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CHINA TO RECRUIT 12 TO 14 NEW RESERVE ASTRONAUTS FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM MACAU, HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

▲ P2

COVID-19: FOUR NEW POSITIVE CASES, AUTHORITIES SAY RISK IS UNDER CONTROL

▲ P5

OMICRON BF.7, MAJOR STRAIN CAUSING LATEST OUTBREAK IN BEIJING

▲ P6



Australia's shift to nuclear-powered submarines will assure its South Pacific neighbors of its commitment to regional security, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Britain's Minister of State for the Indo-Pacific said yesterday. Australia will announce in March what type of submarine powered with U.S. nuclear technology it wants to build under a deal with the United States and Britain revealed in September last year.



Nepal's main ruling party was leading in last week's parliamentary elections with most of the votes counted by yesterday. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress party, however, was short of securing a majority in the House of Representatives, the lower house of Parliament.



Panama An international wildlife conference moved to enact some of the most significant protection for shark species targeted in the fin trade and scores of turtles, lizards and frogs whose numbers are being decimated by the pet trade. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known by its initials as CITES, ended last weekend in Panama. In a record for the conference, delegates enacted protections for over 500 species. The UN wildlife conference also rejected a proposal to reopen the ivory trade. An ivory ban was enacted in 1989.

More on backpage

ONLY WAY IS UP

Wynn leads casino stocks rally in HKSE after conclusion of a bidding process that - according to an industry observer - 'lacks transparency' ▲ P2



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PÁTIO DA ETERNA FELICIDADE PROJECT WINS UNESCO AWARD

▲ P4

GAMING

WYNN LEADS STOCK RALLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF BIDDING PROCESS THAT 'LACKS TRANSPARENCY'

LYNZY VALLES

CASINO shares rallied yesterday following the announcement of the new licenses the incumbent big six will receive by the end of the year, with Wynn Macau leading the trade.

Wynn Macau's shares jumped as much as 15.14%, where its shares hit HKD5.02, the highest since November 18.

Shares of MGM China, Melco International, SJM Holdings and Sands China rose 13.06%, 8.17%, 6.96% and 1.46%. Galaxy Entertainment Group rose slightly to 0.47%.

The long-awaited announcement has ended major uncertainties faced by the incumbent gaming operators who were hit by Covid-19 restrictions and crackdown on junkets.

The win signals stability and continuity for the gaming operators as they have pledged some MOP100 billion investments for the next decade.

Malaysia's Genting has failed to secure a license despite market analysts describing the firm as a strong candidate due to its successful non-gaming

Overview	Range	Performance	Financial Ratio	Ratio (Banking)	Earnings					
Name/Symbol	Last ¹	Chg.	Chg. %	Vol.	Turn.	P/E	P/B	Yield	Market Cap	Chart
GALAXY ENT 00027.HK	43.050	+0.200	+0.467%	15.85M	676.12M	141.15	2.74	0.70%	187.96B	
MELCO INT'L DEV 00200.HK	5.430	+0.410	+8.167%	21.18M	112.20M	No Profit	1.20	0.00%	8.24B	
SJM HOLDINGS 00880.HK	3.380	+0.220	+6.962%	62.50M	206.50M	No Profit	1.01	0.00%	24.00B	
WYNN MACAU 01128.HK	5.020	+0.660	+15.138%	69.96M	344.47M	No Profit	N/A	0.00%	26.28B	
SANDS CHINA LTD 01928.HK	18.800	+1.460	+8.420%	42.93M	775.71M	No Profit	21.97	0.00%	152.15B	
MGM CHINA 02282.HK	4.760	+0.550	+13.064%	22.15M	101.15M	No Profit	15.11	0.00%	18.09B	

elements and mass market appeal.

"One of the biggest overhangs of recent years is now removed," JPMorgan Chase & Co. analyst DS Kim wrote Sunday.

"This could serve as a strong stock catalyst because many investors, especially long-only, were largely staying away from the sector given this 'tail risk,'" the analyst added.

However, whether Macau's golden years will return is unclear. Macau has been following Beijing's zero-Covid policy, which requires strict border restrictions and designated lockdowns when new cases arise.

LACKING TRANSPARENCY

Although the government has announced who scored the highest in the bid process, it had disclosed neither how each company had been scored nor the committee's evaluation criteria.

According to the committee chairman, Secretary for Administration and Justice Andre Cheong, "the committee has also undertaken multiple rounds of negotiations with the bidders to assist them in perfecting their bids."

Jorge Costa Oliveira, founder and CEO at JCO Consultancy, believes the awarding of contracts to the incumbent operators is no surprise.

However, "it is important, for transparency purposes, to know the content of the Substantiated Report of the Tender Commission and the basis on which this adjudication was made," said Oliveira, who is also a regular MDT contributor.

In 2002, the Substantiated Report of the Tender Commission was made public, during one month, at the Macau Government website.

"As regards the concession contracts, it is necessary to have more information. Regrettably, transparency has not been a characteristic of this public tender," he added.

WYNN MACAU TO INJECT MOP4.80B

As negotiations are set to continue for the final contracts, including the final investment for non-gaming elements, Wynn Macau has said it will inject MOP4.80 billion into Wynn Resorts to comply with the gaming law – a move SJM and MGM have also undertaken to complete.

In a filing, the operator has announced the capital restructuring will be made "to enter into a new gaming concession contract."

The city's largest gaming law overhaul requires concessionaires to have a minimum share capital of MOP5 billion from the previous MOP200 million.

Meanwhile, the voting rights of Linda Chen, vice chairman and executive director of Wynn Macau Ltd, through her Class A nominative shares will be up by 15% from the current 10%, to also comply with the law.

Chen is set to be the president of Wynn Macau from March 1, 2023, an announcement that was made in July ahead of the gaming license bidding.



CESL Asia event raises MOP110,000 for MSO

STAFF REPORTER

THE CESL Asia and Friends Sport Fun Day has raised over MOP110,000 in donations to Macau Special Olympics (MSO).

The sixth edition of the event has brought together 21 entities and over 200 participants at the Macau Federation of Trade Unions Workers Stadium.

Launched by CESL Asia Corporate Social Investment Initiative (CSII) to support MSO athletes' development programs and promote values of equality and inclusion within the community, the event featured football and bocce tournaments, where teams were from partnering entities and organizations joined by MSO athletes.

The Macau Institution of Engineers was crowned champion of the "Corporate Football Tournament", and the Bank of China and the Macau Association for Parents of People with Developmental Disabilities' "Set Sail" were crowned champions of the "Golden Cup and Silver Plate Corporate Inclusive Bocce Tournament".

To allow MSO athletes to try new sports activities, Sporting Clube de Macau set up a sporting trial zone where the athletes experienced the thrill of football training with professional players.

Commenting on the event, CESL Asia president and CEO António Trindade said: "It [the event] demonstrates the importance of challenging prejudices and inspiring people to support others and improve the health and the well-being of everyone."

"This year is the 35th anniversary of MSO and we are honored to be their long-term and likeminded partner and hope to continue growing the community with MSO in a sustainable way," he added.

*Macau Daily Times is the media partner of the event.

SPACE

CHINA RECRUITS NEW RESERVE ASTRONAUTS, OPEN TO THOSE SARS

CHINA is projected to recruit 12 to 14 new reserve astronauts, and the selection, which started in September, is open, for the first time, to payload experts from Hong Kong and Macau, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) yesterday.

It will be the fourth batch of the country's reserve astronauts. The preliminary selection is currently in progress. The reexamination and confirmation processes will be followed.

Researchers and teachers from sci-tech ins-

titutions, universities, and colleges in Hong Kong and Macau in the field of biomedical engineering, machinery, electronics, material, chemistry, and astronomy enthusiastically applied for the selection, said Ji Qiming, assistant to the CMSA director, at a press conference yesterday.

