



THE 700-PLUS ROOM ANDAZ MACAU, OPERATED BY HYATT, OPENED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GALAXY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

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GP MUSEUM TO FEATURE PAINTINGS FROM JOÃO SALDANHA'S 'GP LEGENDS' COLLECTION

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POLICE SAID THEY HAVE DETAINED SOME STAFF AT CHINA EVERGRANDE GROUP'S WEALTH MANAGEMENT UNIT IN THE LATEST TROUBLE FOR THE DEVELOPER

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South Korea Thousands of school teachers and staff rallied in Seoul on Saturday for more legal protection from bullying by parents, a rising problem in a country known for its brutally competitive school environments. The weekend demonstrations in the capital city, were triggered by the death of a teacher who was found dead at her elementary school in July after reportedly expressing emotional distress caused by complaints from allegedly abusive parents.



EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged the swift return of "irregular" migrants and a crackdown on the "brutal business" of migrant smuggling yesterday during a visit with Italy's premier to a tiny fishing island overwhelmed with nearly 7,000 arrivals in a single day this week. "We will decide who comes to the European Union, and under what circumstances. Not the smugglers," von der Leyen declared after touring the island's hotspot. The Red Cross said 1,500 migrants remained in the center built to accommodate hundreds.



Poland began to enforce a European Union ban yesterday on all Russian-registered passenger cars seeking to enter the country — the latest in a series of sanctions on Russia in punishment for its war against Ukraine. Under the EU's decision, motor vehicles registered in the Russian Federation are no longer allowed to enter the territory of the 27-member bloc. "A car registered in Russia has no right to enter Poland," Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski said.

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GATEWAY TO ASEAN

Chamber believes Macau needs more air connections, particularly to ASEAN countries, to elevate trade opportunities

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ANTHONY LAM

YAO MING'S FOUNDATION STAGES MATCH IN MACAU FOR THE FIRST TIME

RENATO MARQUES



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IPIM ONLY 21 OUT OF 536 RESIDENCY PERMITS APPROVED IN 1H

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MANPOWER IN HOTEL SECTOR RECORDS 10% DECREASE

The number of people working in the hotel sector decreased by 4,401 to 35,749 in 2022, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service. Receipts and expenditure of the sector amounted to MOP14.72 billion and MOP21.14 billion, respectively, down by 23.8% and 7.1% year-on-year. The sector recorded a widening deficit of MOP6.43 billion compared to 2021 (-MOP3.44 billion). Analyzed by classification of hotels, five-star, four-star and three-star hotels recorded a year-on-year decline of more than 20% in receipts. Hotels of all ratings continued to show deficits, with five-star, four-star and three-star hotels having deficits of MOP5.48 billion, MOP0.48 billion and MOP0.38 billion, respectively.

SURVEY SHOWS OVER 90% BUSINESSES WILL EXPAND INVESTMENT SCALE IN GBA

More than 90% of interviewed enterprises plan to expand or maintain investment scales in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) in south China, according to a survey released last week. The survey, conducted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, showed that the international business community is optimistic about the future development of the GBA, with companies from over 30 countries and regions around the world having invested in the area in a wide range of industries, including finance, retail sales, and services. The international business community believes the industries of digital economy, green finance, and culture and tourism in the GBA boast the most potential for growth, according to the report.

SPORTS FACILITIES PER CAPITA RECORD SLIGHT INCREASE: PUN

Sports Bureau president Pun Weng Kun said that its survey shows there was a slight increase of 0.19 square meter in sports facilities per capita, from 1.34 square meter in 2017 to 1.53 square meter in 2022, which amounts to an increase of approximately 14.2%. Macau's population growth rate over the last five years is 3.4%, which is lower than the growth rate of sports facilities, resulting in an increase in sports facilities per capita, according to Pun. The official also admitted that it is difficult to add sporting venues in Barra and Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida due to high population density.

11TH YAO FOUNDATION CHARITY GAME STAGED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MACAU

RENATO MARQUES

The 11th annual charity basketball match organized by the Yao Foundation, founded by former NBA star Yao Ming, took place in Macau over the weekend.

The multi-event session included not only the charity game between an All-Star Team from China and another representing an international side, but also a series of side events including a charity gala dinner, a basketball carnival, a campus visit, and other community activities.

The Charity Game has taken place in major cities across Greater China including Beijing, Taipei, Dongguan, Shanghai, Fuzhou, Hong Kong, Dalian, Nanning, and Wuhan.

For the 11th edition and in partnership with Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), the match took place on Sunday evening at the new Galaxy Arena.

The Chinese All-Star Team was composed of CBA (Chinese Basketball Association) champion players including Fang Shuo, Chen Linjian, Zhai Xiaochuan, Kyranbek Makel, Fan Ziming, Shi Desai, Du Bochao, Yi Jinhong, Yuan Shuai, and Zhang Zhaoxu. This team competed against International All-Star Team that featured players such as Jeremy Lin, Isaiah Thomas, Kenny Boynton, Thon Maker,

RENATO MARQUES



and David Scottie James.

The event also attracted many celebrities from China's basketball community, the sports industry, and various sectors of society.

At the end of the match, and even if the result was not the important part, the International All-Star Team won 147-144 in a game that was more like a quality entertainment performance, with players taking the opportunity to try some stunts they cannot risk during official matches to entertain the audience that nearly packed the Galaxy Arena.

As the Yao Foundation is

all about giving children from the poorest regions of China a chance to grow and succeed, the game was also the perfect opportunity for some of the very young basketball stars to take the court and show their best skills in front of such a huge audience - and they did not disappoint.

Earlier on and as part of the extensive program, the Short Film "Team up Wuhan," have had its Macau premiere, included in the Hive5 Sports Short Film Festival that was screening at Galaxy Cinemas.

In the press conference held

on Saturday, Zhang Huawei, Deputy Secretary General of China Youth Development Foundation, on behalf of the organizers expressed gratitude to all sectors of Macau for their support of charitable causes.

Zhang noted the impact of the Yao Foundation Charity Games, noting how the event was paused during the pandemic.

"It is of great significance that Macau is hosting for the first time. We look forward to working together with the charitable and sports communities in Macau to take action together and promote the healthy growth of the next generation of the Chinese nation through sports," Zhang said.

In representation of GEG, Buddy Lam, Executive Vice President of Corporate Office, said, "Upholding our corporate philosophy of 'What is taken from the community is to be used for the good of the community', over the years, GEG has proactively supported a wide array of large-scale sports events and activities in Macau through multi-pronged approaches, thereby enhancing the integration of 'tourism + sports' by contributing to Macau SAR Government's '1+4' adequate diversification development strategy. We are honored to be one of the co-organizers and title sponsors of this year's Yao Foundation Charity Game, bringing together renowned national and overseas basketball players and offering the public a feast of basketball at Macau's newest and most iconic Galaxy Arena. Through uniting the community through sports, we hope to elevate the public's awareness of sports and charitable causes."

