



CRIME: A MAN HAS BEEN APPREHENDED FOR STRANGLING A FEMALE FRIEND AND STEALING TWO MOBILE PHONES, THE JUDICIARY POLICE REPORTED

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT: PSP TO MONITOR AND PROSECUTE BUS OVERLOADING

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CHINA'S 'FULL TIME CHILDREN' MOVE BACK IN WITH PARENTS, TAKE ON CHORES AS QUALIFIED JOBS GROW SCARCE

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AP PHOTO



China-Afghanistan

The Taliban yesterday hailed China's new ambassador, Zhao Sheng, to Afghanistan with fanfare, saying his arrival is a sign for other nations to come forward and establish relations with them. The country's seat at the UN is still held by the former Western-backed government that was led by Ashraf Ghani. The two sides have been open about their desire for closer ties, especially commercial ones.

China announced it was upgrading its diplomatic ties with Venezuela to an "all weather" partnership, a label reserved for a select few of its diplomatic partners. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is on a state visit to Beijing, his fifth as president, according to state broadcaster CCTV. He met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two signed a series of bilateral documents for Belt and Road projects and cooperation in the areas of the economy, trade, and education, according to CCTV

AP PHOTO



Vietnam A fire in a nine-story apartment building in Vietnam's capital killed at least 56 people, including at least four children, while 37 more are being treated, state media reported citing the police. Of the 56 people confirmed dead, the police have identified 39 victims, the state-owned Viet Nam News said last night. Initial reports about the death toll were unclear.

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BIG SIX TO TOP UP THE BILL

Gov't reiterates casino ops must add 20% in non-gaming investment if revenues reach MOP180 billion this year - which is very likely, according to analysts P4



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2023 MARATHON TO CHANGE ROUTE PASSING THROUGH COTAI

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SPORTS

2023 MARATHON TO CHANGE ROUTE PASSING THROUGH COTAI

RENATO MARQUES

THE 42nd edition of the Macau International Marathon to be run in December has heeded public opinion and will have new routes that will explore the Cotai area and particularly the properties of the sponsor – Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), the president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, said yesterday at the press conference that presented this year's event.

"The organizing committee has added new elements to the racecourse design and the marathon, half-marathon and mini-marathon courses this year will all pass through the Cotai Strip, bringing participants a brand-new experience," Pun said. He added the novelty comes in a bid to create better race conditions and experiences for participants and taking into account "opinions from all sectors of society."

As for the event itself, it will repeat the format of previous editions with three race distances, the full marathon (42.2km), the half-marathon (21.1km) and the mini-marathon (approx. 6.3km). As usual, the organizers have also established the quotas for the number of participants in each event with 1,400 participants for the marathon; 4,800 participants for the half-marathon and 5,800



participants for the mini-marathon.

After the press conference and speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event, Pun noted the organizers aim to attract a greater number of overseas athletes this year. As for those usually invited by the ID to join the event, the president said these would be a restricted number of about one dozen, although admitting that the number is not yet finalized.

"We are choosing among the best and the most renowned ones only," Pun said, noting that it is expected that the presence of a few

important names in the sports will attract others to participate.

As for the Macau athletes, the organizers will continue to invite "a few" among those that "have been achieving good results and namely winning in their categories," the same official remarked.

At the press conference, the vice president of the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM), Chan Pou Sin, also noted the route change as a good initiative to maintain interest in the race, noting the AGAM has already started preparations on the racecourse, namely on the measu-

rement and plan for the markings and water stations, among others, to ensure the event is successful. He also noted that AGAM attaches

great importance to this event as the major annual event from the association and for the sport.

In his turn, and as a representative of the GEG, the Chief Financial Officer, Ted Chan, noted the long commitment of the group to this event and the support to major sports events in general, also noting that is with pleasure that the group sees the new racecourse passing through the group's properties in the Cotai area and especially the newly developed tourism projects.

As in previous editions, the GEG continues to offer special packages for overseas athletes who decide to come to Macau to participate in the event.

As a first, Chan also noted GEG has invited local film director Emily Chan to produce the marathon promotional video that will be used for the promotion of the event through different platforms.

Registration for the event will start this weekend, with the marathon and the half-marathon opening for registrations on Sept. 16 (Saturday) at 9 a.m. and the mini-marathon starting at the same time but on the next day (Sept. 17).

GEG TO BEAR ALL COSTS OF THE MARATHON

TITLE-sponsor of the marathon for 19 consecutive years, the Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) is not only the main sponsor but the only sponsor this time, bearing all costs related to the event. This information was aired by the president of the Sports Bureau, Pun Weng Kun, in his opening

remarks, and it is part of the government's bid to position the gaming industry not only as contributing to the government purse in terms of taxes but also as major sponsors of events and activities that go far beyond the casinos and even the integrated resorts premises.

FORUM

GTEF 2023 to examine tourism trends and emerging opportunities

STAFF REPORTER

THE 10th Global Tourism Economy Forum - Macao 2023 (GTEF) will run from Sept. 20 to 23 at the Galaxy International Convention Center, making a return after over two years.

Themed as "Destination 2030: Unlocking the Power of Tourism for Business and Development," GTEF

2023 keeps abreast of new trends within the context of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event will gather officials, ministers of culture and tourism, industry leaders, decision-makers and scholars from around the world, and it conveys the idea of "thinking beyond tourism" and navigates opportunities for recovery

of the global tourism economy.

The 2nd GTEF - Investment and Financing Conference will commence during the 10th edition, which will be held over four consecutive days, the longest edition since its inception.

The conference theme is "Innovative and advanced development – Embrace tourism investment and

cooperation in the next decade," with a focus on high-quality tourism development in China.

According to organizers, the conference will examine key trends and emerging opportunities for tourism project development.

Meanwhile, GTEF 2023 will be convened in a hybrid online-offline format and will be broadcast live throughout the event.

This year's program will feature special interviews, case studies and casual fireside chats, aiming "to inject new ideas and momentum into the robust development of the global tourism economy."

Close to 14 discussion sessions will be arranged at the four-day GTEF, covering topics from tourism trends to innovative measures implemented for high-quality and sustainable development in Macau, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, mainland China and the Asia-Pacific region.

Also this year, GTEF will collaborate with Tencent

Cloud, the cloud business under Tencent.

The partner country for GTEF 2023 is Italy, while the featured city for the 10th GTEF is Shanghai.

Within the framework of the Shanghai-Macao cooperation mechanism, the forum seeks to promote exchange and collaboration in cultural tourism between both cities. A multi-functional platform will be built to embrace new possibilities of recreational, leisure and sports tourism development, as well as explore the potential of mutual cooperation between China and other countries as travel markets.

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MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



PSP to monitor and prosecute bus overloading

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) will be paying attention to the growing cases of public buses overloading their passenger capacity and fine the perpetrators accordingly, the Force has said in a written response to the Times.

Admitting that there have been several reports of suspected illegal overloading of buses, the PSP noted that they will “continue to monitor overloading and traffic

conditions and will initiate prosecutions in accordance with the law if vehicle offenses are found.”