The selection work in the two regions is running smoothly, as the basic qualifications screening has been completed and the clinical examination is underway, according to the CMSA. XINHUA

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POLICY ADDRESS 2023

Ao leong: Gov't to boost platforms to attract talents for industry diversification

ANTHONY LAM

THE government aims to attract highly-skilled workers to Macau in a bid to fulfill its goal of diversifying the city's industries, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, reaffirmed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Ao Ieong and officials from her branch attended yesterday's parliamentary plenary to take questions on next year's policy direction.

The Secretary announced that the government will create an assessment system that will define a "strict approval criteria," along with launching programs to attract high-skilled workers in the areas of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Chinese-Portuguese translation.

Last week, 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.

Thus, Ao Ieong yesterday pledged that the government will launch platforms that will "promote the development of career and technical education and platforms that will encourage collaborations between schools and companies."

Meanwhile, with the government encouraging private efforts in building industries in Macau, lawmakers have requested public comment on several areas, such as building purpose-built skateboarder training grounds.

Businessman-lawmaker Wang Sai Man discussed occupational education in the city, noting that the private sector needs a strong workforce.

He expects blue collar workers to start at occupational education institutions before moving upwards to become engineers.

NO STANDARDIZED TRAINING TO NURTURE ATHLETES

Businesswoman-lawmaker Angela Leong also asked about training facilities for skateboarders. She said skateboarding has been listed as a competition at the Tokyo Olympics.

Probably seeing the possibility of the sport becoming a regular event worldwide, the lawmaker said the city had not started any standardized training to nurture athletes for the sport. She added that skate-



boarders can only train intermittently in potentially dangerous areas, such as on roadsides and in leisure areas "at late nocturnal hours."

The lawmaker has enabled some activities that were previously unseen in Macau, such as the indoor sky-jumping and the zipline facilities at her Lisboa property.

To all these questions, Ao Ieong replied that many local resorts and hotels are doing work in these areas. For instance, they have also organized many events to attract different people.

However, the senior official said if the government does everything, there will be no private industry. She said the private sector should start working together.

ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Despite local libraries having long had their opening hours extended, Neighborhood Association lawmaker Leong Hong Sai asked if the government had plans to extend borrowing periods, opening hours as well as expanding public libraries.

Leong started off by reiterating that the government had refused to expand the library planned for New Urban Zone A.

Earlier reports had revealed that the government had planned to establish a community library at Zone A, which may occupy floors of a public housing estate's facility section. The li-

brary will be about 2,000 square meters in area.

Comments from the public, in particular from a librarian association, have called for a larger library. In the best-case scenario, it should be an independent building. However, the government has refused to change its plans.

Responding to Leong's questions about library facilities, the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leong Wai Man, said the six public libraries are open until midnight every day, while the Almirante Lacerda library opens until 2am, considering the high demand for the facility in the district.

She said there are 16 community libraries across the city, with two in the Central District, two in the Southern District, three in the Western District, five in the Northern District and three in Taipa and Coloane. In addition, there is a specialized library located at the Municipal Affairs Bureau building.

The IC president emphasized that in recent years, the government had adopted the practice of establishing public libraries in existing structures or sharing spaces with other facilities. She said the Taipa Library in the Taipa Central Park is an example.

IC's Leong has also revealed that national standards require a library of 800 to 2,000 square meter per 100,000 people, which would support the go-

vernment's decision for about 90,000 people to be residing in Zone A.

ISLANDS HOSPITAL TO EASE MEDICAL TEAM TENSION

To Ao Ieong, civil servant association lawmaker Che Sai Wang presented a case from a petitioner who contacted him. The individual is the parent of a child who had a seizure at home in June this year. After seeing the doctor at the accident and emergency department at the public hospital, he was referred to the specialized out-patient department with suspected autism. However, Che revealed that the booking was made for March 2023, nine months after the seizure.

Che stressed that seizure is a dangerous condition and patients should be prioritized.

In response to his question, Ao Ieong mentioned the reliability of the future Islands Hospital Complex, which will be operated by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital. The government believes the new hospital will help ease the tension for the medical team from the capital city and will help train local specialist doctors.

The senior official said the shortage of specialist doctors varies in different departments. She promised the next phase of the work will focus on training doctors for departments with fewer hands.

She then referred to the new

law governing specialist medical practitioners to emphasize that those practitioners serving at private hospitals, clinics or entities are now allowed to take courses at the Macao Academy of Medicine, the government managed and operated training entity for specialist medicine.

As such, she believes the new hospital will "effectively resolve the problem."

On the demand for nurses and therapists, Ao Ieong said the two training facilities in Macau had expanded their intake of nursing students this year. She believed that after their education concludes, the situation should see improvements. However, it will take several years.

Che also asked about early intervention for students with special education needs (SEN students). On this, pulmonologist Alvis Lo, director of the Health Bureau (SSM), said that AI technology has been acquired by the government to cope with these needs. Tests have been done on 150 children. Lo expects to introduce the service to the market next year, anticipating higher capacity for the service.

The idea of medical tourism, which is branded by the government as Tourism+Medical care, was mentioned repeatedly at the session yesterday. In particular, lawmaker Zheng Anting described the direction of developing medical tourism as "having rich characteristics."

PROJECT AT PATIO DA ETERNA FELICIDADE WINS UNESCO AWARD

RENATO MARQUES

A project integrating power supply and waste collection, located at Beco dos Fai-tiões, beside Patio da Eterna Felicidade (Eternal Happiness Courtyard) in the heart of Saint Anthony Parish, has received this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

The award ceremony took place in Bangkok last weekend.

The local project was awarded the prize for New Design in Heritage Contexts. The award considers the work done to integrate this new multipurpose structure into the context of the heritage area.

According to the awarding committee, criteria include aspects such as articulation of the spirit of place, technical achievement, appropriate use or adaptation, the project's engagement with the local community, and the project's contribution to enhancing the sustainability of the surrounding environment and beyond.

This was the only award granted in this year's event to Macau,



in an event that also saw the restoration project of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, in Mumbai, India, win.

In total, 13 projects from six countries including Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal, and Thailand have been ack-

nnowledged with awards by an international jury in this year's Awards program.

Jury deliberations were conducted in November 2022, when members reviewed 50 entries from 11 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Besides the Award of Excellen-

ce attributed to the restoration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum in India, three other projects including the Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad, India, the Zarch Qanat, Yazd, Iran and Neilson Hays Library, Bangkok, Thailand received awards of distinction.

Started in 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation have been supported by a partnership between UNESCO and Singaporean Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation since 2021, in a 5-year partnership.

Under this partnership, the 2022 Award winners were publicized through the international symposium, "The Next Fifty Years: Challenges and Opportunities for World Heritage" held over the weekend, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1972 convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

In 2020, UNESCO introduced a new award category - Special Recognition for Sustainable Development - together with an updated set of awards criteria to acknowledge the role and contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development within the broader framework of the UN 2030 Agenda.

This year's award winner was a project from Shanghai, China, related to the West Guizhou Liliang Neighborhood.

With the Macau project included, China clinched four awards this year, the same number as India; in second place was Iran with two; Thailand, Afghanistan, and Nepal received one award each.

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COVID-19

Four new positive cases, authorities say risk is under control

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL health authorities have detected four new and related cases of Covid-19 infection. Although the cases will demand the lockdown of some buildings and establishments frequented by those infected, risk for the population is under control, the coordinator of the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday during a specially arranged briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the same health official, the cases are all related and most probably originated with the infection of a 74-year-old man working as a taxi driver. Citing an epidemiological investigation, Leong said all evidence pointed to the possibility of the taxi driver being infected after transporting a group of four tourists from the mainland, one of whom had a cough.

The other three cases are a cou-

RENATO MARQUES



ple that are family members of the first man and his 14-year-old grandson.

