



**BNU ANNOUNCES PROFITS OF MOP288.4 MILLION IN THE FIRST HALF, A YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE OF 125.2% MAINLY DUE TO HIGHER INTEREST RATES**

**SURVEY DISCOVERS NEARLY 60% WORKERS SEE INAPT PROTECTION IN LABOR LAW**

**DEATH TOLL IN RECENT BEIJING FLOODING RISES TO 33, WITH 18 STILL MISSING**



AP PHOTO



**India's** top opposition leader unleashed a strong condemnation yesterday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for its failure to control bloodshed in a remote northeastern state that he said has been split in two. Rahul Gandhi told Parliament that the army should have been able to stop the bloodshed already. But despite the presence of troops in Manipur, the violence has festered for over three months. More than 150 people have died in Manipur and over 50,000 people have fled in fear since clashes erupted in early May.

AP PHOTO



**UN** announced that an agreement had been reached with Syria to reopen the main border crossing from Turkey to its rebel-held northwest for six months. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the "understanding" reached following talks between U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Syrian officials. U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said. The agreement will reopen the Bab al-Hawa crossing which has been used for 85% of deliveries to the northwest Idlib region.

AP PHOTO



**Russia** An explosion yesterday on the grounds a factory north of Moscow that makes optical equipment for Russia's security forces injured 45 people, six of them severely, officials said. The blast occurred at a warehouse storing fireworks, though it was on the grounds of the Zagorsk optics manufacturing plant, according to Andrei Vorobyov, the governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital.

More on backpage

# A BIT OF A PICKLE

**Housing bill for 'sandwich-class' approved amid complaints**



**HOUSING GOV'T LAUNCHES TENDER IN TAIPA FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES**

P3



**NON-GAMING GALAXY, WARNER MUSIC SIGN AGREEMENT TO ARRANGE CONCERTS IN MACAU**

P2

**BANKING**

# INTEREST RATE HIKES HELP DOUBLE BNU'S PROFITS IN FIRST HALF



**B**ANCO Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) in Macau yesterday announced profits of MOP288.4 million (32.7 million euros) in the first half of the year, a year-on-year increase of 125.2%.

The rise in profits was driven "mainly by the increase in net interest income, which grew by MOP139.2 million or 40.8%, due to higher interest rates," the bank said in a statement.

The Monetary Authority of Macao approved three increases in the main benchmark interest rate in the first half of this year, the last of which was a 0.25 percentage point hike introduced in May, following the US Federal Reserve.

"On the other hand, net fees and commissions decreased

MOP12.3 million, or 20.9%, compared to the first half of 2022," although they rose 2.4% compared to the first quarter of 2023, BNU said.

The bank argued this development indicates "a gradual, albeit slow, economic recovery" in the Chinese special administrative region.

Macau's gross domestic product grew 38.8% in the first three months of the year, compared to the same period in 2022, after five consecutive quarters of decline.

The Statistics and Census Bureau stressed the city's economy is still only two-thirds of the levels seen before the Covid-19 pandemic.

BNU also revealed that it suf-

fered losses of MOP18 million on non-performing loans and financial investments in the first half of the year, two-thirds less than in the same period of 2022.

The bank said operating expenses grew 2% compared to the first half of 2022, mainly due to "increased digitalization expenses".

BNU said it "maintains a solid solvency ratio of 24.2% (...), well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 8%, and maintains high levels of liquidity" and that "BNU's results in the first half of 2023 (...) demonstrate its strength and resilience in a highly volatile economic environment." The bank reported profits of MOP122.4 million in the first three months of 2023, triple that recorded in the same period last year.

BNU is headquartered in Macau and belongs to the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) Group, and is, together with the Bank of China, a currency-issuing bank in the MSAR. **MDT/AGENCIES**

**NON-GAMING**

# Galaxy, Warner Music sign agreement to arrange concerts in Macau

**G**ALAXY Arena has announced a 3-year strategic cooperation agreement with Warner Music China, under which the two parties will fully use their respective resource advantages, development experience and industry influence.

Under the development of the general theme of Tourism + Entertainment, they will cooperate in a wide range of performances, entertainment, tourism, etc. to introduce and organize international quality music and entertainment events in Macau, to attract music lovers from all over the world to choose Macau as their vacation destination.

According to the agreement, Warner Music Group will arrange its artists to hold concerts in Macau, plan and produce events in-



cluding music festivals, music talk, forums and commercial events in Macau, and arrange its artists to participate in commercial events in Macau.

"The brand-new Galaxy Arena has been hosting a number of world-class performances since April with resounding success, offering a spectrum of entertainment

experiences to visitors from the world," Francis Lui, Vice Chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group, said at a signing ceremony yesterday.

"As a collaborative effort with the Macau SAR Government to support 'Tourism + Entertainment' cross-sector integration, GEG's collaboration with Warner Music China means we will

continue to fully utilize this world-class venue to present more spectacular shows and an endless array of exciting entertainment for both locals and tourists," he added.

At the occasion, Jonathan Serbin, Co-President of Warner Music Asia, said, "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work together to develop exciting new music and entertainment opportunities at the Galaxy Macau's amazing property. Through this cooperation, Warner Music will bring a wide range of global artists to the Galaxy to help enrich the already fast expanding cultural and entertainment activities in Macau. We are looking forward to a strong partnership with both the GEG and Macau; and we are very excited to move ahead together on this project." **MDT**

# AL APPROVES NEW LAW ON PUBLIC-OWNED COMPANIES

**RENATO MARQUES**

**I**n its final reading Tuesday evening, the Legislative Assembly (AL) approved the new law to regulate public-owned companies.

All lawmakers voted in favor of the bill, although some commented on the supervision of the assets and financial support to these companies, calling for a more transparent disclosure of the results as well as the use of the public funds invested in such entities.

The government side responded to such comments that the bill had been drafted precisely with the purpose of better safeguarding the public purse. It added that the companies in question must fully disclose their use of public funds to the public, subjecting themselves not only to government supervision but to that of the general public as well.

In the future, the government will classify the nature of different public-funded enterprises and implement assessment and supervision accordingly.

Also addressed was the penalties regime for those who fail to comply with the provision or in cases where bad management (of the company) causes damage to the public purse.

Although there were no specific references to what can happen if one of the companies causes such damage, the government said that the "relevant departments will analyze the reasons behind the problem and take appropriate measures to promote a rectification," noting that in cases where administrators are found responsible for acts of mismanagement they can be suspended and subjected to criminal or civil liability.

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PUBLIC HOUSING

# AL approves sandwich-class housing bill amid complaints

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) this week passed the regulation establishing applicant requirements for the so-called third type of public housing, also called "Sandwich-class housing," in its final reading.

The bill was approved with most votes in favor and one vote against, from lawmaker Ron Lam.

Potentially the most disputed part of the bill is Article 28, which refers to the government's sales price formula for housing units under this scheme.

Apart from Lam's vote against the bill, several other lawmakers including Ella Lei, Lei Chan U, Lam Lon Wai, Leong Sun Iok, and Nick Lei abstained, disagreeing with the government's formula.

The formula stipulates the Sale Price (SP) calculation will include the Housing Bureau's market price evaluation (MPE), which takes into account the price of similar units in the same geographical area in the private market and is corrected by a compensation discount rate (Cdr) –  $SP = MPE \times (1 - Cdr)$ .

Few directly elected lawmakers and Macau Federation of Trade Unions representatives supported the formula, mostly because it was linked to the private sector market which they consider to be



highly speculative. They thought the formula likely to raise the price of the publicly built residential units to levels that will still exclude most of the population for whom this measure was created.

