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ISRAEL DECLARES WAR ON HAMAS AFTER HORROR FALLS ON GAZA STRIP

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AP PHOTO



North Korea Recent satellite photos show a sharp increase in rail traffic along the North Korea-Russia border, indicating the North is supplying munitions to Russia, according to a U.S. think tank. Speculation about a possible North Korean plan to refill Russia's munition stores drained in its protracted war with Ukraine flared last month, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites. Foreign officials suspect Kim is seeking sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for the munitions to boost his nuclear program.

AP PHOTO



India Air force helicopters rescued scores of stranded tourists yesterday in India's Himalayan northeast after a 6-year-old hydroelectric dam cracked open last week in intense rain, flooding a valley with glacial lake water and killing at least 74 people. Officials told the Press Trust of India news agency that they recovered 34 bodies in Sikkim state since the flooding began last week, while authorities in neighboring West Bengal state have retrieved 40 bodies from the Teesta River.

AP PHOTO



Saudi Arabia formally informed FIFA of its wish to host the men's World Cup in 2034 yesterday in a bidding contest that increasingly looks designed for the kingdom to win. The Saudi Arabian soccer federation said it "submitted a letter of intent and signed declaration to FIFA to bid" in a vote that is open only to members of the Asian and Oceania soccer governing bodies.

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MACAU, HK DISRUPTED BY 'WEAK' TYPHOON

Weather bureau justifies long-lasting signal 8 – 17 and a half hours – due to Koinu's strong winds despite small size

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TEAM MACAU WITH SIX MEDALS IN ASIAN GAMES

ANTHONY LAM

Team Macau has pulled off an historical best Asian Games this year with a gold medal, three silver and two bronze.

On the last match day, the Karate-do team garnered a silver medal. Additionally, the artistic swimming team finished the same day in seventh place, with a total of 487.4853 points.

Karate-do athlete Fong Man Wai ended her journey in the quarterfinal of the Women's Kumite – 50kg event.

Team Macau consisted of 183 athletes, who competed in 21 events in this Asian Games.

Li Yi and Cai Feilong from Wushu or Martial Arts secured a gold and a silver medal res-

pectively. Moreover, Karate-do athlete Kuok Kin Hang secured a silver medal, while Kuok alongside Fong Man Hou and Cheang Pei Lok won another silver as a team. Martial Art athletes Song Chi Kuan and Huang Junhua secured two bronze medals.

When ranked by the number of gold medals, Macau is in 25th place.

What is also worth noting is that great progress has been made by local athletes in a number of sports, despite not having won any medals.

Swimmers Terence Chao, Chen Pui Lam and Cheang Weng Chi have broken Macau records for Men's 50m and 100m breaststroke, as well as Women's 50m breaststroke and

400m mixed.

Meanwhile, golfer Si Ngai's eighth place and cyclist Au Hoi Ian 12th in road race were the best results to date.

In light of the results, both Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng and Beijing's Liaison Office in Macau have issued congratulatory letters.

In his letter, Ho described the results as "elating." He pledged that resources will continue to be invested to enhance training facilities and support the development of competitive sports in Macau.

The Liaison Office, meanwhile, congratulated Macau athletes for their exceptional performances and subsequent results.



ECONOMY

Consumers regaining confidence as reflected by latest research

ANTHONY LAM

The Consumer Confidence Index for the third quarter crossed a threshold rate, signaling a regain in confidence, Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has announced.

On a scale ranging from zero to 200 – the larger the score, the greater the confidence – 100 is the passing grade. The Index reached 101.94 in the third quarter.

The university highlighted that the preceding quarter's Index not only continued the rising trajectory, but also crossed the passing grade. It added that five of the six determinants have crossed the passing grade, with only commodity prices about 15% lower than the passing grade, or 85.59 points. Despite this fact, it is still 12% higher than that in the second quarter.

The university sees it as a sign of a constantly consolidating economy. Looking forward, MUST reiterated



that further diversification of the local economy must be promoted to further integrate Macau, Hengqin and Guangdong Province. This will support consumer confidence. It also expressed the belief that China will continue to recover economically.

As for the other determinants, the local economy scored 113.45, residential purchases 102.74, employment conditions 104.75, standard of living 101 and investment in stocks 104.10. These have increased from

the previous quarter by 18.28%, 14.86%, 2.8%, 2.6% and 0.24% respectively.