So far, only the 74-year-old and the grandson are presenting very slight symptoms of the disease, such as a sore throat.

Leong said the authorities were aware of the case because the taxi driver, after feeling unwell, took a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) that tur-

ned out positive.

After uploading the result to the platform, the case was followed by the health authorities who transported him to the public hospital to perform a nucleic acid test (NAT) that confirmed the infection.

Due to the positive result also obtained by the 14-year-old student at Pui Ching Middle School,

authorities took measures regarding students and teachers. Students from the same class and teachers who taught this class will have their health codes turned to yellow and will need to undergo four NATs in five days between November 29 and December 3.

As for the other students and teachers, they will also have to undergo NAT, but only three tests in

five days, while their health codes will remain green.

The school will remain open and classes will continue to operate, although extracurricular activities, as well as other activities that involve the mixing of students from different classes, have been suspended for the time being and while the period of NAT is ongoing.

Authorities are also tracing all those who attended the Macau Food Festival Sunday since the 14-year-old was at the event.

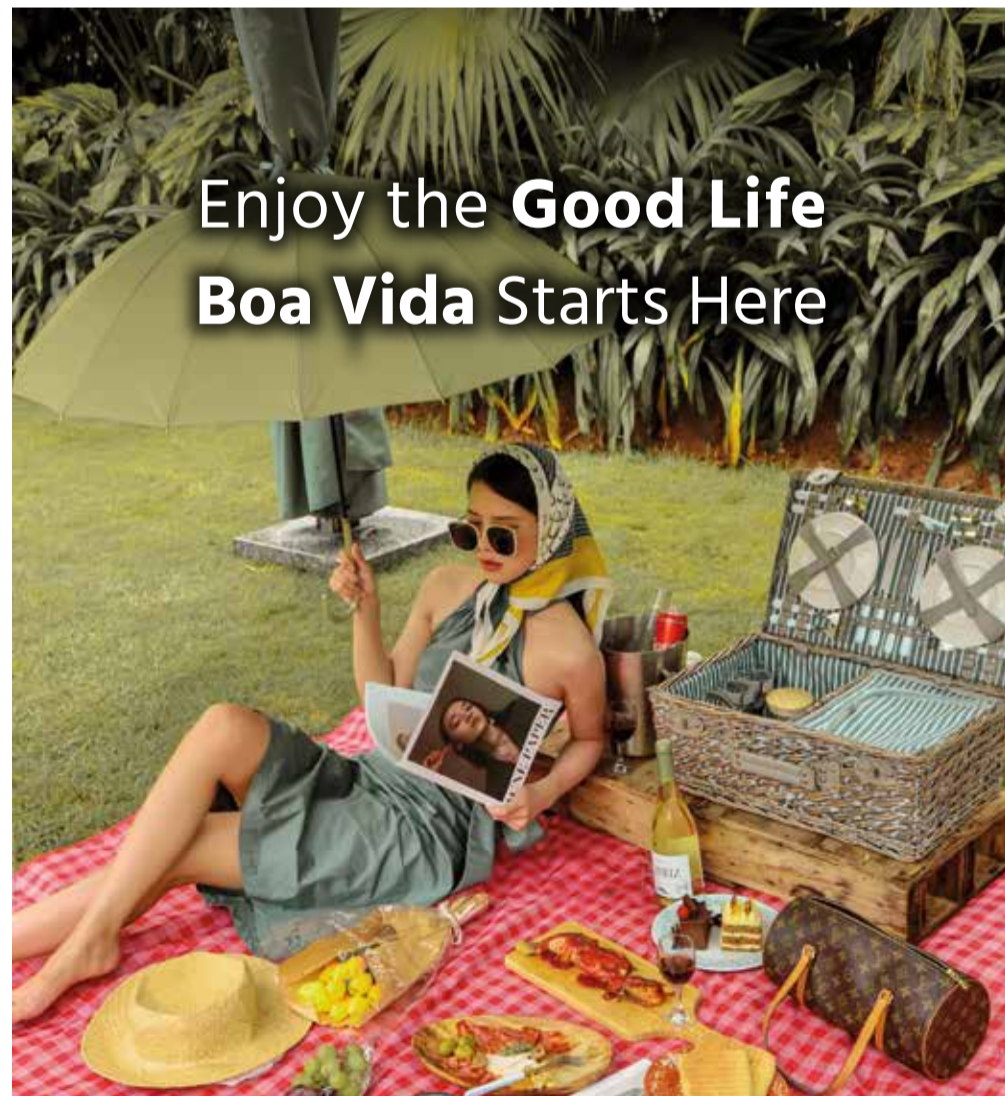
Leong says authorities are cross-referencing the data from the location QR code referencing from the teen and other people who might have been in close contact, to also call them to undertake three NATs in the upcoming five days.

At the same press briefing, the representative from the Macao Government Tourism Office, Liz Lam, announced that the Royal Dragon Hotel located in the ZAPE area will be a new hotel designated to receive people whose health codes turn red as result of being classified as close contacts from these cases, and therefore need to undergo a period of quarantine in medical observation.

Further, residents entering hospitals, health centers, elderly homes and courts are required to submit their RAT results on the government's platform from today.


The measure will be in place until further notice.


AD



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SPACE

ROCKET TAKING THREE TO SPACE STATION TO BLAST OFF TODAY

A rocket carrying three astronauts to finish building China's space station will blast off today amid intensifying competition with the U.S., the government said yesterday.

The crew includes a veteran of a 2005 space mission and two first-time astronauts, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

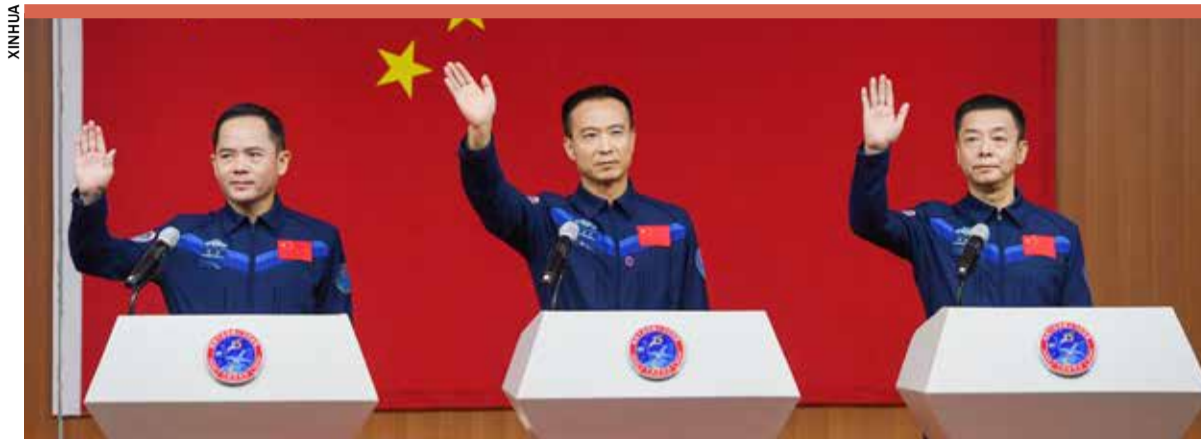
The Shenzhou-15 mission will take off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert at 11:08 p.m. Tuesday night, the agency said. A Long March-2F carrier rocket, China's standard workhorse for crewed missions, will be used to sling it into space, it said.

The six-month mission, commanded by Fei Junlong and crewed by Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu, will be the last "in the construction phase of China's space station," agency official Ji Qiming told reporters.

Fei, 57, is a veteran of the 2005 four-day Shenzhou-6 mission, the second time China sent a human into space. Deng and Zhang are making their first space flights.

The station's third and final module docked with the station earlier this month, one of the last steps in China's more than decade-long effort to maintain a constant crewed presence in orbit.

