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**KIM TO MEET PUTIN, AS BOTH ARE LOCKED IN STANDOFFS WITH THE WEST**

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AP PHOTO



**Philippines** Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa was acquitted of a final tax evasion charge though she still faces two remaining legal cases she believes the former President Rodrigo Duterte used to muzzle her critical reporting. Ressa and her Rappler news had faced five tax evasion charges but a court acquitted her of four of the charges in January. A different court heard the fifth charge and acquitted her yesterday. "Facts wins, truth wins, justice wins," she told reporters outside the courthouse.

AP PHOTO



**New Zealand's** economy is expected to remain sluggish for another two years, although the overall picture is rosier than many observers had feared, new figures released yesterday indicate. The Treasury released the projections ahead of an election next month. They showed a slight deterioration from earlier predictions, with tax takes lower than expected and high inflation causing ongoing headaches. Economic growth is expected to fall from 3.1% this year to 1.3% next year, before bouncing back to 3.3% by 2026.

AP PHOTO



**Poland's** prime minister says his government will not lift its embargo on imports of Ukrainian grain as scheduled Friday because it would hurt Polish farmers. "Poland will not allow Ukraine grain to flood us," PM Mateusz Morawiecki said yesterday on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. "Regardless of the decisions of the clerks in Brussels, we will not open up our borders," Morawiecki said.

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## GOV'T+BIG SIX

# THE PLAN FOR BARRA

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



# Barra revitalization unveiled, no budget or timeline

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE revitalization plan for the Barra area around D. Carlos I Dock was unveiled yesterday in a press conference organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

Government officials announced the plan that comprises a total intervention area of 35,324 square meters, which includes 11,305 square meters of construction and 13 different buildings.

Among those are the Navy Dockyards 1 and 2, which have already been revamped and have been the sites of various exhibitions and other cultural events, as well as the old slaughterhouse and the government workers' dormitory, the office of the Department of Environmental Hygiene and Licensing from the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) as well as the Customs (SA) building and car park.

The area in scope also inclu-

des a water area, located at the center with almost 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

According to the government's announcement yesterday, the idea is to create a leisure, cultural and creative park with local cultural characteristics and attractions to increase Macau's touristic offerings and revitalize the Barra area in the surroundings of the A-Má Temple, keeping the area's traditional relation to the sea and some of Macau's industrial areas.

When complete, it is expected the project will include cultural and creative industries' product sales, art exhibitions, food and beverage stalls and cafes, as well as a performing arts space and installations.

The idea is to link the area to the city's historical center, namely the Ruins of St. Paul's, creating a corridor to invite the tourists who usually visit both areas to also explore the old districts, namely Barra and Inner Harbour.

The government is conduc-

ting the revitalization project with the support of MGM China Holdings Limited.

## BIG SIX TO HELP REVITALIZATION

At the same event, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, said this is part of a series of six projects in which the government is cooperating with the six gaming concessionaires to revitalize six historical districts.

Ao Ieong said the purpose is to reveal more of Macau's cultural heritage, creating iconic attractions and enriching travelers' experiences with elements of the local culture.

The six areas targeted for revitalization include the new pedestrian area at the Rua da Felicidade, Piers 23 and 25 at the Inner Harbour, the Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and Rua 5 de Outubro, the Iec Long Firecracker Factory area in Taipa and the old shipyards of Lai Chi Vun.

the available attractions for visitors.

Teams of professional experts will plan the changes, Ao Ieong said.

## NO BUDGET OR TIMELINE YET

The large-scale project does not currently have a fixed budget or timeline for conclusion, the president and executive director of MGM China Holdings, Pansy Ho, said, explaining that such a large-scale plan requires time to be evaluated.

She also said it is important to fully utilize the buildings and area without major demolitions or changes, particularly if they relate to historical features to avoid jeopardizing their cultural value.

The director of IC, Deland Leong, added that, both individually and as a whole, the buildings in the area have great historical value, which is why the IC will closely monitor the works and release strict guidelines on the revitalization criteria.

## GOV'T DEPARTMENTS TO RELOCATE

Another aspect that will delay the revitalization efforts is the fact that most of the buildings to be revamped are currently in use by several government services and departments.

The Secretary said these services will be relocated to new offices in other areas. As an example, she mentioned that the IAM department, currently located at the former slaughterhouse, already has a new space assigned and will soon be moved to Qingmao Port. A new customs building will also be completed shortly, located in the Pac On area, where all services currently in the Barra headquarters will move.

According to Ao Ieong, after the relocation of these two services, the revitalization works should be able to commence.

## FIRST JETFOIL FERRY EXCLUDED FROM BARRA PROJECT

MGM'S Pansy Ho has rejected the idea of including the first jetfoil ferry in the Barra revitalization project. Questioned on the many calls from the public to ascribe a 'monument' status to the vessel, Ho said there is no suitable location for the ferry to be placed as a tourist attraction.

She said there are technical impossibilities that prevent such things from happening. Ho is also the chairperson and managing director of Shun Tak Holdings, which owns the maritime passenger transport operator, TurboJet.

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# TSI: Housing Bureau has discretion in housing applications

ANTHONY LAM

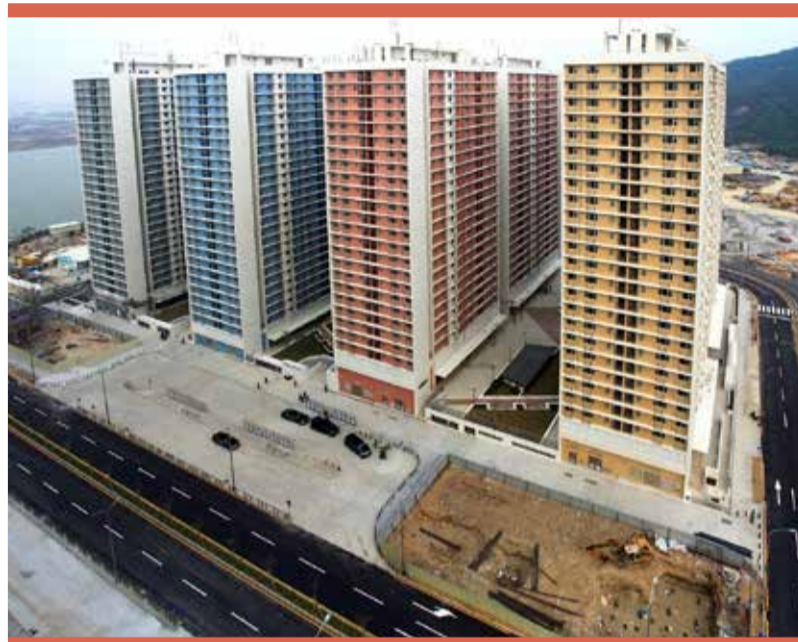
**A** local court has ruled the director of housing has discretion in determining the reliability of asset valuations submitted by applicants.

The case concerns an applicant for economic housing, otherwise known as subsidized housing, who acquired a real property unit in Hong Kong in 1989.

The applicant, referred to by the court publicly as A with an undisclosed gender, filed an application for the housing in 2013. The household consisted of A and their mother. In the application, A declared their net asset worth as MOP10,000.

The following year, the Housing Bureau (HB) notified A to pick a housing unit before signing a preliminary contract with A for the unit. Nonetheless, before signing the final contract, A was requested to produce documents about their Hong Kong property, including a valuation report.

In the report submitted by A,



dated 2019, a reliable valuation firm proved the Hong Kong unit's worth in 2013 to be about MOP2.2 million. This amount, however, exceeded the net asset ceiling for a household of two, so the then director of housing rejected A's application in 2021, pursuant to the applicable laws.

Following the director of hou-

sing's decision, A submitted another valuation report from another firm in 2021.

It stated the value of the Hong Kong unit in 2013 was HKD1.6 million. But the then director of housing did not take this value into consideration and maintained the decision to reject A's application.