MUST recapped that the economy was still unstable in the third quarter amidst external complexity and challenges. International investments have slowed down and inflation remained high.

The Index is co-calculated with Capital University of Economics and Business, Central University of Finance and Economics, City University of Hong Kong and Fu Jen Catholic University.

GAMING

CASINO REVENUES FOR FIRST 8 DAYS OF OCTOBER AT MOP6.65 BILLION

STAFF REPORTER

The Golden Week has seen an estimated casino floor revenue of MOP6.65 billion, according to JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd.

In a memo, the brokerage estimated that the MOP830 million daily average for the first eight days of October is nearly 29% above the average daily income of this year's May Golden Week, which stood at around MOP645 million.

Revenues from Oct. 1 to Oct. 6 show "80% recovery" when compared to the Golden Week in 2019 when casinos recorded revenues of around MOP1.16 billion.

"Mass GGR has likely recovered to [circa] 110% to 120% of 2019 Golden Weeks, comfortably exceeding a 100% bar that we think many buy-side [investors] had. In short, Macau's [autumn] Golden Week turned out to be pretty golden – much better than we and the market had feared,"



analysts said, as cited in a report issued by GGRAsia.

Macau's casino gaming revenue growth slowed in September, falling to a five-month low as revenues fell slightly to MOP14.9 billion.

Data from the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau shows gross gaming revenue soared 404.2% year-on-year, albeit from a low base. The numbers fell 13% from the previous month.

During the eight-day holiday, Macau recorded over 932,000 visitor arrivals, surpassing government expectations.

When compared with 2019 pre-pandemic figures, the total figures of this year's Golden Week still fall short of the 974,337 visitor arrivals in the first seven days. When comparing this year's results (for the first seven days) with those from 2019, the number of entries this year was still 11.8% lower.

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TYPHOON

SMG justifies long-lasting signal 8 due to Koinu's strong winds despite small size

RENATO MARQUES

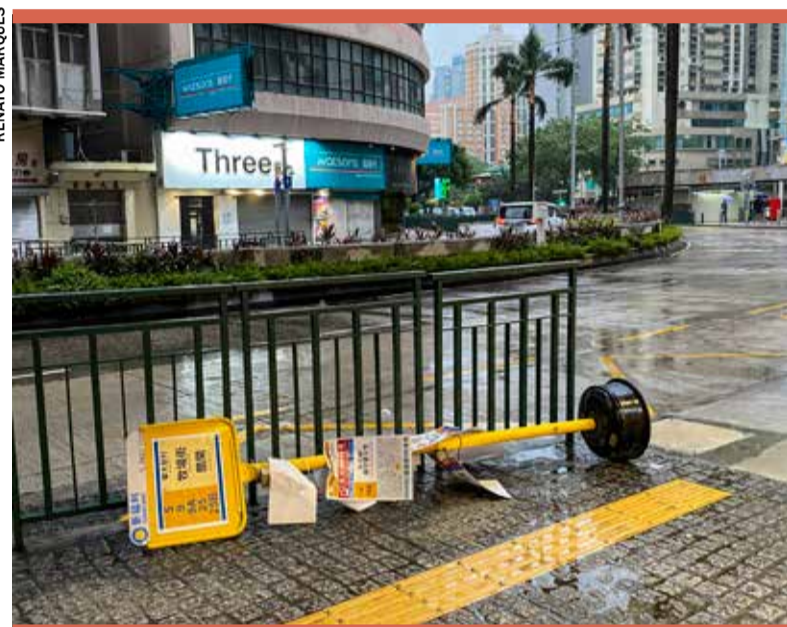
THE Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) has justified the decision of keeping Typhoon Signal No. 8 hoisted for a total of 17 hours and 30 minutes based on the fact that Typhoon Koinu was "small but strong," the bureau said in a press statement.

According to the report from SMG, "On the afternoon of October 8, when Koinu came within a 100-kilometer radius of Macau, some neighboring regions continuously recorded winds of level 8-10 on the Beaufort Scale. Koinu's circulation area was very small, however, when an area of strong winds near the eye of the tropical system crossed Zhuhai's Miaowan Island station, a maximum wind speed of level 14 on the same scale was recorded."

