18:00	Tunisia	Australia	H 2.18, D 3.34, A 2.91
Sat	Nov 26	21:00	Poland	Saudi Arabia	H 1.8, D 3.75, A 5.3
Sun	Nov 27	00:00	France	Denmark	H 1.87, D 3.6, A 4.8
Sun	Nov 27	3:00	Argentina	Mexico	H 1.6, D 4, A 6.7
Sun	Nov 27	18:00	Japan	Costa Rica	H 1.46, D 4.6, A 8.5
Sun	Nov 27	21:00	Belgium	Morocco	H 2.05, D 3.65, A 4.2
Mon	Nov 28	00:00	Croatia	Canada	H 2.17, D 3.41, A 3.7
Mon	Nov 28	3:00	Spain	Germany	H 2.42, D 3.76, A 2.96

SCOREBOARD

Group E	Spain	7	0	Costa Rica
Group F	Belgium	1	0	Canada
Group G	Switzerland	1	0	Cameroon
Group H	Uruguay	0	0	Korea Republic

MATCH OF THE DAY

England wary of upset against US

JAMES ROBSON, DOHA

ENGLAND scored six goals in its opening World Cup game against Iran, but it was the two it conceded that concern coach Gareth Southgate and provide hope for the United States.

"By the end we looked sloppy," said Southgate of the 6-2 win over Iran on Monday. He also warned the U.S. would be coming "full-throttle" in today's Group B match Iran [Saturday, 03:00].

The tournament has already produced some shocking results, including Saudi Arabia's win against Argentina and Japan's upset over Germany.

A win for the U.S. over England would not be on the scale of Saudi Arabia's win — but Gregg Berhalter's team is undoubtedly the underdog against one of the tournament favorites.

The two goals conceded against Iran gave Southgate something to focus on in an otherwise encouraging performance.

His message to the players has been clear: They will need to be better against the U.S. team that tied 1-1 with Wales in its opening group game.

"They're a top nation with a lot of top players who have played



England's head coach Gareth Southgate

in the Premier League and who we've come up against," said England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. "But it's about us as a squad being

100%. It's about us taking the result from Iran and going into the U.S. game positive."

One of those Premier League

players is Chelsea winger Christian Pulisic, a point of focus for England's defense.

"He's good with both feet, very

clinical," Pickford said. "We've got to be wary of him."

A win for England would see it qualify for the round of the 16 with a game still to play - but the fate of Lionel Messi and Argentina is proof nothing can be taken for granted.

"It's what World Cup football is all about," said Pickford. "There are going to be surprises."

U.S. goalkeeper Matt Turner is predicting more of them at the World Cup.

"You see that the world of football is levelling out in a lot of ways," he said. "Teams have game plans. Teams have been investing in their youth academies over a number of years."

"I think the message is when you have one team that's bought into the same message, you can beat anyone on any given day."

The U.S. famously beat England 1-0 in the 1950 World Cup and the teams tied 1-1 in 2010.

If the U.S. is to produce the latest surprise of this year's tournament, it will have to contain an England attack that was ruthless in the match against Iran, which featured two goals by Bukayo Saka.

"I think it's pretty clear he's one of the young stars of world football," said his Arsenal teammate Turner. "He's a top, top player and you don't need me to tell anybody on our team how much of a threat that he poses in the game. He's scoring goals in a variety of ways. He's really developed, matured." **MDT/AP**

GROUP E

Promising Spain brings back the 'tiki-taka'

TALES AZZONI, DOHA

IT was a World Cup win fit for a king. Literally.

King Felipe VI was among those congratulating Spain in Qatar after its 7-0 rout of Costa Rica in the World Cup opener yesterday [Macau time], when "La Roja" reintroduced the "tiki-taka" and put on a masterclass of ball possession and efficient attacking to get off to a good start in its quest to win a second world title.

The historic victory raised expectations about Spain's chances of succeeding in Qatar and winning soccer's most coveted trophy for the first time since 2010, when Xavi and Andrés Iniesta were the leaders of the ball-possession style that amazed the soccer world.

"Keep singing," King Felipe VI told the players as he entered Spain's locker room at the Al Thumama Stadium after the match.