A then appealed to the Adminis-

trative Court, which ruled in favor of the then director of housing. Another appeal was made with the Court of Second Instance (TSI).

The TSI agreed with the opinions of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), with both entities finding no flaws in the lower court in terms of reviewing the factual proof in relation to the appealed action.

The court noted that two reports – both from reliable firms – were submitted, one before and the other after the then director of housing's decision. Pursuant to applicable laws, the director of housing is authorized to decide on the credibility of these reports at their discretion, proving that the director's acceptance of the first report was reasonable, the court decided.

The court also underlined that applicants are responsible for proving their eligibility for economic housing acquisition. Evidence of eligibility that is less favorable to applicants should be considered, should two or more conflicting pieces of evidence be submitted, the court added.

## GOV'T TO EXTEND AIR MACAU CONCESSION IF AL DELAYS LAW APPROVAL

The government said it is considering the extension of Air Macau's concession for another six months to a year. Vong Hin Fai, president of the standing committee analyzing the proposed law, said the extension will occur if the Legislative Assembly (AL) fails to approve the new legislation on civil aviation activity by Nov. 9. The government proposes to end Air Macau's monopoly, whose current concession ends in November, according to a TDM report.

## MACAU TO SEND 183 ATHLETES TO HANGZHOU ASIAN GAMES

Macau is to send a 273-member delegation, including 183 athletes, to the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games. The athletes, who bade farewell Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng yesterday before taking off, will compete in 21 sports including aquatics, track and field, basketball, badminton, and martial arts. Ho gave his best wishes to the athletes and voiced his expectations that they win honors for the country and for Macau, and make thorough preparations for the 15th Chinese National Games to be co-hosted by Guangdong Province together with Hong Kong and Macau in 2025. The Hangzhou Asian Games will be held from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8.

## HENGQIN'S CHIMELONG SPACESHIP TO LAUNCH TRIAL OPERATION SEPT. 16

The Chimelong Spaceship in Hengqin, Zhuhai, will launch a trial operation on Sept. 16. The Spaceship theme park has been designed by integrating resources from around the world. About 650 meters long and with a building area of 400,000 square meters, it can accommodate up to 50,000 visitors. According to the Spaceship's official website, it is an expansive indoor theme park that integrates a myriad of features, including the earth's diverse ecological landscapes, extra-terrestrial vistas, conservation of rare marine life and educational initiatives in ecological conservation.

# CPTTM showcases Macau fashion designs in HK

**10** Macau fashion brands joined a delegation showcased at the Centrestage 2023 fashion gala in Hong Kong late last week, the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) has revealed.

CPTTM organized and led the delegation. The gala was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with a specific session reserved for Macau brands. The session attracted an audience

of over 300 attendees, including representatives from the Hong Kong organizer.

The ten brands: Alta Bella, Clássico Moderno, Earlyink, Gelée, Soul Eco, Lexx Moda, No.42, Resew House, Shefeeling and Vatic. Altogether they showcased 60 sets of their newest creations, in the form of clothing, accessories and shoes.

Each brand displayed their latest designs in the Metro exhibition area at

the venue, while also undertaking knowledge sharing and business negotiations with professional buyers invited by the organizer. Buyers from Japan, Vietnam, India, Iran, Austria, France and other places enquired about placing orders with the brands.

The brands' representatives saw marketing opportunities at the event, saying there were pragmatic business opportunities and that they would be happy to return to future



editions of the event.

The Macau delegation was led by CPTTM Direc-

tor-General Victoria Kuan and Deputy Director-General Jack Chang. **AL**

## EDUCATION

# MUST TO PRESENT DISTINGUISHED LINGUIST AT SEMINAR ON HUMAN LANGUAGE

**DR.** William SY Wang, chair professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, will discuss linguistics at a Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) public lecture this afternoon.

To be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. today

at the university's Block D auditorium, the lecture will investigate the past, present and future of human languages, which is also the title of the lecture.

Besides holding the chair professorship of language and cognitive sciences at the Hong Kong university, Dr Wang

has held the academician position at the Academia Sinica in Taiwan since 1992.

Audience members should expect to learn about language acquisition over the lifespan and the impact of aging and disease on a person's ability to use language;

topics that have attracted the interest of the acclaimed linguist, and which are collectively included within the discipline of cognitive neuroscience of language.

The linguist developed an early interest in biological and cultural evolution, and applied these

concepts to the study of language change.

Being an influential scholar in academia, Dr Wang has published papers in various impactful journals and publications, such as Nature, PNAS and Scientific American.

He is also holder of the Lifetime Achievement Award in Anthropology, Shanghai Society of Anthropology and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Chicago. **AL**

# HONG KONG SUPPLIER CHARGED FOR ALLEGED BRIBERY OF HKD1M TO FORMER WYNN DIRECTOR

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Hong Kong anti-corruption watchdog has charged two representatives of two air-conditioning maintenance contractors for allegedly offering bribes of over HKD1 million to a former executive of Wynn Macau for maintenance contracts of a hotel in Macau.

The bribes involved a total of around HKD34 million.

An air-conditioner supplier for Wynn Resorts (Macau) has admitted to paying bribes to a former director of the gaming operator to solicit opportunities to submit quotations or tenders to Wynn over air-conditioning system maintenance services since 2014.

According to Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Li Kin-wang, 59, senior sales manager of Oh Luen Air Conditioning Equipment Limited, revealed he offered three bribes totaling over HKD450,000 to the director by check or bank transfer



Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption

between June 2014 and July 2015. During the period, business between Oh Luen and Wynn increased.

At the relevant time, Oh Luen and Wai Luen Air-conditioning Limited were companies respectively established in Macau and Hong

Kong to provide air-conditioning installation and maintenance services. Both companies were operated by the same proprietor.

Between November 2016 and January 2017, Li also conspired with a former director of Wai Luen to pay two

bribes totaling HKD560,000 to the director.

The ICAC's enquiries have revealed that between 2014 and 2017, Wynn had awarded numerous air-conditioning maintenance contracts worth around HKD34 million in total to Oh Luen.

SPACE

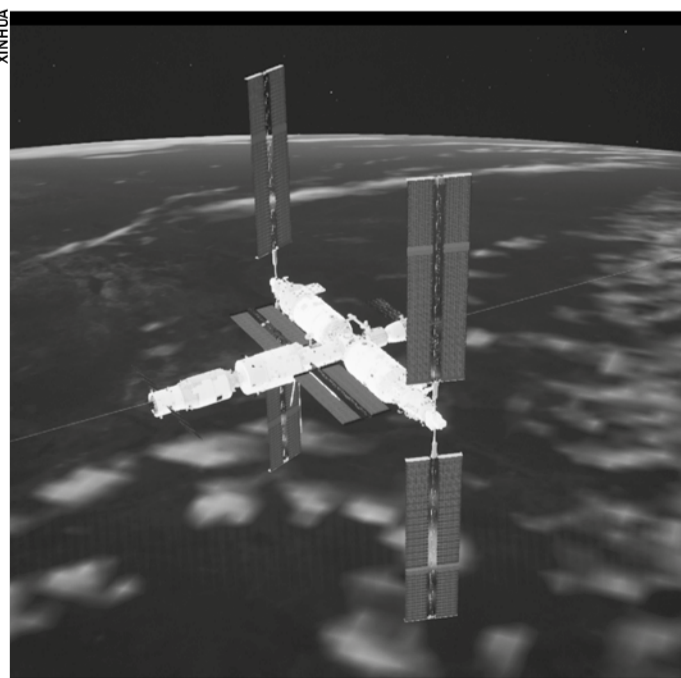
# Tianzhou-5 cargo craft re-enters atmosphere, boosts mainland-Macau exchange

**C**HINA'S Tianzhou-5 cargo craft re-entered the atmosphere in a controlled manner at 9:13 a.m. yesterday, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

This satellite is operating stably in orbit, functioning as a space-based scientific practice platform for amateur radio enthusiasts in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and around the world.