As the Times reported last month, there have been several reported cases of public bus users who claim extreme overloading of the vehicles in some routes with, in some cases, buses that have a maximum stated capacity of 65 passengers carrying over 100 passengers.

Following such a report that arrived to the Times via our readers, a Times reporter experienced the situation in person and

questioned the authorities on it.

In response, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) claimed that buses with a stated capacity of 65 passengers may not be overloaded even if “the buses are circulating carrying over 100 passengers, as loading and unloading of passengers may occur in the course of transporting passengers on public buses,” DSAT said while calling on users to accurately report cases they have experienced indicating license plate number of the buses, and the time and location of the buses, so follow-up

measures could be taken.

Recently, the case has reached the Legislative Assembly (AL) with lawmaker Lo Choi submitting through the AL an inquiry on the topic to the DSAT, calling inclusively for the establishment of “residents only” buses to face the problem of excessive usage of the public transportation by tourists.

In the response, the DSAT has proposed to do the opposite, saying that it is considering creating instead some “tourists dedicated routes” that will, for instance, link border posts such as the Border Gate or Qingmao to the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) terminal at Barra to “better coordinate with the needs of the tourists and [to] facilitate the transportation of residents.”

Contrary to what has been said to the Times, the DSAT also added that it will deploy staff members to the most crowded bus stops to inspect the work being done by the bus companies and the need for these to deploy more vehicles to meet the needs of passengers.

As the Times had also done, Lawmaker Lo also noted in her inquiry to the government some concerns over the safety of the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, namely due to the “growing number of buses that circulate on it overcrowded.”

DSAT has tried to appease such concerns, saying that according to the reports of the inspection of the bridge, there are no structural issues that deserve any type of concern.

In a previous report to the Times dating from May 2020, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said in a reply to the then legislator Ng Kuok Cheong at the AL that it was not possible to use electric buses on the routes between Macau and Taipa due to the weight of the EV-Buses which was a limiting factor for the circulation on this same bridge.

HEAVY RAIN EXPECTED THIS WEEKEND

Under the influence of a trough of low pressure, showers will increase with thunderstorms from today until the weekend, the weather bureau has warned. “Showers will become more frequent, heavy at times between Friday afternoon and in the morning on Saturday,” said the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau. Last week, heavy rains poured down on the city, which were said to be brought by the trough of low pressure associated with the remnant of Typhoon Haikui, which left a trail of destruction in Taiwan.

SSM HOLDS FOURTH BRIEFING ON ALCOHOL LAW WITH RESORT OPERATORS

The Health Bureau has held a fourth briefing targeting local resort operators regarding the edible alcohol law. At the briefing, bureau representatives explained the definition of different terms in the law, as well as restrictions on the sale, provision and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Details such as preventing youths from obtaining alcoholic drinks, the responsibilities of venues and the labeling of drinks, were also covered. Operators expressed their concerns about serving drinks at buffets, warning statements on menus, room service, in-room minibars and major events, among other topics.

Central gov't to issue RMB5b of treasury bonds in Macau

ANTHONY LAM

CHINA'S Ministry of Finance said it will issue a sovereign bond of RMB5 billion yuan in Macau on September 20, a move considered to support the development of modern finance in Macau and promote the city's economic diversification.

The announcement was made as a statement jointly issued by the Chinese Ministry of Finance and the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) government.

“Issuance of bonds in Macau illustrates the Cen-

tral Government's ongoing support to the development of a modern financial industry in Macau as a major initiative to promote the city's appropriate economic diversification,” the statement added.

In another statement issued solely by the SAR government, the government boasted that “the latest issuance highlights the Central Government's support to Macau's efforts to develop a modern financial industry and to promote the city's appropriate economic diversification.”

The government believes

“the issuance of sovereign bonds in Macau will further enhance the attractiveness of the city's bond market, help the development of the city as an offshore renminbi market, and strengthen financial cooperation between the mainland and Macau.”

Speaking on the sidelines of an event yesterday, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that national bonds are “high-quality bonds,” expressing his gratitude to the Ministry of Finance for its continuous support to the development of Macau's

bond market.

Lei hopes to bring together institutional investors and bond issuers to participate in bond issuance in Macau and make good use of Macau's “dual circulation” characteristics to combine international capital with mainland development.

The first issuance of its kind took place in July 2019, at an amount of RMB2 billion. A subsequent issuance took place in 2022, which was worth RMB3 billion. The three issuances will equate to RMB10 billions worth of bonds issued.



MACAU, MAINLAND JOINTLY BROADCAST CHINA-MADE TV PROGRAMS IN PORTUGUESE

Macau is joining hands with the mainland to broadcast China-made TV programs translated into and dubbed in Portuguese on local channels and in Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs). Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, said at the launch ceremony that the initiative will help Macau better play its role of a platform for cultural exchanges between China and the PSCs, help Chinese-language films and TV programs enter international markets, and explore new opportunities for the film and TV industry in the Greater Bay Area.

FIRST GBA CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY

The First "Business Conference on Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development" will be held in Macau for two days from today. Some 1,000 attendees from domestic and international political and business sectors are expected to join the conference. Under the theme of "Greater Bay Area, Farsighted Strategy, Extensive Exchange, and Great Development," the business conference will discuss topics of interest to domestic and overseas business sectors, such as the digital economy, green finance, cultural tourism and MICE and interconnectivity.

LEI: CASINO OPS TO ADD 20% IN NON-GAMING INVESTMENT IF REVENUES REACH MOP180B

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau government's contracts with the six gaming concessionaires stipulated that an additional 20% of its pledge in the non-gaming investment will be required if gaming revenues recover to MOP180 billion this year.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong disclosed the information to the press, noting that authorities have indicators, requirements, accounting and review mechanisms every year.

All six gaming operators have disclosed such information via filings to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange back in December, last year.

Following winning licenses to operate late last year, and under the city's biggest gaming law overhaul, the six casino operators agreed to invest a total of MOP118.8 billion after being granted 10-year operating licenses, with the bulk of the money pledged to non-gaming projects.

A total of MOP108.7 billion – more than 90% of their total



investment – was pledged to be spent on "exploring overseas customer markets and developing non-gaming projects."

The city's casino recovery is sustaining its momentum, with gaming revenue in August soaring a staggering 686% to MOP17.2 billion from a year earlier to the highest level since January 2020.

Up until August, gaming revenues had already soared to MOP114 billion, suggesting that the city can accumulate MOP130 billion for this year, a figure initially forecasted by the govern-

ment.

Meanwhile, a report released by Citi Research shows that gross gaming revenues for the first 10 days of September approximated MOP4.3 billion, implying a daily run-rate of MOP430 million.

"There are still a few months left in this year, and we will not evaluate the annual gaming revenue for the time being," Lei told the press, as cited in a Macao Daily News report.

"We are currently taking one step at a time and doing a solid job in related work. The [gaming

operators] made a commitment to the SAR government, [to] invest in accordance with the commitments and requirements of the contract," he added.

Both Melco and MGM recently said they are financially ready to further invest in the market.