The law provides that prices will be set at a discount rate when compared to private sector units in the surrounding area. But the rate is not established, being subject to a later decision by the Chief Executive through an executive order.

The sandwich-class housing scheme will apply to permanent

residents who are ineligible to buy a flat under the government's economic acquisition housing scheme that has tighter criteria regarding monthly household income.

At the plenary session, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, reaffirmed that the first batch of this type of housing to become available for acquisition would be located at the Avenida Wai Long in Taipa, in the land plot retrieved by the government and that was originally designated for the La Scala

development.

Several lawmakers criticized the bill for its lack of information over the potential final unit price as well as the procedures to take place and their timeline.

Rosário replied that it is too soon to discuss the final price for this type of housing. He said the matter needs to be addressed slowly and progressively and not with impatience or a rush. His response did not please most of those who wanted a clear picture of how much a sandwich-class housing unit will cost and whether such a price is or is not adequate to the needs of the residents.

Some other lawmakers, like Ip Sio Kai, also questioned the procedure, asking the Secretary if it is better to "build the units and then try to see if there is a market for them" or to "form a line" with those potentially interested first and later build accordingly to such expressed needs.

Rosário was unhappy with the many suggestions and questions presented regarding the philosophy of the project during this session. He claimed the bill had already been passed in the first reading and had had a broad discussion in the AL Committee. He accused the lawmakers of "having changed their mind after having approved the bill in the first reading" and of expressing opinions "out of time."

LAND PLOTS

# Gov't launches tender in Taipa for residential purposes

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) yesterday launched a public tender for the lease of two land plots located in Taipa to build residential developments.

The land plots identified by the codes BT8 and BT9a are two of the group of five land plots that comprise the total area and where the government previously announced it would build a temporary sports and leisure area known as the "tire park" due to the use of old tires in its construction.

The transformation



of the area from a leisure area into residential buildings has been debated as many sectors of the society, including a good number

of lawmakers, have opposed the idea. Among other claims, they have noted that this part of Taipa is already overcrowded

and with a very high density, is being preferred to use the few land plots that are still available in the area to build community facilities for public use.

Several members of the Urban Planning Committee expressed similar opinions, in a meeting in December last year, when the DSSCU proposed the plots for residential purposes but the government side was relentless in moving forward with their idea.

In yesterday's announcement, the DSSCU said the public tender for the concession of the two plots will continue until

noon on Sept. 26 with a dedicated website with all details on the tender to be launched from today.

Plot BT8 has an area of 3,509m<sup>2</sup> while BT9a has 3,225m<sup>2</sup>. The government has classified them for housing. Both are categorized as H2, which means they should be used for residential buildings or mixed use buildings (residential and commercial) in which the residential area needs to be over 50% of the total area, excluding the parking lot.

The tender base price for the plot BT8 has been set at MOP1.136 billion, while for the BT9a the government will accept offers above the price of MOP777 million.

The opening ceremony of the bids for lots BT8 and BT9a will occur on Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively.

## POLICE REMIND PUBLIC AGAINST MESSAGES PHISHING FOR APPLE IDS

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has recently learned of messages containing unidentified hyperlinks, aiming to phish for recipients' Apple IDs and passwords. The messages claimed that an overseas login was detected for the recipients' Apple IDs and asked the recipients to login through the link to activate two-factor authentication. The police said the fraudulent website closely resembled Apple's website, making it very easy for recipients to be deceived. The police have reminded the public to not click on the links and verify the credibility of such messages with an official source. If they have input their login details, they should change them at the official site immediately.

## CPTTM CALLS FOR INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN MACAO FASHION FESTIVAL 2023

The Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) has called for fashion brands and designers to participate in the Macao Fashion Festival 2023 from Oct. 19 to 22 at Hall C of Cotai Expo. This year's theme is fashion without borders, which aims to break the boundaries of regions and cultures with the power of fashion creativity, displaying both originality and fashion's charm. Like last year, a sale area will be erected for participating brands and designers to sell their products and increase their public exposure. The registration period will end on Aug. 22.

## IAM, GONGBEI CUSTOMS JOIN HANDS TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and Gongbei Customs signed Tuesday an agreement to clarify inspection and quarantine arrangements for chilled seafood exported to Macau. The two groups will strengthen inspections on exporters and conduct risk monitoring and technical exchanges. Gongbei Customs will also push forward supervision and quarantine procedures to improve traceability and ensure the quality and safety of chilled seafood, to achieve rapid inspection and release, create conditions for convenient customs clearance and further promote cross-border trade between Macau and Zhuhai.

# MAN CAUGHT FOR ALLEGED PHYSICAL ASSAULT, PROPERTY DAMAGES

ANTHONY LAM

A man has been apprehended for physically assaulting a bus driver and a police officer, as well as damaging a mirror on a radio taxi, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) announced yesterday.

At 6:46 p.m. on Aug. 5, the police were notified of the case that occurred at a bus stop in Fai Chi Kei District. It was first reported to be a conflict between a drunken man and a bus driver.

According to the police, the case concerned a drunken Filipino man, 38, two local bus drivers, a police officer and a local radio taxi driver. The police said an officer was punched in the right eye by the alleged attacker, sent to the hospital and demanded the attacker be prosecuted.

A bus driver told the police that at 6:40 a.m. the alleged attacker slammed the door of his bus. As he yelled to stop the man, he was attacked in his right eye by the man with a slipper. The driver then took a broom from nearby to protect himself, and the drunken man a dustpan – starting a standoff.

The drunken man then approached another bus. Ac-



cording to the driver of this bus, the man started slamming the side mirror of the bus with the dustpan at 6:45 a.m., causing MOP1,200 damage.

The taxi driver told the police

that at 6:50 a.m. the same morning, when he passed by the bus stop, the alleged attacker suddenly showed up in front of his car, cracked the front assistive mirror, which cost MOP3,000 to repair,

and jumped onto the front seat. This is when the police officer was reportedly attacked by the man, who was then being persuaded by the officer to get out of the taxi.

The drunken man was arrested and charges of aggravated physical assault and property damage were pressed against him. The police added that after he became sober, he said that he did not remember committing any of the assaults or causing damage.

## SWINDLING

In another case, the PSP arrested a mainland couple on swindling allegations on Aug. 6. The police said the couple – a 41-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman – was asking pedestrians for money on and around Rua Central, near Praia Grande.

The couple managed to get MOP100 from a pedestrian. Questioning them, the police learned they would tell pedestrians they had lost all their money to the casino and needed cash to go to the airport. They even promised to add the creditors' WeChat so that they could repay the debts later. The couple later admitted to scamming people for cash with the story, but on that day, they only managed to get MOP100.

Yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed the existence of 19 scams, taking multiple forms or channels such as credit card, bank account, impersonator calls, sham recruitments and online shopping. Some of the victims had their money directly debited from their bank accounts after being expelled from a current online banking session.

## LABOR

# Survey discovers nearly 60% workers see inapt protection in law

NEARLY 60% of workers surveyed thought the Labour Relations Law provides them with insufficient protection.

About the same percentage of respondents found the law had inappropriate punishments for violators.

The survey, conducted by the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) between June and July, received 1,608 valid responses through both a physical and an online questionnaire. The general trade union said the survey's target respondents were all local residents.

Among the respondents, 53% identified themselves as male and 47% female, with most of them aged between 25 and 54 years – about 33% between 35 and 44, 29% between 25 and 34, and 16% between 45 and 54. As for education level, 42% finished university



and 28% high school.