According to the Royal Meteorological Society, the Beaufort Scale is "an empirical measure that relates wind speed to observed conditions at sea or on land. Its full name is the Beaufort wind force scale."

Created by the Irish hydrographer Francis Beaufort, a Royal Navy officer (later Rear Admiral), while serving on HMS Woolwich in 1805, the scale is divided into 13 classes (zero to 12) and relates a relative wind speed in knots "usually averaged over 10 minutes by convention, and do[es] not capture the speed of wind gusts."

As mentioned also by the Royal Meteorological Society



as well as by the USA's National Weather Service, "the scale starts with 0 and goes to a force of 12," being used to estimate wind strengths.

As also noted by the Royal Meteorological Society, the Beaufort levels "do not reflect the wind speeds that you would feel on the ground. At 2 meters, wind speed may be only 50-70% of these figures."

"The specifications [of the scale levels] are descriptions of likely observations on land or at sea, and the probable and maximum wave heights (in meters) are quoted for the open sea. The figure for sea state (on a scale from 0-9) is a shorthand way of describing the sea surface conditions to various users," the same organization notes.

Level 0 is defined as "Calm" in "Sea like a mirror; smoke rises

vertically" up to level 12 which is defined as "Hurricane" and explained visually as "Devastation. Air filled with foam and spray, very poor visibility."

This level 12 is reached when the wind speeds reach or surpass 118 km/h or 64+ knots.

As mentioned by SMG in their preliminary report of the passage of Koinu, "Although typhoon Koinu brought considerable winds to the neighboring region, Macau remained outside its level 8 wind zone. The bridges and monitoring stations at Macau International Airport, generally recorded sustained winds level 7 to 8 [which equals to between 50 to 74km/h]."

The weather bureau added that the rain bands associated with Koinu continued to widely affect the Pearl River Estuary area until 9 a.m. on October 9 with several areas of Macau registering an accumulated precipitation exceeding 100mm. In some areas of Taipa and Coloane, the accumulated precipitation exceeded 200mm.

DAMAGES WERE LITTLE TO NONE

According to the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) between 4:30 p.m. on October 8 and up to 9 a.m. on October 9 there were only 13 incident reports recorded. These mostly included lampposts, trees or other structures that were addressed by the COPC for being on the verge of collapsing or potentially posing a risk to the population. Two people have been rescued after being trapped for some time in an elevator although the causes of this malfunction are yet to be determined.

There were two people reported injured during this period but the injuries were due to causes unrelated to the typhoon. The victims were allegedly involved in a traffic accident while riding a motorcycle and have been treated at the Kiang Wu Hospital.

Only a few people (13) utilized the emergency shelters set up by the Social Welfare Bureau as, on this occasion, the COPC did not evacuate anyone from the low-lying areas of the city since there was no threat of a severe flood.

According to figures released by the aviation authority, a total of around 150 flights have been canceled at the Macau International Airport as well as 22 flights delayed and 50 that have been rescheduled.

EVACUATIONS ORDERED AS REMNANTS OF TYPHOON KOINU HIT SOUTHERN CHINA

POPLE have been moved to shelters and nearly 2,000 boats recalled to port as the remnants of Typhoon Koinu slammed into southern China yesterday after leaving one dead and over 300 injured in Taiwan.

The storm bore down on the southern Chinese island province of Hainan yesterday.

The Hong Kong Observatory said on its website that Koinu was weakening from a typhoon into a tropical depression as it moved southwest along the coast of China's Guangdong province.

Air and rail services have been suspended as Koinu, meaning puppy in Japanese, rolled into the

region.

Koinu arrived a month after southern China, Hong Kong and Macau were lashed by Typhoon Saola, which triggered Hong Kong's highest storm signal on a scale of 11. A week later, Guangdong province and Hong Kong were hit with the heaviest rains in almost 140 years.

The storm also broke a windspeed record off Taiwan's east coast, which faces the Pacific Ocean.

Ferry services connecting Hainan with mainland China, as well as ferry services between Hong Kong and Macau, were also suspended as Koinu moved across the island.

ZONE A

Survey reveals weak promotion of New Neighbourhood

ANTHONY LAM

WEAKE intention to buy Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) units was due to inadequate promotion and advertising on the project, a survey run by the Macau Association of Jiangmen Youths has found.

