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PORTUGAL 'SHOULD STAND FOR FREEDOM' IN MACAU, JORGE MENEZES WROTE IN PÚBLICO – THE THIRD LOCAL LAWYER TO DEBATE ON SAR'S STATUS QUO AS CE VISITED LISBON P5

CE VISITS LUXEMBOURG TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES IN ECONOMY, TRADE AND FINANCE P5

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LISBON PLATFORM

MGTO seeks opportunities for internationalization in Portugal P3



Thailand A court handed a craft beer enthusiast a 150,000 baht (\$4,360) fine and a suspended six-month prison sentence for violating a law on advertising alcoholic beverages by posting a photo of a beer with his evaluation of it on Facebook. Artid Sivahansaphan said yesterday he plans to appeal his conviction in the hope of changing a law he believes is unfair to consumers and small entrepreneurs.



USA Spectators at Disneyland's popular "Fantasmic" show got a shock last weekend when the feature's fire-breathing animatronic dragon suddenly burst into flames. No injuries were reported following the blaze Saturday night at the Southern California theme park, the Anaheim Fire Department said. The show was stopped almost immediately "and then right after that, the dragon started catching fire and the whole body was up in flames," a witness said yesterday [Macau time].

USA Gunfire at a huge prom after-party at a home in Texas injured nine teenagers, and a second shooting in a nearby city is being investigated for a possible connection, officials said. Sheriff's deputies in Jasper County, in East Texas, arrived in the wee hours of Sunday at a home where about 250 people were partying, authorities said. They found nine victims with gunshot wounds that didn't appear to be life-threatening, according to a statement by county sheriff's office.

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GENERATIVE AI

FIVE ESSENTIAL READS ABOUT THE NEW ERA OF CREATIVITY, JOB ANXIETY, MISINFORMATION, BIAS AND PLAGIARISM

ERIC SMALLEY

THE light and dark sides of AI have been in the public spotlight for many years. Think facial recognition, algorithms making loan and sentencing recommendations, and medical image analysis. But the impressive – and sometimes scary – capabilities of ChatGPT, DALL-E 2 and other conversational and image-conjuring artificial intelligence programs feel like a turning point.

The key change has been the emergence within the last year of powerful generative AI, software that not only learns from vast amounts of data but also produces things – convincingly written documents, engaging conversation, photorealistic images and clones of celebrity voices.

Generative AI has been around for nearly a decade, as long-standing worries about deepfake videos can attest. Now, though, the AI models have become so large and have digested such vast swaths of the internet that people have become unsure of what AI means for the future of knowledge work, the nature of creativity and the origins and truthfulness of content on the internet.

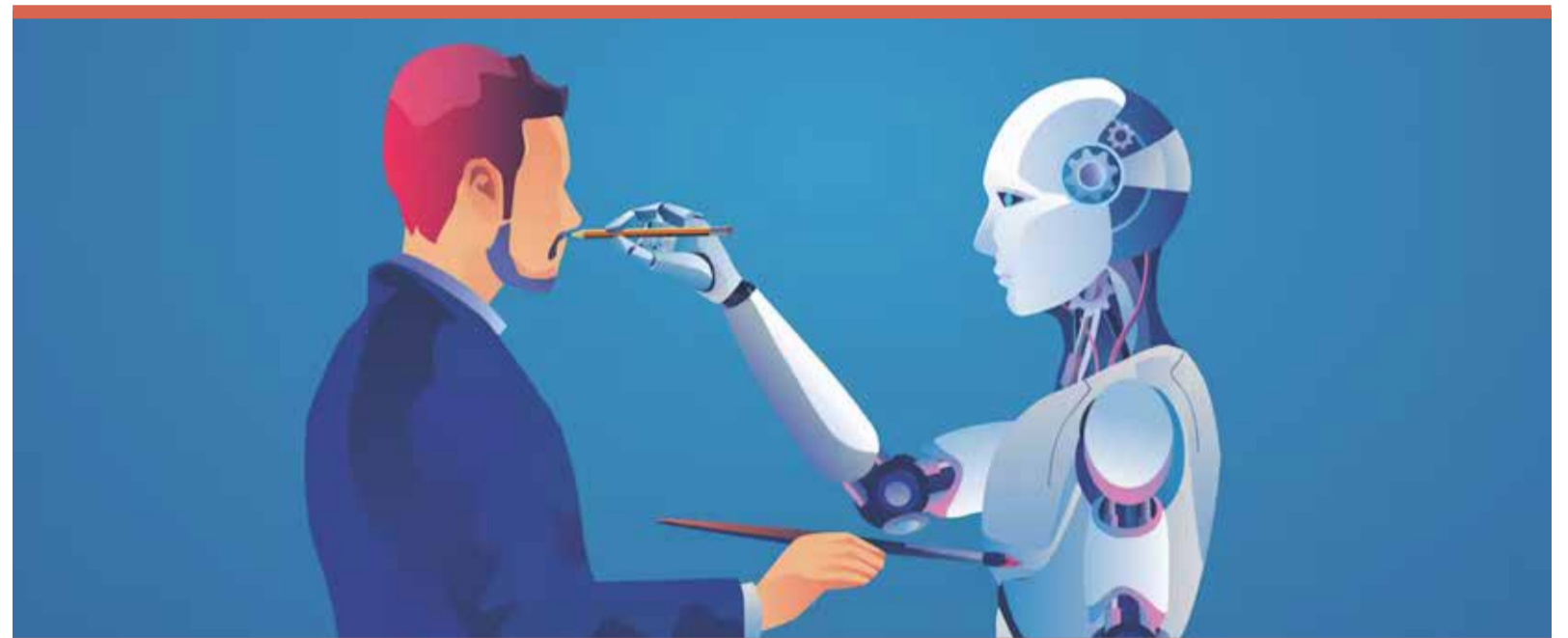
Here are five articles from our archives that take the measure of this new generation of artificial intelligence.

1. GENERATIVE AI AND WORK

A panel of five AI experts discussed the implications of generative AI for artists and knowledge workers. It's not simply a matter of whether the technology will replace you or make you more productive.

University of Tennessee computer scientist Lynne Parker wrote that while there are significant benefits to generative AI, like making creativity and knowledge work more accessible, the new tools also have downsides. Specifically, they could lead to an erosion of skills like writing, and they raise issues of intellectual property protections given that the models are trained on human creations.

University of Colorado Boulder



computer scientist Daniel Acuña has found the tools to be useful in his own creative endeavors but is concerned about inaccuracy, bias and plagiarism.

University of Michigan computer scientist Kentaro Toyama wrote that human skill is likely to become costly and extraneous in some fields. "If history is any guide, it's almost certain that advances in AI will cause more jobs to vanish, that creative-class people with human-only skills will become richer but fewer in number, and that those who own creative technology will become the new mega-rich."

Florida International University computer scientist Mark Finlayson wrote that some jobs are likely to disappear, but that new skills in working with these AI tools are likely to become valued. By analogy, he noted that the rise of word processing software largely eliminated the need for typists but allowed nearly anyone with access to a computer to produce typeset documents and led to a new class of skills to list on a resume.

University of Colorado Anschutz biomedical informatics researcher Casey Greene wrote that just as Google led people to develop skills in finding information on the internet, AI language models will lead people to develop skills to get the best output from

the tools. "As with many technological advances, how people interact with the world will change in the era of widely accessible AI models. The question is whether society will use this moment to advance equity or exacerbate disparities."

2. CONJURING IMAGES FROM WORDS

Generative AI can seem like magic. It's hard to imagine how image-generating AIs can take a few words of text and produce an image that matches the words.

Hany Farid, a University of California, Berkeley computer scientist who specializes in image forensics, explained the process. The software is trained on a massive set of images, each of which includes a short text description.

"The model progressively corrupts each image until only visual noise remains, and then trains a neural network to reverse this corruption. Repeating this process hundreds of millions of times, the model learns how to convert pure noise into a coherent image from any caption," he wrote.

3. MARKING THE MACHINE

Many of the images produced by generative AI are difficult to distinguish from photographs, and AI-generated video is rapidly improving. This raises the stakes for combating fraud and misin-

formation. Fake videos of corporate executives could be used to manipulate stock prices, and fake videos of political leaders could be used to spread dangerous misinformation.

Farid explained how it's possible to produce AI-generated photos and video that contain watermarks verifying that they are synthetic. The trick is to produce digital watermarks that can't be altered or removed. "These watermarks can be baked into the generative AI systems by watermarking all the training data, after which the generated content will contain the same watermark," he wrote.

4. FLOOD OF IDEAS

For all the legitimate concern about the downsides of generative AI, the tools are proving to be useful for some artists, designers and writers. People in creative fields can use the image generators to quickly sketch out ideas, including unexpected off-the-wall material.

Rochester Institute of Technology industrial designer and professor Juan Noguera and his students use tools like DALL-E or Midjourney to produce thousands of images from abstract ideas – a sort of sketchbook on steroids.

"Enter any sentence – no matter how crazy – and you'll receive

a set of unique images generated just for you. Want to design a teapot? Here, have 1,000 of them," he wrote. "While only a small subset of them may be usable as a teapot, they provide a seed of inspiration that the designer can nurture and refine into a finished product."