It has vigorously promoted the cooperation and exchanges between the Chinese mainland and Macau in space science popularization and education, the agency noted.

Most of the spacecraft's components burned up during the re-entry, and a small amount of its debris fell into the predetermined safe



waters of the South Pacific.

The Tianzhou-5 separated from the orbiting Tian-gong space station combina-tion at 4:46 p.m. Monday and

switched to independent flight.

Launched on Nov. 12, 2022 from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in

the southern island province of Hainan, the Tianzhou-5 was loaded with propellants, materials for scientific experiments and supplies for taikonauts.

According to the agency, many application projects carried into space by the Tianzhou-5 are progressing smoothly and have achieved fruitful results.

Among them is the Macau Student Science Satellite 1, which was stowed in the cargo craft before being released into orbit on Dec. 18, 2022.

The in-orbit test of space hydrogen-oxygen fuel cells is another experimental achievement onboard the Tianzhou-5, providing data and theoretical support for China's future manned lunar explorations.

Other key payloads include the space high-energy particle detection equipment, which completed an extravehicular mission.

At present, three batches of application projects have been carried by Tianzhou into space. The agency said future manned space missions will continue to open its cargo craft payloads to the public. **MDT/XINHUA**

CRIME

# SENIOR RESIDENT LOSES MOP160,000 IN LOVE SCAM

STAFF REPORTER

**A** 72-year-old female fell victim to online dating scams twice, losing MOP160,000, police have reported.

Investigations revealed that in August last year, the victim met a Chinese man on social media who claimed to be working in the oil industry in the US and developed an online relationship.

Two months later, the scammer claimed that funds were not flowing smoothly and asked the victim to transfer money to a designated bank account.

The contact was lost after the woman transferred MOP60,000.

She realized she had been scammed and reported the crime.

However, in May

this year, the scammer contacted her again and claimed MOP2.4 million had been deposited through online banking, but that a tax of MOP100,000 needed to be paid to enable withdrawal of the money. She paid the money.

After investigation, police identified two bank account holders, one of whom had fled Macau and the other a Filipino male foreign employee who was intercepted at his workplace Monday.

The man claimed his girlfriend in the Philippines had asked him to open a bank account to collect money, and that he had remitted all the money to his girlfriend to buy a house in the Philippines. He denied committing fraud.

MARITIME

# THREE-SIDED SEA RESCUE DRILL HELD

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau Marine and Water Bureau joined forces with its Hong Kong and Guangdong counterparts for a three-sided operation that simulated a collision between a passenger vessel and a construction vessel.

The drill occurred yesterday morning at the Pearl River Estuary and involved a joint operation with simultaneous sea and air rescue missions.

During the exercise, rescue units were mobilized through the regional cooperation mechanism to collaborate in search and rescue operations, a drill designed to test and increase maritime search and rescue capacity and cooperation between the Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong

Province authorities.

The drill simulated several scenarios, including the need to extinguish an on-board fire as well as evacuate passengers from the ferry.

The drill also included the scenario of a person falling from the pneumatic raft and a person from the construction vessel falling into the sea.

The authorities said the exercise ran according to expectations and without problems.

The drill took about 2 hours with the 14 vessels participating, one helicopter and more than 130 people.

The same authorities said the type of drill chosen was related to the increase in the number of passenger and construction vessels that have been crossing in the area.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



GAMING

# Cybersecurity issue prompts computer shutdowns at MGM properties across US

A “cybersecurity issue” led to the shutdown of some casino and hotel computer systems at MGM Resorts International properties across the U.S., a company official reported yes-

terday [Macau time]. The incident began Sunday. The extent of its effect was not immediately known on reservation systems and casino floors in Las Vegas and states including Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mis-

issippi, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, company spokesman Brian Ahern said. The FBI is “aware of the incident,” the bureau said in a statement from its national press office. It characterized the event as

“still ongoing” and did not disclose details.

MGM Resorts said in a statement it identified a “cybersecurity issue affecting some of the company’s systems” and that its investigation involved external cybersecurity experts.

The nature of the issue was not described, but the statement said efforts to protect data included “shutting down certain systems.” It said the investigation was continuing.

A post on the company website said the site was down. It listed telephone numbers to reach the reservation system and properties.

A post on the company’s BetMGM website in Nevada acknowledged that some customers were unable to log on.

The company has tens of thousands of hotel rooms in Las Vegas at properties including the MGM Grand, Bellagio, Cosmopolitan, Aria, New York-New York, Park MGM, Excalibur, Luxor, Mandalay Bay and Delano.

It also operates properties in China and Macau. MDT/AP

ENTERTAINMENT

## JAPANESE COMPANIES DROP STARS OF SCANDAL-TAINTED JOHNNY’S COMPANY

SEVERAL major Japanese companies have decided to stop using stars who are represented by Johnny & Associates, an entertainment company at the center of a sexual assault scandal.

Beverage maker Asahi Group Holdings — known for its Super Dry beer — will no longer air its ads featuring Junichi Okada, Toma Ikuta and Sho Sakurai, the company said yesterday, and there are no plans to sign singers, dancers or actors affiliated with Johnny’s. Other companies, including Japan’s flagship carrier Japan Airlines and major insurer Nippon Life Insurance Co., are following suit in distancing themselves from the scandal.

Johnny & Associates remains one of Japan’s most powerful entertainment companies even after an investigation confirmed its late founder Johnny Kitagawa sexually assaulted several hundred children and teens over decades while whispers of his wrongdoings were ignored. His niece

resigned as chief executive last week but still owns the company that specializes in boy bands.

Critics say the mainstream news media kept silent because it didn’t want to lose access to Johnny’s stars for their programming. But public opinion has shifted dramatically in recent months, with the wave of companies dropping Johnny’s expected to grow.

It is unclear whether the dozens of artists signed with Johnny’s will defect in droves to other companies. Johnny’s operates as both agents for performers and content producers, as well as operating a school for future performers, meaning artists may have limited options if they wanted to leave.

Although speculation is rife that TV shows may drop Johnny’s stars from their programming, such shifts may be gradual. In the past, critics say Johnny’s had the power to penalize program producers if their stars were passed over for rivals. MDT/AP


### CEM NOTICE

#### Temporary traffic arrangements for cable threading work at Avenida do Infante D. Henrique and Avenida Doutor Mário Soares

To cooperate with CEM’s cable threading work, from 11 September (Monday) to 13 September (Wednesday) from 1:30 am to 5:30 am daily, the section of Avenida do Infante D. Henrique near Praça de Ferreira do Amaral will be closed to traffic; bus routes such as 26A and N1A (to Baía Norte do Fai Chi Kei), 101X (to Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Frontier Port) and N3 (to Coloane Village) need to be diverted, and the stops along the way will remain unchanged.

To cooperate with the work progress, traffic will be limited on the section of Avenida Doutor Mário Soares near the Grand Emperor Hotel from 14 September (Thursday) to 16 September (Saturday). During this period, the section of Avenida Doutor Mário Soares near Praça da Amizade will be closed to traffic between 1:30 am and 5:30 am daily. The N2 bus route (to Baía Norte do Fai Chi Kei) needs to be diverted, and the stops along the way will remain unchanged.

For details of the temporary arrangements for bus services, please visit the websites of the two bus companies (www.tcm.com.mo and www.transmac.com.mo).



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#### School of Tourism Management

**Assistant Professor in Cultural and Heritage Management (1 vacancy)** - Ref. No. 011/AC/2023  
should be able to teach/develop in Mandarin (except for foreign candidates) and English with specific subjects such as Conservation Techniques, Documentation of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Event Planning and Management, Cultural Economics, Heritage Charters and Legislation, Visual Communication, Language and Practices in Cultural and Creative Industry, Creative Entrepreneurship and Business Management, Cultural Marketing and Digitalization, Creativity and Arts Education, Cultural Landscape, Heritage Revitalization.

