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AP PHOTO



South Korea Rescuers searched yesterday for nine people still missing in landslides and other incidents caused by more than a week of torrential rains in South Korea, as the country's military dispatched more than 10,000 troops to support rescue works. The downpours pounding South Korea since July 9 have left 41 people dead, nine missing and 35 others injured. The rainfall has also forced about 12,780 people to evacuate and left about 28,600 households without power.

AP PHOTO



Israeli protesters blocked highways and gathered outside Tel Aviv's stock exchange and military headquarters yesterday in the latest countrywide demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned judicial overhaul. The latest "day of disruption" came as longtime allies of the prime minister pushed a contentious piece of legislation through a parliamentary committee ahead of a vote expected next week.

AP PHOTO



Ukrainian forces shot down scores of exploding drones and six cruise missiles from a pre-dawn Russian attack on the port of Odesa yesterday, Ukrainian authorities said, a day after Moscow broke off a deal that had allowed Kyiv to ship vital grain supplies from the Black Sea city during the war. The Russians first sought to wear down Ukraine's air defenses with the drones and then targeted Odesa with six Kalibr cruise missiles, the Ukrainian military's Southern Command said.

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CRIME

WOMAN SUSPECTED OF KILLING DAUGHTER BEFORE ATTEMPTING SUICIDE P2

RENATO MARQUES



GAMING

JULY TO SEE BEST GGR SO FAR: JP MORGAN P2

CRIME

WOMAN SUSPECTED OF KILLING TEEN DAUGHTER BEFORE ATTEMPTING SUICIDE

RENATO MARQUES

A local resident 50-year-old woman is suspected of having been involved in a murder-suicide, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed.

The bodies of the two people were found at their home in the early hours yesterday when the fire department was called to break into the apartment after the people were unable to be contacted by friends.

According to the first respondents at the scene, when they broke into the house, the woman was lying on the floor and very weak but still had signs of life. Her 14-year-old daughter was found lifeless on the bed in another room of the unit located at Hou Kong building in Rua Marginal do Canal das Hortas in the Northern district.

Called to investigate the case, the PJ investigators did not find any traces of a potential fight or struggle. No wounds or signs that force was used were found in the victims.

In the house, the PJ also found multiple suicide notes, allegedly written by the mother as well as traces of some chemical compounds.

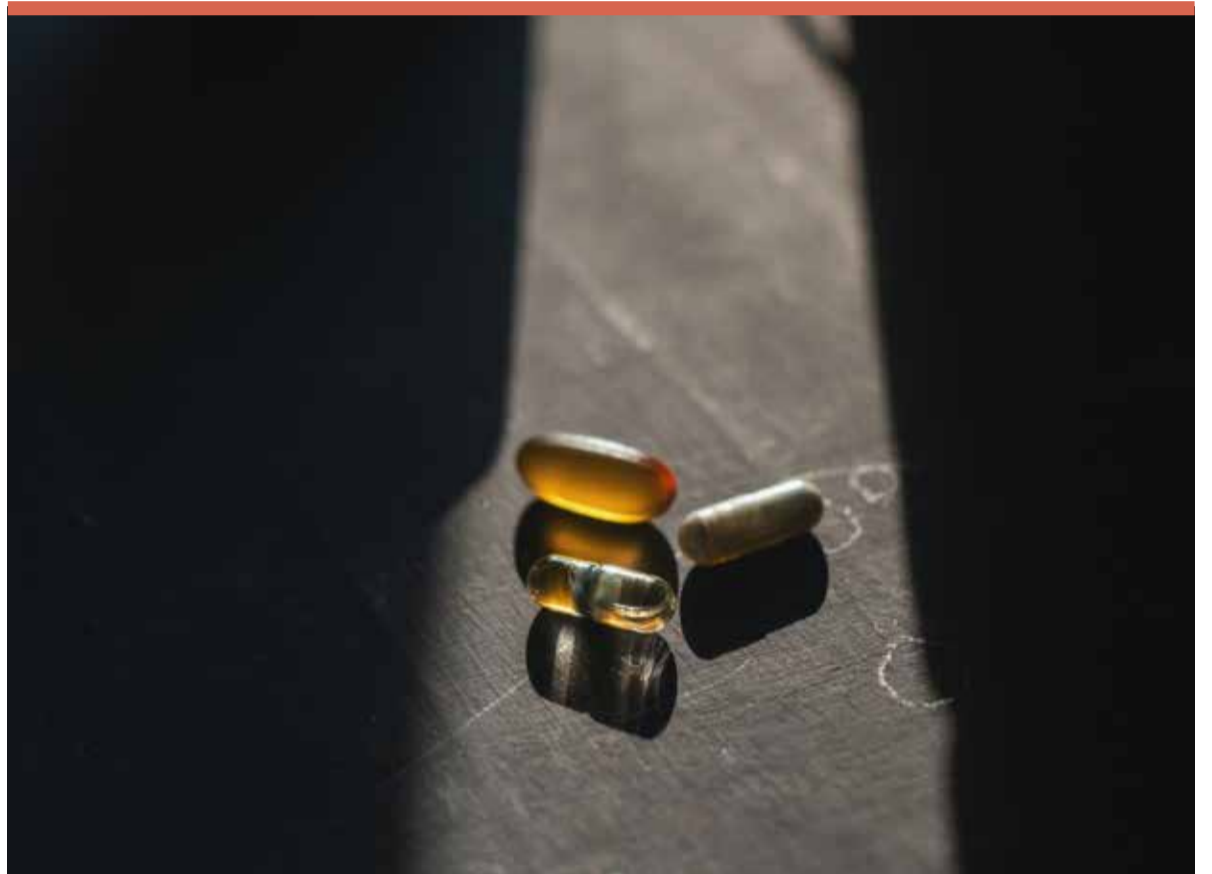
Once the forensic doctor arrived at the scene, they found that the body also did not have any scars or fractures that would indicate the occurrence of a potentially violent crime.

The forensics team said that the daughter appeared to have been dead for over 24 hours.

After preliminary investigation, it is believed that the mother had mixed sleeping pills or other similar drugs in the food and consumed it with her daughter, resulting in the death of the daughter, in an attempt to take both of their lives.

The mother was taken to the hospital alive and is currently undergoing medical care.

The PJ is also said to be continuing to investigate the case to ascertain the cause of death and the motives of the mother, who is now considered a suspect in her daughter's death.



The Social Welfare Bureau encourages residents to be conscious of their psychological and

emotional state as well as those of their relatives and friends. Those in need of support can

call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (2852 5222) or IAS' counseling hotline (2826 1126).