Moreover, the big six are also expected to contribute to urban renovations of historic neighborhoods and landmarks, and the organization of arts events in each area, of which the revitalization of Rua da Felicidade and Barra are now underway.

MP fines its driver for indecent act, pledges enhancements in system

ANTHONY LAM

THE Public Prosecutions Office (MP) has imposed a fine of 15-day salary's worth on a driver who committed an indecent act publicly in May, local media has reported.

In May, the MP announced that one of its drivers was spotted showing an indecent gesture towards others. The driver was driving an MP vehicle while seen violating traffic laws.

In a statement issued May 3, the MP merely announced an internal investigation had been instigated, adding that the matter would be handled seriously. Since then, no update as to the type and severity of punishment had been announced.

Around this time a senior prosecutor was accused of corruption, and members of the public called in to a radio show to express their views. Meanwhile, a member of the audience pointed to the indecent gesture case, asking for updates, according to a report by local media Macao Daily News.



Recapping its disciplinary procedures against the driver, the MP revealed the driver had been fined for 15 days' worth of

his salary. The punishment was made pursuant to the General Regulations Governing Public Service Workers in Macau, the

MP added.

Some days ago, the MP announced a deputy prosecutor general was allegedly part of a criminal syndicate that obstructed justice and took bribes in several cases. The syndicate consisted of a lawyer and two other people, besides the senior prosecutor.

The MP said this case is now in judicial procedure, with the Court of Second Instance scheduling the case for a hearing.

Commenting on the case, the MP said that they regret its occurrence. The MP said that it will strengthen its own institutional procedures, plug loopholes and will seriously investigate and deal with any illegal behavior that violates laws and disciplines within the organization.

The MP reiterated that as part of the judiciary, it will impose rigorous requirements on its team, pursuant to laws and regulations, as well as duly exercise its legal responsibilities. Meanwhile, it said that the MP welcomes suggestions from the public.

CRIME MAN ARRESTED FOR STRANGLING, APPROPRIATING MOBILE PHONES

A man has been apprehended for strangling a woman friend and stealing two mobile phones, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported.

He was charged with the robbery.

According to the police, the man is from mainland China and reported to be unemployed. His surname is Liu, aged 37. The woman victim is a local resident, aged 39.

The police were told that they are just friends.

On the evening of Sept. 11, the man visited the woman's home in the Northern district for dinner. The man was traveling in Macau.

The man was said to have consumed a lot of alcoholic drinks during dinner. Afterwards, the two argued about who should do the dishes. During the argument, Liu picked up a mobile phone cable and strangled the woman with it. While struggling against the attack, the woman managed to reach her phone and tried to call the police. Seeing this, Liu took both of the woman's phones and fled the scene. The woman, meanwhile, contacted the police. She reported a loss of MOP18,000. **AL**

MINING

Biden plan would make companies pay royalties for copper and gold

THE Biden administration is recommending changes to a 151-year-old law that governs mining for copper, gold and other hardrock minerals on U.S.-owned lands, including making companies for the first time pay royalties on what they extract.

A plan led by the Interior Department also calls for the creation of a mine leasing system and coordination of permitting efforts among a range of federal agencies. This comes as The White House has been pushing to boost domestic mining for minerals needed for electric vehicles, solar panels and other clean energy.

Under terms of an 1872 law, the U.S. does not collect royalties on minerals extracted from federal lands, a fact Democratic lawmakers and environmental groups have long lamented. The White House plan would impose a variable 4% to 8% net royalty on hardrock minerals produced on federal lands. The proposal needs approval by Congress — unlikely when the House is controlled by Republicans who have long opposed



AP PHOTO

such fees.

Undeterred by such political reality, an interagency working group — led by Interior — touted the benefits of imposing royalties on about 750 hardrock mines on federal lands, mostly in the West. The figure does not include about 70 coal mines whose owners must pay federal royalties.

“A royalty would ensure that American taxpayers receive fair compensation for minerals extracted from federal lands,” the working group said in a report yesterday. The fee also could pay for programs to boost mining permits,

clean up abandoned mine lands and help states and tribal governments that provide infrastructure and services to mining-dependent communities, the report said.

The U.S. stands out among other countries, such as Australia, Canada and Chile, that collect royalties on minerals. At least a dozen Western states also collect royalties on hardrock mining.

“Although thoughtful concerns were raised by the mining industry regarding the existing hardrock leasing system that is used on certain federal lands,”

the working group “did not receive any arguments as to why a properly designed leasing system could not be equally successful in the United States,” the report said.

Deputy Interior Secretary Tommy Beaudreau, who chaired the working group, called the plan released yesterday [Macau time] “a modernized approach” that would “meet the needs of the clean energy economy while respecting our obligations to tribal nations, taxpayers, the environment and future generations.”

“Securing a safe, sustainable supply of critical minerals will support a resilient manufacturing base for technologies at the heart of the president’s investing-in-America agenda, including batteries, electric vehicles, wind turbines and solar panels,” said Joelle Gamble, deputy director of the White House National Economic Council.

Tribes and environmental groups welcomed the report but urged President Joe Biden to go further to protect communities, sacred places and water resources. **MDT/AP**

GAMING

FBI INVESTIGATES CYBERSECURITY ISSUE AT MGM, CASINOS AND HOTELS STAY OPEN ACROSS US

CASINO operator MGM Resorts International said that resorts are open and an investigation is continuing after what it called a “cybersecurity issue” led to the shutdown of computer systems at company properties across the U.S.

The FBI characterized the investigation as ongoing but Special Agent Mark Neria, spokesperson for the bureau in Las Vegas, said no additional information is available.

Las Vegas-based MGM Resorts said the event started Sunday and that it shut down “certain systems” in efforts to protect data. It did not call it a cyberattack or specify which systems were affected. It said reservations and casino floors in Las Vegas and states including Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York and Ohio were affected.

Late Monday, the company posted a statement saying that “resorts, including dining, entertainment

and gaming are currently operational” and that “guests remain able to access their hotel rooms and our front desk staff is ready to assist ... as needed.”

“Bottom line, our customers are being served,” company spokesperson Brian Ahern told The Associated Press yesterday [Macau time].

Guests have shared stories on social media about not being able to make credit card transactions, obtain money from cash machines and enter hotel rooms using key cards. Some images showed video slot machines that have gone dark.

The company website remained “unavailable” yesterday. 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. Users from other states were able to access the site. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy celebrates Mid-Autumn with design flair



Besides celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival with the Lantern Art Festival, Galaxy Macau is presenting local design stars at Macau Design Week 2023.

Both events opened yesterday at the namesake resort in Cotai.

Supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the resort has partnered with the Macau Designers Association (MDA) to present the Galaxy Lantern Art Festival, featuring an array of immersive experiences and a series of events designed to illuminate both the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Chinese National Day.

The events also provide a vibrant platform for young de-

signers to connect, collaborate and showcase their innovative creations, the resort’s operator said.

Eight lanterns will be showcased at the resort as a core part of the Lantern Art Festival until Oct. 31. The lanterns are winning works from an earlier competition that the resort operator had organized in partnership with the MDA. Art students from the Greater Bay Area and local universities as well as emerging designers were invited to participate in the competition that revolved around the theme of traditional cultural elements presented in innovative and artistic ways.