#### School of Continuing Education

**Lecturer in Events and Communications (1 vacancy)** – Ref. No. 012/AC/2023  
should be able to teach/develop in Chinese and/or English with specific subjects such as Business Communication, Event Management and Planning, Public Relations, Marketing and Branding, Special Event Production.

**Requirements:**  
Assistant Professor: must have (1) a Master’s degree or above in the relevant area and (2) at least 4 years of full-time teaching experience as Lecturer  
Lecturer: must have a Master’s degree or above in the relevant area


**Annual Taxable Remuneration and Benefit:**  
Assistant Professor: MOP687,960 - MOP968,240 (salary index: 540 – 760)  
Lecturer: MOP547,820 - MOP687,960 (salary index: 430 – 540)

- The current local income tax rate ranges from 7% to 12%. Exchange rate: approx. USD1 = MOP8.
- The position and remuneration offered will be commensurate with academic qualifications and higher education teaching experience.
- For benefits and FAQ, please refer to IFTM website.

**Selection:**  
Full lists of selection panels can be referred to the detailed recruitment announcements at IFTM website <http://www.iftm.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>. Selection will be based on (1) documentary evaluation, (2) interview and mock teaching.

**Application:**  
Please refer to the detailed recruitment announcement at IFTM website <http://www.iftm.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies> or scan the QR code.

Application closes on 12 October 2023



## OPINION

### China Daily

Editorial, China Daily

#### BETTER SINO-EU RELATIONS A GLOBAL STABILIZER

Meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday on the sidelines of the annual G20 Summit in New Delhi, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said that: "Risk prevention does not preclude co-operation, interdependence should not be equated with insecurity." Li also met with European Council President Charles Michel.

Given the fact that China was the third-largest partner for EU exports of goods last year, and the largest partner for EU imports of goods, the importance of bilateral relations should be clear to both sides.

It is natural that the two sides have their differences, but it is not in the interest of either side to let the differences overshadow the common ground on which they can cooperate in a wide range of areas.

As the world is becoming increasingly pluralistic, it is neither in the interest of the EU itself nor for the good of world peace and development for EU leaders to overemphasize the ideological differences it has with China. It is important for EU leaders to realize that the EU is an important political force in the evolution to a multipolar world, and so is China when it comes to the question of global governance.

When global challenges such as climate change, pandemics and the sluggish development of the global economy pose an increasingly severe risk to the well-being of all countries, stable and constructive relations between the EU and China make a great difference to effective global governance.

Chinese leaders have reiterated time and again that China is willing to cooperate with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual interest. China always maintains that no country should interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and disputes should be settled through dialogue.

What China and EU countries have achieved in their economic and trade cooperation in the past decades has laid a solid foundation for further cooperation. There is no reason for either side to do anything to undermine such a stable foundation for their relations.

In the face of the growing uncertainties in the world, it is important that the EU and China do whatever they can to make their bilateral relations more predictable and constructive.

EU leaders need to have a vision for better relations with China beyond the differences between both sides. As Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, while talking with the EU's foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell in July, the EU should "clarify" its vision of relations between the two sides. It should not vacillate, let alone encourage words and deeds that turn the clock back.

## DIRE STRAIT

# Taiwan says Beijing is bolstering coastline military bases facing the island

SIMINA MISTREANU, TAIPEI

CHINA is continuously bolstering its military bases along the coastline facing Taiwan, the self-ruled island's Defense Ministry said in a report yesterday, as Beijing steps up military activities around the territory it claims as its own.

Taiwan said it will continue to monitor the Chinese activities around the island and bolster its defenses in response.

Earlier yesterday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it had spotted 22 Chinese warplanes and 20 warships near the island over the previous 24 hours — part of military harassment by Beijing, which hasn't ruled out force to reunite the island with the mainland.

"This year, the Chinese Communist Party has aggressively expanded its armaments and continued to build various types of fighter jets and drones," Maj. Gen. Huang Wen-Chi, the assistant deputy chief with the General Staff for Intelligence of Taiwan's Defense Ministry, said during a news conference releasing the biennial report.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) conducts routine underway operations in the Taiwan Strait, on Sept. 9

"The information we have received is that all important military bases along the coast ... are being continuously updated," he added.

Huang pointed to three military airfields in China's southeastern Fujian province — Longtian, Huian and Zhangzhou — that have recently been expanded. The closest one to Taiwan, Longtian, is only 217 kilometers from the capital, Taipei.

Over the past year, Beijing has stepped up military activi-

ties around Taiwan, including by sending warships and warplanes on a near-daily basis.

The latest dispatch of Chinese warplanes and warships came after the United States and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait in a challenge to Beijing's territorial claims.

On Monday, China sailed its own naval formation led by the aircraft carrier Shandong about 70 miles southeast of Taiwan.

The vessel was expected to conduct drills simulating air-

craft, submarine, warship and land attacks, according to Chinese state media.

This was the second time China has deployed the Shandong to the western Pacific, according to state media.

The carrier, commissioned in 2019, participated in drills around Taiwan in April, shortly after Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen met U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. Beijing sees all exchanges between Taiwanese and foreign officials as challenges to its claims over the island.

Thirteen of the Chinese military aircraft reported yesterday had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial "demarcation zone" between the Mainland and Taiwan, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

"The period from July to September this year was the peak period for the Chinese Communist Party's exercises," Huang said, noting an increase in China's naval activities in the waters surrounding the Taiwan Strait and a large number of warships operating in the South China and East China seas. **MDT/AP**

## SOUTHERN CHINA

### SEVEN PEOPLE DIED IN STORMS, 70 CROCODILES ARE ON THE LOOSE

RAINSTORMS battering southern China have killed at least seven people and allowed dozens of crocodiles to escape from a farm.

Nearby residents were advised to stay at home after more than 70 crocodiles escaped in Maoming, a city near the coast in western Guangdong province, according to Chinese media reports.

An emergency official was quoted as saying that 69 adult crocodiles and six juveniles had escaped. Some have been captured, but the operation was difficult because of the depth of a lake they are in, the media reports said.

No injuries have been repor-

ted. Further west, seven people died and three are missing after multiple landslides in the city of Yulin in the Guangxi region, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday. Heavy rain on Sunday and Monday triggered the landslides.

The rain caused flash floods in Hong Kong last week, killing two people. Parts of the city were flooded again following a heavy downpour Monday. Puddles of water and debris could still be seen.

Hong Kong leader John Lee said the government would set up an emergency assistance fund to help those affected by the floods. **MDT/AP**

## NATURE

### CHINESE PANGOLINS SEE CONTINUED RECOVERY IN THE WILD

CHINESE pangolins have seen a steady recovery of their wild populations in recent years, with a marked improvement in their natural habitats, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The animals have been found in 10 provinces around the country so far, including Guangdong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian and Hainan, said Hua Yan, an official with a pangolin protection research center under the administration.

Multiple breeding

populations of Chinese pangolins have been found in some of the aforementioned regions, according to the administration.

Pangolins are an ecologically important species, influencing the structure, function and health of forest ecosystems. Due to excessive hunting and habitat loss, wild stocks of pangolins once plummeted sharply.

China has upgraded its protection of pangolins to the highest level and has adopted legislative measures to protect the species. **XINHUA**

INDONESIA

# Australian and Indonesian forces deploy battle tanks in US-led drills

FADLAN SYAM, BANYUWANGI

**T**HOUSANDS of soldiers from the United States, Indonesia, Australia and other allied forces demonstrated their armor capabilities on Sunday in combat drills on the Indonesian island of Java at a time of increased Chinese aggression in the region.

President Joe Biden's administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to reassure allies alarmed by Beijing's increasingly provocative actions in the disputed South China Sea, which has become a battleground for U.S.-Chinese rivalries.