GAMING

July to be the best GGR month so far: JP Morgan

RENATO MARQUES

ANALYSTS from the financial services firm JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Limited are forecasting that July 2023 will be the best month so far in terms of Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) for this year.

The company, whose line of business includes the purchase, sale, and brokerage of securities, has issued a report of expected results based on the first two weeks of this month, noting that up to July 16, local casinos should have made some MOP8.25 billion, an average per day of MOP515 million.

According to the results

RENATO MARQUES



of the second quarter of this year (April to June), the average daily earnings from the local gaming industry was about MOP500

million per day.

Based on the same results from the first two weeks of July, JP Morgan analysts expect GGR in

July to be above MOP16 billion.

If achieved, this will be the best monthly result of 2023, overthrowing

May, when GGR reached MOP15.57 billion, and the best result since January 2020, just before the Covid-19 outbreak when GGR was MOP22.13 billion.

As also noted by the brokerage company, the result would also mean that local casinos have recovered to about 90% or more from their pre-pandemic levels with analysts stating, "We continue to expect a 100-percent-plus recovery by October."

As previously reported, Macau's casino GGR stood at MOP80.14 billion in the first half of this year, a figure that although somewhat positive is still very far from the MOP149.50 billion achieved in 2019.

VIP BACCARAT REVENUES AT MOP12B IN Q2

The casinos VIP baccarat recorded an increase of revenue in the second quarter, totaling MOP12.16 billion, according to data provided by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The figure represents an increase of 41.9% compared to the first quarter.

VIP baccarat accounted for 26.7% of the city's GGR from April to June.

Mass-market baccarat revenues rose by 30.1% to nearly MOP26.68 billion, holding 58.6% of the market share.

Slot machine revenues, meanwhile, stood at MOP2.65 billion, holding a market share of some 5.8%.

Revenue brought by the mass-market segment accounted for 73.3% of the GGR revenues during the second quarter, which amounted to MOP33.34 billion.

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Renderings of the Fai Chi Kei project



Renderings of the Hac-Sa project

IPIM: CITY SEES 10,000 BUSINESS TOURISTS IN JULY

Over 10,000 business tourists came to Macau to participate in conferences in July. About 3,000 were international businessmen from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and India, according to data from the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM). The bureau stated that it has been promoting the internationalization and professional development of Macau's convention and exhibition industry. Across 2023, there will be about 100 convention and exhibition activities.

PANSY HO APPOINTED AS NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES

Pansy Ho has been appointed as non-executive director of Chinese state-owned airline firm, China Southern Airlines. The appointment must be approved at a shareholders' meeting, scheduled for 3 August, as cited in a TDM report. The airline, headquartered in Guangzhou, has more than 10 branches in China, operating a daily average of 2,000 flights to 208 destinations in 40 countries and regions. It has a fleet of over 500 aircraft.

STAMP DUTY TAX RECORDS DECREASE

According to the stamp duty data on the declaration and settlement of asset transfers released by the Financial Services Bureau, there were 236 residential transactions in June. The figure shows a decrease of 51 from the previous month, or a decrease of 17.7% month-on-month.

MGTO SENT TYPHOON ALERTS TO TOURISTS AMID T8

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) sent out typhoon alerts through SMS to tourists on Monday, amid a large number of tourists being stranded at the Border Gate. According to MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, messages were sent to a total of 150,000 recipients. Also, she said that during the typhoon, the bureau received individual complaints from passengers about taxis in relation to fare issues.

PUBLIC WORKS

BBQ area to be scrapped for MOP1.6b Hac-Sa Reservoir revamp

ANTHONY LAM

THE MOP1.6-billion renovation of Hac-Sa Reservoir Park and neighborhood will see a new Kun Iam statue amid the grass skiing range and barbecue area which are set to be removed.

Lo Chi Kin, vice president of the Municipal Affairs Bureau's executive arm, disclosed the news to a press conference yesterday afternoon after being questioned by the Times. The press conference was held to announce conceptual details of the Hac-Sa Youth Activities Camp Site and complementary facilities, as well as the Residents' Sports Park in Fai Chi Kei.

The campsite will be located inland from Hac-Sa Beach and connected by a tunnel with the Reservoir Park.

Lo and his superintendent, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong, reiterated at the press conference that the renovation will see "improvements

for existing facilities."

He said that "most of the existing facilities" would be retained, with enhancements made, such as changing the square into a leisure area with a water and terra landscape, upgrading the public washroom, as well as adding new catering vendors.

Explaining the removal of the barbecue area, Lo said that the number of barbecues next to Hac-Sa Beach has now surpassed 100 and there should be enough such facilities for the public. Due to the change of positioning, the grass skiing range will be relocated elsewhere, he said.

The revamped area will target youths, the government officials reiterated yesterday, although they were questioned why the inauguration of a Kun Iam statue had been decided upon.

The future bronze statue – 28-meter tall, 120 tons in weight and valued at MOP4.2 million across its production processes – was assigned to "two renowned craftsmen and their teams"

in Guangdong. "They are master sculptors of Lingnan-style sculptures," Lo explained. "They are also nationally accredited," Cheong added.

Cheong also believed that a Kun Iam statue will be widely accepted by the people of Macau, but did not manage to explain the connections between youth facilities and a goddess' statue.

Expected to be finished in 2025, the entire 10-hectare Hac-Sa project will revamp the whole beach area. When questioned if the project will affect training of aquatic athletes in the future, president Pun Weng Kun of the Sports Bureau (ID) assured that there will be no change.

The Hac-Sa project will see the inclusion of ziplines, adventure towers, a rock climbing wall, skateboarding rink, wargame zone, as well as other family-oriented facilities.

FAI CHI KEI PROJECT

The Fai Chi Kei project will revamp the former Canidrome. The

track and field and the swimming pool will be retained. Facilities will be upgraded with interconnected new buildings housing sports grounds, a children's library and related facilities, as well as meeting facilities. The buildings will be located near the Mong-ha and Fai Chi Kei Districts.

An underground parking lot with about 450 spaces will be built. On the reasons behind building an underground parking lot in a district so prone to flooding, Director Lam Wai Hou of Public Works Bureau (DSOP) explained that the track and field, which account for 25% of the land plot, cannot be elevated. In addition, height clearances at the area are also a concern for the parking lot design.

Near the buildings on the Fai Chi Kei side of the ground, a new footbridge will be built. The DSOP director said that he is open to connecting the entrances of the footbridge to existing buildings.