Heavy rain triggers red rainstorm warning Friday evening

A downpour started affecting the majority of Macau from about 6:30 p.m. last Friday, which later triggered the red rainstorm warning from the weather forecaster.

The warning means that heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 50 mm in an hour, and is likely to continue.

The warning took effect from 9:20 p.m. to 10:35 p.m. on Friday. Prior to its issuance, Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued the yellow warning at 7:15pm, in expectation of heavy rainfall that may reach or have already reached 20 mm in the past or the next hour.

The meter at the Maritime Museum has recorded a maximum of 60.2 mm rainfall within an hour on Friday evening.

Under the impact of the downpour, many locations in the city experienced minor to intermediate flooding. These locations included the western coast of the Ma-

cau Peninsula, the main road at New Urban Zone A, Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes at the back of the Mong-Ha Multisport Pavilion and Fai Chi Kei, among other locations.

The Times witnessed flooding at the junction between Rampa dos Cavaleiros and Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira, as well as the left-hand

lanes on Sai Van Bridge. In response to flooding, several tunnels or underpasses were closed under the downpour. Closed channels are located at the Border Gate, Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, Praça de Ferreira do Amaral and the Main Reservoir, as well as other locations. The downpour also caused two landslides, both in Coloane. Both incidents blocked public roads but caused no injuries. Some shops have also reported flooding. **AL**

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Malaysia holds first National Day in city to boost ties with GBA

LYNZY VALLES

MALAYSIA has held its National Day Reception in the SAR for the first time to show that Macau has a “significant role to play between Malaysia and the Greater Bay Area.”

Hosted by the Malaysian Consulate in Hong Kong and Macau, and co-organized by the Macao Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, the event commemorates the 60th Anniversary of Malaysia Day.

Speaking at the reception, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Datuk Mohomad Alamin, said that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between Malaysia and China.

He called for further cooperation, particularly in the economic and tourism sector.

Echoing similar sentiments, Kelvin Tan, deputy standing chair-



person of the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce, said that Malaysia serves as a “great gateway” to the ASEAN countries, adding that there are people in Macau investing in properties and receiving a 10-year visa.

“Any trade that promotes trilateral partnership between Lusophone countries, Malaysia and

Macau into GBA [will be good for business]. We are also looking into conventions, and exhibitions,” said Tan.

“In fact, we are doing quite a few flights with AirAsia. We are [also] planning a possible Penang or Johor Bahru direct flights to Malaysia,” he added.

Questioned by the Times on

when these would take effect, the chairman said that “it could come very soon” if it works with travel agencies in both regions.

According to him, they would work with gaming operators to “aggressively promote” the flights as it is also a cheaper route to Singapore.

Johor Bahru is a 30-minute ferry

ride from the island.

The local government has been publicizing the fact that, in the coming years, the GBA and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will create further opportunities for Macau and the international companies that partner with Macau's territory.

However, Tan believes that Macau needs more air connections, particularly to the ASEAN countries.

“I think our place as a tourism and shopping d will be enhanced if we have better connections with ASEAN,” said Tan.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS ‘PROMISING’

Speaking at the reception, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong recalled that in recent years, Macau and Malaysia have further reinforced cooperation in tourism, trade, conventions, and exhibitions.

“We are close business and trading partners. [...] I would like to invite more Malaysian companies to join us in Macau,” said Lei.

“The outlook for bilateral economic relations is promising, promoting friendly cooperation between Macau and Malaysia,” he added.

GP Museum soon to feature paintings from Joao Saldanha's 'GP Legends' collection

RENATO MARQUES

A “dream come true” is the way that Portuguese artist João Saldanha described his reaction to the news that 12 of his “Macao GP Legends” collection paintings would soon be featured at the recently revamped Macau Grand Prix Museum.

Without giving away too many details, the artist told the Times that 12 of his works from the series would soon be displayed at the museum, fulfilling a long-held dream. In fact, Saldanha described this dream to the Times back in 2019 during an exclusive interview.

At the time, Saldanha told the Times that to exhibit in the new Macau GP Museum would be a lifetime achievement.

“So, it seems that the dream did come true,” Saldanha said, adding, “12 paintings from the Macau GP Legends series will go to the GP Museum.” The artist



João Saldanha

said that some of the works were still in Macau, in the possession of family members, after being exhibited in Macau in 2016 and 2017.

Another four that were in Lisbon, in the artist's possession, are currently on the way to Macau.

While details are yet to

be unveiled by the Museum, the artist said that the Museum officials reached out in May this year after several attempts and negotiations began.

The final works to be on display are also yet to be unveiled, but it is expected that among them would be

some of the most popular paintings featuring Eduardo de Carvalho (the first GP winner), Michael Schumacher (F3 winner 1990), and Hans Stuck (the 1983 Guia Race winner), among others.

To the Times in a previous interview, Saldanha expressed the idea of a collection featuring the legends of local GP. He is a motorsport fan, and so also a longtime connoisseur of the famous Guia Circuit, and most of the big names of international motorsports have raced and won in Macau over the years.

“My idea was always to produce a series of paintings showing some of the most relevant moments (and personalities) in the history of the Macau GP that could be shown to the public, preferably during the event,” he told the Times. Among these personalities are legendary names such as Teddy Yip and Ayrton Senna da Silva, among others.

STATS

IPIIM APPROVES ONLY 21 OF 536 FIRST-TIME APPLICATIONS FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCY IN 1H

RENATO MARQUES

IN the first half (1H) of 2023, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIIM) handled a total of 862 temporary residency applications for “Investors, Managerial Personnel and Professionals with Special Qualifications,” IPIIM said in a statement.

Among those, a large majority (536) were new applications (first-time) of which only 21 were approved within the first six months of this year.

IPIIM also processed 307 applications for residency renewal under the same schemes, as well as 19 residency extensions to family dependents.

According to IPIIM's Data of Temporary Residency Applications for Investors, Managerial Personnel, and Professionals with Special Qualifications in the First Half of 2023,

only 39 people were granted residence in the first half of this year under the scheme of “Managerial Personnel and Professionals with Special Qualifications” from the total of 21 applications accepted. None of the 79 “Major Investment Total/Investment Plan” applications were granted.

Analysis from the economic or activity sector shows that most approved applications (62% or 13 applications) related to the Education sector, followed by Financial Services, with three applications (14%), and Hotel and Dining, with two applications (10%).

There was one application from each of Transportation, Storage and Communications, Health & Social Welfare, and Entertainment and Gaming, and these amounted to 5% of all approved applications.

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COURTS

Defense lawyer in library case questions rights to supervise government

ANTHONY LAM

THE defense lawyer in the new Central Library design's alleged leakage case has questioned whether the government tolerates criticism.

A staff member at Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has been sued by the government for allegedly leaking internal confidential information about the new Central Library to the public. Charges of violating confidentiality and violating legal privilege held by entities that act for public authorities were pressed against the defendant, surnamed Lou.