During the drills, Australian forces deployed five M1A1 Abrams battle tanks and the Indonesian military, deployed two Leopard-2 tanks for the two-week combat exercises in Banyuwangi, a coastal district in East Java province which began Sept. 1. It will include live-fire drills.



Indonesian Marines fire an artillery in Situbondo, East Java

It was the first time Australia deployed battle tanks outside its territory since the Vietnam war.

The Garuda Shield drills have been held annually between American and Indonesian soldiers since 2009. Last year's participants — Australia, Japan and Singapore — joined again Sunday and the list expanded to include the United Kingdom and France bringing the total number of troops taking part in the drills to 5,000.

China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region.

Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans, Commanding General of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday that the introduction of armor capability in the large-scale drills would give the

allied forces and defense partners a chance to test their weaponry in combat training as they finetune their military readiness.

Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, but Jakarta has expressed concern about what it sees as Chinese encroachment on its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The edge of the exclusive economic zone overlaps with Beijing's unilaterally declared "nine-dash line" demarcating its claims there.

Asked whether there are plans by the U.S. military to carry out joint naval patrols with allies like Japan and the Philippines in or near contested waters, Evans said that "it is important that we maintain a continuous engagement with our regional partners and allies from a military perspective, because, that, again, enhances our overall readiness."

"I think it continues to show a sign of our commitment to regional partners and allies," said Evans, who is also Senior

Commander of U.S. Army Hawaii.

Combat exercises between U.S. forces and their regional allies and defense partners "remains critically important, as it has been since we began this operation in 2006," he said in response to a question on the urgency of conducting such exercises now.

U.S. allies recognize the strategic importance and the opportunity to participate in the multinational exercises, which aim to enhance military professionalism aside from bolstering combat readiness and sharpening the ability of allied forces to operate together, Evans said.

"Australia, along with all of our regional partners and allies, continues to contribute to really three things that we focus on during operation pathways, in this case, Garuda Shield," Evans said.

Meanwhile, Rear Adm. Julius Widjojono, the spokesperson for the Indonesian military, said the field training exercises aim to boost combat preparedness and hone the battle instincts of soldiers from participant nations, including overcoming enemy assaults while carrying out patrols.

Brunei, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, and East Timor sent observers to the combined joint multilateral exercise. **MDT/AP**

AD

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RUSSIA-NORTH KOREA

# Kim to meet Putin, as both are locked in standoffs with the West

KIM TONG-HYUNG

**N**ORTH Korea's Kim Jong Un arrived in Russia yesterday for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin where they are expected to offer each other increased support in their escalating standoffs with the West.

Kim is expected to seek Russian economic aid and military technology in exchange for munitions to be used in Russia's war in Ukraine.

After decades of complicated, hot-and-cold relations, Russia and North Korea have drawn closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The bond has been driven by Putin's need for war supplies and Kim's efforts to boost his partnerships with traditional allies Moscow and Beijing as he tries to break out of diplomatic isolation.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim boarded his personal train bound for Russia on Sunday afternoon, accompanied by members of the ruling party, government and military.

His final destination is uncertain. Many had assumed Kim and Putin would meet in Vladivostok, a Russian city close to the border where the two leaders had their last meeting in 2019, and which Putin is visiting this week for an economic forum.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed only that Kim has entered Russia, and state news agency RIA-Novosti later reported his train had headed north after crossing the Razdolnaya River, taking it away from Vladivostok. The South Korean news agency Yonhap later published a photo that it said showed the train in Ussuriysk, a city about 60 kilometers north of Vladivostok that has a sizeable ethnic Korean population.

Some Russian news media speculate that he is headed for the Vostochny spaceport, which Putin is to visit soon. Putin declined during the forum to say what he intended to do there. The launching facility is about 900



This Sept. 10, 2023 photo provided by the North Korean government shows that Kim Jong Un waves from a train in Pyongyang as he leaves for Russia

kilometers northwest of Ussuriysk, but the route there is circuitous and it is unclear how long Kim's slow-moving train would take to get there.

Peskov said Putin and Kim will meet after the Vladivostok forum, and that the meeting would include a lunch in Kim's honor.

Officials identified in North Korean state media photos may hint at what Kim might seek from Putin and what he would be willing to give.

Kim is apparently accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, a ruling party official in charge of munitions policies who joined the leader on recent tours of factories producing artillery shells and missiles, said South Korea's Unification Ministry. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu will be part of the Russian delegation, according to Peskov.

North Korea may have tens of millions of artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet designs that could give a huge boost to the Russian army in Ukraine, analysts say.

Also identified in photos were Pak Thae Song, chairman of North Korea's space science and technology committee, and Navy Adm. Kim Myong Sik, who are linked with North Korean efforts to acquire spy satellites and nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarines. Experts say North Korea would struggle to acquire such capabilities without external help, although it's not clear if Russia would share such sensitive technologies.

Kim Jong Un may also seek badly needed energy and food supplies, analysts say. Deputy foreign minister Andrei Rudenko said Russia may discuss humanitarian

aid with the North Korean delegation, according to Russian news agencies.

Kim's delegation also likely includes his foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, and his top two military officials, Korean People's Army Marshals Ri Pyong Chol and Pak Jong Chon.

Data from FlightRadar24.com, which tracks flights worldwide, showed an Air Koryo Antonov An-148 took off from Pyongyang yesterday and flew for about an hour to reach Vladivostok. North Korea's national airline has only just resumed flying internationally after being grounded during the COVID-19 pandemic. There had been speculation that North Korea could use a plane to fly in support staff.

Kim is making his first foreign trip since the pandemic, during which North Korea imposed tight border controls for more than three years.

Lim Soo-suk, South Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said Seoul was maintaining communication with Moscow while closely monitoring Kim's visit.

"No U.N. member state should violate Security Council sanctions against North Korea by engaging in an illegal trade of arms, and must certainly not engage in military cooperation with North Korea that undermines the peace and stability of the international community," Lim said during a briefing.

U.S. officials released intelligence last week that North Korea and Russia were arranging a meeting between their leaders.

According to U.S. officials, Putin could focus on securing more supplies of North Korean artillery and other

ammunition to refill declining reserves as he seeks to rebuff a Ukrainian counteroffensive and show that he's capable of grinding out a long war of attrition. That could potentially put more pressure on the U.S. and its partners to pursue negotiations as concerns over a protracted conflict grow despite their huge shipments of advanced weaponry to Ukraine in the past 17 months.

"Arms discussions between Russia and the DPRK are expected to continue during Kim Jong Un's trip to Russia," said White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson, using the abbreviation for North Korea's official name of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We urge the DPRK to abide by the public commitments that Pyongyang has made to not provide or sell arms to Russia."

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Washington will monitor the meeting closely, reminding both countries that "any transfer of arms from North Korea to Russia would be a violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions," and that the U.S. "will not hesitate to impose new sanctions."

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters that Tokyo will be watching the outcome of the Kim-Putin meeting with concern, including the "impact it could have on Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

The United States has accused North Korea of providing Russia with arms, including selling artillery shells to the Russian mercenary group Wagner. Both Russian and North Korean officials denied such claims. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1980 MISSING SCOTTISH BEAR IS FOUND



The bear who went missing on a Scottish island while being filmed for a Kleenex television commercial has finally been recaptured.

Hundreds of volunteers have been involved in the search for Hercules since he went missing 24 days ago on Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

A crofter spotted the 8 ft 4 in (2.54 m), half-ton animal swimming earlier today - almost three weeks after the hunt for the creature had been called off.

The bear was shot with a tranquiliser dart, captured in a net and flown by helicopter back to his specially built coach where his owner - the wrestler Andy Robin - was waiting anxiously.

The unconscious animal was given an antidote to the tranquiliser drug as soon as he landed - essential to prevent him slipping into a coma.

The bear was slowly massaged back to consciousness to the obvious relief of Mr Robin and watched by the world's media crowded round his cage.