Lam assured that the future facilities will be harmonized with the neighborhood.

ADVISOR SUGGESTS HEAVY VEHICLE BAN AFTER ANOTHER CRASH OUTSIDE MANDARIN'S HOUSE



ANTHONY LAM

A transport advisor suggests that the government reconsider banning heavy vehicles outside the Mandarin's House, following yet another car crash in the neighborhood.

On Sunday noontime, a tourist coach took the street on the side of the Mandarin's House. The coach driver tried to squeeze the vehicle through the narrow street, causing two sequential crashes.

At the first bottleneck, the driver edged the coach towards the left and crashed against two fences and a short pillar. Instead of stopping the vehicle and calling the police, he continued driving and then scratched the coach against the exterior wall of a residential building on the left of the Mandarin's House and the Mandarin's House on the right.

The Mandarin's House is a component of The Historic Centre of Macao, a UNESCO-accredited World Heri-

tage site.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has pressed charges against the driver, including charges of evasion of responsibility and other violations of the Road Transport Law. The driver explained to the police that he was driving around while waiting for his customers. He ended up in the narrow street because he – a local driver – was “not familiar with the neighborhood.”

The wall of the Mandarin's House saw minor scratches and sustained no structural damage, according to local media outlet Macao Daily News. The coach sustained more obvious damage in the form of a smashed windshield, a broken bumper, a detached side mirror, as well as scratches on both sides.

The external wall of the Mandarin's House has seen three instances of damage by passing vehicles in the past four years. All of them were caused by heavy vehicles.

Following the accident,

transport affairs advisor Bell Cheong suggested the government reconsider whether heavy vehicles are appropriate on certain narrower streets and alleys in the city, according to Macao Daily News.

She cited the industry as admitting that some tour coach drivers are newcomers and unfamiliar with road conditions and the width of certain roads. She suggested that training be enhanced in these areas, including but not limited to listing traffic blackspots and narrow roads to coach drivers with less experience.

On the other hand, Cheong suggested that the government consider possible strategies to be implemented to prevent future avoidable accidents. For example, she said, older districts such as San Kiu, the Three Lampposts and Penha Hill should either see widened roads or heavy vehicles barred. This will help with safety for both drivers and pedestrians, she added.

COOPERATION ZONE

MAINLAND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY TO EASE PROCEDURES FOR BUSINESSPEOPLE, UNIVERSITY STAFF

RENATO MARQUES

THE immigration authority of the mainland has announced an easing of the immigration procedures at the Hengqin border post for certain groups of people.

The authority said that those travelling for business as well as staff members of university institutions would start benefiting from the simplified procedures that already apply to certain other cases.

The idea is to facilitate the border crossing at the Post to boost uptake in transportation and commuting between the mainland and Macau.

The amended rules allow vehicles carrying businesspeople and staff members from the different universities to pass through a single immigration procedure, conducted jointly by both mainland and Macau authorities.

The expansion of the user-friendly policies comes as the mainland authorities finalize the new vehicle lanes at the Hengqin Port that will expand



the capacity to receive vehicles crossing this border post.

According to previous announcements, 30 lanes are expected to operate from August this year, raising capacity by about 500%.

In the same regulation amendment, cross-border students, those with mobility challenges, as well as senior citizens will be spared the in-

convenience of leaving their vehicle to complete the immigration procedures.

Special procedures are also being negotiated to reinforce the so-called “one event, two places” idea related to the exhibitions and conventions industry, which has several events planned following this approach until the end of the year.

TRANSPORT

BUS COMPANIES TESTING FARE PAYMENT USING ALIPAY, WECHAT PAY

THE two public bus operators are conducting a pilot test that allows passengers to pay bus fares using two new electronic payment methods (Alipay and WeChat Pay).

The trial run of the system started last Saturday and aims to collect information and feedback for the shortly-planned potential full integration of the system.

For the time being, the new system uses a QR Code that needs to be scanned at the bus stop by passengers before alighting. In the future, this will be simplified and placed inside the bus together with other payment forms already available.

Since it requires a staff member to control the scanning of the QR Codes, the trial



is currently being run at only five bus stops, including the Border Gate, Ilha Verde Square, and Ferreira do Amaral Square.

It is expected that such a service will be also extended to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port

and Hengqin Port bus terminus.

Passengers using Alipay and WeChat Pay will not be eligible for fare discounts (unlike registered local users of Macau Pass or MPay), which means that a 6-patacas fare will be charged. RM

SPORTS

Emma Raducanu and Wu Yibing to join MGM Macau Tennis Masters line up

STAFF REPORTER

THE MGM Macau Tennis Masters will see the participation of Emma Raducanu and Asia's young talent, Wu Yibing, to the star-studded line-up, gaming operator MGM and IMG announced in a press conference yesterday.

Swiss star Belinda Bencic along with Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe of the United States were the first names unveiled last month.

Taking place on December 2 and 3 at the Macao East Asian Games Dome, this mixed hardcourt tournament will feature four players from the men's tour and two from the women's circuit. The singles matches will be played in a best-of-three sets format, with a ten-point match tiebreak replacing the third set.



The action-packed MGM Macau Tennis Masters will consist of two men's singles matches and one mixed doubles on Saturday, followed by a women's singles match and two men's singles matches on Sunday.

"After years without top-flight tennis in Macau, we believe this is the perfect location for two days of high-level sports entertainment," said Luiz Carvalho,

senior vice president, Tennis Events from IMG said.

"We previously announced Belinda, Taylor and Frances - three stars with distinct personalities who will captivate sports fans in Macau and the surrounding area. Now, having Emma Raducanu and Wu Yibing join them is brilliant and adds more firepower," he added.

Emma Raducanu transfor-

med into a sporting superstar after she captured the title at the 2021 US Open, while earlier in 2023, Wu Yibing became the first national player to win an ATP title. In back-to-back matches, which involved saving championship points, the former junior world Number 1 defeated Taylor Fritz and John Isner to claim the Dallas title.

The MGM Macau Tennis Masters will soon announce one more men's player to complete the impressive line-up.

Ticket sales for the MGM Macau Tennis Masters will open at 12 p.m. on August 1.

The last tennis match when renowned players competed in Macau was The Venetian Macao Tennis Showdown in 2007; this was the grand finale of a three-leg Pete Sampras vs Roger Federer Asia exhibition match tour.

F&B SECTOR REGISTERS REVENUE INCREASE

STAFF REPORTER

ALL types of interviewed restaurants and similar establishments, and retailers, registered a year-on-year rise in revenues in May, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) yesterday.