The matter started when local media outlet All About Macau published an Article to the Editor raising questions about the design of the new Central Library. It was revealed on Mar. 8, 2021 that Dutch architecture firm Mecanoo had won the tender for the design of the new library. Later, the IC reported the matter to the local police, accusing a staff member of leaking confidential information.

The court trial submitted closing statements last Friday.



Defense lawyer Chan Wa Keong argued that the government does not allow constructive criticism of its work. The prosecutor commented that the article constituted vicious criticism against the government, but Chan argued that the general public's perspective should be taken into account.

He said that when he was in mainland China for official visits, constructive criticism was accepted by mainland officials

because they are key to serving the people well. He suggested the government reconsider the reason behind the article, because he interpreted the aim to be supporting the government move forward.

Chan raised the fact that computer clocks can be adjusted, making it difficult to confirm the actual time the article was written and delivered to the media. He said the prosecutor should not

accuse his client based on "uncertain times."

He also said that leaking the information would be detrimental to his client, an intermediately senior civil servant, and so it was unlikely that he would have done it.

The prosecutor, meanwhile, said that the article's use of words "copycat" and "fake antiques" were violations against the government because they were untrue. In support of this claim, the prose-

cutor cited a witness as saying that the winning design did not copy any other design.

The original article questioned the originality of the winning design and asked: "Why is the Mecanoo design so similar to Shenzhen Longhua Art Museum and Library, and Shenzhen Futian Civic Cultural Center? Why does [the library] exude a feeling of alleged plagiarism?" The subtitle of this section went: "plagiarized architecture?"

Lawmaker and former journalist Ron Lam's provided written testimony prior to the closing statement session. Lam pointed out that the information cited in the article was publicly-accessible information released by the government. Judged by his experience, he thought that the article was the result of publicized data collected and analyzed by a person with architecture or design knowledge or background.

In consideration of the many doubts underlying the case, the lawyer appealed to the court to find his client not guilty, based on the principle of in dubio pro reo (when in doubt, rule for the accused).

IAM tested almost 29,000 Japanese food products, no problems found

RENATO MARQUES

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has tested 28,784 food product samples imported from Japan for radiation under the measures that commenced August 24 in response to the release of water from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean.

So far, all the products tested by IAM had regular levels of radiation without any issues related to excessive levels of radiation.

On August 24, the local government, following guidelines from the central government of China, banned the import of food products from 10 prefectures and regions of Japan, namely Fukushima, Chiba, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Gunma, Miyagi, Niigata, Nagano, Saitama,

and the Tokyo Metropolis, and enforced stricter inspections of all the products arriving from other regions of Japan, which need to be tested for radiation.

According to information from IAM, and before the enforcement of more restrictive measures, the bureau had already performed 23,137 radiation tests on samples of imported Japanese food from January 1 to August 21. It had also collected 160 samples for laboratory radionuclide testing. All tests detected no abnormalities.

On Wednesday, lawmaker and Macau representative to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, Chui Sai Peng, expressed in the pages of the local pro-establishment media

outlet Macao Daily News his opposition to the continued release of water from Fukushima to the ocean, stating that such a release has grave consequences for the ecosystem of the whole region. The interview with Chui on the topic came right after the statement from the PRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemning Japan's announcement that it would soon be moving to the next phase of the water release.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been monitoring the release of tritiated water and has said that Japan's plans to release treated water into the sea at Fukushima are consistent with international safety standards and do not pose any risk.

HOTELS

ANDAZ OPENS DOORS AS INTEGRAL PART OF GALAXY MICE COMPLEX

THE 700-plus room Andaz Macau, operated by Hyatt, opened last Friday as an integral part of the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC).

With two towers standing above the GICC, Andaz Macau celebrates a lifestyle angle to hospitality, in contrast to the elegant décor at Hyatt hotels. The 700 rooms and suites make the hotel the largest of its brand globally.

The hotel's rooms and suites, ranging from 35sqm to 68sqm in area, are inspired by the surrounding area, with a palette of forest greens and earthy orange hues reflecting the lush green landscapes of its neighborhood.

A wide variety of drinks is provided at Andaz Bar, while Portuguese, Macanese and Chinese delicacies are served at Andaz Kitchen. Interconnected,



both outlets complement each other, with the bar acting as both a pre-meal drink corner and an independent destination for refreshments.

Artwork is also displayed everywhere at the hotel. "Juxtapose" is a stunning series of steel sculptures by Malaysian artist Tang Mun Kian that pays tribute to the city's historic architecture, ico-

nic landmarks, and the insights of local residents, being among many examples.

Dedicated check-in lounges are available to cater to MICE groups, avoiding independent hotel guests.

Andaz is the second hotel in a month and the eighth overall to open at the Galaxy-Broadway complex. **AL**



ANALYSIS

HAVANA SUMMIT PROVES G77- CHINA TIES SOLID

WU BAIYI,* CHINA DAILY

THE Group of 77 and China Summit, to be held in Havana, Cuba, on Friday and Saturday, is significant for several reasons.

First, it will help deepen South-South cooperation. Politically, the world faces a complex web of challenges, including the sole global superpower's desperation to maintain its hegemony, rising anti-globalization sentiments in some parts of the world, and imbalanced global development.

The international community is once again being tested, although the choice between unity and division, cooperation and confrontation, and peace and conflict is obvious. By strengthening their cooperation and unity, China and other developing countries will be able to not only play a major role in preventing wars and conflicts, and promoting peace and development, but also contribute to safeguarding the core status of the United Nations, and making global governance mechanisms more effective.

Economically, the contributions (both actual and potential) of developing countries and emerging market economies to the world economy are immense and increasing by the year. However, this does not automatically translate into developing countries enjoying more rights and greater say in international institutions and the global governance system. Therefore, they need to further boost their strength and status by deepening South-South cooperation and striving for more rights and benefits through North-South dialogue.

Developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America face the arduous task of not

only narrowing the development gap but also breaking away from the traditional development paths to achieve sustainable development while protecting resources and the environment.

Close cooperation in key fields between the Global South and Global North will not only help them realize mutual economic and social benefit, but also promote the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help build a "community with a shared future for mankind". In this sense, the Havana summit represents the desire of all participants to seek new opportunities and create new driving forces for economic development.

Second, the summit is a landmark diplomatic event for Cuba and manifests the positive progress in China-Cuba and China-Latin America relations.

Cuba has long been subjected to economic sanctions and a comprehensive blockade by the United States.

In January 2023, Cuba assumed the rotating presidency of the G77 and became the host of the "G77 and China" annual summit. For Cuba, the value of this summit is very high, whether it is the need to expand its international cooperation space, improve its development and security environment, or strengthen its special friendly relations with China.

Cooperation between China and Latin America will further enhance the level of political mutual trust and strengthen bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. The latest example is a resolution passed by the Central American Parliament on Aug 21, accepting Beijing as a permanent observer party and

annulling the so-called permanent observer status of Taipei.