Spain's Gavi (second right) celebrates with Aymeric Laporte after scoring his side's fifth goal

"We've enjoyed it, as did everybody else. More than the result, it was delightful to watch you play."

Spain is led by a couple of teenage sensations who have added some punch to the "tiki-taka" style.

Gavi and Pedri, along with a group of other talented youngsters making their World Cup debut, provide speed and energy to go along with the constant rapid passing and ball control inherent to the style.

"The idea was for all the players in the midfield to have a lot of touches, and from there the quality of our players prevailed," Spain coach Luis Enrique said.

Spain completed a re-

cord 1,003 passes for a 90-minute game on Wednesday, and finished with 75% of ball possession. It had 17 attempts against zero by Costa Rica.

"Our only goal is to control the game continuously, and to do that you need to have the ball," Luis Enrique said. "The rival gets frustrated and struggles to find space. We were exceptional with how we pressured."

The 18-year-old Gavi and the 19-year-old Pedri controlled the pace of the match along with veteran Sergio Busquets, the only remaining member of the 2010 World Cup-winning squad. Up front, the 22-year-old Ferran Torres, along with Dani Olmo and Marco Asensio, worked aggressively off the ball to quickly regain possession.

"It was a match in which we came out strong and went for the victory from the very first minute," said

Gavi, who was named the most valuable player and scored in the 74th minute to become the youngest World Cup scorer since Pelé in 1958.

"He is a unique player," Luis Enrique said of Gavi. "He is 18 but has the personality of an experienced player. We are very happy to have him. I think he is going to be one of the stars in world football."

Spain has the third-youngest squad at this year's tournament, but Luis Enrique is not worried with his players being overly confident heading into the much-anticipated match against four-time world champion Germany on Sunday. The Germans lost 2-1 to Japan in their Group E opener on Wednesday.

"The praise can make you weaker, but this team will not relax," Luis Enrique said. "I know it because I see how they practice and I can tell you that they won't let up. Germany is a powerhouse and it can beat us, but we will come out playing the same way." **MDT/AP**

DRIVE IN

WRENCHING AND RIVETING, 'THE SON' LEAVES YOU SHAKEN

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

IF you don't have children, you will likely walk out of "The Son" shaken and deeply moved. If you do have kids, you may have to be eventually pulled to your feet after collapsing into a fetal ball for several hours.

Writer-director Florian Zeller's second installment in his trilogy examining mental health is an emotional wrecking ball almost exquisite in its destructive power. If his previous film, "The Father," needed a trigger warning about dementia, "The Son" needs one for depression and suicide.

Despite the title, "The Son" is really about the father in this story, Peter, a successful workaholic Manhattan lawyer on his second wife and second child, a newborn. Past and present collide when Nicholas, the 17-year-old son from his first marriage, reaches a crescendo of mental anguish.

"It's life. It's weighing me down. I want something to change, but I don't know what," he cries. "I feel like my head's exploding."

But neither dad — Hugh Jackman, in easily his finest work onscreen — nor mom, Laura Dern in another heart-led performance, can seem to help. Zen McGrath plays the son with stunning agony, his hooded eyes flickering as if he's being hunted.

Zeller, adapting his play for



From left: Zen McGrath, Laura Dern and Hugh Jackman in a scene from "The Son"

the screen together again with translator and co-screenwriter Christopher Hampton, grounds everything in an unblinking realism, letting the words carry and avoiding any visual tricks, except for a shaky camera when it focuses on Nicholas.

One quiet symbol that recurs is of Peter shown often at an elevator bank, his vertical world going up and down. But at his home, the filmmakers show a constant

churning washing machine — lines versus circles.

None of the parents in this high-class world — including stepmom Beth played by Vanessa Kirby — seem to know how to help this young man stuck in a domestic no man's land or even how to speak to him.

Jackman's Peter addresses his son as if he were in a sales meeting ("Soon everything will go back to normal") and even of-

fers him a fist-bump. He and his mom have a chopped shorthand, with fractured dialogue. ("Call me," "Don't..." and "Don't cry, my little sunbeam.")