5. SHORTCHANGING THE CREATIVE PROCESS

However, using AI to produce finished artworks is another matter, according to Nir Eisikovits and Alec Stubbs, philosophers at the Applied Ethics Center at University of Massachusetts Boston. They note that the process of making art is more than just coming up with ideas.

The hands-on process of producing something, iterating the process and making refinements – often in the moment in response to audience reactions – are indispensable aspects of creating art, they wrote.

"It is the work of making something real and working through its details that carries value, not simply that moment of imagining it," they wrote. "Artistic works are lauded not merely for the finished product, but for the struggle, the playful interaction and the skillful engagement with the artistic task, all of which carry the artist from the moment of inception to the end result." **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

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MGTO seeks opportunities for internationalization in Portugal

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has met representatives from the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies (APAVT) to discuss cooperation opportunities aiming at the expansion of tourist sources for Macau in international markets, specifically with Portugal.

At the meeting the director of the MGTO, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, took the opportunity of meeting with APAVT president, Pedro Costa Ferreira, to invite the Portuguese tourism operators to participate in the 11th edition of the Macau International Tourism (Industry) Expo, which will take place in June this year.

In addition, the MGTO also confirmed participation at Lisbon Tourism Exchange (BTL), the main platform for the promotion and exchange of tourism in Portugal, scheduled for February next year.

MGTO also agreed to a collaboration with APAVT to promote Macau at the 2024



International Tourism Fair (FITUR) in Spain, eyeing not only the Spanish market but also a few other European markets as well as Ibero-American markets in which FITUR is a well-known and

respected platform.

The relationship between MGTO and APAVT is a long-standing one with the Portuguese association having held in the past a total of five annual congresses in Macau

since 1982. The last of those was held back in 2017.

APAVT has also been part of the Macau International Tourism (Industry) Expo for three consecutive years, from 2017 until 2019.

GOV'T TOURISM CAMPAIGN GAINING GROUND: 1.96M ARRIVALS FOR MARCH

THE city has seen nearly 1.96 million tourist arrivals in March as the city ramped up its tourism promotions to visitors from the mainland and the international market.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that the figure represents an upsurge of 271.4% year-on-year and a rise of 22.8% month-on-month.

Overnight visitors (979,152) and same-day visitors (977,715) soared by 522.7% and 164.5% year-on-year respectively.

As to the source of visitors, the number of visitors from mainland China grew by 164.9% year-on-year to 1.24 million.

Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area increased by 79.0% year-on-year to 563,083, of whom 27.9% came from Zhuhai (157,032) and 21.0% from Guangzhou (118,361). As well, visitors from Hong Kong (622,304) and Taiwan (26,645) rocketed by 1,077.2% and 447.5% year-on-year respectively.

Analyzed by checkpoint, the number of visitor arrivals by land hiked by 208.1% year-on-year to 1.56 million in March; among them, 44.7% arrived through the checkpoint of Border Gate (696,962), 40.2% came via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (626,518) and 10.7% via the Hengqin port (166,262).

Earlier this month, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has put forth a promotional campaign with Air Macau to entice foreign tourists to visit the city after years of travel restrictions. From now until June 30, tourists can enjoy a limited-time 'Buy One Get One Free' offer when they purchase a round-trip ticket from Air Macau, departing from Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Thailand or Vietnam with Macau as the destination.

Meanwhile, the analysts at Morgan Stanley have forecast that occupancy rates during the May Day Golden Week will exceed those recorded during the Lunar New Year.

However, the current labor shortages remain a problem, where many hotels are forced to require their staff to work overtime to accommodate the influx of tourists while they wait for quotas for non-resident workers.

Therefore, many hotels have no option but to make some rooms unavailable.

According to Morgan Stanley, "17 out of 25 hotels surveyed have three or more days (out of 10 surveyed days) fully booked."

In the first quarter of 2023, the number of visitor arrivals expanded by 163.7% year-on-year to 4.95 million, with overnight visitors (2.64 million) and same-day visitors (2.31 million) jumping by 287.6% and 93.1% respectively. **LV**

TRAVEL

Trip.com launches promotion campaign for Macau

STAFF REPORTER

THE international one-stop travel service provider Trip.com has announced the launch of its promotion campaign 'See you in Macao' which highlights the city as a destination choice for leisure and business.

Co-organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the campaign aims to show and share the multi-cultural heritage of Macau, its "stunning architecture and its world-class culinary scene."

Trip.com users who book a stay of two consecutive nights or more at selected hotels marked with a "Macao Bonus" tag using the



promo code will enjoy an SGD100 with a maximum discount of up to 50% during the promo-

tion period from April 19 to June 30.

"We invite travelers from around the world

to explore the multifaceted charm of Macau, and we are confident that the 'See You in Ma-

cao' campaign will provide them with a wonderful opportunity to do so," director of MGTO Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said, adding that "Macau's unique blend of history, culture, and entertainment offers something for every traveler."

Meanwhile vice president of Trip.com Group Edison Chen said, "As we have seen a significant increase in search volumes and bookings among travelers across various markets in recent months, we are excited to have extended the partnership to our Trip.com platform for travelers from Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and worldwide."

Back in December at the Trip.com's 2022 Global Partner Summit in Macau, Chen said that although there were instabilities in the city's Covid-policy, the key direction remains to attract more mainland tourists to Macau.

GOV'T TO EXERCISE FURTHER CONTROL OVER MONEY INJECTION TO PUBLICLY OWNED COMPANIES

RENATO MARQUES

THE government is to exercise further and tighter control over monetary injection and subsidies granted to publicly owned companies as well as other companies that have public participation, government representatives told the lawmakers that compose the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

This statement from the government came yesterday morning during a meeting of the committee that is debating the details of the new law regulating the management of companies that have participation from the local government or are wholly owned by it.

In the media briefing that followed the meeting, the president of the committee, lawmaker Ella Lei, told the press that the government has explained that in the future, with this new law, both the wholly-owned enterprises and enterprises with partici-



pations of public capital will be carefully evaluated as to the attribution of the subsidies necessary

to maintain their normal operations.

Lei also noted that the govern-

ment further explained that these subsidies will take all factors into account, including the rationa-

lity of the annual operation plan and budget, and whether the same type of subsidies has been obtained through the exclusive contract or public service grant contract. The financial status of the companies as well as the operating results from the previous years will also be taken into consideration when granting public money to these companies.

According to the most updated information from the Office for the Planning of Supervision of Public Assets, there are currently a total of 16 publicly owned companies by the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and another seven companies where the participation of the MSAR is equal to or less than 50%.

Among the ones which the MSAR has 100% of the ownership are the TDM – Teledifusão de Macau, S.A.; the Sociedade para o Desenvolvimento dos Parques Industriais de Macau, Limitada; UMTEC, Limitada (a commercial subsidiary of the University of Macau); Macau Investimento e Desenvolvimento, S.A.; Macau Renovação Urbana, S.A.; Sociedade do Metro Ligeiro de Macau, S.A.; Central de Depósito e Liquidação de Valores Mobiliários de Macau Sociedade Unipessoal Limitada; and Sociedade Orquestra de Macau, Limitada.

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HO IAT SENG IN LISBON

PORTUGAL 'SHOULD STAND FOR FREEDOM' IN MACAU: MENEZES

AS Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng made a trip to Portugal with the promise of presenting contemporary Macau and its advantages, installing a fully-fledged city showcase in the heart of Lisbon, the debate on the MSAR's legal and social status quo also tagged along.

The article last Friday in *Público* daily, "Em Macau, Portugal deve estar do lado da liberdade" by Jorge Menezes, an outspoken local lawyer, discusses the new National Security Law (NSL) approved in first reading by the Legislative Assembly – after earlier contributions by attorneys Sérgio de Almeida Correia (*Público*) and Álvaro Rodrigues (*Diário de Notícias*), as reported by the Times.

Menezes argues that the real purpose of the law is "to criminalize opinions and silence criticism, creating an environment of fear and repression." The law, which has been approved by unanimous vote in first reading, "will allow the government to extradite and imprison people who express dissenting opinions."

The barrister highlights that the NSL aims to criminalize not only actions that threaten national security but also "opinions that diverge from the official line."

The law defines security as encompassing "the people's well-being, sustainable development of the economy and society, and other relevant interests," terms that can be interpreted in "broad and

vague ways."

As a result, any act or statement that could be seen as undermining the government's interests or stability "could be considered a crime against national security."

The author points out that the potential consequences of the law extend beyond Macau's borders, as it could lead to the extradition and imprisonment of people who express critical opinions outside the territory, including in Portugal.

This could have "a chilling effect on freedom of speech and press freedom in Portugal," where editors would be afraid to publish opinions that could be deemed critical of China.

The author also analyzes the crimes of subversion, sedition, and incitement, which could be used to punish anyone who speaks out against the government or its policies.

The NSL broadens the definition of these crimes, "making it easier for the authorities to arrest and punish residents who criticize the government."

The outspoken lawyer, who has been producing regular commentary on human rights in Macau, argues that this is "a direct attack on freedom of expression and that the law should be repealed."

"The Lisbon government has a duty to protect its citizens and defend the values of democracy and human rights" and speak out their mind on the NSL, Menezes said. PC

CE visits Luxembourg to explore opportunities in economy, trade, and finance

RENATO MARQUES

AFTER the visit to Portugal, the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, has traveled to Luxembourg intending to explore new opportunities in economic, trade, and finance matters, the Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced in a statement.