Receipts of the interviewed restaurants and similar establishments grew by 48.8% year-on-year, with notable increases in the receipts of Western Restaurants (+94.7%) and Chinese Restaurants (+68.4%).

As regards the business expectations for June, 36% of the interviewed restaurants and similar establishments expected their receipts to decrease month-on-month, while 11% of the interviewed establishments predicted that their receipts would increase month-on-month in June.

For retail trade, 40% of the interviewed retailers forecasted a month-on-month sales decline in June, with the corresponding shares for leather goods retailers (60%), motor vehicle retailers (55%) and department stores (50%) reaching 50% or above.

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Climate envoy John Kerry meets with Chinese officials amid push to stabilize rocky relations

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry told China's top diplomat yesterday that President Joe Biden's administration is "very committed" to stabilizing relations between the world's two biggest economies, as the countries seek to restart high-level contacts.

On his second day of talks in Beijing, Kerry met with the ruling Communist Party's head of foreign relations Wang Yi, telling him Biden hoped the two countries could "achieve efforts together that can make a significant difference to the world."

Ties between the countries have hit a historic low amid disputes over tariffs, access to technology, and China's threats against self-governing Taiwan.

In his opening remarks, Wang said the sides had suffered from a lack of communication, but that China believes through renewed dialogue "we can find a proper solution to any problems."

"Sometimes, small problems can become big problems," Wang said, adding that dialogue must be conducted on an "equal basis."

China broke off some mid- and high-level contacts with the



U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, left, and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, right, yesterday

Biden administration last August, including over climate issues, to show its anger with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan. China claims the island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary, threatening to draw the U.S. into a major conflict in a region crucial to the global economy.

Kerry is the third senior Biden administration official in recent weeks to travel to China for meetings with their counterparts following Secretary of State An-

tony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

Kerry said he appreciated the opportunity to "change our relationship for the better" and that Biden is "very committed to stability within this relationship and also to achieve efforts together that can make a significant difference to the world."

Biden "values his relationship with President Xi (Jinping), and I think President Xi values his relationship with President Biden, and I know he looks forward to

being able to move forward and change the dynamic," Kerry said.

Kerry later paid a courtesy call on newly appointed Premier Li Qiang, the party's second-ranking official, who told him China and the U.S. should cooperate more closely on the "extremely large challenge" posed by global warming. No meeting has been set with Xi, and China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang has been absent from public sight for three weeks.

There was no immediate comment on Kerry's Monday meeting

with his counterpart Xie Zhenhua in the first extensive face-to-face climate discussions between representatives of the world's two worst climate polluters after a nearly yearlong hiatus.

China leads the world in producing and consuming coal, and has proceeded with building new plants that add tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere annually, while also expanding the use of renewables such as solar and wind power.

China has pledged to level off carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2060. The U.S. and the European Union have urged China to adopt more ambitious reduction targets.

As with the U.S. and Europe, China has seen record stretches of high temperatures that have threatened crops and prompted cities to open Cold War-era bomb shelters to help residents escape the heat.

U.S. lawmakers have faulted China for refusing to make bigger cuts in climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions, along with the country's insistence that it is still a developing economy that produces far less pollution per capita and should be exempted from the climate standards adopted by developed Western economies.

Biden and Xi spent days together when both were their countries' vice presidents and met in November at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia. However, no state visits have been held following the COVID-19 outbreak and no plans have been announced for their next face-to-face meeting. **MDT/AP**

Economy misses growth forecasts, raising the odds of more support for its tepid recovery

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

CHINA'S economic growth missed forecasts in the second quarter of the year, adding to worries over surging youth unemployment and a weak property sector and raising the likelihood the government will double down on support for the faltering post COVID-19 recovery.

The world's second largest economy grew at a 6.3% annual pace in the April-June quarter, much slower than the 7% plus growth analysts had forecast given the anemic pace of activity the year before.

Unemployment of youths aged 16 to 24 rose to a record 21.3% in June, up from 20.8% the month before.

Investment in property



development, a vital driver of both industrial and consumer demand, sank 7.9% in the first half of the year compared to a year earlier in a troubling sign of persisting weakness in an industry that slowed even before the pandemic as the government moved to rein in excessive borrowing.

Officials have acknow-

ledged that the economy is facing stiff headwinds, but said they expected growth to still reach the ruling Communist Party's official target for this year of about 5%.

The government will adjust policies to stabilize growth, National Bureau of Statistics spokesman Fu Linghui said at a news con-

ference Monday.

Quarterly growth, the usual measure for other major economies, was 0.8%, according to government data released Monday, in line with expectations but down sharply from 2.2% in January-June.

Analysts have been far less optimistic than the Chinese government about the outlook for the year, given weakening demand for Chinese exports in other major economies.

The numbers are a "worrying result," said Moody's Analytics economist Harry Murphy Cruise.

"China's recovery is going from bad to worse," he said. "After a sugar injection in the opening months of 2023, the pandemic hangover is plaguing China's recovery."

Government spending is likely to help key industries like real estate and construction, but won't be a "silver bullet," he said in a commentary.

The 6.3% growth in China's gross domestic product from April to June outpaced a 4.5% expansion in the previous quarter.

The still robust growth is largely due to the economy growing just 0.4% a year earlier in April-June of 2022 amid strict lockdowns in Shanghai and other cities during COVID-19 outbreaks.

Apart from more government spending, regulators may cut interest rates and take other measures to free up credit, Marcella Chow, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management wrote in a report.

"The weak economic readings suggest an urgency in escalating policy support so as to stabilize expectations," Chow said.

Earlier this year, growth was boosted as people flocked to shopping malls and restaurants after nearly three years of "zero-COVID" restrictions were removed in late 2022.

The government's growth target of "around 5%" was seen as a conservative goal. It can only be met if the economy maintains close to its current level of growth.

Data released earlier showed exports declined 12.4% in June from a year earlier as global demand faltered after central banks in U.S. and Europe raised interest rates to curb inflation.

Retail sales, an indicator of consumer demand, in June rose 3.1% from the same period in 2022. That's seen as a strong point, but not strong enough, analysts said. **MDT/AP**

US deploys nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea in show of force against North Korea

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

THE United States deployed a nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea yesterday for the first time in four decades, as the allies warned North Korea that any use of the North's nuclear weapons in combat would result in the end of its regime.