And third, it is a microcosm of the acceleration and upgrading of China's diplomacy in the new era. During his recent meeting with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, President Xi Jinping emphasized that the G77 and China is an important platform for cooperation among developing countries, and China attaches great importance to Cuba's hosting of the G77+China Summit in Havana.

Developing country diplomacy is a key part of China's overall diplomacy.

But the US has intensified efforts to divide the Global South and disrupt China's cooperation with other developing countries.

Although such efforts to contain China are doomed to failure, they have prompted China to further weave a solid web of friendly relations and cooperation with other developing countries. Apart from creating more "China-plus" mechanisms, China will also move ahead with its global cooperation plan under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, injecting new impetus into common development and prosperity, and making greater contributions to the establishment of new South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation mechanisms, as well as reducing the deficits in global governance, trust, peace and development.

The G77 and China Summit in Havana will serve as a testament to this.

[Abridged]

*The author is senior research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

PROPERTY CRISIS

Police detain wealth management staff at indebted developer Evergrande

POLICE in a southern Chinese city said they have detained some staff at China Evergrande Group's wealth management unit in the latest trouble for the heavily indebted developer.

A statement by the Shenzhen police on Saturday said authorities "took criminal coercive measures against suspects including Du and others in the financial wealth management (Shenzhen) company under Evergrande Group."

It was unclear who Du was. Evergrande did not immediately answer questions seeking comment.

Media reports about investors' protests at the Evergrande headquarters in Shenzhen in 2021 had listed a person called Du Liang as head of the company's wealth management unit.

Evergrande is the world's most heavily indebted real estate developer, at the center of a property market crisis that is dragging on China's economic growth.

The group is undergoing a restructuring plan, including offloading assets, to avoid defaulting on \$340 billion in debt.



On Friday, China's national financial regulator announced it had approved the takeover of the group's life insurance arm by a new state-owned entity.

A series of debt defaults in China's sprawling property sector since 2021 have left behind half-finished apartment buildings and disgruntled homebuyers. Observers fear the real estate crisis may further slow the world's second-largest economy and spill over globally. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

VICE PRESIDENT HAN ZHENG TO REPRESENT CHINA AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

CHINA is sending Vice President Han Zheng to the U.N. General Assembly's annual high-level debate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said last week, suggesting that the country's most senior diplomat, Wang Yi, will not attend.

This year's gathering of world leaders at United Nations headquarters in New York starts today with a sustainability summit. The weeklong general debate gets underway on Tuesday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has not attended the U.N. session in person for several years. He participated via video conference during the first two years of the coronavirus pandemic.

Wang Yi attended last year and generally represented China at the U.N. Wang is the head of the foreign affairs committee of China's Communist Party. He was not mentioned in the ministry's announcement.

Han is a past member of the Politburo Standing Committee, an elite group of leaders within the party. He retired from that position but assumed the position of vice president in March.

Han's continued political career parallels the one of Wang Qishan, who played an influential role in the past several years in managing the tense U.S.-China relationship. Wang led the Communist Party's dis-

ciplinary body and was a member of the Politburo Standing Committee. He retired at the end of 2017 but was brought back to serve as vice president in 2018.

The absence of Beijing's top leader at the General Assembly may not be as conspicuous as Xi not attending the Group of 20 summit that took place in India earlier this month.

The British government announced in August that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak would not attend the upcoming U.N. session. French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin also do not plan to be there. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA

Hundreds protest against the government after deputy premier's graft charges were dropped

HUNDREDS of people staged an anti-government rally this weekend in the Malaysian capital, accusing Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of helping his key ally escape prosecution in exchange for political support.

Prosecutors unexpectedly dropped 47 corruption charges against Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Sept. 4, late in the process of his trial. The court approved the application for dismissal but refused to grant Zahid a full acquittal, which means he can be recharged.

Speakers addressing the crowd Saturday in Kuala Lumpur accused Anwar's government of interfering with the case to let Zahid off the hook in return for political support. Some protesters in the opposition-backed rally wore white shirts emblazoned with the words "Fight Corruption." They marched in the city center chanting, "Charge Zahid," "Reform is dead" and "Down with Anwar."

Protester Muhamed Yahya said there was a "hidden hand at work



that led to the charges against Zahid being dropped.

"They used the back door," he

said.

Prosecutors said Zahid's case was temporarily halted because

further investigation was needed. Anwar has said it was former Attorney General Idrus Harun's de-

cision just before he retired and denied interfering in the case. The dropped charges have led to renewed calls for reforms that would separate the attorney general's roles as the government's legal adviser and its public prosecutor.

Zahid heads the United Malays National Organization party, and his support has been pivotal in helping Anwar form a unity government after November's general election led to a hung Parliament. The dismissal of charges sparked new criticism, particularly in light of the Anwar government's anti-corruption stance.

A lot of promises were not fulfilled by Anwar's government, said protester Zolazrai Zolkapli.

"Their promises were all lies. When we have been cheated by their propaganda and cheated by their manifesto, we come here to show our support" for the rally, he said.

Police had declared the gathering unlawful, as no permission was granted to hold it, but they didn't stop the protest, which ended peacefully after several hours.

Zahid was detained on graft charges in 2018 after UMNO lost power, facing 12 counts of criminal breach of trust, 27 counts of money laundering and eight counts of bribery involving more than 31 million ringgit (\$6.7 million) from his family foundation. Prosecutors alleged that money intended for charity was misappropriated for his personal use, including to shop and pay off his credit cards. More than 110 witnesses have testified in his case. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Eno Ichikawa, Kabuki theater actor and innovator, dies at 83

ENO Ichikawa, who revived the spectacular in Japanese Kabuki theater to woo younger and global audiences, has died. He was 83.

Ichikawa died after suffering heart problems on Wednesday in Tokyo, the entertainment company Shochiku Co., a major Kabuki producer, said this weekend.

Ichikawa, or Masahiko Kinoshi, became known for "Super Kabuki," incorporating modern music and storytelling as well as the circus-like elements of the tradition — such as "flying" supported by ropes — that had been discarded over the years. He focused on what he called the three S's: "Speed, story and spectacle."

Kabuki, which features live music and dance on a revolving stage, originated in the 17th Century Edo



era and is traditionally performed only by men. So, Ichikawa played beautiful damsels, as well as witches, samurai and even animals throughout his career.

He is best known for bringing back the stunt

"chunori," which translates as "lifted into space," portraying a joyous fox that receives from a princess a small drum made from the hide of its slaughtered parents.

Ichikawa was listed in

the Guinness World Records in 2000 for having "flown across the stage and audience for 5,000 performances since April 1968."

Hailed as "the rebel in Kabuki" by Japanese media, Ichikawa also created new works. "Yamato Takeru," based on Japanese mythology and centered on a prince who battles evil forces, debuted in 1986. At the end, the hero transforms into a magnificent white bird that flies through the theater.