Digital lanterns, meanwhile, are also brought to life through

an LED wall installed at the Diamond Lobby of the resort.

In addition, until Sept. 24, the resort will celebrate local design power in Macau Design Week 2023, held at the East Square. This collaboration with the MDA is a grand exhibition of Macau’s design prowess through exhibitions, seminars, tours and workshops. An exhibition showing 80 art pieces from Macau, Singapore and Japan will be held.

From Sept. 25 to Oct. 8, the resort’s main lawn will be home to a six-meter giant model moon, alongside live performances and parades on select dates. From Sept. 28 to Oct. 8, Broadway Macau will host the Broadway Food & Craft Festival.

AP PHOTO



A recruiter talks with an applicant at a booth at a job fair at a shopping center in Beijing, last June

CHANGING EXPECTATIONS

Instead of eating bitterness, Xiang said, “full-time adult children” are taking advantage of the wealth accumulated by their parents to sit out the job drought, rest up and prepare for exams for relatively stable government jobs or for postgraduate studies.

The trend also reflects changing attitudes among parents who typically would push their children to succeed financially and socially but now increasingly value their emotional well-being, especially when they see their them facing practical difficulties, said Mu Zheng, an assistant professor of sociology at the National University of Singapore.

Having acquired a degree of financial security after decades of sustained economic growth, many parents now have the wherewithal to provide more support to their grown children.

That was the case for Gui Xiao-ru, who passed up the small-town teaching job she was offered after graduation because she was hoping for a better-paying position in a bigger city.

She instead moved back home to Mianyang, in southwestern China's Sichuan province, to study for a civil service exam. She cooks dinner for the family and goes grocery shopping. In return, she gets a 2,000 yuan (about \$274) monthly allowance that allows her to focus on her studies.

It's a peaceful lifestyle, though she knows it's temporary.

“I think this phenomenon is normal,” Gui said, “but we can't keep this status going forever.”

Many “full-time adult children” are documenting their lives and domestic duties on social media. Some take on clearly defined roles such as cleaning, cooking and running errands for fixed monthly allowances.

Wang Sinian, a 21-year-old from Bole, a city in far western China's Xinjiang region near its border with Kazakhstan, started working at her parents' home in April after finishing her studies at a Canadian university. On the social media platform Xiaohongshu, she documented her daily duties – scrubbing the kitchen, mopping floors, ironing clothes and running errands, in exchange for pocket money.

But as is true for many of those who return home, her gig turned out to be temporary. In July, she returned to Canada to pursue a master's degree.

Marguerite Wang, the former gaming company employee, said she mostly keeps her parents company in return for pocket money.

She's cherishing the slower pace of life and time for reflection.

“I don't want to be in the same kind of work situation as before,” she said, “where I didn't have a private life and all my energy went into my work, but I actually didn't know what I was so busy for. MDT/AP

ANALYSIS

'Full-time children' move back in with parents, take on chores as good jobs grow scarce

SIMINA MISTREANU, TAIPEI

WHEN she first moved to the Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen after graduating from college, Marguerite Wang imagined she would spend her career working hard in a big city. Instead, she's living with her parents in her hometown in northeastern China.

A record of more than one in five young Chinese are out of work, their career ambitions at least temporarily derailed by a depressed job market as the economy struggles to regain momentum after its long bout with COVID-19.

Wang, who was laid off from a gaming company in December, is among an estimated 16 million young Chinese who, daunted by the difficulties of finding decent jobs, have moved back home. She asked that her English nickname be used out of concern that speaking to foreign media might hurt her job prospects.

After spending six months unsuccessfully applying for jobs in Shenzhen, the 29-year-old did something she had never imagined doing: she asked to move back home. Now she spends her days watching soap operas and studying Japanese to apply for a master's program in Japan.

Adult children returning to the nest is by no means unique to China, and many Chinese do live in extended families. But by some measures, young Chinese are

enduring the country's worst job market in generations, and many are coping by taking refuge with their parents.

The urban unemployment rate for the 16-to-24 age group reached a record 21.3% in June. In July, the government stopped publishing age-specific data, prompting speculation the politically sensitive numbers had shot up even higher.

If “full-time adult children” were counted as unemployed, the jobless rate would be more than double the official rate of almost 20 percent in March, Zhang Dandan, a Peking University economics professor, said in an op-ed in the Chinese business magazine Caixin in July.

That would be a more accurate assessment of the unemployment crisis, said Zhang, who declined an interview request from AP. Her article was later removed from one of Peking University's WeChat accounts, where it had been shared.

ANXIETY AND CONFUSION

The job drought is a ticklish problem for the ruling Communist Party, which is overseeing a sluggish post-pandemic economic recovery worsened by a downturn in the property market.

The economy grew at a 6.3% pace in April-June compared to

the same period a year earlier, when parts of China were under draconian COVID-19 lockdowns. Exports have been sinking as other major economies slow.

China's overall urban unemployment rate is officially 5.3%, but young people have been disproportionately affected. Over the past two years, Beijing has cracked down on industries such as high tech and education that usually hire young college graduates. That led to mass layoffs and shutdowns in both sectors.

Although the phenomenon is not unique to China, young Chinese are enduring the country's worst job market in generations

Other fields such as agriculture and construction lack enough workers, but most college graduates want less physically demanding white-collar positions. Research by online recruitment firm Zhilian Zhaopin showed a quarter of this year's graduates wanted to work in the tech field.

“There are job opportunities, but the job opportunities are low quality,” said Xiang Biao, head of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany. “So for the only child of a family, who re-

ceived education, who grew up in a so-called time of abundance, it's very difficult to embrace that kind of job.”

An abundance of good jobs has been a mainstay of the social contract between the ruling party and young Chinese, Xiang said. A shortage of decent jobs undermines the Communist Party's assertion that the country's strong economy proves China's political model is superior to Western democracies, he added.

There's no evidence of significant political unrest over the unemployment problem, but late last year, protests against the government's stringent “zero-COVID” policies sprouted across the country in the most direct challenge to the party in over 30 years. An official report in November noted that the growing “anxiety, disappointment and confusion generated by college students” could shake confidence in China's economic future.

Resorting to the usual Communist Party exhortations to toughen up, in June President Xi Jinping urged young people to “eat bitterness” – or endure hardship – “to create a better China.” Earlier this year, the Communist Youth League urged college graduates to “roll up their sleeves” and take up blue-collar jobs.

DIPLOMACY

Pope's peace envoy heads to China on mission to help Ukrainian children

POPE Francis' Ukraine peace envoy, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, is heading to China on the fourth leg of a mission that has already brought him to Kyiv, Moscow and Washington, the Vatican said yesterday [Macau time].

The main aim of the shuttle diplomacy is to help return Ukrainian children taken to Russia after the invasion.

Zuppi, accompanied by an official from the Vatican secretariat of state, will be in Beijing from Wednesday to Friday. The Vatican described the visit as a "further step in the mission desired by the pope to support humanitarian initiatives and the search for paths that can bring about a just peace."