Periodic visits by U.S. nuclear ballistic missile-capable submarines to South Korea were one of several agreements reached by the two countries' presidents in April in response to North Korea's expanding nuclear threat. They also agreed to establish a bilateral Nuclear Consultative Group and expand military exercises.

The USS Kentucky, an Ohio-class submarine, arrived at the South Korean port of Busan on Tuesday afternoon, South Korea's Defense Ministry said. It is the first visit by a U.S. nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea since the 1980s, it said.

Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup called the submarine's visit a demonstration of U.S. resolve in implementing its "extended deterrence" commitment, a pledge by the U.S. to use its full military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to protect its allies, the ministry said in a statement.

He said the submarine's visit "shows the allies' overwhelming capability and posture against North Korea."

During the Cold War in the late 1970s, U.S. nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines made frequent visits to South Korea, sometimes two or three times per month, according to the Federation of American Scientists. It was a period when the U.S. had hundreds of nuclear warheads located in South Korea. But in 1991, the United States withdrew all of its nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions have taken on a new urgency after it threatened to use nuclear weapons in conflicts with its



rivals and conducted about 100 missile tests since the start of last year. Last week, North Korea conducted a second test of a more mobile and powerful intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the mainland United States. After observing that launch, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further strengthen his country's nuclear combat capabilities.

Also on Tuesday, South Korean and U.S. officials held the inaugural meeting of the Nuclear Consultative Group in Seoul to discuss ways to strengthen deterrence against North Korea's nuclear threats.

"Any nuclear attack by North Korea against the United States or its allies is unacceptable and will result in the end of that regime," the two countries said in a joint statement after the meeting.

President Joe Biden issued a similar warning after his summit in Washington with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in April.

"Both sides affirmed that the NCG will play an integral role in discussing and advancing bilateral approaches, including guidelines, to nuclear and strategic planning and responses to (North Korean) aggression," the statement said.

The consultative body is tasked with sharing information on nuclear and strategic weapons operation

plans and joint operations. The U.S. will retain operational control of its nuclear weapons. U.S. officials say the group's establishment and other steps announced in April were meant to ease South Korean worries about North Korean provocations while keeping Seoul from pursuing its own nuclear program.

Earlier Tuesday, Yoon told a Cabinet meeting that the launching of the consultative group "will serve as an important starting point to establish a powerful, effective (South) Korea-U.S. extended deterrence," and that their alliance has been "upgraded with a new, nuclear-based paradigm."

The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. National Security Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell and South Korean Deputy National Security Director Kim Tae-hyo.

North Korea condemned the Biden-Yoon agreements in April, saying they proved the allies' extreme hostility toward the North. It threatened to further escalate its nuclear use doctrine in protest.

In a statement Monday, Kim's powerful sister and senior adviser, Kim Yo Jong, warned that U.S. moves to reinforce its extended deterrence commitment to South Korea will make North Korea "go farther away from the negotiating table desired by (the U.S.)" and

beef up its own military capability.

"(North Korea) is ready for resolutely countering

any acts of violating its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Kim Yo Jong said. "The U.S. should

stop its foolish act of provoking (North Korea) even by imperiling its security." MDT/AP

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AP PHOTO



FRANCE

Bill that allows police to locate suspects by tapping their devices is up for vote

YOUCEF BOUNAB

FRENCH lawmakers planned to vote yesterday on a sweeping justice reform bill that includes a provision for allowing law enforcement agents to remotely tap into the cameras, microphones and location services of phones and other internet-connected devices used by some criminal suspects.

The proposed law plainly stipulates that the procedure can be executed "without the knowledge or consent of its owner or possessor" but is limited to suspects involved in terrorism, organized crime and other illegal activities punishable by five or more years in prison.

The language authorizing eavesdropping is contained in a broader reform bill aimed at "modernizing" penal procedures, reflecting what polls indicate is a public demand for more law and order.

"The goal of this law is clear: a faster, clearer, modern justice," French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti said when he presented the legislation in the spring.

Left-wing parties generally oppose the surveillance provision, but President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party can potentially rally

the conservative The Republicans party in the lower house of the French Parliament to pass the bill. The Senate, which the opposition right controls, approved the legislation in May.

The justice minister proposed the high-tech hunt for suspects as an alternative to long-standing police surveillance practices, such as wiretapping a suspect's vehicle and house, which he deemed no longer viable and increasingly dangerous for investigators.

"The technique today is faulty," Dupond-Moretti told lawmakers in the lower house, the National Assembly, this month. "Why would we deprive ourselves of new technologies?" When some parliamentarians expressed concerns over privacy rights, the minister replied, "By crying wolf, you are no longer credible."

Besides limiting use of high-tech spying on suspects to crimes punishable by at least five years in prison, the legislation contains other controls. The goal of tapping a connected device must be locating someone in real time, and the investigating judge in a case must give the green light. In addition to activating location services, the measure would also allow investigators to activa-

te a suspect's phone camera and microphone.

Critics claim the provision still would inevitably lead to abuses of power by French police, who in the past have faced allegations of misusing their authority, brutality and racism.

"We already see that there's a lot of abuse in France today," said Bastien Le Querrec, a lawyer with French digital rights group La Quadrature du Net. "In reality, who decides on the seriousness of an event in an investigation? It's the police, the prosecutors, the investigating judge. Nothing in this bill will prevent abuse."

In April, French lawmakers passed a law to allow the use of artificial intelligence and drones in mass video surveillance during the 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris.

Terrorist attacks in France over the past decade and recent riots triggered by the police killing of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk in a Paris suburb last month have made security a government focus as the country prepares for host athletes and visitors from around the world next year.

Violence also erupted this year during numerous demonstrations protesting

Macron's decision to raise the French retirement age from 62 to 64. But rights advocates fear the government is capitalizing on safety concerns that many people see as reasonable to pursue draconian measures.

"The use of surveillance technologies cannot be the systematic response to security issues," Katia Roux, an advocacy officer at Amnesty International France, said in an interview. "The impact on human rights of these technologies must be taken into account before any normalization of their use. Under the guise of legitimate objectives that are linked to security, these technologies also promote violations of human rights, the rights to privacy and freedom of expression."

Police surveillance via a suspect's phone and other connected devices could last for up to six months at a time, according to the bill. Certain professionals, including journalists, lawyers, and members of the parliament, would be exempt.

"Sadly, yet again, France is a leader in a security strategy where we approach security by surveilling everybody," lawyer Le Querrec said. "It raises questions on the state of democracy and the state of French institutions." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1997 IRA DECLARES CEASEFIRE



The IRA has announced its second ceasefire in three years starting at noon tomorrow.