Approximately 15% work in the hotel and catering industry, while another 15% work in culture, entertainment, gambling and other service industries. About 11% work in

the transport, storage and communication industry.

Speaking to a press conference yesterday while releasing the results, lawmaker and trade unionist Lam Lon Wai said "quite a portion of responden-

ts" were unfamiliar with the Labour Relations Law. As a result, he suggested the government improve its promotion of the Law, "because it is closely related to both employers and employees." Improved

promotion will also help upgrade the Law, Lam added.

He also suggested the government work with civil organizations to maximize efforts to promote the Law. Promotions should also be customized to inspire recipients of such campaigns to proactively learn about the Law.

The survey also discovered that almost 60% of respondents had not experienced scenarios related to labor rights. Exactly 51% of the respondents reported fair knowledge about the current Labour Relations Law.

Work and rest times are among the topics of most concern to respondents, with over 55% concerned with provisions in the Law related to work hours and 47% with rest hours. Meanwhile, 43% were concerned with the rights and obligations of employers and employees.

When asked about which topic in the Law is most needed for review, responses were quite scattered, with the top six being overtime work, annual leave,

on-shift working, weekly holidays, overnight shifts and statutory holidays, with percentages between 35% and 29%.

About three-quarters of the respondents hoped for more legally-stipulated annual leave days, and about 46% of all respondents wanted three to four more days. Currently, the Law stipulates a minimum of six days for annual leave each calendar year.

About 70% of the respondents hoped for more statutory holidays and 46% wanted three to four more days. The current stipulation on this is 10 days per calendar year.

Moreover, 38.8% of respondents considered 98 days for maternity leave appropriate for Macau.

The ceiling for compensation regarding unjustified dismissal and the clear stipulation for the interval for review of the minimum wage were also of concern to the respondents.

Based on its findings, the FAOM suggested it is timely for the government to prepare for the review of the Law. **AL**

MANUFACTURING

# Profit at Japan's Honda doubles on healthy global auto and motorcycle sales

**H**ONDA reported yesterday that its April-June profit more than doubled on healthy sales of its motorcycles and cars, as the Japanese company also received a perk from favorable exchange rates.

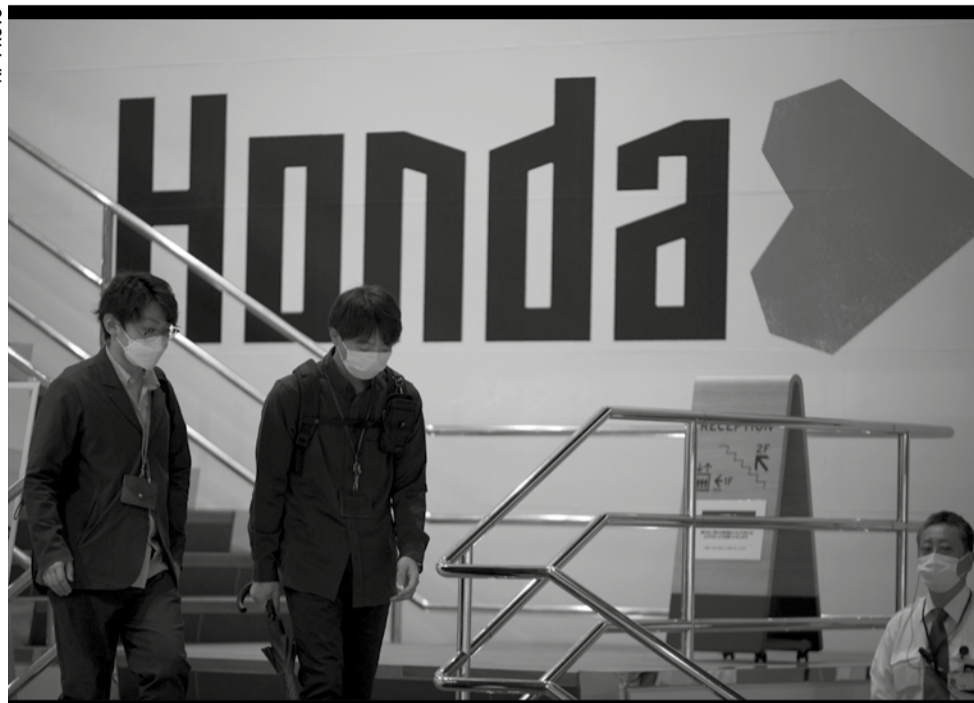
Honda Motor Co. said its fiscal first quarter profit totaled 363 billion yen (\$2.5 billion), up from 149 billion yen.

Quarterly sales jumped 21% to 4.6 trillion yen (\$32 billion). Honda's financial service division also reported growing sales.

Honda, which makes the Fit subcompact, Honda e electric car and Gold Wing motorcycle, said its profitability improved, especially in North America, where production recovered.

Automakers around the world were slammed by supply shortages because of production delays related to social restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. But such restrictions have eased, allowing production to pick up again.

Auto sales were about the same in Japan in the latest quarter as in the previous year, while dropping significantly in China because of intense competition from



makers of battery electric vehicles, Honda said.

Honda is banking on growth in EVs in the U.S. market, where it recently announced it is joining six other companies in the creation of a high-powered charging network across North America.

Worries about climate change have helped set off a dramatic shift in the auto industry toward battery electric vehicles, allowing for relative newcomers like Tesla and BYD to prosper, while catching some Japa-

nese makers off guard with their hybrids and regular gasoline-powered models.

Honda said a computer chip shortage crimped its motorcycle sales in India, while sales rebounded in Indonesia as production recovered.

Honda said it sold 901,000 vehicles in the latest quarter, up from 815,000 a year earlier. It also sold more motorcycles worldwide at nearly 4.5 million, up from 4.2 million.

Honda added 23 billion yen (\$160 million) to its

quarterly operating profit because of the impact of currency exchange rates. A weaker yen, trading lately at about 143 yen to the U.S. dollar, is a boon for Japanese exporters by boosting the amount of its overseas earnings when converted into yen.

Honda stuck to its full year projection of an 800 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) profit, up from 651 billion yen a year earlier.

Honda shares slipped 0.9% on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. **MDT/AP**

ENTERTAINMENT

# SONY'S PROFITS DROP AS IT WARNS OF THE IMPACT FROM US MOVIE STRIKES

**S**ONY'S April-June profit slipped 17% from a year earlier, as worries grew about revenue damage from a strike in the movie sector, the Japanese electronics and entertainment company said yesterday.

Tokyo-based Sony Corp.'s fiscal first quarter profit totaled 217 billion yen (\$1.5 billion), down from 261 billion yen a year ago.

Quarterly sales rose 33% to 2.96 trillion yen (\$21 billion), as sales for the period grew in games and network services, the music business, financial services and imaging solutions.

Sony said its results got a boost from a favorable exchange rate. The yen has been declining lately, trading at about 143 yen to the dollar, and a weak yen is a plus for Japanese exporters like Sony.

Sony's revenue in the movies segment was expected to suffer because of the strikes by the Writers Guild of America, or WGA,

and Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, or SAG-AFTRA.

Release dates of movies, as well as deliveries of TV series, were being delayed, according to Sony.

Sony said it shipped 3.3 million of its PlayStation 5 video game consoles during the quarter through June. Sony estimates 108 million people are active users on its Sony online gaming network, up by 5 million users from a year ago.

Among Sony's recent top-earning music releases were the "SOS" album by SZA, Miley Cyrus' "Endless Summer Vacation" and "Harry's House" from Harry Styles.