The group has recently

released the findings of their survey, conducted over an undisclosed period. The survey consisted of a questionnaire and elite interviews. The questionnaire garnered 664 valid responses and the elite interviews were conducted with local lawmakers, heads of associations and school leaders.

The questionnaire focu-

sed on both local and non-local residents, with over 90% of respondents falling within an age range between 18 and 45 years. Over 70% of the valid responses came from the working population.

The group added that it had incorporated the knowledge, attitudes/beliefs, practice (KAP) mo-

del and the push-and-pull theory into the respective designs of the questionnaire and interview outline.

Only 12.2% of respondents were familiar with the living conditions at the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, while only 25% overall felt that the MNN project had been adequate-

ly promoted.

New Neighbourhood is primarily a mixed-used residential area developed by the Macau Urban Renewal Ltd., a government-owned private company.

Both questionnaire and elite interview results identified that property prices and transportation in Hengqin and the MNN were the primary concerns of respondents. Some interviewees suggested the implementation of a lease-purchase model in the MNN to enable more local youths to become apartment owners.

In addition to the insu-

fficient promotion of the Zone and MNN project, the survey results also concluded that the nature of the MNN project should be clarified to provide guidance on the correct approach to apartment purchases. Timely implementation of supportive policies was also recommended to help local youths in purchasing these apartments.

The group also recommended that the government explore public-private co-ownership of MNN apartments to ensure that the apartments are held for residential rather than investment purposes.

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Transport director, lawmaker unaligned on 'online vehicle hailing'

ANTHONY LAM

THE interpretation of the concept of "online vehicle hailing" appears to differ between the director of transport and lawmaker Ron Lam, with the latter following the national stipulation.

In his written inquiry dated August 4 this year, the lawmaker asked director of Transport Kelvin Lam several questions on the convenience of intra-city travel and taxi services. His last question asked the official if the government had any targeted measures in response to the social demands for "online vehicle hailing."

The term "online vehicle hailing" is used in mainland China. According to the temporary operational methods posted on the website of the Chinese Ministry of Transport, the term "online vehicle hailing" is the abbreviation for "online-reserved rented vehicles," while taxis are referred to as "rented vehicles" in main-



land China.

The operational methods, meanwhile, stipulate details on the regulation of such services in mainland China. For example, the methods stipulate that operators must be business entities

and cannot solicit passengers in person, meaning they can only be hailed online.

The Times has also sought clarification from the lawmaker, who confirmed that he followed the national definition of the term.

Despite this, the director of Transport understood the lawmaker's term as referring to an illegal taxi, which is also known as gypsy taxi or "Pak Pai" in Cantonese in Hong Kong.

As such, the official reiterated

that an illegal taxi, as suggested by its name, is illegal in Macau, citing relevant laws and regulations. He pointed out that taxi operations are a licensed business in Macau.

In his clarification to the Times, the lawmaker said that he was referring to legally regulated practices when using the term "online vehicle hailing."

In the same reply, the official also repeated that many laws must be reviewed to facilitate the type of vehicles hailed online. He also said it would be necessary to consult with industry operators and practitioners.

Earlier, while replying to another lawmaker, the official cited geographical constraints as a barrier to implementing licensed online vehicle hailing. However, his office declined to elaborate to the Times.

Meanwhile in Hong Kong, some taxis have joined the Uber platform. These taxis are legally registered and regulated, but only use Uber to seek passengers.

HAC SA INFECTION

DSPA refutes link between infections and wastewater treatment

RENATO MARQUES

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has refuted the possibility of any links between the bacterial infections recently reported on Coloane beaches and the local wastewater treatment plant, the Bureau said in a response to a Times' inquiry.

In the response to the inquiry, the DSPA said, "Vibrio vulnificus is a bacterium that naturally exists in warm seawater and is not related to the discharge of sewage from the wastewater treatment plants," adding that the DSPA "dispatches personnel to regularly inspect the environmental situation along Macau's coast. If any abnormal circumstances are discovered, the relevant departments will be notified through the existing mechanism for coordinated follow-up."

The response opposes the idea present in several



academic studies quoted by the Times that found a correlation between the discharge of untreated or inefficiently treated sewage and the cause of a significant increase in bacteria growth which can potentially threaten public health.