Ichikawa not only collaborated with modern writers and composers but also recruited and trained people outside the Kabuki families as actors. That had been unheard of, although such collaborations are routine now due to Ichikawa's efforts.

After he divorced from actress Yuko Hama, Ichikawa became estran-

ged from his son, Teruyuki Kagawa, a well-known actor in movies and TV shows. They later reunited, and Kagawa took up Kabuki as Chusha Ichikawa when he was in his 40s. Most Kabuki actors start as children, learning the art that is passed down from grandfather to father to son.

"He was an actor who devoted his life to blazing new trails, always with a heart that aspired to fly to the heavens, no matter the obstacles," Kagawa said in a statement.

"He was truly blessed to have been loved by so many people and for giving his all to his own Kabuki Way."

Kagawa's son Danko has now started acting in Kabuki and is on track to inherit the family roles.

"There was so much more I wanted to learn from my grandfather,"

Danko said.

"I vow to keep doing my best, never forgetting the drive to soar above and the power to dream that he so treasured," he added.

Ichikawa continued to act even after suffering a stroke in 2003, delivering his final performance in 2013. He has been honored with numerous cultural prizes, including from the Japanese and French governments.

Tragedy struck Ichikawa's family earlier this year when his brother and fellow Kabuki actor Danshiro Ichikawa and his wife died in an apparent triple-suicide attempt. Their son, Ennosuke Ichikawa, whose attempt failed, is set to face trial over the deaths.

A public memorial for Ichikawa is being planned for a later date, following family services, according to Shochiku. **MDT/AP**

RUSSIA-NORTH KOREA

Kim inspects Russian bombers and a warship on a visit to Russia's Far East

KIM TONG-HYUNG
& HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected Russia's nuclear-capable bombers, hypersonic missiles and an advanced warship from its Pacific fleet this weekend as he continued a trip in Russia's Far East that has sparked Western concerns about an arms alliance that could fuel President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

After arriving in the city of Artyom by train, Kim traveled to an airport just outside the port city of Vladivostok where Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and other senior military officials gave him an up-close look at Russia's strategic bombers and other warplanes.

All the Russian warplanes shown to Kim were among the types that have seen active use in the war in Ukraine, including the Tu-160, Tu-95 and Tu-22 bombers that have regularly launched cruise missiles.

Shoigu and Lt. Gen. Sergei Kobylash, the commander of the Russian long-range bomber force, explained to Kim that the Tu-160 had recently received new cruise missiles with a range of more than 6,500 kilometers (over 4,040 miles). Pointing at the weapons bay, Shoigu said that each bomber carries 12 missiles.

Russian officials have previously said that the new missile was under development, and the latest comments confirmed its deployment for the first time.

Shoigu, who had met Kim during a rare visit to North Korea in July, also showed Kim another of Russia's latest missiles, the hypersonic Kinzhal, carried by the MiG-31 fighter jet, that saw its first combat during the war in Ukraine, according to Russia's Defense Ministry.

Kim and Shoigu later traveled to Vladivostok, where they inspected the Admiral Shaposhnikov frigate. Russia's navy commander, Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, briefed Kim on the ship's capabilities and weapons, which include long-range Kalibr cruise missiles that Russian warships have regular-



In this image taken from video released by Russian Defense Ministry, Kim Jong Un listens to explanations by Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov (right) while visiting a frigate of the Russian navy in the port of Vladivostok

ly fired at targets in Ukraine.

Kim's visits to military and technology sites this week possibly hint at what he wants from Russia, perhaps in exchange for supplying munitions to refill Putin's declining reserves as his invasion of Ukraine becomes a drawn-out war of attrition.

Kim's trip to Russia, which included more than four hours of talks with Putin on Wednesday, comes amid momentum in military cooperation between the countries in which North Korea could potentially seek Russian technologies to advance Kim's nuclear, missile and other military programs in exchange for providing Russia with badly needed munitions.

Videos released by Russia's Defense Ministry showed Shoigu greeting Kim at the airport along with honor guards lined up near a red carpet. Kim was seen peering at the Kinzhal missile, gesturing and asking questions about the warplanes' capabilities as he discussed technical details with Shoigu and other military officials through translators.

Kim was also seen talking to Shoigu and Yevmenov about a purported nuclear attack submarine the North unveiled last week as they stepped out of the Shaposhnikov frigate.

Yesterday [Macau time], Kim visited a local theater to watch Pyotr Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty ballet performance, Russia's ambassador to Pyongyang, Alexander Matsegora, was quoted as saying by

the Russian RIA Novosti state news agency. The agency said Kim left after the first act.

The visit follows Kim's tour on Friday of a factory producing advanced Russian warplanes.

Kim in recent months has emphasized the need to strengthen his navy to counter the advanced naval assets of the United States, which has been expanding its combined military exercises with South Korea to counter the North's growing threat.

Analysts say Kim's focus on naval strength could be driven by ambitions to obtain sophisticated technologies for ballistic missile submarines and nuclear-propelled submarines as well as to initiate joint naval exercises between Russia and North Korea.

After meeting Putin at Russia's main spaceport, a location that pointed to Kim's desire for Russian assistance in his efforts to acquire space-based reconnaissance assets and missile technologies, North Korea's leader reappeared Friday in the far eastern city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur for a visit to a plant producing Russia's Su-57 fighter jets.

Experts have said potential military cooperation between the countries could include efforts to modernize North Korea's outdated air force, which relies on warplanes sent from the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Kim's trip to Russia, his first since April 2019 when he met

Putin in Vladivostok, came days after he attended a ceremony at a North Korean military shipyard where the country unveiled the alleged nuclear attack submarine.

State media claimed it is capable of launching tactical nuclear weapons from underwater. But South Korea's military expressed doubt about the operational capabilities of the sub, which was the result of reshaping an existing submarine to install missile launch tubes.

Kim has also announced goals to acquire nuclear-propelled submarines, which can quietly travel long distances and approach enemy shores to deliver strikes, a key asset in his efforts to build a viable nuclear arsenal that could threaten the United States. Analysts say such capacities would be unfeasible for the North without external assistance.

Putin on Friday reiterated that Russia would abide by U.N. sanctions, some of which ban North Korea from exporting or importing any weapons. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov separately said that no agreements on bilateral military cooperation were signed after the Putin-Kim meeting Wednesday.

Experts say North Korea and Russia aren't likely to publicize any deals on weapons to avoid stronger international criticism.

Some South Korean experts say that Kim could also pursue a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In another sign of the North's post-pandemic opening, KCNA said that a team of North Korean athletes departed from Pyongyang to participate in the Asian Games starting next week in Hangzhou, China. South Korea's government says around 190 North Korean athletes are registered for the event.

Since last year, the U.S. has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, many of them likely copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia have already been used in Ukraine. MDT/AP

this day in history

1987 SUPERPOWER TREATY TO SCRAP WARHEADS



The United States and the USSR are to sign an agreement later this year to reduce the number of nuclear missiles.

US President Ronald Reagan announced the news that over 1,000 weapons would be scrapped over the next few years.