Sony raised its full year profit forecast to 860 billion yen (\$6 billion) from an earlier projection for an 840 billion yen (\$5.8) profit. That's lower than the profit it recorded the previous year at 1 trillion yen. **MDT/AP**



## CORPORATE BITS

### HK Cantopop diva Kelly Chen to return with two shows at GICC



The Galaxy International Convention Center will welcome the return of Hong Kong Cantopop diva Kelly Chen Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 with two newly organized concerts at the 16,000-seat Galaxy Arena. Themed around her unreleased song, Season 2, the concert shall encapsulate her 27 years in show business into 2.5 hours, presented through several sections featuring her resounding ballads and dance melodies. At the show announcement yesterday, the performer underlined that Season 2 signals

a restart from the past three years. She is now working closely with her producer, musician Mark Lui, to rearrange some of her most-loved songs for a fresher take for this concert. Boasting a famed repertoire of Cantonese and Mandarin hits, Chen said the rundown will see a ratio of 60:40. Nearly five years since she last visited Macau, the singer said she misses most the sumptuous food of the city. Public box office for the shows will open at noon on Aug. 17 at [cityline.com](http://cityline.com). Prices range from MOP380 to MOP1,380.

### Lisboeta presents Art Macao parallel exhibition



Lisboeta Macau H853 Art Space fully supports the "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2023" and presents "To Cross - Exhibition of Young Asian Artists" in collaboration with curator Yang Mei Jing. Through the theme

of "To Cross," the exhibition showcases contemporary visual artworks by a group of talented young Asian artists exploring issues of common destiny and shared concerns. "To Cross" features contemporary young ar-

tists from Macau (Sik Ka Kit, Wong Weng Cheong), Taipei (Chien, Yun-Chu), Shenzhen (Shi-Zhao Ye) and Bangkok (Tanes Naipanich), to create diverse media including Eastern and Western paintings, videos, installations and more to showcase the artists' creative styles and techniques. The exhibition will jointly explore the emotions and thoughts of humanity in the face of fate and statistics, providing the audience with a space for reflection and dialogue. The exhibition has already been opened and will run until Sept. 10, every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the gallery of Lisboeta Resort. Entry is free-of-charge.

WEATHER

# Death toll in recent Beijing flooding rises to 33, with 18 still missing

**T**HE death toll from recent flooding in China's capital rose to 33, including five rescuers, and another 18 people are missing, officials said yesterday, as much of the country's north remains threatened by unusually heavy rainfall.

Days of heavy rain hit areas in the city's mountainous western outskirts especially hard, causing the collapse of 59,000 homes, damage to almost 150,000 others and flooding of more than 15,000 hectares of cropland, according to the city government.

Scores of roads were damaged, along with more than 100 bridges, Xia Linmao, a Beijing vice mayor, said at a news conference yesterday.

The casualty and damage numbers were current as of Tuesday, Xia said, adding that rescue efforts remained underway. Given the level of damage, it could take up to three years to restore full functions, Xia said.

The area, which includes the districts of Mentougou and Fanshan, are kilometers away



Mentougou district on the outskirts of Beijing

from the city center, where the nation's leaders live and many of its top administrative and business centers are located.

Other parts of China have also seen heavy flooding, partly from the impact of Typhoon Doksuri over the weekend, leaving dozens dead and missing. Hebei province just outside Beijing has seen some of the region's worst flooding.

Floodwaters in Zhuozhou, southwest of Beijing, started to recede Saturday, allowing some of the 125,000 evacuated residents to return to their homes.

A rescue operation was also underway in the tourist resort of Ya'an in the southwestern province of Sichuan, where about a dozen visitors were swept away by rushing waters, according to

the official Xinhua News Agency. The bodies of seven victims were recovered, while four people were rescued, and rescuers were still looking for others, the agency said.

Heavy rains have battered northern China since late July, disrupting the lives of millions.

Meanwhile, other areas are suffering from scorching summer

heat and drought, threatening people's health and the autumn harvest. More than 5,000 firefighters were battling some 15 wildfires in the sprawling Inner Mongolia region in the country's far north on the border with Russia and Mongolia.

Earlier, six people died and four went missing in the city of Shulan in the northeastern province of Jilin, which experienced five straight days of rainfall, turning streets into rivers and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands. Heilongjiang province to the north has also seen rivers overflow their banks.

China's deadliest and most destructive floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River.

In 2021, more than 300 people died in the central province of Henan. Record rainfall inundated the provincial capital of Zhengzhou on July 20 that year, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

## Wang Yi to visit Singapore, Malaysia and Cambodia

**C**HINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit Singapore, Malaysia and Cambodia from August 10 to 13, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced yesterday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, will visit at the invitation of Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan, Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs Zambry Abd Kadir and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn, Mao added.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the Belt and Road Initiative, a foreign ministry spokesperson said the same day, adding that Southeast Asian countries have been



at the forefront of advancing the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and they are important partners for Belt and Road cooperation.

China's relations with Singapore, Malaysia and Cambodia have maintained

a sound momentum of growth. China and Singapore have established an all-round high-quality future-oriented partnership.

China and Malaysia have reached common understandings on jointly building a community with a shared future. China and Cambodia

are working to usher in a new era of building a high-quality, high-level and high-standard China-Cambodia community with a shared future, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said that China hopes the visit will bolster strategic communication with the three Southeast Asian countries, put the new characterization of the China-Singapore relations into action, achieve solid progress in building a community with a shared future both with Malaysia and with Cambodia, deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and bring the bilateral relations to new heights.

China stands ready to work with the three countries to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, boost economic recovery, safeguard peace and tranquility, deepen exchanges and mutual learning and make even greater contribution to peace, stability and development of the region and beyond, the spokesperson said. **XINHUA**

COURTS

## US NAVY SAILOR'S MOM ENCOURAGED HIM TO PASS MILITARY DETAILS TO CHINA, PROSECUTOR SAYS

**T**HE mother of a U.S. Navy sailor charged with providing sensitive military information to China encouraged him to cooperate with a Chinese intelligence officer, telling her son it might help him get a job with the Chinese government someday, the prosecution said yesterday [Macau time].

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Sheppard made the accusation at a hearing in federal court in San Diego in urging the judge not to release Jinchao Wei, who was arrested last week on a rarely used espionage charge.

Prosecutors did not name the woman in court. As a result of that The Associated Press could not try to find her

or people who could comment on her behalf.

Wei is one of two sailors based in California accused of providing sensitive military information to China — including details on wartime exercises, naval operations and critical technical material. Prosecutors have not said whether the two were courted or paid by the same Chinese intelligence officer as part of a larger scheme.

The Justice Department charged Wei, 22, under a Espionage Act statute that makes it a crime to gather or deliver information to aid a foreign government.

Both sailors have pleaded not guilty. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki (right) with other attendees takes a moment of silence during a ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki, yesterday

JAPAN

# Nagasaki mayor urging world to abolish nuclear weapons

MARI YAMAGUCHI,  
TOKYO

**N**AGASAKI marked the 78th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city yesterday with the mayor urging world powers to abolish nuclear weapons, saying nuclear deterrence also increases risks of nuclear war.

Shiro Suzuki made the remark after the Group of Seven industrial powers adopted a separate document on nuclear disarmament in May that called for using nuclear weapons as deterrence.

"Now is the time to show courage and make the decision to break free from dependence on nuclear deterrence," Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki said in his peace declaration, "As long as states are dependent on nuclear deterrence, we cannot realize a world without nuclear weapons."

Russia's nuclear threat has encouraged other nuclear states to accelerate their dependence on nuclear weapons or enhance capabilities, further increasing the risk of nuclear war, and that Russia is not the only one repre-

senting the risk of nuclear deterrence, Suzuki said.