It follows a statement by republican political party Sinn Fein last night urging the IRA to call a truce, but the speed of response has surprised politicians.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam MP will monitor IRA activity over the next six weeks to decide whether Sinn Fein will be admitted to the all-party peace talks scheduled for 15 September.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said he supported a ceasefire because of a "commitment by the two governments (UK and Republic of Ireland) to inclusive peace talks".

British Prime Minister Tony Blair had underlined this resolve by making his first big speech as head of the new government from Belfast on 16 May.

In June he set out the conditions for Sinn Fein's inclusion in the all-party talks in a speech to the Commons.

He offered a clear timetable for talks - to be completed by May 1998 - within six weeks of a ceasefire.

Mr Blair also suggested weapons' decommissioning was not a pre-condition for negotiation.

Many unionists in Northern Ireland believe IRA disarmament is essential to any peace process and are angered by British concessions on the issue.

Security spokesman for the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) Ken Maginnis said: "I don't expect anyone to take a ceasefire declaration at face value."

"There will have to be a definite commitment to a permanent, complete and universal ceasefire with an indication that disarmament and the disbandment of the terrorist organisation can take place," he added.

The Irish peace process reached a stalemate under the last British Government which made concessions to unionists over decommissioning, in return for their support in Parliament.

Mr Blair is to meet UUP leader David Trimble in the next couple of days to ensure unionists' participation in September's multi-party talks.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The ceasefire came into force on 20 July in an atmosphere of muted determination rather than celebration.

A new round of peace talks, including Sinn Fein, resumed on 15 September at Stormont, near Belfast.

None of the five unionist or loyalist parties attended and attempted to get Sinn Fein excluded.

Talks continued at Stormont as David Trimble and the UUP began to participate.

In October 1997 Tony Blair shook Gerry Adams' hand and became the first British PM for 70 years to meet a Sinn Fein delegation.

Negotiations and sporadic violence by loyalist and republican splinter groups continued until the Good Friday Agreement was signed in May 1998.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. Opportunities to travel will develop through peers.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others. Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with today.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Enjoy a quiet dinner for two and discuss some of the plans you have for the future. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. Your intellectual wit will bring greater popularity with your peers.

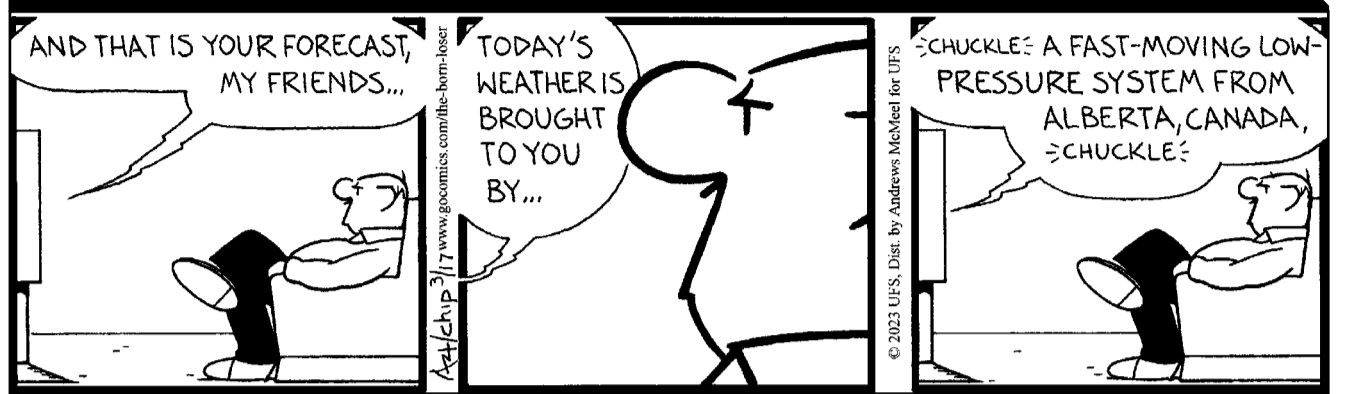
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Look into ways to make your home more comfortable. Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Unexpected bills will be impossible for you to pay.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Do not sign contracts or get involved in any uncertain financial deals. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can make money, but try not to let it slip through your fingers. Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge. Sudden changes concerning coworkers may surprise you.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. Fitness or weight loss programs will help your self esteem. Favors will be offered readily.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

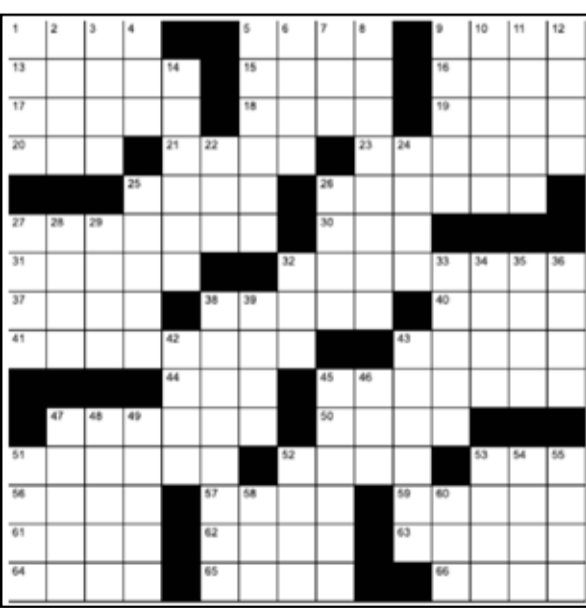
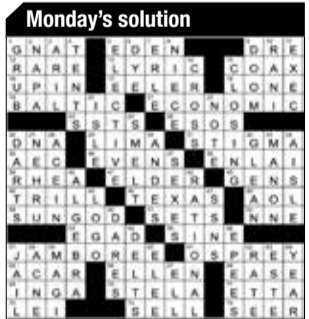
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	36	fine
Changchun	19	31	cloudy
Chengdu	22	33	cloudy
Chongqing	26	31	rain
Fuzhou	27	37	rain
Guangzhou	25	31	rain
Guiyang	18	26	showers
Haikou	27	31	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	25	31	rain
Harbin	18	29	cloudy
Hefei	24	30	rain
Nanjing	25	29	rain
Shanghai	27	33	rain
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Wuhan	26	31	rain
Hong Kong	28	30	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	13	21	rain
Frankfurt	13	28	overcast
Paris	13	27	fine
London	13	23	overcast
New York	22	29	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Quiet; 5- Tennis great Arthur; 9- Pale; 13- Oppositionists; 15- At hand; 16- "___ the night before Christmas..."; 17- Pile; 18- Hawaiian goose; 19- Icicle site; 20- ___ favor; 21- Somewhat; 23- Loud uproar; 25- Bibliography abbr; 26- Lacking movement; 27- Adds yeast; 30- Direct a gun; 31- Greek epic poem; 32- Hot and humid; 37- "Shane" star; 38- Gum; 40- Gymnast Korbut; 41- Resembling a goose; 43- Body of honeybees; 44- News letters; 45- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 47- Doomed; 50- Blood vessel; 51- Selected; 52- Actress Russo; 53- Actress Farrow; 56- Nobleman; 57- Harrow rival; 59- Graceful birds; 61- Director Preminger; 62- Ladies of Sp.; 63- On edge; 64- Buenos ___; 65- Kind of wrestling; 66- This, in Tijuana;