The astronauts will overlap brie-



From left: Chinese astronauts for the upcoming Shenzhou-15 mission Zhang Lu, Fei Junlong and Deng Qingming wave during a meeting of the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center

fly onboard the station, named Tiangong, with the previous crew, who arrived in early June for a six-month stay.

After the Shenzhou-15 spaceship makes an automated docking with the Tianhe core modules' front port, the station will be expanded to its maximum size, with three modules and three spaceships for a total mass of nearly 100 tons, Ji said.

It will also be at maximum capacity for several days. Tiangong has room to accommodate six astronauts at a time and the handover will take about a week. Previous missions to the space station have taken about 13 hours from liftoff to docking.

Next year, China plans to launch the Xuntian space telescope, which, while not part of Tiangong, will orbit in sequence with the station and can dock occasionally with it for maintenance.

No other future additions to the space station have been publicly announced.

The permanent Chinese station weighs about 66 tons — a fraction of the International Space Station, which launched its first module in 1998 and weighs around 465 tons.

With a lifespan of 10 to 15 years, Tiangong could one day find itself the only space station still running if the International Space Station adheres to its 30-year operating plan.

China's crewed space program is officially three decades old this year, but it truly got underway in 2003, when China became only the third country after the U.S. and Russia to put a human into space using its own resources.

The program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, and has proceeded methodically and almost entirely without outside support. The U.S. excluded China from the International Space Station because of its program's military ties.

China has also chalked up successes with uncrewed missions, and its lunar exploration program generated media buzz last year

when its Yutu 2 rover sent back pictures of what was described by some as a "mystery hut" but was most likely only a rock. The rover is the first to be placed on the little-explored far side of the moon.

China's Chang'e 5 probe returned lunar rocks to Earth for the first time since the 1970s in December 2000 and another Chinese rover is searching for evidence of life on Mars. Officials are also considering a crewed mission to the moon.

No timeline has been offered for a crewed lunar mission, even as NASA presses ahead with its Artemis lunar exploration program that aims to send four astronauts around the moon in 2024 and land humans there as early as 2025.

China's space program has also drawn controversy. Beijing brushed off complaints that it has allowed rocket stages to fall to Earth uncontrolled after NASA accused it of "failing to meet responsible standards regarding their space debris" when parts of a Chinese rocket landed in the Indian Ocean.

China's increasing space capabilities also feature in the latest Pentagon defense strategy.

"In addition to expanding its conventional forces, the PLA is rapidly advancing and integrating its space, counterspace, cyber, electronic, and informational warfare capabilities to support its holistic approach to joint warfare," the strategy said.

The U.S. and China are at odds on a range of issues, especially self-governing Taiwan, which Beijing threatens to annex with force. **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

Omicron BF.7, major strain causing latest outbreak in Beijing: Medical expert

OMICRON BE7 has become the main strain in Beijing's latest COVID-19 flare-up, with the virus possessing the strongest infection ability across the family of Omicron sub-variants in China and posing the risk of hidden spread, causing difficulty on virus prevention and control, according to Beijing Daily yesterday, citing a Chinese medical expert.

The Omicron BE7 was from outside Beijing, and is different to other sub-variants circulating in other parts of China. Compared with the BA.1, BA.2 and BA.5 variants detected previously, Omicron BE7 has more immune escape capability, a shorter incubation period and faster transmission rate, Li Dongzeng, a medical expert at Beijing's Xiaotangshan Hospital said.

"The basic reproduction



number (R0) for Delta variant is around 5 to 6, that of Omicron BE7 has exceeded 10," Li said.

It means that the stronger the transmission capacity of the infectious disease is, the faster the number of infected persons increases. The R0 of the current Omicron BE7 in Beijing can reach

from anywhere between 10 to 18.6 persons, according to Li.

On Sunday, Beijing reported 840 new local cases and 3,048 asymptomatic carriers, according to local health officials, with 474 cases detected at the community's level.

As to why the number

of new cases and cases detected outside quarantine quarters keeps increasing these past days, Li said the second generation of cases can appear in only 2-3 days. Some cases may be missed under the previous nucleic acid testing frequency, meaning transmission has already occurred before positive cases are identified.

Although the infectivity of the virus increased and the intergenerational time became shorter, the time to turn negative after infection was still between 7-10 days, according to Li.

However, the general detected symptoms after Omicron infections are mild, which often leads to people being less vigilant, Li noted.

The symptoms caused by BE7 are similar to other Omicron sub-variants, primarily with upper respira-

tory symptoms. Patients may have fever, cough, sore throat and other symptoms, with a minority of cases experiencing vomiting, diarrhea and other symptoms.

Beijing has vowed to continue to make prevention and control measures more "scientific, rational, targeted and effective".

A neighborhood in a Beijing community recently allowed a two-year-old child who tested positive for COVID-19, but who has the condition of asthma, to stay at home for observation with the parents, according to media reports, representing a new balanced approach to prevention and control.

The ninth edition of the country's COVID-19 control protocols said positive cases should be placed under centralized quarantine or

sent to designated hospital for treatment.

The protocols and the 20 optimized measures require effective coordination and information sharing among the investigation, transferring and testing groups to control sudden outbreaks, according to Wang Liping, a research fellow at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

For asymptomatic carriers themselves, most people are willing to stay at home for medical observation, Li said. But as a physician, Li has seen some elderly people who were infected with COVID-19 and developed into severe symptoms, exacerbating their underlying conditions.

But people who live in the same community with seniors, confirmed cases, or those working in essential jobs may have a different view.

It would be ideal if the policy is able to be targeted to within one specific family or individual, Li said. **GLOBAL TIMES**

JAPAN

Journalist freed from Myanmar prison vows to tell story

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

TORU Kubota, a Japanese journalist who was arrested while covering a protest in military-ruled Myanmar and detained for more than three months, said his experience made him more determined to tell the story of people there.

"I feel I can understand their feelings more," he said at a news conference in Tokyo yesterday.

Kubota, 26, was arrested July 30 and released on Nov. 17 in a broad prisoner amnesty announced by Myanmar's military government.

He had been sentenced to 10 years in prison for allegedly breaking immigration law, sedition and other violations.

Australian academic Sean Turnell, former British Ambassador Vicky Bowman and American Kyaw Htay Oo were also released in the amnesty.

But Kubota stressed that many people remain imprisoned.

"I'm just one of those 16,000 people," Kubota said, referring to the number of people who have been detained, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a rights monitoring organization.

Kubota said he was among 20 people placed in what he des-

AP PHOTO



Toru Kubota, a Japanese journalist jailed for more than three months in Myanmar, speaks during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, yesterday

cribed as a "hellish" cell so tiny they had to sleep on top of each other.

Later, he was transferred to Insein prison in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, also known as Burma. The prison has housed political prisoners under

various previous governments.

Kubota showed copies of messages that inmates had given him pleading for help. "Hope everyone can help bring justice, human rights and democracy that are needed in Burma," said one message in Burmese.

"Thank you for standing with the Burmese people," read another.

Kubota said he hopes to continue making films that will bring attention to the plight of people in Myanmar. His past films include several on Myanmar, in-

cluding a documentary on persecuted minority Rohingya refugees who have fled the country.

"Being deprived of freedom means you can't speak out, or you can't express your views. It deprives you of your rights, your freedom," he said.

A graduate of Japan's Keio University with a master's degree from the University of the Arts London, Kubota has done work for Yahoo! News Japan, Vice Japan and Al Jazeera English.

Myanmar's army seized power in February last year by ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. It has cracked down on dissent, killing at least 2,465 civilians and arresting more than 16,000, according to the Assistance Association. Journalists have been detained on various charges, such as causing fear, spreading false news and agitating.