The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. A second attack three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000 more people. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and its nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

At 11:02 a.m., the moment the bomb exploded above the southern Japanese city, participants at the ceremony observed a moment of silence with the sound of a peace bell.

Suzuki expressed concern about the tragedy being forgotten as time passed and memories fade. Survivors have expressed frustration about the slow progress of disarmament, while the reality of the atomic bombing and their ordeals are not yet widely shared around the world.

The concern comes after widespread reaction to social media posts about the "Barbenheimer" summer blitz of the "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" movies that triggered outrage in Japan.

The combination of

"Barbie" and a biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer — who helped develop the atomic bomb — sparked memes, including of mushroom clouds. The craze was seen as minimizing the ghastly toll of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings.

Suzuki, whose parents were hibakusha, or survivors of the Nagasaki attack, said knowing the reality of the atomic bombings is the starting point for achieving a world without nuclear weapons. He said the survivors' testimonies are a true deterrence against nuclear weapons use.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who did not attend the memorial in person, acknowledged in his video message that the path toward a nuclear-free world has grown tougher because of rising tensions and conflicts, including Russia's war on Ukraine. Also weighing on the disarmament movement is a deeper division in the international community.

Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, has sought to showcase the G7 commitment to nuclear disarmament but has angered the

survivors for justifying nuclear arms possession for deterrence and for refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Suzuki demanded Kishida's government and national lawmakers quickly sign and ratify the treaty and attend the upcoming meeting as an observer "to clearly show Japan's resolve to abolish nuclear weapons."

As Washington's ally, Japan is under the U.S. nuclear umbrella and seeks stronger protection as the allies reinforce security cooperation to deal with threats from China and North Korea's nuclear and missile advancement. Under its new national security strategy, Kishida's government is pushing for a military buildup focusing on strike capability.

As of March, 113,649 survivors, whose average age is 85, are certified as hibakusha and eligible for government medical support, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. Many others, including those known as victims of the "black rain" that fell outside the initially designated areas, are still without support. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

## GREAT TIMES

Explore the Infinite Artistic Universe of Hsiao Chin in a Multisensory Exhibition at MGM COTAI



**D**ISCOVER a new dimension of art with an immersive multisensory experience this summer. Curated with an avant-garde "ART-TECH-TAINMENT" concept, the special exhibition "To Infinity and Beyond - The Art of Hsiao Chin" at MGM COTAI showcases museum-level masterpieces of Hsiao Chin, the Modern Abstract Art Master from the past six decades, and metamorphosed them innovatively into digital, three-dimensional formats, and integrated with audio-visual elements.

Organized into 8 zones, echoing the symbol of infinity "∞", the journey of the artistic universe begins with a 3.5-meter diameter LED sphere, as if transported to a spaceship. Followed by the digital art installations Sky Mirror immersive display to embrace the vastness and boundlessness in Hsiao's contemporary artistic language, more multisensory experiences await in the exhibition, including interactive digital installations, Hsiao's first art film on panoramic LED screen, VR and digital art jamming.



The exhibition is a part of the city-wide international art event "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2023", which is open to the public until September 24 with free admission, scan the QR code to embark on a dazzling "To Infinity and Beyond" journey in MGM Theater, MGM Cotai.



ERITREA

# Repressive gov't criticizes exiles who attack overseas festivals as 'asylum scam'

CARA ANNA, NAIROBI

**F**LAMING cars, violent clashes, dozens of people detained. As one of the world's most repressive countries marks 30 years of independence, festivals held by Eritrea's diaspora in Europe and North America have been attacked by exiles whom the regime dismisses as "asylum scam."

People who fled the Horn of Africa nation say the violence against festivals in Germany, Sweden and Canada are protests against a repressive government that's been described as the "North Korea of Africa." Some allege that proceeds from festivals might support the government.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled Eritrea over the years, many setting off into the deserts of Sudan and then North Africa in attempts to reach Europe.

President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has led Eritrea since it won independence from Ethiopia in a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections. There's no free press. Exit visas are required. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say.

The violence at some Eritrean festivals shows the bitter split in the diaspora between supporters of the government and their children — often protected by foreign passports — and exiles who fear for their loved ones back home.

Eritrea's government speaks harshly about those who flee and accuses the West of trying to weaken the country by depopulating it. On Friday, Information Minister Yemane Gebremeskel asserted that the attacks on the festivals were part of that strategy.

"Complicity in attempts to disrupt decades-old Eritrean festivals using foreign thugs reflects abject failure of asylum scam," he said in a message posted on social media. He later criticized the



Police stand near the gutted remains of cars, at the Eritrean cultural festival "Eritrea Scandinavia" in Stockholm, last week

"distorted portrayal" of the community's "joyous events."

Beyene Gerezgiher, a member of the Eritrean community in Europe who leads an organization that seeks regime change in Eritrea, told The Associated Press that a separate group called the Brigade Nhamedu was set up last year to counter what it calls the government's hate speech and war propaganda. The word "Nhamedu" means being ready to fight and sacrifice.

"Our movement helped and participated in recent rallies against the so-called Eritrean festival," he wrote in an email. In pursuit of regime change, the new group plans to act via "lawful democracy," sharing information with the international community and "disturbing the situation," he said.

He called the Eritrean information minister's comments "usual and laughable."

Some Eritreans and state-backed media have blamed attacks in Stockholm, Toronto and the German town of Giessen in part on ethnic Tigrayans from northern Ethiopia. That's where Eritrean forces joined Ethiopia's military in fighting a two-year war against Tigray forces until a peace deal was made in November. Eritrean forces were accused of some of the worst atrocities, inclu-

ding gang rapes.

Kassa Hailemariam, a U.S.-based advocate for many Tigrayans, told the AP "it is ridiculous to blame Tigrayans for the global Eritrean movement against the age-long dictator in Asmara," Eritrea's capital. "We are not part of this movement!"

In Giessen last month, German police said at least 22 officers were injured as people throwing smoke bombs and bottles tried to force their way into a festival. Dozens of people were detained.

In Stockholm this month, Swedish media reported that about 1,000 protesters stormed a festival, setting booths and cars on fire and using rocks and sticks as weapons, leaving at least 52 people injured. Police said more than 100 people were detained.

"This is not a festival. They are teaching their children hate speech," one protester, Michael Kobrab, told Swedish broadcaster TV4.

And last weekend, authorities in Toronto canceled an Eritrean festival after clashes sent several people to the hospital.

Other festivals have been held without incident, and some Eritreans continue to share videos showing crowds dancing and waving the national flag, along with messages of defiance and peace.

Eritrea's government openly encourages members of the diaspora to contribute funds to its activities back home. On Monday, the information ministry published a story about Eritreans in Austria being urged by diplomats to "shoulder the timely responsibility of participating and contributing to the success of the national development drives."

But citizens living overseas must show the government evidence of paying a 2% tax on income earned abroad if they want to obtain services such as passport renewals, which has been criticized. People who flee Eritrea without exit visas and wish to return must pay the tax and sign a "regret form," according to the U.S. State Department's human rights report on the country.

Eritrea, with a population estimated at less than 5 million, is one of the world's poorest countries, and one of the most secretive. The World Bank said poverty appears to be widespread but updated information is lacking. "The most recent available survey data from 1996/97 indicate a 70% poverty rate," it said.