On Sunday, Ho met with the Ambassador of China to the country, Hua Ning, to discuss matters related to finance, especially in view of the fact that Luxembourg has the title of the world's largest secondary market for bonds.

Ho explained that the purpose of the trip was to gain understanding of the operation of that market and to learn from Luxembourg's experience, since one of the goals of the government is to develop Macau's bond market, which, Ho admitted, is still in its preliminary phase.

In Luxembourg, the CE noted that the government hopes that the local bond market could be optimized



in terms of improving links between bond issuers, investors, and institutional investors on the mainland and overseas, building Macau into a bond market with unique advantages.

During the meeting, the two officials also exchanged views on sustainable development for the tourism sector, with the CE introducing the ongoing program of promo-

tion of Macau abroad to attract visitors from overseas markets.

In his turn, Ambassador Hua briefed the Macau delegation on China-Luxembourg relations and the socioeconomic situation of the country.

He noted that Luxembourg was one of the first European countries to join the "Belt and Road" initiative

and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Hua remarked that Macau and Luxembourg have some similarities and both could benefit from cooperation in areas such as green finance, convention and exhibition business, and tourism, adding that the embassy will be open to provide all the help they can to boost these ties and cooperation.

Reports: Malaysia in talks with China on Low Jho's extradition

STAFF REPORTER

MALAYSIA'S government is reportedly in talks with China seeking the extradition of fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho.

According to media reports, an arrangement is being "hotly debated" inside the Malaysian government after PM Anwar Ibrahim's first official trip to China last month, claims an investigative reporter Bradley Hope, one of the co-authors of *Billion Dollar Whale*, a book about the IMDB corruption scandal.

Low has been charged in Malaysia and the United States over allega-

tions that he orchestrated the theft of USD4.5 billion (3.47 billion pounds) from state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), co-founded by former Prime Minister Najib Razak. He has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Last month, a Kuwait court convicted and sentenced him to 10 years' imprisonment in absentia, for the embezzlement of 1MDB funds.

Low is believed to be in Macau. Nevertheless, back in 2020 the Office of the Secretary for Security refuted claims from Malaysian authorities that the fugitive businessman was in the SAR.



Lawyer Jorge Menezes

Low Jho

DSAL FINDS INADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES ON 12 CONSTRUCTION SITES

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) carried out more than 460 inspections at construction sites between March 12 and 24, having imposed 12 fines for breaching safety rules. According to a statement, DSAL inspectors detected 54 works with safety risks, of which 12 were more serious cases, namely lack of collective protection measures for work at height and unsafe use of electricity.

MACAU & HK DATA PROTECTION OFFICES BOLSTER TIES

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong and the Office for Personal Data Protection, Macau held a meeting to strengthen their ties and discuss areas of closer cooperation in the protection of personal data. According to an official statement, the offices held discussion on various data protection issues including the enforcement work conducted by the two offices, cross-border transfers of personal data and stronger collaboration in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.



GAMING

CREDIT SUISSE: CASINOS SET FOR PEAK REVENUE PERIOD IN FINAL DAYS OF APRIL

CREDIT Suisse's channel data shows that the casino sector is set to record around MOP750 million a day

in revenues from April 20 to May 1.

The brokerage said that the street was broadly upbeat

about MGM China, Sands China and Galaxy.

It expected Sands, MGM and Galaxy to see more sha-

re gains into the second half, reiterating its view that the sector should see upside in short term, as cited in a report issued by AAStocks Financial News.

Previously, according to data from Citigroup, Macau's casino revenues for the first 10 days of the month have reached MOP4 billion, implying a daily run rate of around MOP400 million.

According to Citigroup, "Based on industry sources, VIP volumes were down approximately 10 percent month-on-month and mass volumes were largely flat month-on-month. VIP hold rate appears to be around normal level."

Official data shows that the Baccarat card game continues to be the game of choice for most casino patrons in Macau, generating a gross gaming revenue of MOP29.1 billion in the first quarter of this year. The figure represents 84.1% of all GGR from Q1 which has reached as much as MOP34.6 billion.

Macau's casinos had their best month since the earliest days of the pandemic, with gaming revenue surging 247% in March after Chinese tourists flocked to the city. LV

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NETWORK

Fox's settlement with Dominion unlikely to cost it \$787.5m

MAE ANDERSON

FOX Corp.'s \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems over defamation charges is eye-popping, but the ultimate cost to the media company is likely to be much lower.

On Tuesday, Fox settled with Dominion over charges that Fox News baselessly accused the company of rigging its voting machines against former President Donald Trump in 2020. It was the most-watched media libel case in decades.

Fox had about \$4 billion of cash on hand as of December 2022, and MoffettNathanson analyst Robert Fishman expects the company to pay the settlement during the current quarter.

How much the lawsuit will actually end up costing Fox is unclear because there are ways it can defray some of the expense, primarily through insurance and the use of tax deductions.

Fox can deduct the Dominion settlement from its income taxes as an expense necessary for the cost of doing business. Fox Chief Communications Officer Brian Nick has confirmed the deductibility of the settlement.

Big companies often deduct large settlements

to help offset some of the cost, but since settlement amounts are usually confidential, it's difficult to pin down exactly how much they benefit. Payments that are seen as restitution or compensation can be deducted, while payments made to the government or at the direction of a government are usually not deductible.

Robert Willens, a tax professor at the Columbia University School of Business, estimates that after the tax write-off, Fox will incur about three-fourths of the settlement amount, about \$590 million.

"The key is that if the payments are being made to private parties and not at the behest of the government then you can pretty much conclude without any fear of contradiction that the payment will be deductible," he said.

A study by the Government Accountability Office in 2005 found that of 34 settlements totaling over \$1 billion, 20 companies reported deducting some portion or all of their settlement payments. Big banks such as Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase reportedly also deducted portions of their settlements of charges tied to the financial crisis of 2008.

Also, if Fox is insured, insurance is likely to cover some of the se-

ttlement. Chad Milton, a partner at Media Risk Consultants, said a large media company such as Fox could have anywhere between \$100 million to \$500 million in coverage, including media liability insurance and other types of insurance.

"It's not hard to stack up \$100 million but as you go higher than that, it gets harder and harder," Milton said.

Usually, there's a certain amount a media company has to pay, which could be in the millions, before insurance kicks in. However, the deductible includes attorney fees, which in a high-profile case like Fox-Dominion could be tens of millions of dollars or higher, so the deductible could be swallowed up just by attorney fees.

One wrinkle: even if an insurance company pays a substantial part of the settlement, there could be an annual aggregate limit of liability, which could mean that insurers wouldn't cover another big-money settlement.

And media companies and insurers don't always agree on who should cover what, since there are caveats written into contracts that allow insurers to avoid paying under certain circumstances. In 2017, Disney settled a defamation suit that was filed in 2012 after ABC aired

a segment that questioned the safety of a meat producer's products that critics dubbed "pink slime." But one of its insurers, AIG, ended up suing Disney so it wouldn't have to pay part of the settlement, although AIG eventually lost.

Fox has also said it doesn't expect the settlement to affect its operations.

"We don't expect significant operational effects or changes to our business given our cash flow, strong balance sheet and the health of our business," the company said in a statement after the settlement was announced.

MoffettNathanson's Fishman said everything indicates the company will be able to run its business as usual.

"It isn't clear there has been much, if any, impact of these lawsuits on Fox News' viewership and business," he said.

Fishman said he doesn't expect the settlement to hamper Fox's ability to return money to shareholders, including a \$1 billion accelerated share repurchase program announced in February.

Fox has a similar lawsuit looming with another voting machine company, Smartmatic, but no date has been set and the case might not go to court for a couple of years. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Savor the Delicate Ocean Flavors

SUMMER is just around the corner, and it is time to excite the taste buds and discover the delicate ocean flavors. Ring in the holiday with the ultimate teppanyaki experience curated with the finest sea urchin and caviar with premium seasonal ingredients at Grill 58, MGM Cotai.



The menu starts with a refreshing Amuse Bouche appetizer featuring Smoked Rainbow Trout Roe to entice and refine your palate, followed by the Seafood Delight which are meticulously crafted with Aged Toro, Golden Ikura, and Yuzu Miso, expanding the boundaries of freshness. The hearty Chef's Special Temaki overwhelmed with rich Uni Narabi, and Oscietra Caviar N2 is another highlight. Topped with gold flakes, the exquisite dish is a multi-sensory delight. The journey of umami discovery continues with a few hot dishes featuring more fresh seasonal produce, including the Aged Miso Kagoshima A5 Striploin served with Parsnip and Yuzu Koshio Beef Jus in which the rich and robust aged miso beef flavors are blended harmoniously with the refreshing citrus aromatic notes.



To enhance the experience, we recommend you to opt for the wine and sake pairing with all the delicate flavors accentuated. The menu is available for three days only, on April 30 to May 2 at \$2,588* per person, \$3088* per person with wine pairing. Limited seats only, call (853) 8806 2318 or email hotelreservations@mgm.mo to secure yours now.

*Price in MOP and subject to 10% service charge

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ECONOMY

BEIJING BOOSTS GERMAN BUSINESS OPTIMISM, BUT CHALLENGES AHEAD

A key measure of German business optimism rose in April for the seventh month in a row amid lower natural gas prices and the reopening of the Chinese economy after COVID-19 restrictions.