Restless and in mental pain, the son goes from one parent's home to another, skipping school and just wandering the city. "What's going to become of you?" his dad demands, confusing the byproduct for the root issue.

In one heartbreaking scene,

dad, stepmom and son dance in their living room to Tom Jones' "It's Not Unusual" and the camera soon closes in on the adults blissfully smiling as they let loose, unaware that the son long ago dropped out.

The son's anger at his father for leaving his mother buries the film in guilt that eats away at the dad, who starts to drift off in meetings. He then has a wonderfully tense visit with his own father (Anthony Hopkins, though not playing his same role in "The Father.") Peter tells him he may turn down a job to care for his son, which his father sees as a dig at his own absentee parenting. "What do you want, applause?" sneers the father. "Get over it."

All the while, Nicholas is calling out for help. "I'm not well, mom," "I'm not made like other people" and "I don't think I'm ever going to measure up." He's cutting himself and has no friends. Viewers will be unable to shake a rising sense of dread, that the son needs something that his parents cannot give him. That love is not enough, as a psychiatrist says.

The film's only flashbacks are of a sunny vacation in Corsica back when the first marriage was strong and Nicholas was 6 and first learning to swim. It was dad who encouraged him to make his first tentative strokes alone. Knowing the waves of grief yet to come almost physically hurts.

"The Son," a Sony Pictures Classics release opens in New York and Los Angeles on Nov. 25 and will expand to theaters nationwide on Jan. 20, is rated PG-13 for mature thematic content, suicide and strong language. Running time: 124 minutes.★★★★

ITUNES

Lous and the Yakuza moves into love on 'IOTA'

LOUS and the Yakuza has peeled back the pain and drama of her debut autobiographical album, "Gore," to reveal a space of love and playfulness on her follow-up, "IOTA." The Congolese-Belgian singer and songwriter does not describe her music-making process as therapeutic as some may think, it is just her way of expressing herself. She shows how to do just that on her second album.

Her latest endeavor explores a fresh new tone as she delves into softer themes in her music. The songstress known to effortlessly weave through trap, R&B and pop allows her romantic and whimsical side to shine through in "IOTA," giving us a richer picture



"IOTA" By Lous and the Yakuza (Columbia Records/Sony Music)

of the artist set to skyrocket into international stardom.

Born Marie-Pierra Kakoma, the captivating performer behind Lous and the

Yakuza has such a strong vision for herself and her music that she even has her own symbol: two hands being raised to the sky, which

she paints on herself. She hints at the symbol in her opening song on the album, "Ciel" meaning sky, where she sings about spirituality with whispery vocals and soothing harmonies. The album is driven by love. Kakoma longingly sings of her love as a treasure in the pop song "Trésor" and includes a cinematic ballad that could play during a montage of a love story in an indie French film.

Kakoma sets her ode to love in an anime dreamworld. Kakoma is a longtime anime and manga fan, and she happily talks about her collection on TikTok. For "IOTA," Kakoma drew inspiration from the works of anime greats like Studio Ghibli and "Paprika"

director Satoshi Kon. The music video for "Monsters," a song about living with life's problems, is her take on "My Neighbour Totoro" and "Spirited Away."

Kakoma is not shy about sharing what she has overcome to get to where she is today. Kakoma fled war in Congo at age 4 before moving to Belgium and later dealt with homelessness in her early days as an artist. Now, the Louis Vuitton muse's French songs have transcended language on the music charts with millions of streams.

Kakoma's love of Japanese culture reaches farther than anime and manga. It's in her name. The name Lous is an anagram for "soul," and Yakuza comes

— not for the Japan-based crime syndicate — from the word for "loser." She has said she wanted Yakuza to be her group name to give credit to those working behind the scenes to support her.

One of her longtime friends, Congolese-Belgian Damso, is featured on the album in "Lubie." In the almost lullaby-like song, Kakoma sings "I want to tell you I love you" and Damso duets her. She also features French rapper Benjamin Epps in her song "Stop" that opens with a strong flow of French rap and a hard synth build.