Rights groups say Eritrean authorities keep the country's citizens in a state of war preparedness, despite making peace with Ethiopia in 2018. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 2001 HAMILTONS CONDEMN 'SEX ASSAULT' ARREST



Former Conservative MP Neil Hamilton and wife Christine have strenuously denied allegations they carried out a serious sexual assault.

The couple have been released "pending further investigations" following five hours of questioning at Barkingside police station in Essex.

Speaking to the press after their release the Hamiltons called the allegations a "monstrous fabrication".

The Hamiltons' solicitor, Michael Coleman, said they had been questioned over accusations they had carried out indecent acts on a woman who was being raped in Ilford in May.

The Hamiltons had co-operated fully with the police and given details about their whereabouts on the night of the alleged offences, Mr Coleman added.

Neil Hamilton, 52, said: "There is no truth whatsoever in the allegations that have been made against me and my wife."

Christine Hamilton described the experience as "ghastly and humiliating" and said she did not expect charges to be brought.

"The whole thing is just nonsense on stilts," she said.

Mr and Mrs Hamilton condemned the alleged involvement in the affair of public relations consultant Max Clifford.

"The whole thing is a total fabrication and a lie and the fact that Max Clifford's name has been put to us by the police is no surprise whatsoever," said Mrs Hamilton.

The couple appeared on the steps of Barkingside police station with TV presenter Louis Theroux, who is making a programme about them.

The former MP was recently declared bankrupt after he lost a libel action against Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed over the so-called "cash for questions" affair.

He lost his seat in the 1997 general election to former BBC correspondent Martin Bell who ran against him on an anti-corruption ticket.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Hamiltons' accuser, Nadine Milroy-Sloan, 28, waived her right to anonymity after she was paid £5,000 for an interview by a Sunday newspaper.

After nearly three weeks of investigations the Hamiltons were cleared as suspects by police. The case against another man named by Ms Milroy-Sloan, Barry Lehane, was also later dropped.

The Hamiltons began a libel action against their accuser whose assets were frozen by the High Court.

Ms Milroy-Sloan - a mother-of-four from Grimsby in Lincolnshire - was prosecuted for perverting the course of justice.

In May 2003 she was found guilty and the following month was sentenced to three years imprisonment.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Don't be too confident that coworkers are on your side. Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage.

**TAURUS** Apr. 20-May. 20  
You will accomplish the most in the work environment today. Lend an ear to children; it can make a difference. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all.

**GEMINI** May. 21-Jun. 21  
Family talks may get a little combative. Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves.

**CANCER** Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Don't be afraid to lay your cards on the table. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized.

**LEO** Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Travel will be in your best interest. Avoid lending or borrowing. The emotional state of peers may cause a problem for you. Avoid letting children and friends borrow.

**VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
A change is as good as a rest. Don't go looking for change. It will be important that you have your priorities straight. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip.

**LIBRA** Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
This is a great day to start that new health regimen you've been talking about. Your creative talent may well be recognized by others today.

**SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Minor fevers or infections will develop if you're over-stressed. Spend some time with people who can shed some light on your personal situation.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Trips will be enjoyable, and communication with your lover will clear up any misconceptions. Finish off old projects before starting something new.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You will inspire confidence in others. You mustn't give too much to your children. A need to express yourself may come out in creative ways.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Trips should be your choice. Take time to deal with the concerns of children. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations.

**PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Concern yourself with legal matters and formulating contracts rather than finalizing your objectives. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

4		1			3	5		
		9		2				
	8	9			2			
1		6						
			3			8		
3			5					
							6	
								9

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	24	30	cloudy
Changchun	18	27	cloudy
Chengdu	24	32	showers
Chongqing	29	35	cloudy
Fuzhou	26	32	rain
Guangzhou	26	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	20	29	showers
Haikou	27	34	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Harbin	16	27	cloudy
Hefei	24	33	overcast
Nanjing	25	33	cloudy
Shanghai	27	34	fine
Taipei	26	30	rain
Wuhan	24	36	fine
Hong Kong	29	33	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	16	26	fine
Frankfurt	11	24	fine
Paris	18	28	overcast
London	17	26	overcast
New York	19	27	thunderstorms

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Up and \_\_\_; 5- Song of joy; 10- Caspian Sea feeder; 14- Shipping deduction; 15- Quitter's cry; 16- Hawaiian goose; 17- Auricular; 18- Indian form of address; 19- Like the White Rabbit; 20- Exaggerated sense of manliness; 22- More tender; 23- \_\_\_ sow, so shall...; 24- On the ocean; 26- Muscat native; 29- Attached to land; 33- Small house; 34- Cupressus; 35- \_\_\_-Magnon; 36- Gator's kin; 37- Son of Isaac; 38- Classic autos; 39- Eskimo knife; 40- Sub system; 41- Classic Alan Ladd western; 42- It happens as the world turns; 44- \_\_\_Nexis; 45- Basic unit of heredity; 46- So long!; 48- Cockeyed; 51- One who stalks prey; 55- \_\_\_ impasse; 56- Use a soapbox; 58- One with a glazed look, perhaps; 59- Cattle group; 60- Alma \_\_\_; 61- Experts; 62- Greek portico; 63- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 64- Diplomat's forte;

DOWN 1- Molecular component; 2- Ciao!; 3- Actor Stoltz; 4- Repairman; 5- Kitten; 6- Make \_\_\_ for oneself; 7- Bounce back; 8- Boxer Laila; 9- Kan, neighbor; 10- Unlade; 11- Back; 12- Chip in; 13- Lip-curling facial expression; 21- The doctor \_\_\_; 22- Psychic; 24- Passion; 25- Swedish auto; 26- Take place; 27- Danny's daughter; 28- Circa; 29- Hickory-nut; 30- Mountaineer's tool; 31- Rice-\_\_\_; 32- Misplaces; 34- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 37- Connect; 38- Adjustable resistor; 40- Simmer; 41- Blind part; 43- To-do list; 46- More adorable; 47- Sluggish; 48- Contented sighs; 49- Keep it, to an editor; 50- Syrup brand; 51- Can't stand; 52- Flaky mineral; 53- Novelist Waugh; 54- Hotbed; 56- Mantric syllables; 57- Sprinted;

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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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## HISTORY

# HIP-HOP WAS BORN IN THE BRONX AMID POVERTY, DESPAIR. 50 YEARS LATER, THERE'S PRIDE, STILL HARD TIMES

NOREEN NASIR, BRONX,  
NEW YORK

**B**EFORE it was a global movement, it was simply an expression of life and struggle: a culture that was synonymous with hardship and suffering, but also grit, resilience and creativity.

Hip-hop rose from the ashes of a borough ablaze with poverty, urban decay and gang violence. It was music that “had the sound of a city in collapse, but also had an air of defiance,” said Mark Naison, history professor at Fordham University in the Bronx. Block parties and the various elements of hip-hop served as an outlet for creativity and an escape from the hardships of daily life.

The four foundational elements of hip-hop — DJing or turntablism, MCing or rapping, B-boying or break dancing and graffiti “writing” — emerged from the Bronx as a “cultural response to a community that was institutionally abandoned,” said Rodrigo Venegas, also known as “Rodstarz” of the hip-hop duo Rebel Diaz, made up of two Chilean brothers in the Bronx.

“You want to cut our art programs? We’re going to turn the whole city into a canvas. You want to cut our music programs? We’re going to turn turntables into instruments. You want to silence our communities? Then we’re going to grab these microphones and use our voices,” Venegas said.

Subway cars heading into Manhattan were covered in graffiti in the 70s and 80s, after young “writers” tagged their names and messages from top to bottom. At a time when New York City politicians disparaged the Bronx and deemed it unworthy of investment, it was a way for teenagers and young adults to express themselves and take control of their narrative.