The Munich-based IFO institute's confidence index went up to 93.6 from 93.2 in March. Analysts said yesterday that the move was positive but did not erase the headwinds facing Europe's largest economy as it struggles to avoid sliding into recession.

Consumers are still holding back due to rampant inflation and energy prices still are high, even after utilities found new sources of gas after Russia cut off most of its supply to Europe after the invasion of Ukraine.

"Looking beyond the first quarter and particularly looking into the second half of the year, the German economy will continue its flirtation with recession," Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro at ING bank, said in an emailed analysis.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts a 0.1% decline in gross domestic product for Germany this year.

The end of drastic restrictions aimed at halting the spread of COVID-19 in China, a major market for German companies, has fueled "a short-lived industrial renaissance," Brzeski wrote.

He added that first-quarter economic output figures could land in positive territory when

AP PHOTO



they are released Friday.

But once order backlogs are worked off, the rebound could run

out of steam as the German economy faces long-term drag from the war in Ukraine and the transi-

tion away from fossil fuels toward renewable forms of energy.

The Ifo survey is based on res-

ponses from about 9,000 businesses across various business sectors. MDT/AP

AD

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F&B

Coke's strong quarter fueled by higher prices, China rebound

COCA-COLA Co. reported higher-than-expected sales in the first quarter as it continued to hike prices and saw its business in China improve.

Revenue rose 5% to \$11 billion for the January-March period, the company said yesterday. That beat Wall Street's expectations. Analysts polled by FactSet had forecast revenue of \$10.8 billion.

Adjusted for one-time items, the Atlanta beverage giant earned 68 cents per share. That also beat analysts' forecast of 65 cents.

Pricing and mix — which includes changes in package sizes — contributed 11% to its revenue growth while concentrate sales rose 1%. The company has said it expects to see slower growth this year as prices moderate. Price and mix grew by 12% in each of the previous three quarters.

AP PHOTO



Unit case volumes jumped 10% in Asia as COVID-related shutdowns ended in China. Coke said it also grew its business in India by adding retail partners offering promotions on multi-packs.

In North America, sales were flat. Higher sales of soft drinks, juice and dairy were offset by lower sales of water, tea and coffee. Case volumes fell in Europe, where growth in some markets was offset by the suspension of business in Russia and the February earthquake in Turkey.

Operating income fell

1% as Coke invested heavily in marketing. The company announced in February that it was among the first to partner with the artificial intelligence company Open AI and the consulting firm Bain and Co. to experiment with ChatGPT and DALL-E in its marketing. Last month, Coke launched a promotion that lets customers make digital art using material from the company's archives. Coke also launched a campaign for its Smartwater brand that targeted consumers using geolocation apps. MDT/AP

SECURITY

Australia plans major overhaul of defenses as China rises

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA needs to spend more money on defense, make its own munitions and develop the ability to strike longer-range targets as China's military buildup challenges regional security, according to a government-commissioned report released yesterday.

The Defense Strategic Review supports the so-called AUKUS partnership among Australia, the United States and Britain, which in March announced an agreement to create an Australian fleet of eight submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government commissioned the review to assess whether Australia has the necessary defense capability, posture and preparedness to defend itself in the current strategic environment.

"We support the strategic direction and key findings set out in the review, which will strengthen our national security and ensure our readiness for future challenges," Albanese said.

He said the review was Australia's most significant since World War II and was comprehensive in scope. "It demonstrates that in a world where challenges to our national security are always evolving, we cannot fall back on old assumptions," Albanese said.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to the media during a press conference after the release of the Defence Strategic Review at Parliament House in Canberra yesterday

The public version of the classified review recommended that Australia's government spend more on defense than the current expenditure of 2% of gross domestic product, improve the Australian Defense Force's ability to precisely strike targets at longer ranges and make munitions domestically.

Other recommendations include improving the force's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases and to deepen defense partnerships with key countries in the Indo-Pacific region including India and Japan.

China's military buildup "is

now the largest and most ambitious of any country" since the end of World War II, the review said. It "is occurring without transparency or reassurance to the Indo-Pacific region of China's strategic intent," it said.

The strategic circumstances during the current review were "radically different" than those in the past, said the report, authored by former Australian Defense Force Chief Angus Houston and former Defense Minister Stephen Smith.

The United States, Australia's most important defense treaty partner, was "no longer the uni-

polar leader of the Indo-Pacific," a region that has seen the return of major-power strategic competition, it said.

"As a consequence, for the first time in 80 years, we must go back to fundamentals, to take a first-principles approach as to how we manage and seek to avoid the highest level of strategic risk we now face as a nation: the prospect of major conflict in the region that directly threatens our national interest," the review said.

The government immediately plans to delay or abandon 7.8 billion Australian dollars (\$5.2 billion) in defense spending to re-

flect new priorities.

Defense Industry Minister Pat Conroy said as part of the new priorities, an order for infantry fighting vehicles has been reduced from 450 to 129. The savings from those vehicles and the cancellation of a second regiment of self-propelled howitzers will fund the acceleration of the acquisition of U.S. HIMARS rocket systems that are proving effective in the Ukraine war.

The maximum range of the army's weapons will be extended from 40 kilometers to over 300 kilometers and, with the acquisition of precision-strike missiles, over 500 kilometers, Conroy said.

"This is about giving the Australian army the fire power and mobility it needs into the future to face whatever it needs to face," Conroy said.

Questioned about Australia's new military direction, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing's military buildup policy is "defensive in nature."

"We are committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and the whole world," she said. "We do not pose any challenge to any country. We hope relevant countries will not hype up the so-called China threat narrative."

For the past five decades, Australia's defense policy has been aimed at deterring and responding to potential low-level threats from small- or middle-power neighbors. "This approach is no longer fit for purpose," the review said.

Australia's army, air force and navy need to focus on "delivering timely and relevant capability" and abandon its "pursuit of the perfect solution or process" in its procurements, it said. **MDT/AP**

INTERNATIONAL LAW

China affirms ex-Soviet nations' sovereignty after uproar

THE Chinese government said yesterday it respects the sovereignty of former Soviet Union republics after Beijing's ambassador to France caused an uproar in Europe by saying they aren't sovereign nations.

The governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania rejected Ambassador Lu Shaye's comment to a French broadcaster. While answering a question about the status of Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014, Lu said there was no agreement to "solidify their status as a sovereign country."

Beijing declared it had a "no-limits friendship" with



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning

Moscow before its 2022 invasion of Ukraine but has tried to appear neutral,

calling for a cease-fire and peace talks.

"China respects the so-

vereign status of the former soviet countries after the dissolution of the Soviet Union," said foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. Mao said Beijing's position is "consistent and clear" but gave no indication whether Lu's comment was considered incorrect.

The ambassador drew a parallel with the Baltic nations and other former soviet republics that declared independence from Moscow when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

"With regards to international law, even these ex-Soviet Union countries, they do not, they do not have the status — how to

say it? — that's effective in international law, because there is no international agreement to solidify their status as a sovereign country," Lu told news channel LCI.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he doesn't recognize Ukraine's sovereignty. The Kremlin has made clear that it sees the independence of the Baltic States and their role in NATO and the European Union as threats to Russian security.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's government sees Moscow as a partner in opposing U.S. domination of global affairs.

Beijing has said it wants

to act as a peace mediator, but governments including the United States say a cease-fire would legitimize Putin's territorial gains.

"If anyone is still wondering why the Baltic States don't trust China to 'broker peace in Ukraine,' here's a Chinese ambassador arguing that Crimea is Russian and our countries' borders have no legal basis," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said on Twitter.

The French foreign ministry noted that governments including China recognized Ukraine's borders, including Crimea, when it declared independence in 1991. **MDT/AP**

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

DIPLOMACY

South Korea restores Japan on trade 'white list'

SOUTH Korea formally restored Japan to its list of countries it gives preferential treatment in trade yesterday, three years after the neighbors downgraded each other's trade status amid a diplomatic row fueled by historical grievances.

In announcing the move through a government gazette, South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy also said Seoul will further restrict technology and industrial exports to Russia and its ally Belarus to support the U.S.-led pressure campaign against Moscow over the war in Ukraine.

After years of friction, Seoul and Tokyo are working to repair relations as they tighten their three-way security cooperation with Washington to counter the threat posed by North Korea. Pyongyang has used the distractions caused by the war to accelerate testing of nuclear-capable missiles.

South Korean officials expect Tokyo to restore Seoul as a favored trade partner too, but expect that step to take more time based on the procedures to revise Japan's export regulations.

In September 2019, South Korea dropped Japan from its "white list" of countries receiving fast-track approvals in trade, reacting to a similar move by Tokyo. Japan had also tightened export controls on key chemicals South Korean companies use to make semiconductors and displays, prompting South Korea to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization.

Seoul accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to retaliate against South Korean court rulings that

AP PHOTO



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (left) and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

ordered Japanese companies to offer reparations to South Koreans forced into slave labor before the end of World War II, when Japan had colonized the Korean Peninsula. The 2018 rulings irked Japan, which insists all compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty that normalized relations. Relations between the U.S. allies began to thaw in March when the government of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who took office in May 2022, announced plans to use South Korean funds to compensate the

forced laborers without requiring Japanese contributions. Yoon traveled to Tokyo to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and they vowed to rebuild the countries' security and economic ties.