Francis tapped Zuppi, a veteran of the Catholic Church's peace diplomacy, in May as his envoy, aiming to "initiate paths of peace." Over time, Zuppi's mission has concentrated on the humanitarian front and in particular in trying to establish a mechanism



Pope Francis' Ukraine peace envoy, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi

to help Ukrainian children who were moved to Russia following the invasion which began in Feb. 2022.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant in late March for Russia's minister for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing them of abducting children from Ukraine. Russian officials have denied any forced adoptions, saying some Ukrainian children are in

foster care.

No details of Zuppi's work have emerged, though Francis has said he imagined the Vatican could play a role as it has in some prisoner swaps. Zuppi has met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Lvova-Belova and other top advisers to Putin, and President Joe Biden.

"The hope is to push and weave the difficult web of peace," Zuppi told the broadcaster of the Italian bishops conference,

which he heads, before leaving.

Recently, Francis made a strong public overture to China while visiting neighboring Mongolia, again voicing his esteem for the Chinese people and hopes for constructive dialogue on church matters with Beijing. He also has won praise from Russia for recent comments extolling "Great Mother Russia" — comments that angered Ukraine and its Greek Catholic bishops. **MDT/AP**

THE European Union is launching an investigation into subsidies that China provides to electric vehicle makers, the head of the bloc's executive branch said yesterday, as concern grows that "the aid is harming European companies."

"Global markets are now flooded with cheaper Chinese electric cars, and their price is kept artificially low by huge state subsidies. This is distorting our market," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France.

"As we do not accept this distortion from the inside in our market, we do not accept this from the outside," von der Leyen said. "So, I can announce today that the commission is launching an anti-subsidy investigation into electric vehicles coming from China."

AUTOMAKERS

EU probes Chinese subsidies for electric vehicles

China's leaders have helped make the country the biggest market for electric vehicles by investing billions of dollars in subsidies to get an early lead in what is seen as a promising industry.

Global automakers face growing competition in their home regions from Chinese brands that are taking market share.

Electric vehicle makers including BYD Auto and Geely Group's Zeekr unit began sales this year in Japan and Europe. Geely also owns Sweden's Volvo Cars and its all-electric luxury brand, Polestar. **MDT/AP**



Ursula von der Leyen

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Celebrate Negroni Week in Style at Bar Patuá with a Creative Twist

EVERY year in September, cocktail enthusiasts come together to celebrate Negroni Week, showing appreciation for the art of mixology. Red, bold and punchy, Negroni is typically mixed with gin, vermouth and Campari. Its origin can be traced back to Italy in 1919 when Count Camillo Negroni asked his friend, bartender Forasco Scarselli to strengthen his favorite cocktail, the Americano, which was the Negroni we know today.



MGM COTAI's signature speakeasy-style lounge Bar Patuá bring you a 7-day Negroni Week Specials. With its elegant and serene Chinese-Portuguese ambiance, Bar Patuá is an ideal place for an ultimate escape to celebrate Negroni Week.

In addition to Classic Negroni, you can sip and savor creative twist of Negroni infused with roasted coffee beans, jasmine tea, signature spices, and smoked agave. Each tippie is meticulously crafted that you will fall in love at first taste.



Mezzal Negroni with an explosive smoky flavor made with Agave spirit originated in Mexico, Mancino Rosso, Campari and Rose Water Bitters.



Jasmine Negroni blends cold brew Jasmine Tea in Gin, Mancino Bianco Ambrato Vermouth, Lillet Blanc, Elder Flower liqueur with Aromatic Botanical Orange bitters, offering a unique floral touch.

Negroni Week Specials at Bar Patuá only available from September 18 to 24. Make your reservation now at (853) 8806 2398.

RUSSIA-NORTH KOREA

Kim vows full support for Russian 'sacred fight' after viewing launchpads with Putin

KIM TONG-HYUNG & DASHA LITVINOVA, SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday his country's "full and unconditional support" for Russia's "sacred fight" to defend its security interests, in an apparent reference to the war in Ukraine, and said Pyongyang will always stand with Moscow on the "anti-imperialist" front.

Kim also called North Korea's relations with Russia "the first priority."

The leaders met at a remote Siberian rocket launch facility for a summit that underscores how their interests are aligning in the face of their countries' separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States.

Putin in his opening remarks welcomed Kim to Russia and said he was glad to see him. Putin listed economic cooperation, humanitarian issues and the "situation in the region" among the agenda items for their talks.

The two men began their meeting at the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia's most important domestic satellite launch center, with a tour of a Soyuz-2 space rocket launch facility, at which Kim peppered a Russian space official with questions about the rockets. Kim and Putin then met together with their delegations and later one-on-one, according to Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

Following the tour, the two leaders headed a meeting of their delegations, and then spoke one-on-one.

The meeting came hours after North Korea fired two ballistic missiles toward the sea, extending a highly provocative run in North Korean weapons testing since the start of 2022, as Kim used the distraction caused by Putin's war on Ukraine to accelerate his weapons development.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately say how far the North Korean missiles flew. Japan's Coast Guard, citing Tokyo's Defense Ministry, said the missiles



Vladimir Putin (left) and Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovsky, yesterday

have likely already landed but still urged vessels to watch for falling objects.

Putin welcomed Kim's limousine, brought from Pyongyang in the North Korean leader's special armored train, at the entrance to the launch facility with a handshake that lasted around 40 seconds. Putin said he was "very glad to see" Kim. Kim's translator thanked Putin for the warm welcome, "despite being busy."

The decision to meet at Cosmodrome suggests that Kim is seeking Russian technical assistance for his efforts to develop military reconnaissance satellites, which he has described as crucial in enhancing the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles. In recent months, North Korea has repeatedly failed to put its first military spy satellite into orbit.

Official photos showed that Kim was accompanied by 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, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Asked whether Russia will help North Korea build satellites, Putin was quoted by Russian state media as saying

"that's why we have come here. The DPRK leader shows keen interest in rocket technology. They're trying to develop space, too," using the abbreviation for North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Asked about military cooperation, Putin said "we will talk about all issues without a rush. There is time."

For Putin, the meeting with Kim is an opportunity to refill ammunition stores that the 18-month-old war has drained. North Korea may have tens of millions of aging artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet designs that could give a huge boost to the Russian army in Ukraine, analysts say.

Kim also brought Jo Chun Ryong, a ruling party official in charge of munitions policies who joined him on recent tours of factories producing artillery shells and missile, according to South Korea.

Kim said his decision to visit Russia four years after his previous visit showed how Pyongyang is "prioritizing the strategic importance" of its relations with Moscow, North Korea's official news agency said yesterday.

Kim is expected to seek economic aid as well as military technology. Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko said Russia may discuss humanitarian aid with

the North Korean delegation, according to Russian news agencies.

An arms deal would violate international sanctions that Russia supported in the past.

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 at a briefing.

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.