The song is followed by "Interpol," where Kakoma sings that her "feelings are her instruments." It's with those instruments that she draws us all the more into her Lous and the Yakuza universe. **BEATRICE DUPUY, MDT/AP**

TASTE OF EDESIA

Journey of wonders

IRENE SAM, MDT

FOR those who are into exceptional meats, fresh seafood, as well as the magic of woodfire grill and teppanyaki, **MGM Cotai's Grill 58** is the place to be. Harnessing the Japanese culture with meticulous skills, a guided teppan counter dining experience peaks interest with an engaging and interactive experience at Teppanyaki 58. This month, white truffle is in season and the team at

the restaurant presents a special menu that pairs the earthy flairs of white truffle with umami characteristics of the sea.

After the amuse bouche, Chef's Special Temaki thrills the senses with caviar and toro, a luxurious and sumptuous beginning. Chawanmushi is a dish where the purity and splendour of white truffle, and uni are on full display. Kochi Nasu combines Japanese eggplant with white Truffle and gold leaf. Appreciated for its high water

content, the eggplant is exceptionally delicious even by itself, yet white truffles elevate the taste even more with its aroma. Throughout the menu, multiple courses of seafoods, meats and vegetables are prepared by highly skilled chefs that

epitomises the amalgamation of flavours and creativity. Last but not least, wine lovers will be delighted with choices of over 4,000 wine labels, which complements the gastronomic journey of wonders.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE KAWASAKI 1510 METRES SAND 2022-11-25|Fri|20:50

LUCKY To Win did well finish second in his last outing in late October, he is in very sound form and should be able to take another step forward for N. Moore's yard. Take him for an each way chance, he should come up a decent price from the field. **Lucky To Win** has consistency on his side and with a low draw, he should roll forward as easy as he could and prove tough to get his nose in front. **Lucky To Win** should be rewarded a winner in this race on Friday for his connection.

Race 4 Horse no. 7 Lucky To Win Win and Place bets



OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**UNBIASED APPROACH
 KEY TO PRAGMATISM**

Amid the feverish Western clamor for an overhaul of economic and trade ties with China, Germany is making tentative moves toward a reset. This is likely to prove damaging to both countries.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said in a news conference in Paris on Tuesday that Berlin has decided to impose a quota for its investment support as “a strong incentive for diversification”, “so that not all German guarantees are aimed at one country, that is to say China”. The upper limit was set at 3 billion euros, or \$3.1 billion.

He also confirmed an earlier media report about internal government “in-depth” checks for any support, saying his government is “increasingly refusing investments from Chinese firms” in critical infrastructure. The change in Berlin’s attitude to Chinese investment was also corroborated by its recent decision to block the sale of two chipmakers to Chinese investors citing security concerns.

The general idea behind such moves, as is true of those by other major European economies, is to diversify to “reduce dependency” on China.

Also on Tuesday, citing his country’s reliance on Russian energy as a “mistake” that “will not happen again”, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told an economic forum that rather than withdraw from China, it would “reduce one-sided dependencies”.

The German leader is obviously clear-eyed about the reality of China-Germany economic and trade exchanges, their significance to both economies as well as the tremendous potential they hold for both countries’ future. The awareness is evident in his call for “pragmatism” in dealing with bilateral ties.

Other decision-makers in Berlin seem to agree: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock acknowledged the flip side of the coin saying that Germany can’t “decouple from China nor can we completely do without the Chinese market”.

China-German relations have thrived over the decades thanks largely to its pragmatism and recognition that business ties could and should transcend political and cultural differences and deliver benefits to both sides. What is today labeled by some as potential “security risk” was exactly the factor contributing to their vibrant, mutually beneficial economic and trade ties. The “dependencies” Germany is decrying today has never been “one-sided”, but instead served both economies well.

It remains to be seen how different the “pragmatism” Chancellor Scholz called for would be from the pragmatism of his predecessor. But the new variables brought into play by the unfolding global geopolitical rivalry seem set to disrupt what has been a fine relationship between the world’s second- and fourth-largest economies.

**GERMANY REJECTS BORIS’ CLAIM
 ON UKRAINE WAR STANCE**

THE
BUZZ

The German government yesterday [Macau time] rejected former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s claim that Berlin initially wanted Ukraine to quickly “fold” following Russia’s invasion in February.