Yoon's push to mend ties with Tokyo has triggered criticism from some forced labor victims and from his political rivals. They have called for direct compensation from Japanese companies that employed the forced laborers. But Yoon has defended his decision, saying closer ties with Japan are

essential for dealing with a slew of regional challenges, especially North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

Following the Yoon-Kishida summit, South Korea withdrew its complaint at the WTO against Japan as Tokyo simultaneously confirmed its removal of export controls over a set of chemicals seen as vital to South Korea's technology industry. The Japanese restrictions had covered fluorinated polyimides, which are used in organic light-emitting diode (OLED) screens for TVs and smar-

tpones, and photoresist and hydrogen fluoride, used for making semiconductors. With Japan's status restored, South Korea now provides preferential treatment to 29 countries -- including the United States, Britain and France -- over exports of sensitive "strategic" materials that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

South Korea divides its trade partners into two groups in managing export approvals of sensitive materials. The waiting period is usually five days for white-list nations, while other countries are required to go through case-by-case reviews that can take up to 15 days.

In announcing its new regulations over exports of strategic materials, the South Korean trade ministry also said the country will place hundreds more industrial products and components under its export restrictions against Russia and Belarus beginning this week.

Seoul's controls so far have covered 57 items, including those related to electronics and shipbuilding, with authorities banning their shipments to Russia and Belarus unless the companies obtain special approvals. The list will increase to 798 items beginning Friday, including exports related to construction, machinery, steelmaking, automobiles, semiconductors and advanced computing.

"(We) plan to work with relevant ministries to strengthen crackdowns and enforcement to prevent (the restricted items) from reaching Russia or Belarus through third countries," the ministry said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

MYANMAR

Ex-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on surprise trip

AP FILE PHOTO



Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General

FORMER U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made a surprise visit to military-run Myanmar on behalf of a group of elder statesmen that engages in peace-making and human rights initiatives around the world, local media and a South Korean diplomat said yesterday.

The arrival of Ban, the deputy chair of The Elders, in the capital Naypyitaw was announced Sunday night by state television MRTV. It said he arrived with a small delegation, and was greeted by the deputy ministers for defense and foreign affairs.

"This visit by Mr. Ban Ki Moon was totally scheduled by The Elders. We are not engaged in this process," said a South Korean Embassy official, speaking

on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media. "This is not the official visit. It is probably a two-day visit. He will depart this evening."

Ban is a former South Korean foreign minister. The Elders was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007, and comprises mostly retired world leaders.

The Elders have not yet released any details about Ban's visit. The military government's spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, told the BBC Burmese-language service, which is directed to a Myanmar audience, that Ban met the country's top leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, yesterday to exchange views on the situation in the country.

Ban also met former President Thein Sein in a separate meeting, but didn't meet Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been imprisoned since her elected government was ousted by the army in February 2021, BBC reported. It said that Ban had already departed Myanmar after the meetings.

When he was the U.N. chief, Ban had met with then-President Thein Sein and also with Suu Kyi.

No details have been released about yesterday's talks, but they appeared certain to have dealt with Myanmar's ongoing political crisis,

Myanmar has been wracked by violent unrest since the army ousted Suu Kyi's elected government. The takeover prevented

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party from beginning a second term in office.

The army's seizure of power was met with massive public opposition, which security forces quashed with deadly force and has since turned into widespread armed resistance.

Outside efforts to mediate peace have met with no success, even when coming from parties sympathetic to the military government such as the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The government decries most pressure to negotiate as infringing on Myanmar's sovereignty, and generally describes most of the pro-democracy opposition as terrorists. **MDT/AP**



Jordanians evacuated from Sudan arrive at a military airport in Amman yesterday

SUDAN

Foreigners airlifted out; Sudanese seek refuge from fighting

JACK JEFFERY & NOHA ELHENNAWY, KHARTOUM

As foreign governments airlifted hundreds of their diplomats and other citizens to safety, Sudanese yesterday desperately sought ways to escape the chaos, fearing that the country's two rival generals will escalate their all-out battle for power once evacuations were completed.

The evacuations were a dramatic operation. In convoys, foreign diplomats, workers and families made their way past combatants at tense front lines in the capital of Khartoum to reach extraction points — or even drove hundreds of miles to the country's east coast.

A stream of European and Mideast military aircraft flew in all day Sunday, through the night and into yesterday, to ferry them out. France and Germany said more flights were possible if security conditions permitted.

But for many Sudanese, the airlift was a terrifying sign that international powers, after failing repeatedly to broker cease-fires, only expect a worsening of the fighting that has pushed the population into disaster. During nine days of warfare in Khartoum and other cities, millions have been trapped in their homes by explosions, gunfire and armed fighters looting in the streets while food

supplies run out and hospitals near collapse.

Many Sudanese, along with Egyptians and other foreigners who could not get on flights, risked the long and dangerous drive to the northern border into Egypt.

"We traveled 15 hours on land at our own risk," Suliman al-Kouni, an Egyptian student, said at the Arqin border crossing with Egypt. Buses lined up at the remote desert crossing carrying hundreds of people, he said. Al-Kouni was among dozens of Egyptian students making the trek. "But many of our friends are still trapped in Sudan," he said.

Amani el-Taweel, an Egyptian expert on Africa, warned of "horrific suffering" for Sudanese unable to leave.

While Sudanese who can afford it make their way to Egypt or Chad, the poor "will suffer greatly as they will have no access to aid or food," said el-Taweel, with Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies. Humanitarian aid can no longer reach Sudanese because of the clashes, and once evacuations are complete, "warring parties will not heed any calls for a truce or a cease-fire," she said.

Fighting raged in Khartoum and Omdurman, a city across the Nile River, residents said, despite a hoped-for cease-fire to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. Heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city.

Over 420 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and over 3,700 wounded in the fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

For many Sudanese, the airlift was a terrifying sign that international powers, after failing repeatedly to broker cease-fires

For foreign nationals, the need to abandon Khartoum had become overbearing by the seventh day of the conflict. Khartoum's wealthy neighborhoods where most foreigners live saw some of the heaviest shelling and drone strikes, and several fell under RSF control.

Alice Lehtinen, a British teacher living in the Khartoum Two neighborhood, was shot in the foot by a stray bullet on the first day of fighting. Soon after, RSF

troops occupied the lower floor of her apartment as they combed the streets for weapons, dollars and other supplies, she said. By this point, the Sudanese pound had become worthless as shops lay smashed and looted.

Another British teacher, Elizabeth Boughey, said the RSF broke into her house and stole her Sudanese pounds, then returned soon after to hand the money back. They looked young she said, somewhere between 16 and 18.

Amid continued gunfire, nationals from dozens of countries made their way to extraction points. Most European evacuations took place out of a site on the outskirts of Khartoum, and evacuees had to make their way across the city to

reach it. Some braved the roads in their own vehicles while others called on private security firms to shepherd them through military and RSF checkpoints. From the windows of one convoy, fighters from the two sides could be seen standing, heavily armed but unmoving.

The exodus began with American special operations forces swooping in and out of Khartoum in helicopters early Sunday to evacuate U.S. Embassy personnel.

France brought out nearly 400 people, including citizens from 28 countries, on four flights to the nearby Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, two of them overnight. A Dutch air force C-130 Hercules flew out of Sudan to Jordan in the early hours yesterday carrying evacuees of various nationalities, including Dutch, on board. Germany has so far conducted three flights out of Sudan, bringing more than 300 people out to Jordan.

Italy, Spain, Jordan and Greece also brought out a total of several hundred more people, including their own citizens and those of other countries.

Japanese nationals are being transported by land to an eastern town with an airstrip, to be picked up by Japanese aircraft positioned in Djibouti, Japanese media said. France and Germany each said they were prepared to do more flights if possible.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunk tweeted that U.K. armed forces evacuated British diplomatic staff and dependents. But Britain's Middle East Minister Andrew Mitchell said about 2,000 U.K. citizens still in Sudan have registered with the embassy for potential evacuation. Many Britons in the country have complained about a lack of information from the government and say they are in the dark about any evacuation plans.

Mitchell told the BBC that the government was doing "intense planning" for "a series of possible evacuations."

The United States has said a government-organized evacuation of American private citizens is not currently planned.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters in Luxembourg yesterday that the evacuation operation has been successful, with more than 1,000 people brought out by EU member states.

"We have to continue pushing for a political settlement. We cannot afford that Sudan, which is a very populated country, implodes because it will be sending shock waves around the whole (of) Africa," he said. He earlier tweeted that he had spoken with the rival commanders appealing for a cease-fire.

The army chief, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, however, have so far appeared determined to fight to the end.

The rival generals came to power after a pro-democracy uprising led to the 2019 ouster of former strongman Omar al-Bashir. In 2021, the generals joined forces to seize power in a coup.

The current violence came after Burhan and Dagalo fell out over a recent internationally brokered deal with democracy activists that was meant to incorporate the RSF into the military and eventually lead to civilian rule. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Munduruku leader Alessandra Korap in San Francisco

BRAZIL

AMAZON INDIGENOUS WOMAN WINS GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

FABIANO MAISONNAVE,
SÃO PAULO

WHEN Alessandra Korap was born in the mid-1980s, her Indigenous village nestled in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil was a haven of seclusion. But as she grew up, the nearby city of Itaituba, with its bustling streets and commercial activity, crept closer and closer.