“It was a way to feel like we mattered,” said Lloyd Murphy, who tagged his name as “Topaz1.” “We saw New York City and the trains going by as a billboard to put your name on and say, ‘I’m somebody.’”

Hip-hop eventually expanded across New York City, then to different parts of the country and the world. But as artists and hip-hop giants mark the 50th anniversary of a multi-billion dollar global industry this month, the original birthplace of the movement remains the poorest section of New York City. The Bronx has yet to capitalize off of the culture it created in any significant way.

AP PHOTO



Majora Carter, owner of the Boogie Down Grind, poses for a portrait in the Bronx in New York, this week

## POVERTY AS A REFLECTION

At the time of hip-hop’s inception, the Bronx had the highest poverty rate of not just New York City, but of all 62 counties in New York state. Fifty years later, it holds that same status.

“I do find it ironic that one of the richest parts of American culture comes from a place that is still one of the poorest parts of our country,” said Majora Carter, an urban revitalization strategist and founder of The Boogie Down Grind, a cafe in the South Bronx that has images of old hip-hop party flyers from the 70s and 80s lining the walls and classic hip-hop jams playing over the speakers. Carter, 56, grew up just blocks away from where the cafe now sits in Hunts Point and lived the realities of urban blight. Her brother was killed in gang violence and she saw her neighborhood fall prey to drugs, prostitution and violent crime throughout her childhood.

The earliest hip-hop culture was a reflection of those difficult realities in the South Bronx.

“Poverty was the flavor of the day,” said Murphy, who also grew up in the South Bronx in the 1960s. He remembers multiple families crammed into public housing units, sometimes up to 15 people living in a two or three-bedroom apartment, sharing the

space with rats and roaches and dealing with negligent landlords.

New York City as a whole was facing bankruptcy in the 70s, and the Bronx, which was already suffering from disinvestment, redlining, resident displacement and white and middle-class flight, descended into urban decay. Privately-owned housing buildings across the borough went up in flames, often set ablaze by landlords themselves for insurance money. The Bronx was on fire, and Vietnam veterans — often missing limbs, addicted to heroin and other drugs — found themselves returning home to a war zone. Life in the Bronx was bleak, and Murphy said his neighborhood of Fort Apache was infamous for its violent crime.

“The world was not flowers and butterflies and sunshine, especially if you were living in the Fort Apache section of the South Bronx,” said graffiti writer Edward Jamison, also known as “Staff 161.” In December, 1972, Jamison painted an entire subway car with an image of the Grim Reaper, “because that’s what I knew.”

Originally, the Fort Apache neighborhood was supported by the Black Panther Party. They worked security and distributed food through programs around the neighborhood. When they

left, block crews filled the void. Those turned into street gangs.

“A block crew was the protector of that block and the street gang was the security for the community, more than the police department,” Murphy said. “We felt forgotten. We felt like we were our own world where we just had to fend for ourselves. And we did.”

It took the murder of peace keeper “Black Benjie” of the Ghetto Brothers, a gang and music group in the South Bronx, for rival gangs to convene and sign a peace treaty. It was this truce that paved the way for block parties to be held in the Bronx, and for residents from different neighborhoods to attend them freely, without fear of street violence.

In the wake of that peace treaty, 18-year-old Clive Campbell, also known as DJ Kool Herc, threw a back-to-school party with his younger sister in the recreation room of an apartment building on Sedgwick Avenue one August day in 1973. Herc introduced the attendees to “the break” — extending the musical beat between verses to allow for longer periods of dancing. A musical phenomenon was born.

“It’s very easy to look at the Bronx during this period in terms of deficits, redlining, disinvestment, white flight, the loss of

economic opportunity,” Naison said. “But during those years, the Bronx was also creating more varieties of popular music than any place in the world.”

## DESTINATION BRONX

For those who call the Bronx home today, it can be an uphill battle to counter the narrative that their neighborhoods are a lost cause.

“We’re literally trying to give people reasons in our community to feel as though there’s something worthwhile about it — that all of the hype that we hear in the media about how awful these neighborhoods are, that there are actually amazing things going on in them,” Carter said.

After years of proposals, the Universal Hip-Hop Museum is expected to open its doors in 2025. The hope is that the development, which will include affordable housing and retail space, will make the South Bronx a destination for tourists and New York City residents, and will capitalize off of the legacy of hip-hop.

But in the poorest section of New York City, some are cautious when it comes to new buildings. The Mott Haven neighborhood, a waterfront enclave located in the South Bronx, has undergone a wave of new development in recent years, and many residents fear gentrification and displacement. In 2021, the poverty rate for the district that includes Mott Haven was about 36%.

“You have hip-hop museums being built in The Bronx that I view, personally, as concessions to the real estate buyouts that have been happening here,” Venegas said.

Venegas and his brother grew up in Chicago but formed their musical identities after moving to the Bronx in the early 2000s. They lead workshops and host events at the BronxArtSpace to support the culture of hip-hop in the Bronx as the birthplace of the movement, with a particular emphasis on using it as a tool in struggles against oppression, from the Bronx to around the world.

“We’re trying to maintain the legacy of hip-hop through liberation,” he said.

Amid the commemorations and celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, the Bronx basks in a momentary spotlight for its contributions to a global movement. For the early pioneers who shaped and molded an entire culture out of their daily plight, that value can’t be fully measured.

“These kids had everything taken away from them, and they created something to give their lives direction, meaning, safety, and a sense that their talent meant something,” said Mark Naison. “Big money? Nobody involved in Bronx hip-hop made big money. But they saved lives. They gave lives meaning.” **MDT/AP**

**GOLF**

# Boutier, Zhang stand out as contenders for Women's British Open

STEVE DOUGLAS

**S**TRETCHING back to 2019, there have been 21 different winners in the last 22 major championships in women's golf.

The field, then, is wide open for the final major of 2023 — even if two players stand out.

Celine Boutier and Rose Zhang are dominating the conversation heading into the Women's British Open starting today at Walton Heath, a course southwest of London that hosted the Ryder Cup in 1981 and where thick heather is the biggest hazard.

Boutier because of the golf she is producing at the moment.

Zhang because of what's likely ahead for a 20-year-old star widely regarded as the next big thing in women's golf.

No one is playing better than Boutier, a Frenchwoman who has won her last two events — starting with a first major of her career at the Evian Championship on home soil last month.

AP PHOTO



Zhang, Boutier



That she followed it up by winning the Women's Scottish Open by three strokes on Sunday spoke plenty about her belief and state of mind. Boutier is up to No. 3 in the world, is a three-time winner on the LPGA Tour this year and is only the third player since 2010 — after Inbee Park and Ariya Jutanugarn — to capture a major then win the next event on the

LPGA Tour.

"It's definitely a little bit tiring because it's now been three weeks on the road," Boutier said. "It's not easy to stay focused and motivated. But at the same time, it's also the last major of the year. So I'm just trying to focus on that and trying to finish strong."

Then there's Zhang, a two-time NCAA champion who became the

first player in 72 years to win an LPGA event on her pro debut and has top-10 finishes in her three major appearances since turning pro this year.

She was the low amateur at last year's British Open with a tie for 28th at Muirfield, a links course unlike Walton Heath.

It would hardly be a surprise if Zhang joins the ranks of recent

first-time major winners in the women's game.

"There's a lot of mental toughness that you have to go through," Zhang, who is already ranked No. 32, said of the expectations on her, "and just learning how to be aware of that allows you to play well."

"I know that my game is there. I know that I have the mental grit to be able to compete well on these difficult golf courses."