The Japanese government worked for Kubota's release. His friends and supporters collected tens of thousands of signatures in an online petition, and PEN International and other rights groups also pushed for his freedom.

Kubota urged the Japanese government to do more to end human rights abuses in Myanmar.

He also said Japan could do more to welcome refugees from Myanmar and other nations. Last year, Japan accepted only 74 people as refugees, according to the Japan Association for Refugees.

"We must think about how to protect people who are trying to flee from authoritarian rule," Kubota said. "Japan is being looked to as a place of hope." **MDT/AP**

HAWAII

Mauna Loa starts to erupt, sending ash nearby

HAWAII'S Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, has started to erupt for the first time in nearly four decades, prompting volcanic ash and debris to fall nearby, authorities said yesterday.

The eruption began late Sunday night in the summit caldera of the volcano on the Big Island, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Early Monday, it said lava flows were contained within the summit area and weren't threatening nearby communities.

"However, lava flows in the summit region are visible from Kona. There is currently no indication of any migration of the eruption into a rift zone," the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said in a statement.

AP PHOTO



This image provided by the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory shows a view from a research camera on the north rim of the summit caldera of the Mauna Loa volcano, yesterday

A rift zone is where the mountain is splitting apart, the rock is cracked and relatively weak and it's easier for magma to emerge.

How long the volcano

erupts and whether it could cause lava to flow to populated areas of the island is impossible to predict, said Miel Corbett, a USGS spokesperson.

"But I can tell you, we're in constant communication right now with Hawaii Civil Defense, and they're providing updates to community members,"

she said.

Even though it noted there is no indication of lava exiting the summit, the civil defense agency said it has opened shelters in Kailua-Kona and Pahala because it has reports of people self-evacuating along the South Kona coast.

"Multiple images have surfaced on social media indicating lava activity outside of the caldera. At this time, no lava migration into a rift zone has been confirmed," according to a statement.

The USGS warned residents at risk from Mauna Loa lava flows should review their eruption preparations. Scientists had been on alert because of a recent spike in earthquakes at the summit of the volcano,

which last erupted in 1984.

Portions of the Big Island were under an ashfall advisory issued by the National Weather Service in Honolulu, which said up to a quarter-inch (0.6 centimeters) of ash could accumulate in some areas.

Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago.

Mauna Loa, rising 13,679 feet above sea level, is the much larger neighbor to Kilauea volcano, which erupted in a residential neighborhood and destroyed 700 homes in 2018. Some of its slopes are much steeper than Kilauea's so when it erupts, its lava can flow much faster.

During a 1950 eruption, the mountain's lava traveled 15 miles to the ocean in less than three hours. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



UK

Prince William focuses US trip on climate amid Harry row

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

PRINCE William and the Princess of Wales will be looking to focus attention on their Earthshot Prize for environmental innovators when they make their first visit to the United States in eight years this week, a trip clouded by tensions with William's brother, Prince Harry, and his wife, Meghan, who have criticized Britain's royal family in the American media.

William and his wife, Catherine, will travel to Boston on Wednesday for three days of public engagements before announcing the prize winners on Friday in a ceremony headlined by pop star Billie Eilish.

Boston, birthplace of John F. Kennedy, was chosen to host the second annual prize ceremony because the late president's 1962 "moonshot" speech — setting the challenge for Americans to reach the moon by the end of the decade — inspired the prince and his partners to set a similar goal for finding solutions to climate change and other environmental problems by 2030. The first Earthshot Prizes were awarded last year in London just before the U.K. hosted the COP26 climate conference.

But as much as the royals try to focus on the prize, William is likely to face questions about Harry and Meghan, who have criticized the

royal family for racism and insensitive treatment in interviews with Oprah Winfrey and other U.S. media. The Netflix series "The Crown" has also resurrected some of the more troubled times of the House of Windsor just as the royal family tries to show that it remains relevant in modern, multicultural Britain following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

"You could say that the royal family, particularly as far as America is concerned, have had a bit of a bumpy ride of late," said Joe Little, the managing editor of Majesty Magazine. "They've come in for huge amounts of criticism on the back of 'The Crown' and also the Oprah Winfrey interview, which has not particularly reflected well on the House of Windsor, so I think it's a good opportunity whilst they're in the U.S. ... to sort of redress the balance if at all possible."

Whatever those efforts are, they will take place in and around Boston, where William and Kate will remain for their entire visit.

The royal couple will keep the focus on environmental issues, meeting with local organizations responding to rising sea levels in Boston and visiting Greentown Labs in Somerville, Massachusetts, an incubator hub where local entrepreneurs are working on projects to combat climate change.

But they will also address broader issues, using their

star power to highlight the work of Roca Inc., which tries to improve the lives of young people by addressing issues such as racism, poverty and incarceration. They will also visit Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, a leader on research into the long-term impact of early childhood experiences.

William and Kate will also meet with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and visit the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum with the late president's daughter, Caroline Kennedy.

"The prince and princess are looking forward to spending time in Boston, and to learning more about the issues that are affecting local people, as well as to celebrating the incredible climate solutions that will be spotlighted through the Earthshot Prize," their Kensington Palace office said in a statement.

Earthshot offers 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) in prize money to the winners of five separate categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination and climate change. The winners and all 15 finalists also receive help in expanding their projects to meet global demand.

Among the finalists is a startup from Kenya that aims to provide cleaner-burning stoves to make cooking safer and reduce indoor air pollution. It was the brain-

child of Charlot Magayi, who grew up in one of Nairobi's largest slums and sold charcoal for fuel.

When her daughter was severely burned by a charcoal-fired stove in 2012, she developed a stove that uses a safer fuel made from a combination of charcoal, wood and sugarcane. The stoves cut costs for users, reduce toxic emissions and lower the risk of burns, Magayi says.

Other finalists include Fleather, a project in India that creates an alternative to leather out of floral waste; Hutan, an effort to protect orangutans in Malaysia; and SeaForester, which seeks to restore kelp forests that capture carbon and promote biodiversity.

The winners will be announced Friday at Boston's MGM Music Hall as part of a glitzy show headlined by Eilish, Annie Lennox, Ellie Goulding and Chloe x Halle. It will include video narrated by naturalist David Attenborough and actor Cate Blanchett.

Prizes will be presented by actor Rami Malek, comedian Catherine O'Hara, and actor and activist Shailene Woodley. The show will be co-hosted by the BBC's Clara Amfo and American actor and producer Daniel Dae Kim.

The ceremony will be broadcast Sunday on the BBC in the U.K., PBS in the U.S. and Multichoice across Africa. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1975 GRAHAM HILL KILLED IN AIR CRASH



One of Britain's greatest motor racing drivers has been killed in a plane crash in south-east England.

Graham Hill, 46, who retired from the sport in July 1975, was killed instantly along with the four other occupants in his Piper Aztec - all members of the Embassy Hill team.

Hill was piloting the plane when he clipped a row of trees on Arklely golf course in Hertfordshire, just before 2200 GMT.

The two-times world champion was flying Embassy Hill manager Ray Brimble, fellow driver Tony Brise, and two mechanics from France to attend a party in London.

Arley Golf Club steward Ted Dickins said visibility had been very poor at the time of the accident.

"It was terrible - the ambulances couldn't even see the bunkers as they were driving down," he said.

Friend and Elstree Aero Club chairman Spencer Flack said the champion driver was taking a risk by trying to land in bad conditions but told reporters he was an experienced flier.

"He was a skilful pilot who tried to get in and failed.

"In those conditions it's just a matter of feet and seconds between life and death," he said.

Government accident investigation officials are sifting through the wreckage to try to establish the cause of the crash.

Hill is the only driver to have won the Triple Crown of the Indianapolis 500, the 24 hours of Le Mans and the Formula One World Championship.

He won the world title with BRM in 1962 and again in 1968, with Lotus.