It wasn't just her village feeling the encroachment of non-Indigenous outsiders. Two major federal highways paved the way for tens of thousands of settlers, illegal gold miners and loggers into the region's vast Indigenous territories, which cover a forested area roughly the size of Belgium.

The influx posed a grave threat to Korap's Munduruku people, 14,000-strong and spread throughout the Tapajos River Basin, in Para and Mato Grosso states. Soon illegal mining, hydroelectric dams, a major railway and river ports for soybean exports choked their lands — lands they were still struggling to have recognized.

Korap and other Munduruku women took up the responsibility of defending their people, overturning the traditionally all-male leadership. Organizing in their communities, they orchestrated demonstrations,

presented compelling evidence of environmental crime to the Federal Attorney General and Federal Police, and vehemently opposed illicit agreements and incentives offered to the Munduruku by unscrupulous miners, loggers, corporations, and politicians seeking access to their land.

Korap's defense of her ancestral territory was recognized with the Goldman Environmental Prize yesterday. The award honors grassroots activists around the world who are dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.

"This award is an opportunity to draw attention to the demarcation of the Sawre Muybu territory," Korap told The Associated Press. "It is our top priority, along with the expulsion of illegal miners."

Sawre Muybu is an area of virgin rainforest along the Tapajos River spanning 178,000 hectares (440,000 acres). Official recognition for the land, or demarcation, began in 2007 but was frozen during the far-right presidency of Jair Bolsonaro, which ended in January.

Still, the Munduruku people celebrated a victory in 2021 when the British mining company Anglo American gave up trying to mine inside Indigenous territories in Brazil, inclu-

ding Sawre Muybu.

Studies have shown that Indigenous-controlled forests are the best preserved in Brazilian Amazon.

Almost half of Brazil's climate pollution comes from deforestation. The destruction is so vast now that the eastern Amazon, not far from the Munduruku, has ceased to be a carbon sink, or net absorber of the gas and is now a carbon source, according to a study published in 2021 in the journal *Nature*.

Korap, however, knows that land rights alone don't protect the land.

In the neighboring Munduruku Indigenous Territory, illegal miners have destroyed and contaminated hundreds of miles of waterways in search of gold, even though it was officially recognized in 2004.

Now Brazil's new government has created the country's first Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and more recently mounted operations to drive out miners. But Korap remains skeptical of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. She sees his actions as contradictory, noting that while he advocates for forest protection, he also negotiates trade deals with other countries to sell more of the country's top exports — beef and soybeans — which are the main drivers of de-

forestation in Brazil.

"When Lula travels abroad, he is sitting with rich people and not with forest defenders. A ministry is useless if the government negotiates our lands without acknowledging we are here," she said.

Other Goldman Environmental Prize recipients this year are:

— Tero Mustonen, a university professor and environmental activist from Finland, who led the purchase of peatland damaged by state-sponsored industrial activity.

— Delima Silalahi, a Batak woman from North Sumatra, Indonesia, who organized Indigenous communities across the country to advocate for their rights to traditional forests.

— Chilekwa Mumba, a Zambian community organizer who has fought for and won compensation for residents harmed by copper mining before the UK Supreme Court.

— Zafer Kizilkaya of Turkey, a marine conservationist and conservation photographer who established Turkey's first community-managed marine protected area in the Mediterranean.

— Diane Wilson, an American shrimp boat captain who won a landmark case against petrochemical giant Formosa Plastics over the discharge of plastic waste on the Texas Gulf Coast. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1974 REBELS SEIZE CONTROL OF PORTUGAL



Army rebels are in control of Portugal tonight after an almost bloodless dawn coup ended nearly 50 years of dictatorship.

Shortly after midnight, tanks rolled into the centre of Lisbon. The Salazar Bridge over the River Tagus was seized and the airport, radio and television centres were taken.

Troops armed with machineguns stormed the barracks where the Prime Minister, Dr Marcello Caetano, and several of his ministers had taken refuge.

The former deputy armed forces minister, General Antonio de Spínola, received the surrender of the prime minister, who has now fled into exile to the Portuguese island of Madeira.

By sunrise the Movement of the Armed Forces, or MFA, was in control. It issued an immediate proclamation appealing for calm and patriotism.

After almost five decades of dictatorship, it promised to restore civil liberties and hold general elections to a national assembly as soon as possible.

The MFA condemned Portugal's foreign policy. After 13 years of fighting, it said, Portugal had been unable to achieve peace "between Portuguese of all races and creeds".

It also called for a clean-up of state-run institutions which had legitimised the abuse of power.

A seven-man junta, led by General Spínola, would oversee the transition period until democracy could be established.

General Spínola and his troops received a hero's welcome from crowds, who gave them cigarettes, food, newspapers and carnations which were in full bloom at the time.

In one violent outburst, up to six civilians were killed after shots were fired from the headquarters of the police station - and troops responded by storming the building.

The Democratic Elections Commission group, which contested last year's parliamentary elections against the Government, issued a statement today saying that the group considered as positive "an act which could lead to the overthrow of a regime which for 50 years has oppressed the people of Portugal."

The majority of Portuguese troops, nearly 140,000 out of 204,000, are posted overseas, propping up Portugal's tottering colonial empire in Angola, Guinea and Mozambique.

General Spínola was sacked from his job as deputy armed forces minister last month after writing a book, *Portugal and the Future*, in which he argued that the Portuguese could not win its African wars by military means alone.

He was Governor and Commander in Chief of Portuguese Guinea between 1968 and 1972 and was widely respected for trying to win over the hearts and minds of the local population.

His book was regarded as heretical by the country's right-wing establishment - in particular his stated claim that Portugal was not defending the West and its civilization by colonising African states.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 25 April coup became known as the Carnation Revolution. It ended the longest dictatorship in Europe, the *Estado Novo*. The new regime pushed through a rapid and hasty programme of decolonisation. Over the next few years Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, and Angola all became independent. General Spínola served briefly as interim president and was succeeded by General Francisco da Costa Gomes. Between them they nationalised about 60% of the economy and carried out a major redistribution of land. Hundreds of political prisoners were released. Over the course of the next decade a stable two party system was established. Caetano spent the rest of his life in exile in Brazil. Freedom Day is now celebrated as a national holiday on 25 April.

YOUR STARS

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Overstatement will be your downfall. Go directly to the source if you want to know exactly what's been going on.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May. 20) Don't be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally. You will find your vitality is lowered. Your self-esteem will benefit. Friends will be loyal and caring.

GEMINI (May. 21-Jun. 21) You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. You can easily wrap up overdue personal legal matters that have caused problems for you.

CANCER (Jun. 22-Jul. 22) You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. Listen, but don't make any rash decisions. Make those phone calls and pay your bills.

LEO (Jul. 23-Aug. 22) Travel will turn out to be far more exciting than you imagined. Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sep. 22) You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life.

LIBRA (Sep. 23-Oct. 22) Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Tie up your personal papers or push to have legal settlements completed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Correspondence may not clear up issues. Be aware of deception when it comes to your position, and be sure not to jump to conclusions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Ease the anguish by offering assistance. Your stability will aid you in getting support from your fellow workers. Your boss may be pushy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Get involved in creative projects that could turn into moneymaking ventures. You should get involved with activities that can be enjoyed by both young and old alike.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. You must act quickly. Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. A day at the beach may satisfy the whole family. New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

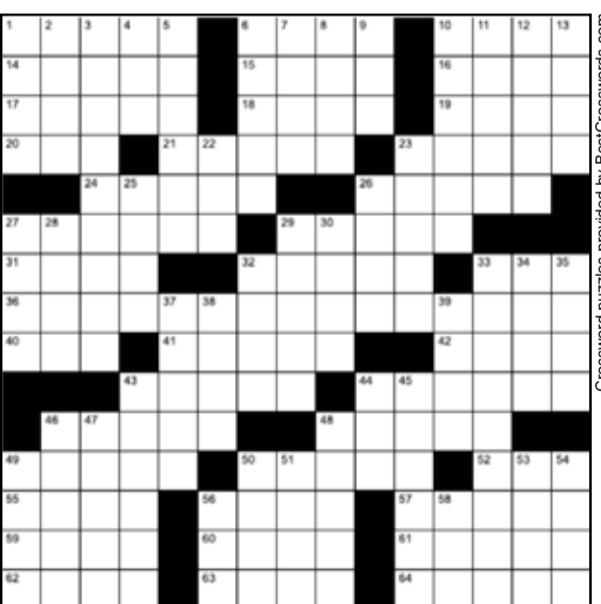
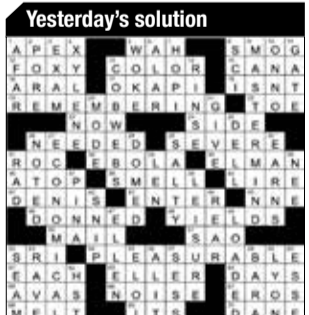
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	8	22	fine
Changchun	3	14	rain
Chengdu	12	25	cloudy
Chongqing	12	22	cloudy
Fuzhou	17	22	rain
Guangzhou	20	24	rain
Guiyang	7	15	cloudy
Haikou	24	28	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	12	14	rain
Harbin	6	10	rain
Hefei	10	15	overcast
Nanjing	11	17	overcast
Shanghai	12	17	overcast
Taipei	18	22	cloudy
Wuhan	9	19	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	23	cloudy