DOWN 1- Briefcase closer; 2- Golden rule preposition; 3- Lead; 4- Sot's sound; 5- Historical records; 6- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 7- Solo of "Star Wars"; 8- Building; 9- Bothered; 10- Pundit; 11- Ruin; 12- North Sea feeder; 14- Moved over ice; 22- Process leather; 24- Light source; 25- Avoid; 26- Delhi wrap; 27- Country singer McCann; 28- Gusto; 29- Helps; 32- Lao-___; 33- Herbert Hoover, for one; 34- A type of bake; 35- Pearl Mosque city; 36- Like some excuses; 38- Maturity; 39- Oklahoma city; 42- Mysterious character; 43- Most cunning; 45- Nevertheless; 46- Spy novelist Deighton; 47- Loincloth worn by Hindu men; 48- Main artery; 49- Windows predecessor; 51- Oaf; 52- Travel aimlessly; 53- Staffs; 54- Part of MIT; 55- In the Black?; 58- Capote; to friends; 60- Teensy;



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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PRINCESS DIANA'S ICONIC BLACK SHEEP SWEATER COULD FETCH AT LEAST \$50,000 AT AUCTION

A red sweater adorned with a flock of sheep worn by the young Princess Diana is expected to sell for more than \$50,000 at auction.

The playfully patterned wool jumper featuring a single black sheep amid a pattern of white ones headlines Sotheby's online Fashion Icons sale in September.

The 19-year-old Lady Diana Spencer was photographed in the garment at a polo match in June 1981, soon after her engagement to Prince Charles, who was then heir to the British throne.

Diana was already becoming a style icon — and one of the world's most photographed women — and the moment gave a big boost to designers Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne, who made the sweater for their small knitwear label Warm & Wonderful.

A few weeks later, Muir and Osborne received an official letter from Buckingham Palace explaining that Diana had damaged the sweater and asking whether it could be repaired or replaced. The original was returned, showing damage to a sleeve the designers thought might have



been caused by snagging on Diana's diamond and sapphire engagement ring.

A new sweater was knitted and dispatched, and Diana was photographed wearing it with white jeans and a black ribbon tie at an event in 1983.

Some have speculated Diana liked the "black sheep" pattern

because she felt like an outsider in the royal family. Emma Corrin sported a replica as the young Diana in season four of "The Crown."

Warm & Wonderful still makes a cotton version of the design, which sells for 190 pounds (\$250). Osborne discovered the original lying forgotten in a box

in an attic earlier this year.

Cynthia Houlton, Sotheby's global head of fashion and accessories, said "this exceptional garment, meticulously preserved, carries the whispers of Princess Diana's grace, charm, and her keen eye for fashion."

The sweater, which has an estimated price of \$50,000 to

\$80,000, will be on display at Sotheby's New York showroom from Sept. 7-13. Online bidding opens Aug. 31 and runs to Sept. 14.

The record for a piece of Diana memorabilia is \$604,800 for a Victor Edelstein-designed ballgown sold by Sotheby's in January. MDT/AP

AD

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C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER "DEIGNAN AWARD" FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MACAU (2023)



Australia's Victoria state withdraws as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games

AUSTRALIA'S Victoria state has withdrawn as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games because of a blowout in projected costs.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday said his government last year agreed to host the next edition of the multi-sports event, "but not at any cost."

He said his government initially budgeted 2.6 billion Australian dollars (\$1.8 billion) to stage the Games in five regional cities but recent estimates put the potential cost as high as 7 billion Australian dollars (\$4.8 billion).

Andrews told a news conference he'd notified Commonwealth Games organizers of his government's decision to pull out of the hosting contract.

"Today is not about finding fault with those cost estimates," he said, declining to outline the reasons for the cost blowouts. "Frankly, AU\$6-AU\$7 billion for a 12-day sporting event, we are not doing that — that does not represent value for money, that is all costs and no benefit."

The Commonwealth Games Federation issued a statement saying it was taking advice on its options.



The CGF said the estimated cost escalation was mainly due to the regional, multi-city host model and the Victoria government's decision to change plans for venues and include more sports.

"We are disappointed that we were only given eight hours' notice and that no consideration was given to discussing the situation to jointly find solutions prior to this decision being reached by the government," the CGF statement said.

The 2026 Games had been scheduled for March 17-29 in the regional centers of Geelong,

Bendigo, Ballarat, Gippsland and Shepparton.

The state government had promoted the multi-city model as a game changer, with the five regional centers hosting 20 sports and nine fully-integrated Para sports.

The government's website had promoted Victoria 2026 as a showcase of "what makes the people of our state tick: our unity, our diversity, our sense of community, our welcoming attitude and our love of sport."

Commonwealth Games Australia chief executive Craig Phillips said the government's

decision was a "comprehensive let down" on a concept it had pitched to organizers.

"The stated costs overrun, in our opinion, are a gross exaggeration and not reflective of the operational costs presented to the Victoria 2026 organising committee board as recently as June," Phillips said in a statement. "Beyond this, the Victorian Government willfully ignored recommendations to move events to purpose-built (venues) in Melbourne and in fact remained wedded to proceeding with expensive temporary venues in

regional Victoria."

It's the second time in as many editions there's been issues with hosting the Commonwealth Games.

Birmingham stepped in late to host the 2022 Games in England to replace Durban, South Africa.

Victoria state hosted the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. The most recent edition held in Australia was on the Gold Coast, Queensland state, in 2018. The Gold Coast was part of the southeast Queensland bid that in 2021 was awarded rights to the 2032 Olympics.