The superpower summit in Washington will be the first ever treaty reducing the total number of nuclear arms since their invention 50 years ago.

All the warheads at the site of England's longest-running, anti-nuclear protest at Greenham Common will go as a result of the agreement.

President Reagan said the talks had been "frank, constructive and notable" and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said it was "time to reap the harvest" after moving towards an accord for many years.

The arms to be dismantled under the treaty are all short and medium-range missiles based in Europe and the Soviet Union.

The inter-continental weapons which can reach thousands of miles will not be destroyed.

Even though the reduction only represents a 3% total decrease in the number of nuclear warheads deployed worldwide, peace campaigners welcomed the announcement.

The chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said it was the direct result of persistent pressure from the peace movement.

Details of the treaty, including the crucial matter of verifying the destruction of the missiles, have yet to be worked out.

But US Secretary of State George Shultz said the treaty was only the beginning of the process.

"This doesn't solve all the problems by a long shot... But you've got to start," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty was signed in December 1987 by USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan.

The INF agreement was followed by the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start I) in 1991, which cut the numbers of long-range nuclear weapons by roughly half.

Two years later Start II agreed to scrap a further 3,000 - 3,500 warheads.

The Treaty of Moscow in 2002, signed by Presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin, reduced the number of weapons by a further 1,700 - 2,200.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. Depression may put a damper on your day. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Turn your present relationship around or start a new one. Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Don't fall for damaging rumors, and refuse to get involved in gossip.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your future. Be on your best behavior. You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Opportunities to get ahead are evident. Be ready to explain your actions.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 New relationships will surface through work related events. Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Think about your budget before booking a trip. Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You are best to work at home if you can. Love can be heightened if you sit down and discuss your future plans. You'll regret every word for some time to come.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Refrain from arguing with your mate. If you're willing to cut loose you will find yourself in the midst of an exciting encounter.

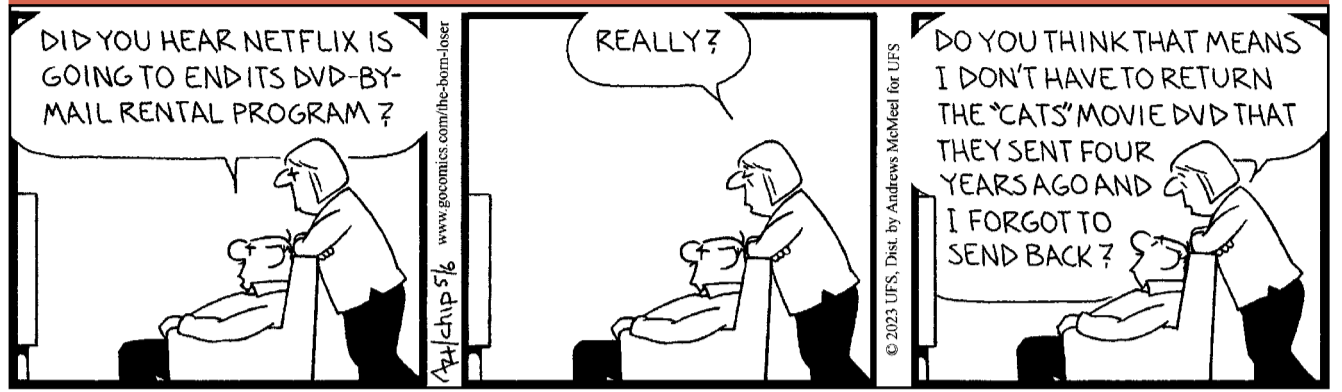
SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Taking on too much won't help the situation. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. Make your intentions perfectly clear and find out exactly what is expected of you.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Be cautious who you deal with financially. Don't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You won't have much time for your mate today. You can make money through real estate or by using your head when it comes to personal investments.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Changes could be overwhelming. Curb any jealous fits if your partner has been flirting with someone else.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	30	fine
Changchun	18	26	thunderstorms
Chengdu	21	27	showers
Chongqing	26	33	rain
Fuzhou	26	34	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	25	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	23	34	fine
Harbin	17	24	rain
Hefei	22	33	cloudy
Nanjing	23	32	cloudy
Shanghai	24	32	cloudy
Taipei	25	29	fine
Wuhan	24	34	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	28	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	9	18	overcast
Frankfurt	16	23	rain
Paris	13	23	rain
London	13	19	rain
New York	16	23	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Woodstock singer Joan; 5- Like Loki; 10- Back of the neck; 14- Longfellow's bell town; 15- ___ Gay; 16- Norway's patron saint; 17- Sleep like ___; 18- Brown-furred aquatic carnivorous mammal; 19- Top; 20- Wagner's father-in-law; 22- Altruistic; 24- Contented sighs; 27- "South Park" kid; 28- Criminal underworld; 32- Dark area; 36- Back in time; 37- Office person; 39- Having auricular protuberances; 40- Hip bones; 42- Animal life; 44- Pianist Peter; 45- Bird homes; 47- Leg joints; 49- Apply lightly; 50- Elegance; 51- Liquid hydrocarbon; 53- At the apex of; 56- Prospector's find; 57- Capable of being won; 61- Oohed and ___; 65- Fail to include; 66- Viscounts' superiors; 69- Preserve with salt; 70- Wife of a rajah; 71- Tendon; 72- Olive genus; 73- Stains; 74- Result; 75- Street urchin;

DOWN 1- False god; 2- King of the Huns; 3- Winged god; 4- Sharp turns; 5- Classical beginning; 6- Toronto's prov.; 7- Doesn't keep; 8- Streamlined; 9- Ahead of time; 10- Peer; 11- Away from the wind; 12- Bridge option; 13- Newts; 21- Baby powder; 23- Duct for smoke; 25- One of two equal parts; 26- Move stealthily; 28- Profits; 29- Lace tip; 30- Clangorous; 31- Intoxicated; 33- Plait, old-style; 34- Aired again; 35- Sun-dried brick; 38- Use a prie-dieu; 41- Legendary island; 43- Saab model; 46- Stiff bristle; 48- Fizzy drink; 52- Manatee; 54- Corpulent; 55- Evident; 57- Unit of language; 58- If ___ be so bold...; 59- Mudville complement; 60- Sea eagles; 62- Hawaiian native dance; 63- ... saw Elba; 64- Unhearing; 67- Romanian monetary unit; 68- Nor. neighbor;

Friday's solution

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

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
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RUGBY WORLD CUP | ROUNDUP

Ireland puts Tonga away, underdog Portugal harasses Wales and Samoa arrives

IRELAND 59, TONGA 16

TOP-ranked Ireland gambled on fielding its first team against Tonga at the Rugby World Cup this weeked just a week out from a huge showdown with defending champion South Africa.

The Irish green machine — playing in white shirts for a change — made it pay off, putting eight tries past the Tongans in a clinical 59-16 mauling that has confidence sky-high ahead of the game of the pool stage on paper against the No. 2 Springboks next Saturday.