Speculation about military cooperation grew after Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited North Korea in July. Kim subsequently toured his weapons factories, which experts said had the dual goal of encouraging the modernization of North Korean weaponry and examining artillery and other supplies that could be exported to Russia. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1985 USSR EXPELS 25 IN TIT-FOR-TAT SPY ROW

Two days after the British Government ordered the expulsion of 25 alleged Soviet spies, the USSR has retaliated by throwing out 25 British nationals.

It follows the defection of Soviet double-agent and KGB chief Oleg Gordievsky to the West.



He gave British security services an unprecedented amount of information about Soviet agents operating in the UK. In fact he had recently been appointed head of the KGB in London in charge of the USSR's whole spy operation in Britain.

He is the highest-ranking KGB espionage source to be identified and his defection was described by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe as "a very substantial coup for our security forces".

The Foreign Office revealed that Mr Gordievsky had been a double agent since 1966. He was persuaded to work for the Danish intelligence service soon after the KGB posted him to Copenhagen posing as a press attaché.

Three Soviet diplomats were expelled from Denmark in 1977 thanks to information he gave to the Danes.

In 1982 the KGB sent him to London as a "counsellor" for the Soviet Embassy when he began working for MI5.

Mr Gordievsky's revelations are a severe blow to the KGB, but MI5's greatest asset is also gone.

It is believed he is behind the expulsion of several other Soviet diplomats in the last few years. [...]

There was a flurry of activity in Whitehall when news broke of the Soviet tit-for-tat expulsions.

Sir Geoffrey held meetings with Foreign Office and security service officials to discuss Britain's next move and the impact on Anglo-Soviet relations.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have developed a certain personal rapport that has boosted trade between the two countries.

But the current crisis could undermine Anglo-Soviet relations.

In a statement Sir Geoffrey said: "We utterly condemn this unjustified action directed against British businessmen and journalists, as well as embassy staff."

Although the embassy in Moscow has been hit hard - 18 of their 43 diplomats have been told to pack their bags - only two of the 25 people expelled were businessmen. Analysts suggest this means President Gorbachev wants to maintain the trade links that bring in much-needed hard currency.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Two days later the British government ordered the expulsion of a further six Soviet officials and lowered the ceiling on the number of officials allowed to work in the UK from 211 to 205.

On 18 September the USSR expelled six more Britons at which point UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced a halt to the tit-for-tat expulsions.

Some months later details of Mr Gordievsky's dramatic defection emerged.

His KGB bosses in Moscow had suspected him of betraying his country in May 1985 and summoned him back to Russia for interrogation.

He then contacted his "handlers" who helped him get to the British Embassy. From there he escaped to Finland in the back of a van.

After the British secret service had interrogated him he was flown to the UK with his family. He has since written books detailing the operations of the KGB.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Update and review your personal investments. Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. Do not let your mate annoy you; patience will be the key.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Do your own research and be prepared. Catch up on any correspondence you've neglected. Romance may be better than you ever thought possible.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Don't allow personal problems to conflict with professional duties. Don't even bother trying to get their approval on the things you want to do.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. You should be setting up interviews or sending out your resume today.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Problems with colleagues are likely. Sudden romantic encounters are quite likely, but discretion will be a must. Put something away in case of an emergency.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. Family responsibilities are escalating. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You can have an enjoyable time if you socialize with friends. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Chances are they are jealous. The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Romantic opportunities are evident. Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Take on positions that offer on the job training or pay for courses related to the business. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Try not to overspend on friends or family. Your emotional state will vacillate. Your lover probably won't put up with your behavior.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

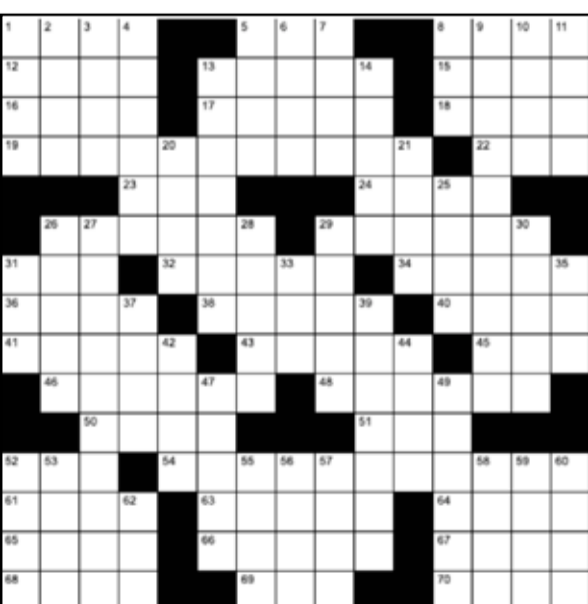
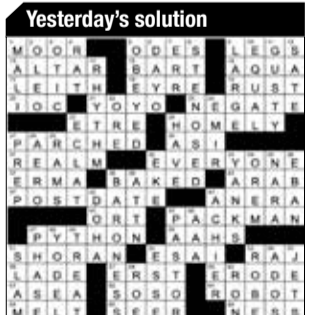
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	28	fine
Changchun	11	26	fine
Chengdu	19	29	cloudy
Chongqing	21	30	fine
Fuzhou	25	33	rain
Guangzhou	25	30	rain
Guiyang	17	24	overcast
Haikou	25	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	22	29	rain
Harbin	11	25	fine
Hefei	19	27	overcast
Nanjing	21	26	showers
Shanghai	23	28	rain
Taipei	24	30	fine
Wuhan	20	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	28	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	8	21	overcast
Frankfurt	11	23	overcast
Paris	14	24	overcast
London	12	23	overcast
New York	15	26	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Step; 5- More, in Mexico; 8- Bushy hairdo; 12- Beige cousin; 13- Cassette half; 15- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 16- Hydroxyl compound; 17- Son of Abraham; 18- I could ___ horse!; 19- Rebuild; 22- Aries or Taurus; 23- Obtain, slangily; 24- Corrosion; 26- Member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; 29- Cloth; 31- Drinking cup; 32- Clear the boards; 34- Put away; 36- Goad; 38- Hiding place; 40- Med school subj.; 41- Virtuous; 43- Fragrant oil; 45- Gasteayer of "Saturday Night Live"; 46- Outcome; 48- Fit for cultivation; 50- Nintendo rival; 51- Vane dir.; 52- Used to be; 54- Transuranic element; 61- Elevator man; 63- Fads; 64- Challenge to complete a task; 65- Underground part of a plant; 66- Locations; 67- Mild oath; 68- Take a meal; 69- Acid; 70- Acting part;

DOWN 1- Jury member; 2- Skin eruption; 3- Gator's cousin; 4- Commendation; 5- Atomizer output; 6- Jewish month; 7- Linebacker Junior; 8- Pass with flying colors; 9- Insignificant; 10- Pro follower; 11- "A Jug of Wine..." poet; 13- Nuns; 14- Capital of Ghana; 20- Pleasing; 21- Baths; 25- Lady of Sp.; 26- Delivers a verdict?; 27- Offensive action; 28- Really bother; 29- Roman holiday; 30- Large wading bird; 31- Silent; 33- Watched the kids; 35- Hellenic vowel; 37- The life of Riley; 39- Working gear of a draft animal; 42- Olympic event; 44- Royal Indian; 47- Retreats; 49- Drinking spree; 52- Unit of language; 53- Yours, in Tours; 55- Arrest; 56- Cpls.' superiors; 57- Prepared to drive; 58- Othello villain; 59- Caspian Sea feeder; 60- Ancient Persian; 62- Canonized Mlle.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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AD

RUGBY WORLD CUP

All Blacks in no rush to clear list of injured players

NEW Zealand is in no rush to clear its list of injured players even though it must win its remaining pool games to reach the Rugby World Cup quarterfinals.