There are reports from the Health Bureau of at least two severe infections among local residents that occurred last month after receiving wounds through close contact with dead fish on

the beaches of Cheoc Van and Hac Sa.

The *V. vulnificus*, a pathogenic bacterium of the genus *Vibrio*, present in marine environments such as estuaries, brackish ponds, or coastal areas is related to *Vibrio cholerae*, a causative agent of cholera.

The infections often cause necrotizing soft tissue around the area of the initial infection and, if not treated immediately, can lead to amputations of body parts or even death

of the patient.

About four years ago a different report found Cholera bacteria at Cheoc Van Beach. At the time and in response to the bacteria being found, the government raised a red flag at the beach, signaling that marine activities should be avoided.

The Health Bureau has noted that the latest strain of Cholera was recorded in Macau in 1998. However, the bacteria have been found several times in Macau waters since.

GRAND PRIX

MICHAEL EVANS JOINS MACAU GP FIRST TIME THIS NOVEMBER

RENATO MARQUES

MANX TT rider Michael Evans is set to make his debut at the local Grand Prix (GP) next month, the rider told news media Isle of Man (IOM) Today.

"A couple of months ago I was invited to ride at the 70th anniversary Macau GP, and I'm really excited to be going to China in November for all the activities there and to race around the iconic street circuit. Especially [to have] the honor of representing the Isle of Man," he was quoted saying by IOM Today.

The 30-year-old rider from Santon, made only his

third TT appearance this year after having secured two top-ten in both the TT and the Supertwin race.

The former winner of the Manx Grand Prix (different competition) in Junior and Senior categories in 2017, recorded in 2022 his personal best lap of the Mountain Course at 125.536mph.

Evans is set to be the first IOM rider to make his appearance in Macau's Guia Circuit since Dan Kneen and Conor Cummins.

IOM riders have been historically involved with the Macau GP event since Danny Shimmin in the 1980s.



DIPLOMACY

US Senate Majority Leader Schumer meets President Xi in rare meeting

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told Chinese President Xi Jinping in a rare meeting yesterday that he was “very disappointed” by China’s failure to strongly condemn the recent Hamas attack on Israel and show sympathy for the country and its people.

Schumer is leading a delegation of six senators to China this week. The delegation, which includes three Democrats and three Republicans, is the first visit by U.S. lawmakers since 2019 and comes at a time of growing attacks on China in Congress as America contends with Beijing’s rise as a global power.

“I urge you and the Chinese people to stand with the Israeli people and condemn these cowardly and vicious attacks,” said Schumer.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry sta-



U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo is greeted by President Xi Jinping before their bilateral meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday

tement on Sunday called on both sides to exercise restraint and immediately end the hostilities — but made no mention of the

unprecedented Hamas surprise attack early Saturday that has left more than 1,100 dead in fighting so far and thousands wounded on

both sides.

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers were still fighting the militants to secure the border with Gaza.

In the ministry statement, China also said that establishing an independent state of Palestine is the fundamental way to resolve the issue.

“The recurrence of the conflict shows once again that the protracted standstill of the peace process cannot go on,” the statement said, adding that the international community needs to act with greater urgency and facilitate the resumption of peace talks.

Schumer met earlier with the head of China’s parliament and the country’s highest-ranking diplomat, Wang Yi, to whom he delivered the same statement about the recent violence. Wang did not respond before journalists were

escorted out of the room.

The two governments are trying to arrange a meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping during a regional summit in San Francisco next month in a bid to manage the increasingly fraught relationship.

China has traditionally backed the Palestinian cause but has also boosted ties with Israel as it seeks a larger role in trade, technology and diplomacy. In recent years, it has stepped up its involvement in the Middle East, assisting in the restoration of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran and welcoming Syrian President Bashar Assad on a visit to China.

“I was very disappointed to be honest by the Foreign Ministry statement that showed no sympathy or support for Israel during these troubled times,” Schumer said near the end of his remark to Xi.

He said that the top priority for the Senate delegation is seeking fair trade between the two countries.

“We want the Chinese people to have economic opportunity. That would be good for America,” he said. “But China must also provide a level playing field for American companies and workers. Many Americans, most Americans including our delegation, do not believe we have that fairness now.”