"It's a great moment - not just for me because Hercules brings a lot of pleasure to a lot of people," the wrestler said.

The bear is reported to have lost 20 stone (127 kg) in weight, and has consumed 120 pints of milk and dozens of eggs since coming round.

Mr Robin bought the bear from a wildlife park in Aviemore, Scotland, five years ago.

The wrestler said he was planning to fit him with a personal radio bleeper so he could track any future disappearances.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Hercules became world famous after his three week disappearance. He made regular appearances on children's television in the 1980s, had a cameo role in the James Bond film Octopussy and appeared on Hollywood chat shows. The bear was also featured on the cover of Time magazine and promoted the Miss World contest. But while filming a documentary for Disney Hercules fell over, slipped a disc in his back and was crippled. His health never fully recovered and he died on 4 February 2000.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. Use discrimination and play hard to get. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Do not get into uncertain financial deals. You can enjoy doing things that include children. Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an issue.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information. Work diligently and you will get ahead today. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. Don't let your emotional upset interfere with your professional objectives. Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Put your time and energy into home improvement. Don't make any unreasonable promises. Try to get out and socialize. Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results.

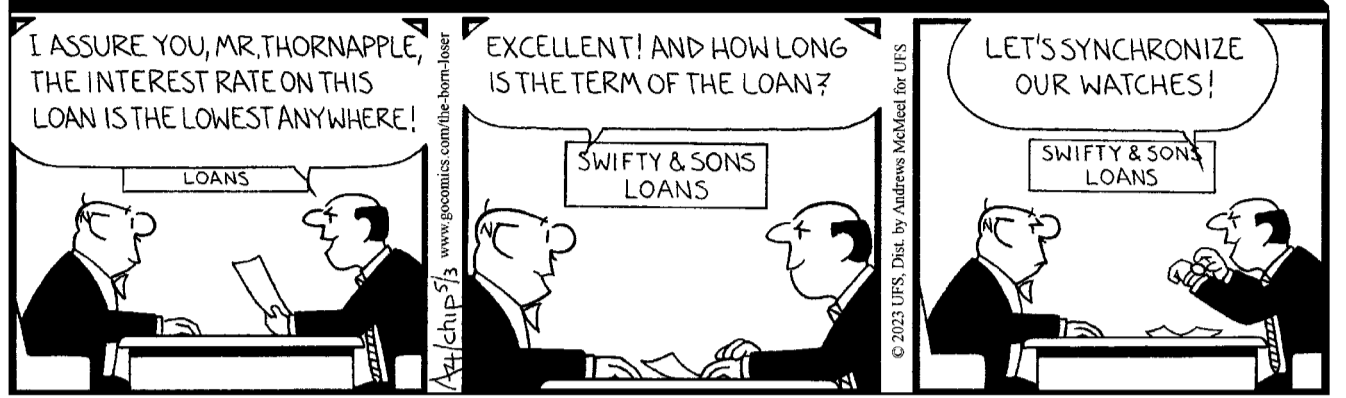
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Accomplishment is yours if you direct yourself accordingly.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Don't overspend to impress others. Do not let the reactions of others get you going.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Direct your energy wisely. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
You will take on too much if you aren't careful. Stick to basics. Property purchases should be on your mind. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts today.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

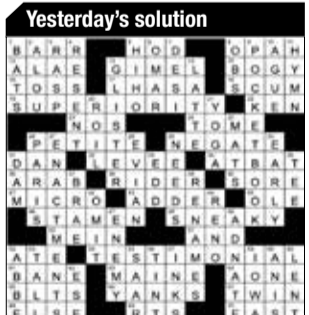
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	16	28	fine
Changchun	10	25	fine
Chengdu	18	29	fine
Chongqing	21	27	cloudy
Fuzhou	24	33	overcast
Guangzhou	25	31	thunderstorms
Guiyang	18	22	overcast
Haikou	25	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	24	32	rain
Harbin	10	22	fine
Hefei	20	24	rain
Nanjing	23	24	rain
Shanghai	25	29	rain
Taipei	24	30	cloudy
Wuhan	21	26	rain
Hong Kong	27	30	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	8	21	overcast
Frankfurt	11	24	rain
Paris	15	24	overcast
London	13	21	overcast
New York	17	23	thunderstorms

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Heath; 5- Lyric poems; 9- Staying power; 13- Hitching post?; 15- Millhouse's pal; 16- Marine shade; 17- Film composer Stevens; 18- Bronte heroine; 19- Corrosion; 20- Summer Games org.; 21- It's used to walk the dog; 23- Nullify; 25- French 101 infinitive; 26- Plain; 27- Arid; 30- \_\_\_ see it...; 31- Royal domain; 32- Each person; 37- Writer Bombeck; 38- Cooked in oven; 40- Graceful horse; 41- Follow in time; 43- The end of \_\_\_; 44- Meal crumb; 45- Peddler; 47- Constrictor; 50- Contented sighs; 51- System of aircraft navigation; 52- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 53- British rule in India; 56- Put aboard; 57- Formerly, formerly; 59- Eat away; 61- In the Black?; 62- Just okay; 63- Android; 64- Hot sandwich; 65- Psychic; 66- Capone's nemesis;

**DOWN** 1- Timbuktu's land; 2- Ersatz butter; 3- Auricular; 4- Snitch; 5- Complied; 6- Belafonte bellow; 7- Be human; 8- Abnormally narrowed; 9- Big; 10- Peer; 11- Like a March wind?; 12- Gorge; 14- Beat; 22- Galena, e.g.; 24- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 25- Dazzling display; 26- Possess; 27- Type of school or cook; 28- Dynamic beginning; 29- Super Bowl XXXIV champs; 32- Scratch (out); 33- Jerks; 34- City near Provo; 35- Japan's first capital; 36- Israel's Abba; 38- Noble woman; 39- Env. notation; 42- Qatar's capital; 43- More sore; 45- Flock leader; 46- Battery size; 47- Facet; 48- Warble; 49- Pay for; 51- Close with force; 52- Being, to Brutus; 53- Choir attire; 54- Hullabaloo; 55- Fast aircrafts; 58- Fish eggs; 60- Jockey Turcottee;



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<b>Fire department</b> 28 572 222	<b>Water Supply - Report</b> 2822 0088
<b>PJ (Open line)</b> 993	<b>Telephone - Report</b> 1000
<b>PJ (Picket)</b> 28 557 775	<b>Electricity - Report</b> 28 339 922
<b>PSP</b> 28 573 333	<b>Macau Daily Times</b> 28 716 081
<b>Customs</b> 28 559 944	
<b>S. J. Hospital</b> 28 313 731	
<b>Kiang Wu Hospital</b> 28 371 333	
<b>Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)</b> 28326 300	
<b>IAM</b> 28 387 333	
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AP PHOTO



Evangeline Balintona (left) and Elsie Rosales pose on the balcony of a hotel room in Lahaina, Hawaii

## MIGRATIONS

# LAHAINA'S FIRE-STRICKEN FILIPINO RESIDENTS ARE KEY TO TOURISM AND LOCAL CULTURE. WILL THEY STAY?

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER,  
LAHAINA

**A**MBULANCE and fire truck sirens wailed outside as Elsie Rosales stripped linens from king-sized mattresses at a beachfront resort in Lahaina.

She tried to focus on the work, but was beset by dread: Had a wildfire taken the home she scrimped to buy on a housekeeper's wages?

It had. And now Rosales, like many other Filipino housekeepers used to cleaning hotels, is living in one with her family, a poignant example of how the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century has afflicted Maui's heavily Filipino population.

"All our hard work burned," Rosales told The Associated Press in an interview conducted in Ilocano, her native language. "There is nothing left."

The disaster has prompted fears about what will become of Lahaina's community and character as it rebuilds.

Many are concerned residents like Rosales won't be able to afford to live in Lahaina after the community is rebuilt, and that affluent outsiders seeking a home in the oceanfront town will price them out.