As a bonus, Ireland captain Jonathan Sexton picked up a try between the posts in his 16 points and went past compatriot Ronan O'Gara and Wales' Neil Jenkins into fourth on rugby's all-time international points list. The 38-year-old Sexton is now Ireland's record-holder.

Powerhouse center Bundee Aki burst through the Tongans for two tries on the night in Nantes, where everything fell into place perfectly for Ireland.

AP PHOTO



Crucially, there were no major injuries and Ireland looked as ready as it could be to meet the Springboks by extending its national record winning streak to 15 tests with its second-best World Cup

victory. It came one week after the best, an 82-8 thumping of Romania to open a campaign that's looking

increasingly like Ireland's best ever chance of winning rugby's big one for the first time.

“It's on to the next week now, it's a massive game for us against the reigning world champions,” Sexton said. “It's all geared towards that now.”

South Africa has a chance to reply when it plays minnow Romania on Sunday, although no matter what the Boks do in Bordeaux, they can't catch Ireland at the top of Pool B for now.

WALES 28, PORTUGAL 8

Wales got a bonus-point fourth try in the last play to beat Portugal without ever completely subduing the feisty underdog appearing in its first Rugby World Cup game in 16 years.

No. 8 Taulupe Faletau rumbled through three tired Portugal tackles for the final try, ensuring Wales still came away to set the pace in Pool C with maximum points after starting with a grueling 32-26 win over Fiji. Louis Rees Zammit opened the

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

try count for the Welsh in the ninth minute and celebrated with a version of Cristiano Ronaldo's famous siuuu! leaping celebration — a cheeky take on Portugal's most famous sports star.

Hooker and captain for the day Dewi Lake drove over from a tap penalty. Regular skipper Jac Morgan, who was called into the team at the last minute to replace Tommy Reffell, got Wales' third.

But Wales still didn't run away with it and the biggest cheer of the day in Nice came when Portugal pulled off a slick lineout trick that resulted in flanker Nicolas Martins scoring down the short side after an airborne Rafael Simoes flicked him the ball.

Portugal finished with 14 men when right wing Vincent Pinto was given a yellow card when he jumped for a catch and stuck a foot out into Josh Adams' face. It was upgraded to a red card for the third sending off of the World Cup so far following England's Tom Curry and New Zealand's Ethan de Groot.

Wales has Australia next in what might be a telling match-up for the pool. The Aussies face Fiji on Sunday. Portugal will have renewed hope of getting a first Rugby World Cup win against Georgia.

SAMOA 43, CHILE 10

Like Tonga and Portugal, Samoa opened its campaign nine days into the World Cup. The Samoans started slowly but ultimately overwhelmed tournament debutant Chile 43-10 in a game drawn out by penalties and punishments, including four sent to the sin-bin, two from each team.

After conceding an early try and leading only 19-10 at halftime, Samoa pulled away. Samoa's five tries in all went to fullback Duncan Paia'aua right on the first-half buzzer, and blond-mulleted scrumhalf Jonathan Taumateine, flanker Fritz Lee and hooker Sama Malolo in the second half, with Malolo scoring twice.

Samoa coach Seilala Mapusua got a reaction from his men and 24 unanswered points after giving them an unrepeatable halftime dressing down.

"Probably a few words I can't say on live TV," he said when asked what his team talk entailed.

Samoa's ambitions of making the quarterfinals for the first time since 1995 will rest heavily on a meeting next with Argentina. Chile goes up against England. **MDT/AP**

RUGBY WORLD CUP | PREVIEW

Ireland ready for Springboks after taking apart Tonga

IRELAND accounted for Tonga 59-16 and accounted for all fingers, toes, arms and legs in mostly good order after a successful Rugby World Cup gamble.

The Irish first team was risked for a second straight match to build a head of steam for their showdown with defending champion South Africa next weekend in Paris and the risk paid off. Backup tighthead prop Finlay Bealham came off and appeared to be the only injury.

But Ireland's key players got through unscathed, they got the bruising hit-out needed, and a Tonga team self-described as its best ever was taken apart clinically.

As a bonus, captain Jonathan Sexton tallied 16 more points and passed Ronan O'Gara and Neil Jenkins to fourth on the all-time international points list.

Sexton, critical to Ire-

land's success, has scored three tries and slotted 12 of 13 goalkicks in two World Cup matches after six months out. They have extended their winning streak to 15 tests with their second-best World Cup victory, one week after the best, 82-8 against Romania. He and Ireland look ready to meet the Springboks in Paris.

"We're delighted to get five points against a very good team," Sexton said. "That was the main objective. We did it, and we'll concentrate now on a massive game next week. Playing against the world champions is going to be really special."

A lot of attention on Tonga was paid to four former All Blacks it fielded and they enhanced a tough team which has been around the block. Tonga's average age of 29-plus is second in the tournament only to South Africa. But in its first

game, it wasn't sharp or in sync — the defense was ragged.

Still, Ireland needed every drop of its own considerable experience to contain them, and was ruthless against Tonga errors.

Sexton got the show rolling with a penalty kick after the shot clock fi-

nished. Tonga queried referee Wayne Barnes, who said it was not his job to enforce the clock.

Ireland showed the range of its options after half-time with more tries by Lowe, Bundee Aki, who got two, and Rob Herring, who had one rubbed off for a double movement.

Tonga has Scotland next weekend.

"We were our own worst enemy. They're a really complete team," Tonga coach Toutai Kefu said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to throw a little bit more punches next week." **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

France	27	13	New Zealand
Italy	52	8	Namibia
Ireland	82	8	Romania
Australia	35	15	Georgia
England	27	10	Argentina
Japan	42	12	Chile
South Africa	18	3	Scotland
Wales	32	26	Fiji
France	27	12	Uruguay
New Zealand	71	3	Namibia
Samoa	43	10	Chile
Wales	28	8	Portugal
Ireland	59	16	Tonga
South Africa	76	0	Romania

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Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

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OPINION

The Conversation

Chris Impey, University of Arizona



NASA REPORT FINDS NO EVIDENCE THAT UFOs ARE EXTRATERRESTRIAL

NASA's independent study team released its highly anticipated report on UFOs on Sept. 14, 2023.

In part to move beyond the stigma often attached to UFOs, where military pilots fear ridicule or job sanctions if they report them, UFOs are now characterized by the U.S. government as UAPs, or unidentified anomalous phenomena.

Bottom line: The study team found no evidence that reported UAP observations are extraterrestrial.

During a press briefing, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson noted that NASA has scientific programs to search for traces of life on Mars and the imprints of biology in the atmospheres of exoplanets. He said he wanted to shift the UAP conversation from sensationalism to one of science.

With this statement, Nelson was alluding to some of the more outlandish claims about UAPs and UFOs. At a congressional hearing in July, former Pentagon intelligence officer David Grusch testified that the American government has been hiding evidence of crashed UAPs and alien biological specimens. Sean Kirkpatrick, head of the Pentagon office charged with investigating UAPs, has denied these claims.