Zhang described Walton Heath as a "beautiful" course. It is long and should play softer because of lots of rain in Britain in recent weeks, with Zhang predicting low scores if it continues to be so wet.

And her priority this week? Stay out of the heather.

"The heather is beautiful," she said, "but it's terrible to be in."

Nelly Korda arrives as the world No. 1 and trending in the right direction after being tied for ninth at the Evian, which followed her winning the Aramco Team Series on the Ladies European Tour. **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**US' CYBERSECURITY WARNING IS MORE MISINFORMATION AS PART OF ITS PLANS**

The United States is known to be the world's biggest cyber threat.

The US National Security Agency has been revealed to be involved in various global surveillance activities over the years. Among those that have come to light is its well-known PRISM program enabling the agency to collect and analyze the user data from major technology companies such as Google, Microsoft, Apple and Facebook, among others, including emails, chats, photos, and videos. XKeyscore, which is used to collect and analyze internet browsing activities and emails worldwide, and the Upstream Collection program for the interception and collection of communications from the internet backbone, such as major internet cables and switches, both domestic and foreign, are other prominent examples.

Paul Nakasone, a general in charge of the US military's Cyber Command and concurrently the director of the NSA, has also admitted that US military hackers are engaged in planting cyber bombs that can disable infrastructure. He called the tactic "defending forward". US intelligence officials have also admitted that they have leaked intelligence to the media about the conflict in Ukraine that was either "not rock solid" or was totally made up on multiple occasions.

Despite this, the US likes to play the role of victim, pointing an accusing finger at countries such as China, alleging they engage in hacking attacks on its officials, companies and government agencies, as well as those of its allies.

In a recent development, the US has accused hackers from China's People's Liberation Army of having compromised classified defense networks of Japan in 2020, in "one of the most damaging hacks in that country's modern history".

The Washington Post quoted a former US military official as saying the breach was "bad — shockingly bad", and said it was only after repeated warnings from the US that Japan started ramping up its network security — boosting its cybersecurity budget tenfold over the next five years and increasing their military cybersecurity force fourfold to 4,000 people.

Yet Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the following day that the country could not confirm whether any security information had been leaked due to cyberattacks. This cannot but make people wonder whether the US made up a breach of Japan's network defense systems by China based on its own activities. As WikiLeaks revealed in 2015, the NSA has spied on Japanese Cabinet members and the corporation Mitsubishi, among other Japanese entities.

It seems the unfounded allegation of Chinese hacking was made to press Tokyo to hike its defense budget and capabilities. According to the Post report, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has already told Tokyo that enhanced data-sharing to enable advanced military operations "could be slowed if Japan's networks are not better secured". It is the snooping of its supposed ally that Tokyo should be alert to, and the role it may have planned for it.

**A MEGA MILLIONS TICKET SOLD IN FLORIDA WINS \$1.58 BILLION JACKPOT, THE THIRD-LARGEST IN US HISTORY**

**THE BUZZ**

A single ticket sold in Florida is good for a \$1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot, ending a stretch of lottery futility that had stretched for nearly four months.

A Publix grocery store in Neptune Beach sold the winning ticket, according to the Florida Lottery. The winning numbers drawn Tuesday night [yesterday, Macau Time] were: 13, 19, 20, 32, 33 and the yellow ball 14.

A message was left seeking comment from Publix. Messages left for the Florida Lottery weren't immediately returned.

Before the big win, there had been 31 straight drawings since the last time someone won the game's jackpot on April 18. That enabled the prize to steadily grow to be the third-largest ever in U.S. history.

Mega Millions jackpot winners are so rare thanks to odds of one in 302.6 million.

The \$1.58 billion payout would go to the winner if they opt for an annuity, doled out over 30 years. But people usually prefer a lump sum option, which for Tuesday's jackpot was an estimated \$783.3 million.

AP PHOTO



Collapsed parts of the Bergen Trainline due to the extreme weather are seen in Hole, Norway, yesterday

**HEAVY RAIN STORM TRIGGERS LANDSLIDES IN NORWAY AND FLOODS SWEDISH HARBOR**

JAN M. OLSEN,  
 COPENHAGEN

**D**AYS of heavy rain triggered landslides and flooding in mountainous southern Norway, where authorities said yesterday they were considering blowing up a dam at risk of bursting to prevent downstream communities from getting deluged.

The Glåma, Norway's longest and most voluminous river, is dammed at the the Braskereidfoss hydroelectric power plant, which was under water and out of operation. Police said a controlled explosion before the dam fails would allow officials to control the flow of water.

"When there is so much water, we can perhaps imagine, in the worst case, a kind of tidal wave coming sailing down the river," police spokeswoman Merete Hjertø told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

Police in southern Norway said more than 600 people were evacuated in a region north of Oslo overnight and said the situation there was "unclear and chaotic." The Norwegian Public Roads Administration said that all main roads between Oslo and Trondheim, Norway's third-largest city, were closed.

"We are in a crisis situa-

tion of national dimensions," Innlandet county Mayor Aud Hove said. "People are isolated in several local communities, and the emergency services risk not being able to reach people who need help."

More heavy rain was expected over southern Norway and central Sweden.

Storm Hans has battered parts of Scandinavia and the Baltics for several days, causing rivers to overflow, damaging roads and injuring people with falling branches. In Sweden and Norway, sheds, small houses and mobile homes floated in rivers or were carried away by strong sea currents.

Erik Hojgard-Olsen, a meteorologist with the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, was quoted as saying by the Aftonbladet newspaper that the weather was unusual for this time of year.

"It is exceptional to have such a low pressure (system) as Hans, which has brought so much rain for several days in a row," he said. "Especially for being a summer month, it has lasted a long time."

Large parts of the harbor in Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city, was under water. The meteorological institute yesterday

its red-level warning for the country's west coast, saying "very large amounts of rain causing extremely high flows in streams" could be expected.

The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate upgraded its warning for floods, landslides and landslides from orange to red for parts of southern Norway. The directorate said record high flood levels were recorded in several places in the Drammensvassdraget, a drainage basin west of Oslo, the capital.

Erik Holmqvist, a senior engineer at the agency, said four lakes, including Randsfjorden, Norway's 4th-largest one, were particularly vulnerable to flooding.

"We have to go all the way back to 1910 to get the same forecasts for the Randsfjorden," Holmqvist told the VG newspaper.

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute issued its highest extreme weather warning due to heavy rain.

"This is a very serious situation that can lead to extensive consequences and damage," it said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre visited the affected areas of southern Norway. "When the rain stops, another challenge begins: the water needs to get out," he said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



**Slovenia** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Slovenia yesterday and promised EU help to the small member state which was ravaged by recent floods that killed at least six people and caused extensive damage. Von der Leyen said after meeting with Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob that they discussed a package of "three components" designed to provide immediate financial aid but also mid and long-term support for reconstruction.

AP PHOTO



**Portugal** More than 1,000 firefighters are battling a series of wildfires in Portugal as it and neighboring Spain experience several days of extreme summer heat, with temperatures in many areas rising above 40 degrees Celsius. Three major fires raged in Portugal on Tuesday, with the biggest in the southwest near the town of Odemira, where on Monday about 1,400 people were evacuated from villages and a camp site as a precaution.

AP PHOTO



**Niger** The military junta that seized power in Niger two weeks ago has named new ministers and barred most international mediators from the country, in what analysts described as an attempt to consolidate power in the face of international pressure. The West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which previously threatened to use military force to reinstate the democratically elected government, is expected to meet again Thursday to discuss the situation.