Will Filipinos, Native Hawaiians and others who have been the ba-

ckbone of the tourism industry for so long be able to remain here? Will they want to?

**A CENTURY-OLD MIGRATION**

Filipinos began arriving in Hawaii more than a century ago to labor on sugarcane and pineapple plantations. As their descendants and successive generations of immigrants have settled, they have become deeply ingrained in the community's culture.

Today, they account for the second-largest ethnic group on Maui, with nearly 48,000 island residents tracing their roots to the Philippines, 5,000 of them in Lahaina, which was about 40% of the town's population before the fire. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates about one-fourth of Hawaii's 1.4 million people are of Filipino descent.

Many of them work in hotels, health care and food service. Filipinos account for about 70% of the members of UNITE HERE Local 5, the union representing workers in those industries, union President Gemma Weinstein said. She is Filipino and a former Honolulu hotel housekeeper.

"If it wasn't for the Filipinos having two or three jobs, a lot of the businesses here, including the hotels, would have a hard time operating," said Rick Nava, a community advocate and Filipino im-

migrant who lost his own home in the fire.

A month after the Aug. 8 disaster killed at least 115 people, nearly 6,000 people were staying at two dozen hotels serving as temporary shelters around Maui.

A number are hotel housekeepers like Rosales, 61, who is staying in a two-bedroom suite with her two sisters, her son, his wife and three grandchildren at the Sands of Kahana resort. Rosales' 72-year-old sister, Evangeline Balintona, works there as a housekeeper.

In the sisters' suite, there is an artificial plant in the corner of the living room, between a window overlooking the ocean and the flat-screen TV, that Balintona has dusted countless times. When she makes the bed, she does it the way she always has done for work, with layers of sheets and a comforter tucked neat and tight under a heavy mattress.

"I know every corner of this room," Balintona said.

She is thinking about returning to Ilocos Norte, the family's hometown in the Philippines. She hopes her son there has saved enough from the monthly remittances she sent over the years to support her if she returns with nothing.

**TOURISTS STAY AWAY**

Tourists have been told to avoid

Lahaina for now, and many hotels are housing federal aid workers. Balintona and others worry about the futures of their jobs.

Rosales, who said she did not know anyone who died in the fire, immigrated to Hawaii in 1999. After years of renting and saving for a down payment, she bought a five-bedroom home on Lahaina's Aulike Street in 2014 for \$490,000. Her mother and siblings owned homes nearby. Those also are gone now.

She continues to work at another resort a few miles from where the sisters are staying. On her days off, she sorts out insurance paperwork, including trying to itemize belongings lost in the fire.

Rosales recalled the night of the fire when she and her co-workers — almost all from the Philippines — were forced to remain in the hotel because roads were blocked. She didn't learn the fate of her home until the next morning, when her youngest son called.

"Mom, no more house," he told her.

"No, anak ko!" she shrieked, using an Ilocano term meaning "my child."

Around her, other housekeepers sobbed as they received similar calls.

The Rev. Efren Tomas, pastor of Christ the King Church in Kahului, worries about the mental health

of survivors. He has been counseling groups of Filipinos staying in hotels, even celebrating Mass in a hotel reception room.

"For Filipinos, it's very hard for them to go into one-on-one counseling," he said. "They want to gather in a group. I think they get strength from each other."

Many longtime Lahaina residents, including Native Hawaiians, told the AP they worry that whatever is built from the ashes of Lahaina won't include Filipinos and other ethnic groups who made it the working class community it was.

"The new Lahaina should be the old Lahaina," said Alicia Kalepa, who lives in a Hawaiian homestead where most of the houses survived the fire. "Mixed culture."

Gilbert Keith-Agaran, a state senator from Maui who is stepping down to focus on litigation work involving the fires, said he won't be surprised if many Filipinos leave for places such as Las Vegas, an affordable destination for Hawaii residents who no longer can afford to live here.

"I think it's hard to take the Filipinos out of the fabric of our community," said Keith-Agaran, whose father came from Ilocos Norte in 1946 for plantation work. "We intermarried a lot with others who are here."

**THE TRAUMA**

Melen Magbual Agcolicol was 13 when she arrived on Maui from the Philippines more than four decades ago with her family. Since then, she has become a community advocate and is president of Binhi at Ani, "Seed and Harvest," which operates Maui's only Filipino community center.

Her group unveiled a fund called Tulong for Lahaina, or Help for Lahaina. The idea is to provide grants to Filipinos who lost homes, shops or loved ones.

"The starting over is so difficult. How are you going to start over? Number one, you don't have a job," she said. "Number two, your sanity. Your sanity is not normal until you think that you can accept what happened to you."

Rosales' three sons don't want her to sell her property, but she is finding it difficult to think about the future. She can't sleep or eat, can't stop crying.

Residents have not been allowed to return to the burned areas. Rosales wants to go back. She wants to comb through the rubble of her American dream, hoping to find a piece of her jewelry collection, a gold bracelet or a watch, luxuries she would never have been able to afford in the Philippines.

"Even if it's black," she said, "I want to take it as a remembrance."

She touched the delicate gold hoops dangling from her ears. She put them on the morning she left her house to go to work. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY WORLD CUP

# Chile savoring every moment of cup debut, even a big defeat

STEVE DOUGLAS

**L**OSING by 30 points never felt so good to Marcelo Torrealba.

The Chile scrumhalf savored every moment of his, and his country's, Rugby World Cup debut — from singing the national anthem to witnessing the passion of the team's colorful fans, seeing his friends and family in the crowd and feeling the muscles burn in his legs in the most intense game he's ever played.

"I'm grateful for what I am living as a player," Torrealba said Tuesday as he looked back with pride on Chile's 42-12 loss to Japan in Toulouse, France, on Sunday. "They are unique things that will remain with me forever."

For the players and fans of Los Condores, this is more than just a rugby tournament. It's a "party" — in Torrealba's words



— and a celebration of the strides Chilean rugby has made to get to its first World Cup.

Just take Torrealba himself. He attended the 2015 World Cup in Britain as a 19-year-old fan, thinking he'd never have the chance to be at the tournament as a player.

Indeed, a few months later in early 2016, Chile finished in last place in the inaugu-

ral Americas Rugby Championship, behind Brazil.

"Qualifying for a Rugby World Cup was too far away for Chilean rugby," Torrealba recalled.

No wonder he's keeping his jersey from Sunday's match to put up in his house back home.

And no wonder he cannot wait for Chile's second game

at the World Cup, against Samoa in Bordeaux on Saturday.

Win or lose.

"Every game is a new adventure, something new. We are setting the limit," Torrealba said. "The way to stay at a high level is to play more matches in this category. We have never played a game with such intensity, and we will surely learn with all the games we have left."

The matches get tougher with Chile, with Samoa higher in the world ranking than Japan (No. 11 vs. No. 14) before playing England and Argentina to close Pool D. Chile is the lowest-ranked team at the tournament, at No. 22.

Playing a national team as storied and successful as England is one thing, but it'll be the meeting with Argentina that's especially anticipated.

"It will be historic for South American rugby," Torrealba said. **MDT/AP**

CYCLING | TOUR DE FRANCE

## CYCLIST NATHAN VAN HOOYDONCK HOSPITALIZED AFTER CAR ACCIDENT

**CYCLIST** Nathan van Hooydonck (pictured, center) was hospitalized yesterday after he became unwell while driving his car and got involved in a car crash, his team said.

The Jumbo-Visma team said it could not confirm media reports that the 27-year-old Belgian rider was in critical condition.

The Dutch team said its rider was undergoing further medical examinations in an unspecified hospital "where he is receiving good medical care."