WORLD			
Moscow	10	20	overcast
Frankfurt	1	12	overcast
Paris	7	13	cloudy
London	5	12	overcast
New York	8	16	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Chaplin persona; 6- Wife of Osiris; 10- Crimson Tide, for short; 14- Electrician, at times; 15- Clothes; 16- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 17- Two-time loser to Dwight; 18- Electric fish; 19- Verdi heroine; 20- Cinque follower; 21- Overjoy; 23- Body of salt water; 24- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 26- Grave robber; 27- Hogpen; 29- Herbert Hoover, for one; 31- Savvy about; 32- Tree of the birch family; 33- Paris possessive; 36- Make a trade?; 40- Velvet finish?; 41- Campaign tactic; 42- Barbarous person; 43- Place; 44- Accident; 46- Home on the range; 48- Director Lubitsch; 49- Little bits; 50- Hilton competitor; 52- Falsehood; 55- Macho man; 56- Coal-rich region; 57- Echo, for one; 59- Helper; 60- Female child; 61- Short-tempered; 62- Driving aids; 63- Very, in Versailles; 64- Watering holes;

DOWN 1- "___ the night before Christmas ..."; 2- Travel on; 3- National U.S. cemetery; 4- ___ culpa; 5- Minister; 6- Utopian; 7- Hard fatty tissue; 8- Out of work; 9- Draft org.; 10- Lighthouse; 11- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 12- Decoration; 13- King of comedy; 22- Put Down; 23- Butler's love; 25- Starting; 26- Singer Stefani; 27- Bishop of Rome; 28- As to; 29- Greek epic poem; 30- Scent; 32- On the ocean; 33- Blind; 34- Book before Nehemiah; 35- Leak slowly; 37- Adlai's running mate; 38- "Peter Pan" pirate; 39- A pitcher may take one; 43- Dark suit; 44- Mohawk-sporting actor; 45- Entirely; 46- Fields of comedy; 47- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 48- Viscounts' superiors; 49- The wolf ___ the door; 50- "Aquarius" musical; 51- Dextrous, lively; 53- Must've been something ___; 54- Ice cream brand; 56- Pepper, e.g.; 58- "Michael Collins" actor;



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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HKD 13,988,000 4 beds 3 bath

Houston Court
HKD 9,950/mth 2 bed 1 bath

AP PHOTO



PEOPLE

THE MAN IN A HURRY: KING CHARLES III RUSHES TO MAKE A MARK

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

KING Charles III is a man in a hurry.

After waiting 74 years to become king, Charles has used his first six months on the throne to meet faith leaders across the country, reshuffle royal residences, stage his first overseas state visit and hold a sleepover at Windsor Castle that included the coach of the England soccer team. Then there was the big news: He opened the royal archives to researchers investigating the crown's links to slavery.

"We are already surprised by the Prince Charles who was turned into King Charles and who we still call Prince Charles, because that's how we think of him," quipped royal historian Robert Lacey. "But, actually, he's become a monarch quicker than people expected."

With the coronation just weeks away, Charles and the Buckingham Palace machine are working at top speed to show the new king at work. And the public is seeing a new kind of sovereign as he tries to slim down the monarchy and show that it is still relevant in a modern, multi-cultural nation where reverence for Queen Elizabeth II muted criticism during her 70 years on the throne.

Out is the matronly decorum that characterized Elizabeth's reign. He is a more human monarch, who held back tears as he addressed the nation after his mother's death and threw a mini-tantrum when a pen leaked on his fingers while signing a book in

Northern Ireland. The public had a good laugh. The king now carries his own pen for signing emergencies.

While Elizabeth progressed grandly through meetings with subjects who bowed and curtseyed before her, King Charles sat on the floor with the congregation during a visit to a gurdwara, or Sikh house of worship, in Luton, some 30 miles northwest of London. On his first state visit, he displayed an ability to properly roll his R's while flipping between German and English in a speech to the Bundestag, the German parliament.

Germans were impressed. Britons were surprised. Who knew he could speak German?

It's as if Charles, long derided as gray and stiff, has just stepped into the room. With extreme subtlety, his personality is starting to show, such as with the ever-changing pocket squares that give a dash of color to his conservative suits.

"Charles, the monarch, with his faults and virtues, has become a subject of more genuine interest," said Lacey, the author of "Battle of Brothers: William & Harry and the Inside Story of Family in Tumult."

"I mean, what pocket handkerchief is he going to wear? Maybe this will become the equivalent of the queen's handbag."

One reason Charles is so eager to get started may be because he knows he won't have much time to make his mark.

The man who waited a lifetime to be king alluded to the march of time during a white tie dinner at the presidential palace in Berlin, saying he hoped he and Camilla would "live long enough" to return to see the sapling they had just planted grow into a tree.

But there are speed bumps on the horizon, some linked to history, others to family.

Charles tried to get ahead of the history question by promising openness about the crown's links to slavery, but some think that commitment fell short.

Charles III is a more human monarch, who held back tears as he addressed the nation after his mother's death

Laura Trevelyan, whose ancestors enslaved at least 1,000 people on the island of Grenada, says the king should do what her family did and apologize.

"I hope that he will use some of the wealth that the royal family accumulated from the slave trade to better the lives of people in the Caribbean and in Britain who are descendants of the enslaved," she told the Times of London.

Then there is family.

Charles continues to fend off criticism from Prince Harry, whose memoir "Spare" painted his father as distant and unsympathetic toward a son who struggled with the death of his mother,

Princess Diana, and then had to fight for the royal family to accept his wife, Meghan, a biracial American.

Hugo Vickers, a royal historian and author of "Coronation: The Crowning of Elizabeth II," compared the new king's accession to the throne with being named chairman of a global corporation at a time when most people have retired. It's a job where he will face questions of religion, the armed forces and politics, in addition to running the royal household and mediating family feuds.

"It's a big thing to take on at that age," Vickers said of Charles, who turns 75 in November. "So, yes, I suspect he's a man in a hurry."

But on another level, Charles' long apprenticeship may also be an advantage, giving him more

training and experiences to draw upon than his mother, who was just 25 when she became queen.

While Elizabeth, like all British monarchs before her, was educated by tutors, Charles was bundled off to Hill House School in London just shy of age 8 to begin experiencing the world outside the palace.

Richard Townend, the son of the school's founder, was a contemporary of Charles' at Hill House.

Townend said his father created the school as an antidote to what he had seen as a soldier, thinking that children who learned about other cultures wou-

ld be less likely to wage war as adults.

"What he wanted to do was to make a school, which was quite unlike other schools at the time, in which half the children were not English," Townend said. "They came from all over the world, so the children would learn to live with each other, different nationalities, different people, different colors, different races, different religions."

"He felt passionately that if children learned to live in peace with each other, then the world could only get better."

Charles eventually earned a degree in history from the University of Cambridge and spent six years in the Royal Navy before leaving to focus on his duties as heir to the throne.

As Prince of Wales he founded charities, including one that helps young people get jobs, education and training. He started an organic food company and dabbled in urban planning. Charles was also an early advocate for conservation and environmental protection.

That said, he ruffled feathers when he lobbied government ministers and spoke out against projects he thought threatened Britain's historic architecture, drawing complaints that he had violated the prohibition against royals intervening in politics.

But the biggest controversy of Charles' life was the breakdown of his marriage to Princess Diana amid stories about his long-time relationship with the woman who would become his second wife, Camilla Parker-Bowles. Many people still remember Charles' admission of adultery and the leaked tapes of intimate conversations between Charles and Camilla, including one in which he compared himself to a tampon.

It took Charles years to shake off the failure of his first marriage, and many people were slow to accept Camilla.

In "Spare," Harry wrote bitterly of the palace's effort to rehabilitate Camilla's image, suggesting that unflattering and untrue stories about him were leaked to the media in exchange for more glowing portraits of the senior royals.

Over time, Camilla's charity work, her sense of humor and down-to-earth style won over the public, and she moved from being home wrecker to queen.

She will be crowned alongside her husband at Westminster Abbey.

"This is a man who has overcome problems and hurdles," said Lacey, the historical consultant to the Netflix series "The Crown."

"He's loved despite the problems that he's been through. He's loved for his mistakes as well as for his virtues. We're getting a rounded figure, and that's what a personal represented monarchy is all about." **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

Koroibete wins Australia's top award for second time

FIJI-BORN, Japan-based Marika Koroibete has won Australian rugby's highest individual award for the second time.

Rugby Australia announced yesterday that the 30-year-old winger secured enough votes in nine test matches for the Wallabies last year to clinch the John Eales Medal despite missing the end-of-season tour to Europe.

Koroibete earned 202 votes from his peers among Australia's international players, 32 more than second-place Rob Valetini.

Koroibete also won the award in 2019 and becomes the sixth multiple winner of the honor.

The blockbusting outside back was Australia's best player in a 2-1 home series loss to England last year and was a consistent



Marika Koroibete

stand out in the Rugby Championship, earning a place in World Rugby's so-called Dream Team of the Year for 2022.

"Rugby is a team sport first and foremost, so I'd like to thank my teammates and to know they were the ones who voted for me to win this award means a

lot," Koroibete said.