Forwards coach Jason Ryan's update this week had none of the injured in contention to play against Namibia on Friday [Saturday, 03:00] in Toulouse.

Neither will back-rower Ethan Blackadder, who has arrived in France as an emergency call-up. He will be given time to settle in.

Injured captain Sam Cane (back), fellow back-rower Shannon Frizell (hamstring), prop Tyrel Lomax (gashed knee) and inside center Jordie Barrett (inflamed knee) were all first picks.

The All Blacks were taking the long view to get them healthy. After Namibia, they have a weekend off then a crucial match with Italy on Sept. 29.

Cane ran some but didn't train on Monday. He's treating



New Zealand's Tyrel Lomax being assisted by medical team

the back he tweaked on Thursday, and which forced him to withdraw from the tournament opener against France last Friday. France won 27-13 convincingly.

"We've got to get him right and now's the chance to do that," Ryan said. "We won't be taking any risks with skip because he's important to us."

Cane's injury was the main reason the All Blacks chose to replace injured winger Emoni Narawa, who has gone home, with Blackadder, who has nine caps in an injury-plagued career.

The coaches hoped Frizell can start training fully next week. Barrett and Lomax are running, and Lomax got into some scrums.

"Those boys have been working hard," Ryan said. "We are going to need them all."

Ryan also addressed the scrum, where the All Blacks conceded penalties that cost them points and momentum. Second-year loosehead prop Ethan de Groot took a lot of heat for the second straight test defeat, following the mauling by South Africa at Twickenham last month. MDT/AP

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Jelonch back from knee surgery to captain France against Uruguay in his debut

ANTHONY Jelonch's first match in nearly nine months is as the captain of France in his Rugby World Cup debut.

Jelonch recovered quicker than expected from a ruptured ACL in February to be picked on Tuesday to lead France in its first ever meeting with Uruguay today [Friday, 03:00] in Lille.

"Coming back for this World Cup match as captain is a huge source of pride for me," he said. "I'll be doing everything I can to lead my teammates to victory."

France has made 12 changes

after beating New Zealand 27-13 impressively last Friday in Paris. Only lock Cameron Woki, inside back Yoram Moefana and wing Gabin Villiere have retained their starting spots.

Meanwhile, Uruguay scrumhalf Santiago Arata recovered from a broken hand to start against the French. Coach Esteban Meneses has bet on experience, with 11 survivors from the 2019 World Cup. They don't include replacement loosehead Matias Benitez, who made his test debut in 2010 but could make his World Cup debut at 35 today.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



Jelouch, France's first-choice blindside flanker, was injured in a Six Nations home win against Scotland in February. He underwent knee surgery eight days later.

"I had my doubts at the start of my rehab, but I knew I had six months, and I had the World Cup in mind," Jelouch said. "I worked very hard in those six months."

"(Coach) Fabien (Galthie) said to me, 'You choose the match you want to play.'"

Galthie regarded Jelouch as a figurehead of the team's values.

"We remember that night against Scotland. We'd won, but it was tough for the group because we knew Anthony was injured," he said. "He represents the group perfectly. We've lived through difficult times in terms of the game, adversity and the environment. But the group always stood together and the players have been strong, and that's where our strength lies — in determination, confidence and solidarity."

Jelouch led France previously on the 2021 tour of Australia. The series was lost 2-1 but

Jelouch said the captaincy helped him to grow up.

Fellow back-rower Sekou Macalou liked what he's seen of Jelouch in training.

"He might find it a bit hard, but that's normal, he hasn't played in six months," Macalou said. "But he's as tough as ever in the contact area. We're back to 100% Anthony."

Moefana was tipped to make way for Jonathan Danty, who didn't play against New Zealand because of a tight hamstring. But Galthie wanted to preserve Danty for later pool matches.

The coach had a lot of respect for Uruguay.

"At the 2019 World Cup, they beat Fiji, trailed Wales by a point at halftime and lost to Australia by a very respec-

table score (45-10)," he said. "They're a team of fighting spirit and a big heart. We expect to come up against a team with a lot of energy and aggression."

MDT/AP

LINEUPS

FRANCE: Melvyn Jaminet, Louis Bielle-Biarrey, Arthur Vincent, Yoram Moefana, Gabin Villière, Antoine Hastoy, Maxime Lucu; Anthony Jelouch (captain), Sekou Macalou, Paul Boudehent, Romain Taofifenua, Cameron Woki, Dorian Aldegheri, Pierre Bourgarit, Jean-Baptiste Gros. Reserves: Peato Mauvaka, Reda Wardi, Sipili Falatea, Bastien Chalureau, Thibaud Flament, Francois Cros, Baptiste Couilloud, Thomas Ramos.

URUGUAY: Baltazar Amaya, Bautista Basso, Tomas Inciarte, Andres Vilaseca (captain), Nicolas Freitas, Felipe Etcheverry, Santiago Arata; Manuel Diana, Santiago Civetta, Manuel Ardao, Manuel Leindekar, Felipe Aliaga, Ignacio Peculo, Guillermo Pujadas, Mateo Sanguinetti. Reserves: Facundo Gattas, Matias Benitez, Reinaldo Piusi, Ignacio Dotti, Lucas Bianchi, Carlos Deus, Agustin Ormaechea, Felipe Berchesi.

RUGBY WORLD CUP WEEKEND MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Fri	Sep 15	03:00	France	Uruguay	H 1.01, D 251, A 201
Sat	Sep 16	03:00	New Zealand	Namibia	H 1.01, D 251, A 201
		21:00	Samoa	Chile	H 1.02, D 126, A 51
		23:45	Wales	Portugal	H 1.02, D 101, A 51
Sun	Sep 17	3:00	Ireland	Tonga	H 1.02, D 126, A 51
		21:00	South Africa	Romania	H1.01, D 201, A 201
		23:45	Australia	Fiji	H 1.36, D 34, A 3.8
Mon	Sep 18	3:00	England	Japan	H 1.06, D 81, A 19

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OPINION

The Conversation

Zhiyong Yang, Miami University



WHY CHINA'S REAL ESTATE CRISIS SHOULD MAKE THE GLOBAL TRAVEL INDUSTRY NERVOUS

Once upon a time – in 2019 – tourists from China were among the best-traveled in the world. They collectively spent more than US\$250 billion abroad – nearly twice as much as their nearest competitors, the Americans – and logged more than 150 million departures on international flights that year.