And the same week NASA's report came out, Mexican lawmakers were shown by journalist Jaime Maussan two tiny, 1,000-year-old bodies that he claimed were the remains of "non-human" beings. Scientists have called this claim fraudulent and say the mummies may have been looted from gravesites in Peru.

The NASA study team report sheds little light on whether some UAPs are extraterrestrial. In his comments, the chair of the study team, astronomer David Spergel stated that the team had seen "no evidence to suggest that UAPs are extraterrestrial in origin."

Of the more than 800 unclassified sightings collected by the Department of Defense's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office and reported at the NASA panel's first public meeting back in May 2023, only "a small handful cannot be immediately identified as known human-made or natural phenomena," according to the report.

Many of the recent sightings can be attributed to weather balloons and airborne clutter. Historically, most UFOs are astronomical objects such as meteors, fireballs and the planet Venus.

The NASA study team described in the report the types of data that can shed more light on UAPs.

With access to these classified sightings and a structured mechanism for commercial pilots to report sightings, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office – the military office charged with leading the analysis effort – could have the most data.

NASA also announced the appointment of a new director of research on UAPs.

Parts of the briefing resembled a primer on the scientific method. Using analogies, officials described the analysis process as looking for a needle in a haystack, or separating the wheat from the chaff.

Spergel said the study team's goal was to characterize the hay – or the mundane phenomena – and subtract it to find the needle, or the potentially exciting discovery. He noted that artificial intelligence can help researchers comb through massive datasets to find rare, anomalous phenomena. AI is already being used this way in many areas of astronomy research.

At the beginning of the briefing, Nelson gave his opinion that there were perhaps a trillion instances of life beyond Earth. So, it's plausible that there is intelligent life out there. But the report says that when it comes to UAPs, extraterrestrial life must be the hypothesis of last resort. It quotes Thomas Jefferson: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." That evidence does not yet exist.

[Abridged]

MACAU INT'L MARATHON REGISTRATION SLOTS SOLD OUT IN A FEW HOURS

THE BUZZ

It took only a few hours to fill all 12,000 entry slots available for the several races included in the 42nd Macau International Marathon.

The response from the public eager to participate in the event was overwhelming with the 1,400 participants slots for the marathon and 4,800 for the half-marathon, made available on Saturday at 9 a.m., filled in less than two hours and 30 minutes.

Yesterday, 5,800 entry slots available for the mini marathon were also sold out in about five hours.

This year's event will take place on Dec. 3, with the start and finish both located inside the Olympic Sport Centre Stadium.

Lok Wai Kin, president of the Macau Marathon Promotion Club, has suggested authorities increase the number of marathon places to 20,000 to accommodate more international runners.

Lok told TDM that many runners in the Greater Bay Area were looking forward to running on new sections of the event such as the Cotai Strip, but are unable to come to Macau to compete due to failed online registration and payment operations.



WHO'S NEXT?

CASINO GIANT CAESARS REPORTS CYBERATTACK FOLLOWING MGM RESORTS

CASINO company Caesars Entertainment last week joined Las Vegas gambling rival MGM Resorts International in reporting that it was hit by a cyberattack, but added in a report to federal regulators that its casino and online operations were not disrupted.

The Reno-based publicly traded company told the federal Securities and Exchange Commission that it could not guarantee that personal information about tens of millions of customers was secure following a data breach Sept. 7 that may have exposed driver's license and Social Security numbers of loyalty rewards members.

"We have taken steps to ensure that the stolen data is deleted by the unauthorized actor," the company said, "although we cannot guarantee this result."

Brett Callow, threat analyst for the New Zealand-based cybersecurity firm Emsisoft, said it was not clear if a ransom was paid or who was responsible for the intrusion — and for the attack reported Monday by MGM Resorts.

"Unofficially, we saw a group called Scattered Spider claimed responsibility," Callow said. "They appear to be native English speakers under the umbrella of a Russia-based operation called ALPHV or BlackCat."

Scattered Spider also is known as UNC3944, said Charles Carmakal, chief technical officer at cybersecurity firm Mandiant. He called the group "incredibly disruptive and aggressive" in recent targeting of hospitality and entertainment organizations.

"They leverage tradecraft that is challenging for many organizations with mature security programs to defend against," Carmakal said in a statement.

Mandiant said in a blog analysis published late last week the group uses SMS text phishing and phone calls to help desks to attempt to obtain password resets or multifactor bypass codes.

"This relatively new entrant in the ransomware industry has hit at least 100 organizations, most of them in the U.S. and Canada," Mandiant said.

Caesars is the largest casino owner in the world, with more than 65 million Caesars Rewards members and properties in 18 states and Canada under the Caesars, Harrah's, Horseshoe and Eldorado brands.

The company told the SEC that loyalty program customers were being offered credit monitoring and identity theft protection.

There was no evidence the intruder obtained member passwords or bank account and payment card

information, the company reported, adding that operations at casinos and online "have not been impacted by this incident and continue without disruption."

The disclosure by Caesars came after MGM Resorts International, the largest casino company in Las Vegas, reported publicly on Monday that a cyberattack that it detected Sunday led it to shut down computer systems at its properties across the U.S. to protect data.

MGM Resorts said reservations and casino floors in Las Vegas and other states were affected. Customers shared stories on social media about not being able to make credit card transactions, obtain money from cash machines or enter hotel rooms. Some video slot machines were dark.

MGM Resorts has about 40 million loyalty rewards members and tens of thousands of hotel rooms in Las Vegas at properties including the MGM Grand, Bellagio, Aria and Mandalay Bay. It also operates properties in China and Macau.

Some MGM Resorts computer systems were still down Thursday, including hotel reservations and payroll. But company spokesman Brian Ahern said its 75,000 employees in the U.S. and abroad were expected to be paid on time.

MDT/AP



German police said dozens of people, including at least 26 officers, were injured during unrest surrounding an Eritrean cultural festival in the southwestern city of Stuttgart. Shortly before the event was set to begin Saturday afternoon, around 200 protesters gathered in the area outside and began throwing stones, bottles, and other items at police officers and participants of the event. Six of the 26 injured police officers were treated in a hospital for their injuries, police said. Four event participants and two protesters were also injured, according to police, although information wasn't immediately available about the severity of their injuries.



Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday that Turkey may part ways with the European Union, implying that the country is thinking about ending its bid to join the 27-nation bloc. "The EU is making efforts to sever ties with Turkey," he told reporters before departing for the 78th U.N. General Assembly in New York. "We will evaluate the situation, and if needed we will part ways with the EU."



Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said last week that he will seek the help of government experts on extremism in the wake of a series of school arsons. Officials believe the attacks are connected to a controversial sexual education school program. De Croo spoke just hours after a sixth school in the French-speaking Wallonia region was torched this week. Signs protesting the so-called Evras program were discovered in some of the schools, according to authorities.