His attacking and defensive strength out wide is integral to Australia's game plan and Koroibete is set to feature prominently in coach Eddie Jones' preparations for the Rugby World Cup in France kicking off in September.

"There's always improvements," Koroibete said, looking ahead to a condensed Rugby Championship schedule against New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina in the buildup to the global tournament. "So in the TRC I want my repeat speed to be on another level.

"It's been a bit inconsistent over here in Japan and last year, and it's something I want to improve going into camp."

Koroibete represented Fiji in rugby league while playing in Australia's National Rugby League competition, before switching to the 15-a-side rugby union in 2017 and joining the Melbourne-based Rebels. He moved to Japan in 2021 and helped the Saitama-based Panasonic Wild Knights win the top-flight domestic title last season. **MDT/AP**

GOLF

LILIA VU WINS FIRST MAJOR AT CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP IN PLAYOFF

LLILIA Vu relied on her grandfather's steady hand and calm demeanor to keep her grounded during difficult times.

He died in 2020, but on Sunday at the Chevron Championship with a chance to win her first major, Vu's thoughts of her grandfather helped her once again.

"I was getting really upset on the course, and I just had to remind me, Grandpa is with you," she said. "And he'd be really disappointed if you were getting upset like this and that you didn't get your act together."

With his memory in her head, Vu finished strong with two straight birdies, then birdied the first playoff hole to beat Angel Yin in a dramatic finish on Sunday at The Club at Carlton Woods.

Yin's second shot came

up short and left and splashed into the pond guarding the par-5 18th hole. Vu, after a huge tee shot, hit her approach safely just over the green. She went with putter from off the green and came up well short, but she converted the birdie from about 10 feet for the victory.

"I knew on that last putt, all I had to do was just do my routine, read the putt how I usually do, and just hit this putt because I've hit that putt a million times," Vu said. "And I knew I could make it."

The 25-year-old Californian won for the second time on the LPGA Tour and took a celebratory leap into the pond, a tradition borrowed from this tournament's former venue at Mission Hills in the California desert. **MDT/AP**

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FOOTBALL

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DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

SECOND-LARGEST ECONOMY'S ACCESSION TO CPTPP WOULD PROVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

Nearly two years after China officially submitted its application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership in September 2021, the time is ripe for the country to become a member at an early date.

That message was conveyed by Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen, who said at a news conference on Sunday that China is both ready and qualified to join this high-standard regional free trade deal. He expressed the hope that all 11 CPTPP members will support China's accession, which requires a consensus among all existing signatories.

The early entry that China is seeking has gained a sense of urgency given the rising protectionist tendencies worldwide, as well as the United States-orchestrated decoupling attempts targeting China.

The fact that the gap between the country's domestic investment and trade policies and the CPTPP rules has narrowed markedly over the years, as it seeks to promote trade liberalization and deepen economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, justifies China's effort to fast track its membership of the trade bloc. This has been evidenced by the pilot projects and experiments China has carried out in some pilot free trade zones and the Hainan free trade port in accordance with CPTPP rules, standards and management obligations.

Indeed, there is no reason for the trade bloc to prolong the approval process for China given the huge benefits the inclusion of the world's second-largest economy is likely to bring to all CPTPP members, as well as the boost its joining would give to the economic recovery of the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole. As Wang pointed out, China's membership would mean that the consumer base of CPTPP countries, which now stands at 495 million people, would triple, providing huge market access opportunity to all members.

Also, as the CPTPP now accounts for nearly 13 percent of the world's GDP, China's accession would increase the ratio to around 30 percent, making it the world's largest trade deal. China's participation would also make the regional industry and supply chains more efficient and resilient.

While CPTPP membership would provide Chinese businesses with wider market access to countries that do not have formal free trade deals with China, it would also bring a lot of challenges to the country, especially in terms of issues related to the State-owned enterprises, intellectual property rights, labor and the environment, mainly because of the highly demanding provisions of the CPTPP. To meet those challenges, the country needs to continue to carry out reforms to realize high-standard opening-up and pursue high-quality development. Fast-tracking the accession of China would be a meaningful vote of confidence in inclusive multilateralism.

WATCHDOG: WORLD MILITARY SPENDING UP TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

THE BUZZ

Global military spending grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2022 to an all-time high of \$2.24 trillion, with a sharp rise in Europe, chiefly due to Russian and Ukrainian expenditure, a Swedish think tank said yesterday.

Spending globally increased by 3.7% in real terms, but military expenditure in Europe was up 13% — its steepest year-on-year increase in at least 30 years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, said in a report. Military aid to Ukraine and concerns about a heightened threat from Russia "strongly influenced many other states' spending decisions."

The independent Swedish watchdog said that last year, the

three largest arms spenders were the United States, China and Russia, who between them accounted for 56% of global expenditure.

"The rise "is a sign that we are living in an increasingly insecure world," said Nan Tian, a researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program.

Several states significantly increased their military spending following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while others announced plans to raise spending levels over periods of up to a decade. Some of the sharpest increases were seen in countries near Russia: Finland (36%), Lithuania (27%), Sweden (12%) and Poland (11%).



YEMEN

YACHT WITH THREE RUSSIANS, TWO EGYPTIANS MISSING IN RED SEA: REPORT

A yacht carrying three Russians and two Egyptians reportedly went missing days ago off the coast of Yemen in the Red Sea. Its owner alleged yesterday that armed pirates took the vessel.

The reported disappearance of the 30 Minutes, a 62-foot yacht registered in Panama to a Russian based in Dubai, comes as other vessels have faced attacks from Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels amid the war tearing apart the Arab world's poorest nation.

However, the Houthis did not immediately acknowledge taking the vessel and details about the ship remain scarce.

The 30 Minutes last sent location data showing that it was off Farasan Island near Jazan, Saudi Arabia, on April 19, owner Dmitriy Chuguevskiy told The Associated Press. The vessel then disappeared, not reaching Djibouti, where it had been scheduled to arrive, he said.

Chuguevskiy said the ship did not carry an Automatic Identification System transponder, which is standard for ships moving through dangerous or busy waterways.

On Sunday, the Russian Embassy in Saudi Arabia

issued a statement saying that "radio contact was lost with the ship."

"In cooperation with the Saudi authorities, we continue to take all necessary actions to clarify the fate of the missing ship, as well as to provide prompt assistance to Russian citizens on board," the embassy said.

Chuguevskiy, however, alleged that the 30 Minutes' Egyptian captain had been able to make a distress call, heard by Saudi authorities, saying the vessel was under attack by armed pirates.

"Our assumption is they got kidnapped," Chuguevskiy said.

It remains to be seen what action, if any, Saudi officials took after the claimed distress call. The Saudi government did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the AP.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, a British military watch over Mideast shipping, said its staff had been "made aware of an incident in the area and are carrying out (an) investigation." A European Union anti-piracy patrol in the region, called Operation Atalanta, said it was "monitoring the situation in order to clarify the event due to the lack of reliable information about it."

Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet, told the AP that it too was aware of the "reporting suggesting the vessel is missing and are now looking into the situation."

"U.S. 5th Fleet did not receive a distress call from this vessel," Hawkins said.

The Houthis have carried out other at-sea attacks amid Yemen's long war. In January 2022, the Houthis seized the Emirati ship Rwabee. The Houthis described the vessel as carrying military weapons, while the Saudi-led coalition described it as carrying disassembled hospital equipment. The ship and its Indian crew were later released.

In May, the Lakota, a 62-foot trimaran purchased by famed French yachtsman Philippe Poupon, found itself attacked off the coast of Hodeida, Yemen. Militants fired some 20 warning shots and displayed assault rifles and the rocket-propelled grenade launchers. One briefly boarded the ship before fleeing.

A Saudi-led coalition has been battling the Houthis since March 2015. However, a recent prisoner swap has raised hopes of a formal armistice between them. **MDT/AP**



UK Several asylum-seekers and refugee groups began a court challenge yesterday to the British government's plan to send hundreds of migrants on a one-way trip to Rwanda. The claimants' attorney argued at the Court of Appeal in London that the "high-profile and controversial" policy was unlawful. He said Rwanda was "an authoritarian one-party state" that "imprisons, tortures and murders" opponents.



Germany Climate activists temporarily brought traffic to a standstill in some parts of Berlin yesterday by gluing themselves to streets all over the capital. Members of the group Last Generation have repeatedly blocked roads across Germany in the past year in an effort to pressure the government to take more drastic action against climate change. On several occasions, they have glued themselves to the roads, enraging some motorists and prompting accusations of extremism from conservative politicians.

Germany Employees at Berlin and Hamburg airports staged walkouts yesterday in an ongoing dispute over salary raises, leading to flight cancellations in both German cities. In Berlin, all 220 departures and 70 out of 240 incoming flights were canceled, German news agency dpa reported. Due to a walkout announced at short notice by trade union ver.di, the airport in Hamburg announced in the early morning that 50 of 160 departures had been canceled.



Kenya President William Ruto said yesterday that the starvation deaths of dozens of followers of a pastor in the south of the country is akin to terrorism. He said the pastor, Paul Makenzi, who is in police custody belongs to jail and not to any religion. "Mr. Makenzi ... pretends and postures as a pastor when in fact he is a terrible criminal," Ruto said.