The COVID-19 pandemic shook the Chinese travel industry, as it did the world's. But despite the easing of pandemic restrictions – and a global tourism rebound – Chinese tourists have been slow to return to the global skies. The reason, interestingly enough, could be found in the very land and houses Chinese planes fly over.

To understand the issue, first you need to understand China's current real estate crisis. Just how bad is it? China's largest developer, Country Garden, lost \$7.1 billion in the first six months of 2023; investors concerned about potential debt default have sent its stock plummeting.

Another major developer, the troubled China Evergrande Group, posted a \$4.5 billion loss over the same period and sought bankruptcy protection in the U.S. last month. It gained international attention in 2021 after it defaulted on \$300 billion of debt, sparking the current crisis.

One major – if indirect – reason China's real estate industry is so shaky is that local governments are heavily dependent on tax revenue from land sales, as well as property taxes and real estate development fees. At the same time, about 70% of the general population's assets are invested in real estate.

Those facts enticed developers and local governments alike to borrow excessively to fund new development. When the central government started to implement more stringent regulations to curb speculation and control prices, the market predictably cooled – and has kept cooling. In July 2023, new home sales from China's top 100 developers were down 33% from the previous year. Prices are slumping, too.

This has had a cascade of effects on the Chinese economy. Most immediately, as demand for construction materials and labor has fallen, hiring has cooled and consumers are tightening their belts. Local governments are also struggling to stay afloat with less revenue, with some provinces being forced to slash government salaries and benefits.

The situation is especially challenging for homeowners, who are burdened with shrinking wealth as housing prices fall. This has had a ripple effect on spending, as cautious consumers increasingly prioritize their savings – worsening the economic challenge for businesses across the country.

Unsurprisingly – at least to anyone who's paid attention to the world economy – what happens in China doesn't stay in China.

As of April 2023, Chinese tourism to Japan was down some 85% since 2019, even though overall visits to Japan had rebounded to 70% of pre-pandemic levels. Chinese tourism to popular European has also fallen sharply. All in all, China's outbound travel spending is forecast to be down nearly 70% this year from its pre-pandemic peak.

To be fair, tourism within China is bouncing back – to a degree – as frugal travelers increasingly opt to vacation closer to home.

Faced with demand challenges, as well as the effects of COVID-19 and geopolitical strife, Chinese travel agencies have been shuttering en masse in recent years. From January to April 2022, some 8,500 tourism agents and firms declared bankruptcy.

Global tourism has faced a challenging few years, with the pandemic and increased fuel costs putting off would-be travelers. With Chinese consumers feeling down in the dumps over the economy and opting for modest vacations, a recovery will be that much harder.

IPHONE 12 EMITS TOO MUCH RADIATION AND APPLE MUST TAKE IT OFF THE MARKET, A FRENCH AGENCY SAYS

THE BUZZ

A government watchdog agency in France has ordered Apple to withdraw the iPhone 12 from the French market, saying it emits levels of electromagnetic radiation that are too high.

The National Frequency Agency, which oversees radio-electric frequencies as well as public exposure to electromagnetic radiation, called on Apple in a statement to "implement all available means to rapidly fix this malfunction" for phones already being used.

Corrective updates to the iPhone 12 will be monitored by the agency, and if they don't work, "Apple will have to recall" phones that were already sold, according to the French regulator's state-

ment.

Apple disputed the findings and said the device complies with all regulations governing radiation.

The agency, which is known by the French acronym ANFR, said it recently checked 141 cellphones, including the iPhone 12, for electromagnetic waves capable of being absorbed by the body.

It said it found a level of electromagnetic energy absorption of 5.74 watts per kilogram during tests of a phone in a hand or a pocket, higher than the European Union standard of 4 watts per kilogram.

AP PHOTO



A general view of the coastal city of Derna after the floods

OVER 5,000 DEATHS, 30,000 DISPLACED AFTER FLOODS DEVASTATE EASTERN LIBYA

SAMY MAGDY & YOUSEF MURAD, DERNÄ

RESCUERS have found more than 5,000 bodies as of yesterday in the wreckage of a Libyan city where floodwaters broke dams and washed away neighborhoods.

The flooding caused significant infrastructure damage in the coastal city of Derna and displaced at least 30,000 people, the U.N. migration agency said. The damage is so extensive that the city is almost inaccessible for humanitarian aid workers, the International Organization for Migration said.

Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding in many eastern towns, but the worst-hit was Derna. As the storm pounded the coast Sunday night, residents said they heard loud explosions when the dams outside the city collapsed. Floodwaters washed down Wadi Derna, a river running from the mountains through the city and into the sea.

More than 2,000 corpses were collected as of yesterday and over half of them had been buried in mass graves in Derna, said eastern Libya's heal-

th minister, Othman Abduljaleel. Rescue teams were working day and night to recover many other bodies scattered in the streets and under the rubble. Some bodies were retrieved from the sea.

The startling devastation pointed to the storm's intensity, but also Libya's vulnerability. The country is divided by rival governments, one in the east, the other in the west, and the result has been neglect of infrastructure in many areas.

The floods damaged or destroyed many access roads to Derna. Of seven roads leading to the city, only two are accessible from its southern edge. Bridges over the river Derna that link the city's eastern and western parts have also collapsed, according to the U.N. migration agency. The destruction has hampered the arrival of international rescue teams and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of people whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

"The city of Derna was submerged by waves 7 meters high that destroyed everything in their path," Yann Fridez, head

of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Libya, told broadcaster France24. "The human toll is enormous."

Local emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents, continued digging through rubble looking for the dead. They also used inflatable boats and helicopters to retrieve bodies from the water and inaccessible areas.

"This is a disaster of every sense of the word," a wailing survivor who lost 11 members of his family told a local television station as a group of rescuers tried to calm him. The television station did not identify the survivor.

Ahmed Abdalla, a survivor who joined the search and rescue effort, said they were putting bodies in the yard of a local hospital before taking them for burial in mass graves at the city's sole intact cemetery.

"The situation is indescribable. Entire families dead in this disaster. Some were washed away to the sea," Abdalla said by phone from Derna. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (pictured) took a test ride yesterday on Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway, a key project under China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. The \$7.3 billion rail project, funded largely by China, connects the capital, Jakarta, and Bandung, the heavily populated capital of West Java province. It is to begin commercial operations on Oct. 1 and will cut travel time between the two cities from the current three hours to about 40 minutes.

AP PHOTO



Japanese PM Fumio Kishida is shuffling his Cabinet and key party posts in an apparent move to strengthen his position before a key party leadership vote next year, while appointing more women to showcase his effort for women's advancement in his conservative party. It's the second Cabinet shuffle since Kishida took office in October 2021 when he promised fairer distribution of economic growth, measures to tackle Japan's declining population and a stronger national defense.



British economy shrank by 0.5% in July amid a series of strikes, particularly by doctors at the start of their careers, and unseasonably wet weather, official figures showed yesterday. The Office for National Statistics said the strikes by so-called junior doctors weighed on health sector activity, while the sixth wettest July on record hit retailers after a buoyant June, when business was brisk as a result of warm weather.