Andrew Liveris, president of the Brisbane 2032 organizing committee, responded to the Victorian government's decision by saying the Commonwealth Games and Olympics run on different business models in terms of event delivery, infrastructure usage and commercial revenue.

The 2032 Olympics have federal, state and local government backing, and Liveris said the International Olympic Committee's contribution to running costs and support in terms of best practice from prior Games helped give organizers solid grounding. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

NEW DRIVERS OF GROWTH SET TO PROVE THEIR POTENTIAL

The Chinese economy has gradually entered a stage of restorative growth after the pandemic and will shift to expansionary growth as it gradually returns to a normal track in the second half of this year, driven by industrial upgrading, robust development of the digital economy and the push for a green transition.

That upbeat outlook by Fu Linghui, spokesperson for the National Bureau of Statistics, was included in a report published by Xinhua News Agency on Monday on an economic roundtable it hosted recently.

It is a timely pick-me-up for public sentiment, as the second quarter data released by the NBS on Monday showed the economy grew 0.8 percent in April-June from the previous quarter, on a seasonally adjusted basis, which is indicative of the downward pressure on the economy over the past three months.

Although China's GDP growth continued its recovery, expanding 6.3 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, compared with the 4.5 percent in the first three months of the year and higher than that of most major economies in the world, the low base for that growth due to the impacts of the novel coronavirus pandemic last year must be taken into account. Plus, the growth rate of the second quarter was well below the 7.3 percent growth forecast.

Still that was a hard-earned result given the tremendous uncertainties and difficulties the economy has faced, and testifies to the adept and agile macro control of the government in response to the new normal of weaker domestic and foreign demand.

In a sign of this, and giving substance to Fu's confidence, sales of new energy vehicles in China exceeded 3 million units in the first half of this year, displaying a growth rate of over 30 percent. The outstanding performance of China's NEV industry, which has become a highlight of the country's upgraded economic development in the past two years, proves the effectiveness of key industrial policies implemented in recent years.

As outlined at a State Council executive meeting on the economy held in Beijing on July 6, more flexible macroeconomic policies are needed in the second half of the year to spur the expansion of effective demand, strengthen and optimize the real economy, and prevent and overcome risks in key fields. These policies should take into account both supply and demand, address the present issues and look to attain a better future, while coordinating development with security concerns.

It is expected that the macroeconomic policies will become better targeted in the second half of the year to help the economy effectively manage and control the risks and uncertainties, particularly the local government debt problem, while ensuring the upgrading of the industries and restructuring of the economy unimpeded.

At the same time, investment in infrastructure and manufacturing will gradually help expand domestic demand and stimulate economic growth. And as the production and demand cycles become smoother, residents' consumption willingness and confidence are expected to stabilize and increase. That will consolidate domestic demand as a sustainable driving force for development.

AMERICAN DETAINED IN NORTH KOREA AFTER CROSSING THE BORDER WAS A US SOLDIER

THE BUZZ

U.S. officials say an American detained after crossing the border from South Korea into North Korea was a U.S. soldier.

There were no immediate details about how or why the soldier crossed the heavily fortified border or whether the soldier was on duty.

The four officials spoke to The Associated Press yesterday on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter ahead of a public announcement.

Cases of Americans or South Koreans defecting to North Korea are rare, though more than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South

Korea to avoid political oppression and economic difficulties since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The crossing happened during heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear program. The American-led U.N. Command overseeing the area tweeted earlier yesterday that the detained U.S. citizen was on a tour to the Korean border village of Panmunjom and crossed the border into the North without authorization.

It said that he is currently in North Korean custody and that the U.N. Command is working with its North Korean counterparts to resolve the incident.



THOUSANDS DIED IN THE PHILIPPINES' 'WAR ON DRUGS.' AN INTERNATIONAL PROBE WILL NOW GO AHEAD

MIKE CORDER, THE HAGUE

Appeals judges at the International Criminal Court ruled yesterday that an investigation into the Philippines' so-called "war on drugs" can resume, rejecting Manila's objections to the case going ahead at the global court.

The court's investigation was suspended in late 2021 after the Philippines said it was already probing the same allegations and argued that the ICC — a court of last resort — therefore didn't have jurisdiction.

The Philippines launched its appeal after judges in January agreed with the court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, that deferring the investigation to Manila was "not warranted." At the time, judges ruled that the domestic proceedings did not amount to "tangible, concrete and progressive investigative steps in a

way that would sufficiently mirror the court's investigation."

At a hearing Tuesday, Presiding Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut said that the five-judge appeals panel, in a majority decision, agreed and rejected the Philippines' appeal.

Human rights groups say the death toll is considerably higher and should include many unsolved killings by motorcycle-riding gunmen who may have been deployed by police

More than 6,000 suspects, most of them people who lived in poverty, have been killed in the crackdown on drug crime, according to government pronouncements. Human rights groups say the death toll is considerably higher and should include many unsolved killings by motorcycle-riding gunmen who may have been deployed by police.

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has defended the crackdown as "lawfully directed against drug lords and pushers who have for many years destroyed the present generation, especially the youth."

Duterte withdrew the Philippines from The Hague-based court in 2019 in a move rights activists said was an attempt to evade accountability and prevent an international probe into thousands of killings in his campaign against illegal

drugs. However, the ICC still has jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed when the country was still a member state of the court.

The current Philippine president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., said last year that Manila has no plan to rejoin the ICC, a decision that supports his predecessor's stance but rejects the wishes of human rights activists. **MDT/AP**



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan traveled to Saudi Arabia on Monday in a three-stop tour of Persian Gulf states to seek trade and investment opportunities for Turkey's floundering economy. Erdogan arrived in Jeddah accompanied by an entourage of some 200 businesspeople, according to the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey. He met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at Al Salam Palace, shaking hands and attending a welcoming ceremony where he "expressed his happiness with this visit," the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.



Greece Wildfires outside Athens forced thousands to flee seaside resorts, closed highways and gutted vacation homes Monday, as high winds pushed flames through hillside scrub and pine forests parched by days of extreme heat. Authorities issued evacuation orders for at least six seaside communities as two major wildfires edged closer to summer resort towns and gusts of wind hit 70 kph.



Poland Five people were killed and eight others were injured Monday when a Cessna 208 plane crashed into a hangar at a sky diving center during bad weather, authorities said. The plane's pilot and four people sheltering in the hangar from stormy weather died in the afternoon crash in Chrczynno in central Poland, firefighters spokesperson Monika Nowakowska-Brynda said.