CNN Portugal quoted Johnson saying earlier this week that “the German view was at one stage that if it were going to happen, which would be a disaster, then it would be better for the whole thing to be over quickly, and for Ukraine to fold.” The network reported that Johnson claimed Germany had “all sorts of sound economic reasons” for that stance.

German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said Wednesday that he was “tempted to switch to English and say it’s ‘utter nonsense’ what Boris Johnson said.”

“We know that the very entertaining former prime minister always has his own relationship with the truth,” he added, citing German Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s strong defense of Ukraine in a speech to parliament on Feb. 27, three days after the war started. “As such, I think the facts speak against the insinuation I heard in this interview.”

AP PHOTO



Polish President Andrzej Duda: (not) Macron on the line

**POLISH LEADER BRIEFS
 RUSSIAN PRANKSTERS
 POSING AS MACRON**

MONIKA SCISLOWSKA,
 WARSAW

Rpretending to be the French president tricked the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, into giving them sensitive information after a missile exploded in eastern Poland last week.

Duda’s office confirmed this week that he was put through last week to a person claiming to be France’s President Emmanuel Macron.

Duda’s office said it was one of many international calls that the president received at a tense time on Nov. 15, just after a missile hit in eastern Poland, close to the border with Ukraine, killing two men. NATO and Poland’s leaders have said the missile most likely came from a Ukrainian air defense system that fired in response to a barrage of Russian attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure.

The office said that appropriate services are checking how the pranksters could have reached Duda — for the second time. In 2020 they talked

to him posing as U.N. secretary-general.

In the new recording posted on YouTube by Russian pranksters Vladimir Kuznetsov and Alexei Stolyarov, known as Vovan and Lexus, Duda can be heard thanking a man whom he believes to be Macron for calling.

Speaking in English, Duda relays details of the missile incident, of his plans to request NATO consultations and of being very careful not to exacerbate the situation with Russia, which invaded neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Over more than seven minutes, Duda, sounding stressed, tells the caller that U.S. President Joe Biden does not blame Russia for the missile incident but that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy insists it was a Russian-launched projectile. He says he himself is being “extra careful” not to blame Russia but that Poland will seek security consultations with all of its NATO partners.

Opposition politicians lashed out at Duda, accusing him and his office of being overly lax with

security.

Opposition Left party lawmaker Tomasz Trela said it’s a “disgrace for the special services and for all those who should be checking who they allow to contact the top leader.”

“This is a blow for our security and for the opinion we have in the eyes of our allies,” Trela tweeted.

In July 2020, the same Russian pranksters posted a recording of a phone conversation with Duda, in which Kuznetsov posed as the United Nations secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, and rendered the president speechless with questions about Ukraine, Russia and his fresh re-election. Duda’s office also confirmed that recording as authentic. Two officials from Poland’s mission to the U.N. were dismissed over the incident.

The pranksters have previously embarrassed European politicians including Macron and then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, as well as Elton John and Prince Harry with similar hoax calls. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Germany The first of several ships that will serve as floating terminals to receive liquefied natural gas imports in Germany arrived yesterday [Macau time] off the Baltic Sea port of Mukran. In response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Germany has scrambled to secure alternative sources of gas to replace Russian supplies, on which the country had long relied. The 280-meter-long Neptune is due to begin operation in nearby Lubmin on Dec. 1.

UK More than 70,000 potential victims of banking scams across the U.K. will receive text messages from police yesterday asking for their help in what authorities are calling their biggest ever anti-fraud operation. British authorities have already arrested more than 100 people after taking down a website they described as an “international one-stop spoofing shop,” London’s Metropolitan Police Service said. Spoofing refers to fraudsters who disguise their phone numbers to make potential victims believe a call is coming from a trusted source such as their own bank.

AP PHOTO



EU The European Parliament’s web site came under a cyberattack by a pro-Moscow group only hours after lawmakers overwhelmingly backed a resolution calling Russia a state sponsor of terrorism, the legislature’s president said. President Roberta Metsola said in a twitter statement that the parliament “is under a sophisticated cyberattack” and that a “pro-Kremlin group has claimed responsibility.” The legislature’s spokesman Jaume Duch said that “this traffic is related to a DDOS attack event.”