Hill retired from Formula 1 mid-season so he could concentrate on coaching Brise, a promising new driver in his own fledgling team Embassy Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Three thousand people attended Graham Hill's funeral in St Alban's, Hertfordshire, on 5 December.

An inquest found he was flying only 60 ft (18.3m) above the ground when the plane hit the tree - but did not realise because of the poor visibility.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned for all six occupants of the plane.

Hill's son, Damon, followed his father into Formula One racing and won the world championship in 1996.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Stick to your work and avoid emotional confrontations. Social events should be the highlight of your day. Now is a good time to ask for favors.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips. You can make moves, but they won't be settling.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You may want to clear the air where older relatives are concerned. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Try to be tolerant of the moods of those around you. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Any difficulties with peers could be unnerving. This could be a serious relationship. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Make creative changes to your living quarters. Stick to travel or do things in conjunction with groups. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Reevaluate your motives. You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doling everything in a half baked way.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You should be getting into self-improvement projects. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends. Make amends if you can.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Small business ventures can earn you extra cash. Avoid any intimate involvement's with coworkers or employers.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Talk to others about your plans. Pamper yourself; you deserve it.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	13	cloudy
Changchun	-4	0	snow
Chengdu	14	20	cloudy
Chongqing	15	19	cloudy
Fuzhou	19	28	cloudy
Guangzhou	22	27	cloudy
Guiyang	16	22	cloudy
Haikou	24	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	14	21	rain
Harbin	-11	-3	snow
Hefei	12	17	rain
Nanjing	13	17	rain
Shanghai	17	22	rain
Taipei	20	26	fine
Wuhan	12	18	rain
Hong Hong	19	24	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-12	-7	overcast
Frankfurt	4	9	cloudy
Paris	6	8	cloudy
London	6	9	cloudy
New York	6	9	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Psyche's love; 5- Switch back?; 9- Ball girl; 12- Do followers; 13- Long arm; 15- Dominion; 16- Hero; 17- Politico Kefauver; 18- Hydroxyl compound; 19- Proclaim; 21- Earache; 23- Cereal grain; 24- NATO member; 25- Public meetings; 28- Launching of a rocket; 33- Put down; 34- ___ Fox; 35- Lira replacement; 36- Implore; 37- In sorry shape; 38- ___ in turkey; 39- Caustic substances; 41- Possesses; 42- Judges; 44- Editorial writer; 46- Extent; 47- Used car locale; 48- ___ sapiens; 49- Not pated; 53- First; 57- "All The Way To ___", song by REM; 58- Dreadlocks wearer; 60- Letter after theta; 61- Chew on; 62- Snob; 63- Quick cut; 64- Always, poetically; 65- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 66- Dosage abbr.;

DOWN 1- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 2- Bridle; 3- Melville tale; 4- Winding; 5- Builds; 6- Ascends; 7- Frequently, in verse; 8- Bread spread; 9- Manure; 10- "The Time Machine" race; 11- Actor Lugosi; 14- Tidal river; 15- Narrate; 20- Appoint; 22- Pompous fool; 25- Legend; 26- Follows orders; 27- Fads; 28- Main impact; 29- To a smaller extent; 30- External; 31- Picture border; 32- "Damn Yankees" choreographer; 34- Bends downward; 37- Tarries; 40- Yellowish color; 42- Actress Moore; 43- Boastful person; 45- Thee, updated; 46- Make a contribution; 48- Try to pick up; 49- Hankering; 50- Hawaiian goose; 51- Growl; 52- Hamlet, e.g.; 54- Charged particles; 55- Take ___ from me; 56- Swimmer's regimen; 59- ___-disant (self-styled);

Yesterday's solution

S	A	R	I	R	U	R	A	L	P	A	L	E
C	R	O	C	E	L	I	D	E	O	B	O	L
A	N	T	E	A	N	T	E	E	L	A	L	
T	E	S	S	E	R	A	E	S	T	E	M	S
T	O	S	S	L	O	T	I					
A	A	R	O	N	H	O	M	I	C	I	D	E
S	P	U	R	S	S	O	N	A	R	R	E	C
C	A	L	M	O	U	T	E	R	T	O	I	L
A	C	E	U	N	D	E	R	C	O	N	G	A
P	E	D	E	S	T	A	L	H	A	G	N	T
L	E	O	N	E	T	O	N					
T	I	A	D	S	L	A	P	D	A	S	H	
G	U	L	P	R	I	C	A	P	L	A	I	
O	N	E	S	A	N	O	T	E	R	I	L	L
R	E	T	E	T	O	W	E	R				

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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 HKD 14,800/mth 3 beds 2 bath

AD

AP PHOTO



Top secret: Christian Pulisic of the United States (left) whispers with teammate Weston McKennie during the match against England

MATCH OF THE DAY

US HAS CLEAR TASK AGAINST IRAN: WIN OR GO HOME

RONALD BLUM, DOHA

THE task is clear for the United States: beat Iran in a politically charged World Cup match or go home.

U.S. players have been praised as the best generation of American soccer. But they finished third behind Canada and Mexico in World Cup qualifying and now face a must-win final group-stage match.

"The most important thing is that we control the outcome of our journey in this tournament with the last game against Iran," midfielder Weston McKennie said. "So the next thing is just to go out and get three points against Iran."

A draw or a loss would eliminate the Americans, who tied Wales 1-1 and England 0-0. England leads the group with four points, followed by Iran with three, the U.S. with two and Wales with one.

"We got to win the game," midfielder Gio Reyna said. "We're not really thinking about anything else, just three points and then we're through."

Iran famously beat the U.S. 2-1 in a 1998 World Cup match in France that eliminated the Americans and caused thousands of flag-waving fans to greet the Iranians when they returned home. In the lead-up to the rematch today [23:00], the U.S. Soccer

Federation angered Iran's government by briefly displaying Iran's flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic.

For the U.S., this year's situation is similar to 2010, when the Americans were on the verge of elimination in the last round of group play before Landon Donovan's stoppage-time goal beat Algeria 1-0.

"I just hope we don't leave it to the 90th-whatever minute," said Stu Holden, a midfielder on the bench that night and now a Fox commentator. "It would be pretty cool to call a last-second U.S. winner, but selfishly I'm quite OK with us just getting that done early and

moving on to the round of 16 because that that would be a lot better for my blood pressure."

Iran is coached by Carlos Queiroz, who as a U.S. Soccer Federation adviser in 1998 wrote a player development blueprint aimed at winning a World Cup by 2010. Iran's attack is led by Porto's Mehdi Taremi, who has five Champions League goals this season.

Iran rebounded from a 6-2 opening match loss to England with a 2-0 upset of Wales, putting the team in position to advance for the first time in six World Cups. Midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh of Feyenoord is suspended after picking up a yellow card in both his first matches in Qatar.

Goals have been a struggle for a U.S. team, which got just three from forwards in 14 World Cup qualifiers.

U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter knows that has to change.

"You got to score," he said. **MDT/AP**

BY THE RULES

WHAT IS THE TIEBREAKER IN WORLD CUP GROUP STAGE?

While the knockout stage of the World Cup is a straightforward setup (single elimination, extra time and penalties), the group stage can get awfully complicated when it comes to determining the teams that'll move on. And often times, the three round-robin matches don't give us a clear top two for each group.

That's where tiebreakers come into play.

In the group stage, each team plays a match against their fellow groupmates with three points in the standings for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss. That means the slightest statistical difference can be what sends a team to the knockout round and the other home disappointed. And trust me, the tiebreakers become weirder the deeper the process gets. Let's break down how it works.

1. GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

The first tiebreaker is simple enough. You subtract goals scored against goals allowed, and the team with the better differential moves on. For example, the U.S. finished second in the group in 2014 by having an even goal differential compared to Portugal's -3. Both teams had a 1-1-1 record in the group. Odds are you'll see this tiebreaker come into play at the World Cup in Qatar.