Van Hooydonck has been a member of Jumbo-Visma since 2021, providing key support to leaders Wout van Aert and Primoz Roglic. **MDT/AP**



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OPINION

The Conversation

Tina Chronopoulos,  
Binghamton University



ANCIENT TEXTS DEPICT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST STRAIGHT AND CIS ONES

I study Greek and Latin literature and have noticed that ancient authors wrote about sex, homoerotic feelings or relations, and gender more often than we assume.

A few figures from ancient Mediterranean mythology are sometimes held up as LGBTQ ancestors – such as the Greek gods Apollo and Zeus, who both loved other men. But in a mythology course I taught in the fall of 2021, I found myself highlighting a number of other stories about same-sex attraction and gender variance beyond a strict male-female binary. For example, spells from Egypt show that there were women who tried to get other women to fall in love with them.

Students responded with such curiosity and excitement that I decided to create a stand-alone course that would focus exclusively on these topics.

The course “LGBTQ Antiquity: A View from the Mediterranean” explores literary texts from the ancient Mediterranean – including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Roman Italy – in which authors describe relationships that can be said to fall under the LGBTQ umbrella. We read the texts in chronological order, rather than grouped by theme or identity. This allows students to encounter the texts relatively label-free, since the words U.S. society uses to talk about gender and sexuality today – like “gay” or “transgender” – do not always align with ancient understandings.

My goal is for students to take courage and hope from knowing that same-sex relationships and gender diversity have existed in various guises for millennia. In antiquity, homosexuality was not considered an identity category the way it is today, making it hard to determine if and how LGBTQ-like people were discriminated against, but they certainly were not always met with contempt. For example, the body of Hermaphroditus, a god whom Greeks sought out for help with fertility and child care issues, combined female and male characteristics.

LGBTQ-like individuals have always been here, although modern conceptions of self, gender and sexuality cannot be mapped directly onto the past.

The identities we know today were unknown then: The concept of homosexuality as a distinct sexual orientation or distinct kind of behavior did not exist. For instance, elite men in ancient Athens often engaged in same-sex relationships with men alongside their marriages to women. Those who were in exclusively homoerotic relationships, however, tended to be ridiculed.

Another critical lesson is that language matters. The words we use today are often inadequate to capture how social status or age intersected with one's gender in the ancient Mediterranean. Take the Greek word for a woman or wife, “*kyra*.” Typically, this word refers to an upper-class woman, rather than, say, one who is enslaved or a foreigner. Norms around sexual activity depended on a person's social status, age and gender.

What materials does the course feature?

Students come into the course expecting to encounter celebrated characters such as the poet Sappho, from the Greek island of Lesbos, whom lesbians have regarded as an ancestor.

However, we also read less famous authors, such as Lucian of Samosata, a Syrian-born satirist from the second century C.E. In one of his dialogues, a sex worker tells her friend about an encounter she had with two other women, one of whom describes herself as “quite like a man.”

Not all authors are sympathetic. John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople at the end of the fourth century C.E., vilified people who engaged in homoerotic acts or homosexual relationships as criminals, mentally ill, diseased or diabolic. Many of these views are still being promulgated by religious leaders today.

[Abridged]

FEMALE SURGEONS IN UK SEXUALLY ASSAULTED WHILE OPERATING: STUDY

THE BUZZ

Female surgeons say they are being sexually harassed, assaulted and in some cases raped by colleagues, a major analysis of NHS staff has found, according to a BBC report yesterday.

BBC News has spoken to women who were sexually assaulted in the operating theatre while surgery took place.

The study's authors say there is a pattern of female trainees being abused by senior male surgeons, and this is happening now, in NHS hospitals.

The Royal College of Surgeons said the findings were “truly shocking,” as cited by BBC.

Sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape have been referred to as

surgery's open secret.

There is an untold story of women being fondled inside their scrubs, of male surgeons wiping their brow on their breasts and men rubbing erections against female staff.

Some have been offered career opportunities for sex.

The analysis – by the University of Exeter, the University of Surrey and the Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery – has been shared exclusively with BBC News.

Nearly two-thirds of women surgeons who responded to the researchers said they had been the target of sexual harassment and a third had been sexually assaulted by colleagues in the past five years.



IT'S GOOGLE VERSUS THE US IN THE BIGGEST ANTITRUST TRIAL IN DECADES

PAUL WISEMAN & MICHAEL LIEDTKE, WASHINGTON

GOOGLE will confront a threat to its dominant search engine beginning today [Macau time] when federal regulators launch an attempt to dismantle its internet empire in the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in a quarter century.

Over the next 10 weeks, federal lawyers and state attorneys general will try to prove Google rigged the market in its favor by locking its search engine in as the default choice in a plethora of places and devices. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta likely won't issue a ruling until early next year. If he decides Google broke the law, another trial will decide what steps should be taken to rein in the Mountain View, California-based company.

Top executives at Google and its corporate parent Alphabet Inc., as well as those from other powerful technology companies are expected to testify. Among them is likely to be Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, who succeeded Google co-founder Larry Page four years ago. Court documents also suggest that Eddy Cue, a high ranking Apple executive, might be called

to the stand.

The Justice Department filed its antitrust lawsuit against Google nearly three years ago during the Trump administration, charging that the company has used its internet search dominance to gain an unfair advantage against competitors. Government lawyers allege that Google protects its franchise through a form of payola, shelling out billions of dollars annually to be the default search engine on the iPhone and on web browsers such as Apple's Safari and Mozilla's Firefox.

Regulators also charge that Google has illegally rigged the market in its favor by requiring its search engine to be bundled with its Android software for smartphones if the device manufacturers want full access to the Android app store.

Google counters that it faces a wide range of competition despite commanding about 90% of the internet search market. Its rivals, Google argues, range from search engines such as Microsoft's Bing to websites like Amazon and Yelp, where consumers can post questions about what to buy or where to go.

From Google's perspective, perpetual improvements to its search engine ex-

plain why people almost reflexively keep coming back to it, a habit that long ago made “Googling” synonymous with looking things up on the internet.

The trial begins just a couple weeks after the 25th anniversary of the first investment in the company — a \$100,000 check written by Sun Microsystems co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim that enabled Page and Sergey Brin to set up shop in a Silicon Valley garage.

Today, Google's corporate parent, Alphabet, is worth \$1.7 trillion and employs 182,000 people, with most of the money coming from \$224 billion in annual ad sales flowing through a network of digital services anchored by a search engine that fields billions of queries a day.

The Justice Department's antitrust case echoes the one it filed against Microsoft in 1998. Regulators then accused Microsoft of forcing computer makers that relied on its dominant Windows operating system to also feature Microsoft's Internet Explorer — just as the internet was starting to go mainstream. That bundling practice crushed competition from the once-popular browser Netscape. MDT/AP

Ukraine The military said that it recaptured strategic gas and oil drilling platforms from Russia in the Black Sea and claimed gains in occupied areas near Bakhmut, a city in eastern Ukraine left in ruins after the war's longest and deadliest fighting. The recapture of the so-called Boyko Towers platforms provides an energy source and takes back an asset that Russia seized in 2015 and used to launch helicopters, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense said. “Russia has been deprived of the ability to fully control the waters of the Black Sea.”



Libya's eastern city of Derna has buried 700 people killed in devastating flooding and 10,000 were reported missing as rescue teams struggled to retrieve many more bodies from the horrific deluge, officials said yesterday. Mediterranean storm Daniel caused havoc and flash flooding in many towns in eastern Libya but the worst destruction was in Derna, where heavy rainfall and floods broke dams and washed away entire neighborhoods. “The situation is catastrophic,” said Othman Abduljaleel, the health minister.



USA Authorities warned that an escaped murderer who has evaded capture in southeastern Pennsylvania for nearly two weeks was armed and urged residents yesterday in the area where he was being pursued to lock up, secure vehicles and remain indoors. Pennsylvania State Police posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, that the department was pursuing Danelo Souza Cavalcante in South Coventry Township. Police also asked that the public call 911 if Cavalcante is seen and not to approach him.