The experts at Reviewed.com have highlighted the best early Black Friday deals to shop—major savings on TVs, AirPods and more. Check them out now.

2. GOALS SCORED

If teams are tied in points and goal differential, FIFA then continues to total goals scored to break the tie. Of course, this tiebreaker overlooks conceded goals, but FIFA wants teams to put the ball in the net. So that gets preference.

3. HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE

If it's a two-way tie, the winner of the head-to-head match moves on. If that head-to-head match was a tie, we'll proceed to tiebreaker No. 6. And it's a wild one.

If we're looking at a three-way tie at this point, the standings are recalculated to just the matches involving the tied teams. The team at the top of that table moves on. If it's *still* a tie, we move on to the next tiebreaker.

4. GOAL DIFFERENTIAL IN MATCHES BETWEEN TIED TEAMS

This tiebreaker only works for a three-way tie because, well, the winner of a head-to-head match in a two-way tie would naturally have the better differential. So again, this tiebreaker reduces the standings to just the matches involving the three tied teams. The team with the best goal differential from those games moves on.

5. GOALS SCORED IN MATCHES BETWEEN THE TIED TEAMS

If the three teams somehow had the same goal differentials in all the head-to-head matches, the team that scored the most goals in those matches between the tied teams will move on. It's incredibly rare for a three-way tie to get beyond this point.

6. FAIR PLAY TIEBREAKER

Though this is super rare, we've seen this tiebreaker come into play recently in two-way ties. Basically, if all the other tiebreakers are exhausted without a winner, the team with the better disciplinary record in the group stage moves on.

In 2018, Japan advanced to the Round of 16—edging out Senegal—only because Senegal picked up two more yellow cards than Japan.

The Fair Play system also applies here if three teams make it through all the previous tiebreakers.

It's really a terrible way to break a tie because it values subjective officiating decisions over actual on-field performance.

7. LOL DRAWING LOTS

At this point, FIFA has run out of ideas even though there are other ways that would make sense (least goals conceded, saves, goals from open play). That lack of imagination would bring us to a random drawing where the organizing committee would draw a team from a bowl.

We haven't seen this happen in the World Cup, but the Japan-Senegal situation in 2018 was already too close for comfort. I'd rather see the two teams have an impromptu penalty shootout than this.

You cannot have a tiebreaker that is literally left to chance, and FIFA doesn't have a great track record when it comes to integrity. Let's hope we never have this drawing take place.

TODAY'S MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Tue	Nov 29	23:00	Ecuador	Senegal	H 2.5, D 3.27, A 3.2
Tue	Nov 29	23:00	Netherlands	Qatar	H 1.18, D 8.5, A 23
Wed	Nov 30	3:00	Wales	England	H 4.4, D 3.65, A 1.97
Wed	Nov 30	3:00	Iran	United States	H 8.6, D 4.6, A 1.48

GROUP E

'Super guy' Füllkrug drives Germany forward

CIARÁN FAHEY, AL KHOR

SPAIN 1, GERMANY 1

NICLAS Füllkrug was scoring goals in Germany's second division one year ago.

Now he's scoring at the World Cup.

"That's exactly what he's there for," teammate Thomas Müller said after Füllkrug's late goal rescued a 1-1 draw for Germany against Spain in Group E yesterday [Macau time].

Exactly one year earlier, Füllkrug scored when his Werder Bremen lost 2-1 at Holstein Kiel in the second division.

It's been a remarkable rise for the 29-year-old Füllkrug, who now has two goals for Germany in three appearances since his debut less than two weeks ago in a World Cup warmup against Oman.

"I'm happy to gain a foothold here, that I can leave a mark straight away, that I can help the team," Füllkrug told reporters after scoring a goal that boosts Germany's chances of making the knockout stages. "I hope there are



Germany's Niclas Fuellkrug celebrates after he scored his side's first goal

some more to come."

Few but the most ardent Bremen or Bundesliga fans outside Germany will have heard of Füllkrug before. He'd been overlooked for the senior team after making his last appearance for Germany's Under-20s in 2014.

But he fired Bremen to promotion last season and continued with 10 goals in 14 Bundesliga games this season, more than any other German. Coach Hansi Flick

heard fans' calls to include the old-fashioned center-forward in his 26-man World Cup squad.

"The team welcomed me with such great character, like I've rarely experienced before," Füllkrug said. "So it wasn't difficult for me to come in. Beside the field and on the field, it's been going very well."

Füllkrug is proving very popular with his new teammates as well.

"A super guy and a super player, really," Germany captain Manuel Neuer said. "He brings a certain freshness into the team despite his not-so-youthful age. He's always positive, always driving forward and that's what we need. He's an absolute team player."

Neuer made his 18th World Cup appearance to match Brazil's Cláudio Taffarel and Germany's Sepp Maier for the most by a goalkeeper. But all the attention

after the game was on Füllkrug for his no frills morale-boosting goal.

"He shot with a lot of confidence and that was a clear sign for all of us," Neuer said.

Füllkrug, who has still played more games in Germany's second division than in the Bundesliga, remained grounded after his first World Cup goal – despite its potential importance.

"I'm very relaxed in these situations because it's not the first goal I've scored, nor is it the first important goal I've scored," Füllkrug said. "We're already preparing for the next game because this goal from me will do little for us if we don't survive the group phase."

Germany plays Costa Rica for its final Group E game at the Khalifa International Stadium in Al-Rayyan on Thursday. It needs a win to stay in contention for the knockout stages.

Germany can qualify with a win if Spain also beats Japan in the other group game. If Japan wins or draws, it goes to goal difference, where Spain has the edge after its opening 7-0 rout of Costa Rica. **MDT/AP**

GROUP F

Aboubakar saves Cameroon in roller-coaster tie with Serbia

JEROME PUGMIRE,
AL WAKRAH

CAMEROON 3, SERBIA 3

SUBSTITUTE Vincent Aboubakar scored one goal and created another as Cameroon rallied from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 with Serbia at the World Cup yesterday.

He lobbed goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic in the 64th minute and then set up striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting two minutes later.

The thrilling draw was the first game at the World Cup in Qatar in which both teams gave up a lead.

But the result suited neither side.

They each have one point after two Group G matches and either Brazil or Switzerland can qualify with a win when they meet today [Wednesday, 00:00].

Cameroon led through central defender Jean-Charles Castelletto's 29th minute tap-in but also conceded twice in quick suc-



Cameroon's Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scores his side's third goal

cession.

Strahinja Pavlovic scored the equalizer on a header in the first minute of first-half stoppage time and, two minutes later, midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic struck from 20 meters.

Striker Aleksandar Mitrovic made it 3-1 in the 53rd at Al Janoub Stadium.

Cameroon coach Rigobert Song dropped

goalkeeper Andre Onana for the match. It was not immediately clear why Onana was left out amid reports it was for disciplinary reasons.

Onana, who has 34 international caps and plays for Inter Milan, responded by posting the lineup on Instagram.

His absence overshadowed a fine comeback

performance when all the talk should have been about Aboubakar.

Aboubakar, the top scorer at last year's African Cup of Nations, turned the game when he came off the bench in the 55th minute.

First, he calmly guided the ball over goalkeeper Milinkovic-Savic. The goal was given offside but awarded following a video review.

Then, a quick break sliced open the Serbian defense as Aboubakar sprinted down the right and squared the ball to give Choupo-Moting an easy goal.

Both sides lost their opening games, with Serbia beaten 2-0 by Brazil and Cameroon losing 1-0 to Switzerland.

Cameroon took the lead when Pierre Kunde's corner from the left was flicked on by Nicolas Nkoulou to the back post and found his fellow central defender Castelletto unmarked.

Castelletto dropped to his knees to kiss the grass then pointed to the sky, as the entire bench swarmed across the field to engulf him in celebration.

The Serbian bench did

the same when central defender Pavlovic headed the equalizer from a free kick by Dusan Tadic.

Serbia's second goal came after Napoli's highly-rated midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa got into a tangle trying to clear the ball.

The ball found its way to Sergej Milinkovic-Savic on the edge of the penalty area, who shot into the bottom right corner.

Mitrovic then made no mistake as Serbia prized open Cameroon with three passes and he stroked the ball into an empty net for his seventh goal in six games for his nation and 51st overall.

Then it was the turn of Serbia's defense to fall apart. **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

Group F	Croatia	4	1	Canada
Group E	Spain	1	1	Germany
Group G	Cameroon	3	3	Serbia
Group H	Korea Republic	2	3	Ghana

OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**UNREALISTIC TARGETS
 AND THE ENERGY
 TRANSITION**

After years of dragging its feet, Western public opinion demands progress towards decarbonization. One of the best examples is the International Energy Agency (IEA) report on “Net Zero by 2050”, which recognizes “global commitments and action are growing, but they still fall well short of what is needed to limit the rise in global temperatures by 1.5°C and avert the worst effects of climate change”. But if readers were to think there is little commitment from the IEA on Net Zero by 2050, it goes on to state that “the path [to limit global warming to 1.5°C] is narrow but achievable.”

Interestingly, when comparing the established targets within the timeframe of Net Zero by 2050 with their respective execution, one gets the feeling that there is a lot of wishful thinking going on here. Let’s look at some examples of targets therein.

According to the time frame of these targets, at this point no new coal mines, power, oil or natural gas fields should be approved. Energy security, however, has led to several countries being unable to comply with these targets; several coal, gas and oil producing companies have already announced they will continue to invest in new production or processing of these fossil resources; several relevant countries have announced new coal and gas plants, and new fossil fuel refineries (in line with the IEA forecast that consumption of fossil sources will peak only after 2030...).

From 2025 on, the IEA estimates that no new fossil fuel boilers will be sold. Are the boilers going to be all electric? One certainly cannot expect a massive conversion to green hydrogen. This estimate seems unrealistic. The IEA also predicts that by 2030, 730 GW of electrolyzers will already be installed and producing hydrogen. This implies a huge investment and a challenge for the electrolyzer manufacturers, which have limited manufacturing capacity. This estimate does not seem realistic either. The IEA also predicts that by 2030 all (!) new buildings will be carbon neutral. It also considers that the use of coal in developed countries will have ended by the aforementioned time frame.

The IEA also estimates that by 2030, some 60% of new cars sold will be electric, rising to 100% by 2035. Is it realistic that by this date all new cars sold will be electric (EV)? We are doubtful that the pace of sales will keep up with this estimate. For one thing, many statistics continue to include hybrid vehicles among EVs, the vast majority of which have very limited electric range. The high cost of EVs (and the low disposable income of a large percentage of vehicle owners), the life and cost of electric batteries, problems in high-capacity EV charging systems, and the near absence of EVs with >600 km range, evidently do not support such a rapid pace.

This enshrining of unrealistic or patently unrealizable targets by governments and international agencies does not bode well, feeds deniers, and undermines credibility for the resolution of the existential issue of climate change arising from global warming.

[linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira)

The number of babies born in Japan this year is below last year’s record low in what the top government spokesman described as a “critical situation.”

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno promised comprehensive measures to encourage more marriages and births.

The total of 599,636 Japanese born in January-September was 4.9% below last year’s figure, suggesting the number of births in all of 2022 might fall below last year’s record low of 811,000 babies, he said.

Japan is the world’s third biggest economy but living costs are

high and wage increases have been slow. The conservative government has lagged on making society more inclusive for children, women and minorities.

So far, the government’s efforts to encourage people to have more babies have had limited impact despite payments of subsidies for pregnancy, childbirth and child care.

“The pace is even slower than last year ... I understand that it is a critical situation,” Matsuno said.

The number of births has been falling since 1973, when it peaked at about 2.1 million. It’s projected to fall to 740,000 in 2040.

AP PHOTO



Media tycoon Jimmy Lai

**HONG KONG’S TOP
 COURT LETS UK LAWYER
 DEFEND PUBLISHER LAI**

**KANIS LEUNG,
 HONG KONG**

Hong Kong’s top court yesterday upheld a ruling to let a veteran British lawyer defend a 74-year-old pro-democracy publisher at his national security trial this week despite fierce opposition from the pro-Beijing camp in the southern Chinese city.

Jimmy Lai, the founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily and one of the most prominent figures in the city’s pro-democracy movement, was arrested after Beijing imposed a tough national security law to crack down on dissent following widespread protests in 2019. He faces collusion charges and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. His trial is expected to begin on Thursday.

While the city’s secretary for justice was appealing the decision, pro-Beijing politicians and newspapers also voiced objections over the last few days. Hong Kong’s sole delegate to China’s top legislative body, Tam Yiu-chung, on Saturday warned that the body would need to “interpret” the law.

In a closely watched ju-

dgment yesterday, the top court ruled that the secretary had raised “undefined and unsubstantiated issues said to involve national security” that were not mentioned or explored in the lower courts.

“No appropriate basis has been made out for the grant of leave to appeal,” the judges said.

Hong Kong, under British rule until it returned to China in 1997, uses the same common law jurisdiction as the U.K. Apart from having overseas judges in the city’s courts, lawyers from other common law jurisdictions can work within the city’s legal system, especially when their expertise are needed for some cases.

The lawyer involved in Lai’s case was Timothy Owen, a London-based legal veteran who specializes in criminal and human rights law.

Owen, of Matrix Chambers, appeared in previous Hong Kong’s high-profile cases. He represented British banker Rurik Jutting, who was convicted for murdering two women, and a police officer who appealed his conviction for assaulting a pro-democracy activist during

2014 protests.

Last month, the lower court granted the approval for him to represent Lai, saying it was in the public interest to have an eminent overseas specialist like Owen involved at the trial. But the secretary of justice insisted on his objections despite other judges rejecting his bids to overturn that ruling. He suggested a blanket ban on overseas lawyers involved in national security cases unless under exceptional circumstances.

Lai is already serving a 20-month prison sentence for his role in unauthorized assemblies. He’s also expecting a sentencing over his fraud conviction next month.

His legal team earlier asked the United Nations to investigate his imprisonment and multiple criminal charges as “legal harassment” to punish him for speaking out.

The National Security Law criminalizes acts of succession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces. It has led to the arrests of many prominent democracy activists and damaged faith in the future of the international financial hub. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



USA Days after flocking to stores on Black Friday, consumers are turning online for Cyber Monday to score more discounts on gifts and other items that have ballooned in price because of high inflation. Cyber Monday [which will be concluded Tuesday, Macau time] is expected to remain the year’s biggest online shopping day and rake in up to \$11.6 billion in sales, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks transactions at over 85 of the top 100 U.S. online stores. That forecast represents a jump from the \$10.7 billion consumers spent last year.

AP PHOTO



Narcos Law enforcement authorities in six different countries have joined forces to take down a “super cartel” of drugs traffickers controlling about one third of the cocaine trade in Europe, the European Union crime agency said yesterday. Europol said 49 suspects have been arrested during the investigation, with the latest series of raids across Europe and the United Arab Emirates taking place between Nov. 8-19. Over 33 tons of drugs were seized during the investigations run in Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UAE with the support of Europol.

AP PHOTO



Word of the year Gaslighting — behavior that’s mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — is Merriam-Webster’s word of the year. Lookups for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740% in 2022 over the year before. But something else happened. There wasn’t a single event that drove significant spikes in curiosity, as it usually goes with the chosen word of the year. The gaslighting was pervasive.