Wang urged the United States to respect China’s core interests and development rights. The Chinese government views American restrictions on trade and technology exports to China as attempts to hold back the country’s economic growth. **MDT/AP**

US-CHINA

SOME IN CONGRESS WANT TO CUT UKRAINE AID AND BOOST TAIWAN’S

To Rep. Mike Collins, China is a bigger threat to the United States than Russia. So the Georgia Republican has voted against providing military aid to Ukraine as he advocates for doing more to arm Taiwan, the self-governed island that’s at risk of military aggression from Beijing.

For Collins and other Republican lawmakers, Taiwan and Ukraine are effectively rivals for a limited pool of U.S. military assistance. But that’s not necessarily how Taiwan and many of its supporters see it. They view Taiwan’s fate as closely linked to that of Ukraine as it struggles to push back a

Russian invasion.

They say China is watching closely to see if the United States has the political stamina to support an ally in a prolonged, costly war. The U.S. aid to Ukraine also has led to weapons manufacturers stepping up production — something that could benefit Taiwan in a clash with China.

“Ukraine’s survival is Taiwan’s survival. Ukraine’s success is Taiwan’s success,” Taiwan’s diplomat in the U.S., Hsiao Bi-Khim, said in May at the Sedona Forum hosted by the McCain Institute. **MDT/AP**

HANGZHOU GAMES

The Asian Games wrap up, with China dominating the medal count

THE Asian Games wrapped with China dominating the medal count, followed by Japan and South Korea. China has traditionally been strong in the event and it was again, taking advantage of being at home in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

The Asian Games feature more competitors than next year’s Summer Olympics in Paris. About 12,500

participated, compared to about 10,500 expected in France.

The games offered all the traditional Olympic sports, and also a glimpse of one sport that is previewing next year in Paris — breaking, or breakdancing. And another, cricket, which will be included in either the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics or in 2032 in Brisbane.

It also offered some competitions not seen anywhere else in a multi-sports event: dragon boat racing, kabaddi, sepaktakraw (foot volleyball), 3x3 basketball and roller skating.

China is reported to have spent about \$30 billion to prepare Hangzhou as a grand stage to show off its economic power to its neighbors, impress the local population and promote

the city. The organizers also had an extra year to prepare, delayed from 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though China, Japan and South Korea are the powers at the Asian Games, many smaller nations and territories — 45 were represented — have a chance to win medals, which many are unable to do in the larger Olympics. **MDT/AP**



AFGHANISTAN

Senior Taliban officials visit villages struck by earthquake that killed at least 2,000 people

RAHIM FAIEZ,
ISLAMABAD

A senior Taliban delegation was visiting western Afghanistan's Herat province yesterday in the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that killed at least 2,000 people over the weekend and flattened entire villages, a statement said.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake hit a densely populated area in Herat and was followed by strong aftershocks in what was one of the deadliest temblors to strike the country in two decades.

The Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, and his team will visit the quake-affected region yesterday to deliver "immediate relief assistance" and ensure "equitable and accurate distribution of aid," according to a statement from the capital, Kabul.

The quake also trapped hundreds and people have been digging with their bare hands and shovels to pull victims — both dead and alive — from under the rubble. Authorities said Monday they were still waiting for an update on the latest casualties from Herat.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was about 40 kilometers northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

A global response to the Afghanistan quake has been slow, with much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban government and focused on the deadly escalation between

AP PHOTO



Israel and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the surprise attack by Gaza militants on Saturday that has left more than 1,100 dead in fighting so far and thousands wounded on both sides.

Aid agencies and nongovernmental groups have appealed for the international community to come forward but only a handful of countries have publicly offered support, including neighboring China and Pakistan.

Aid group CARE USA — a member of CARE International umbrella — said in a statement that the quake struck at a time when Afghanistan was already facing a severe humanitarian crisis that was significantly under-funded while needs are increasing rapidly.

The fast-approaching winter, combined with this new disaster, is likely to exacerbate the existing challenges and make it even more difficult for people to meet their basic needs, like adequate shelter,

food, and medicine, it said.

"CARE is deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake that struck the western province of Herat," said Reshma Azmi, the group's deputy director for Afghanistan. "This comes less than seven months after another powerful earthquake hit the country, leaving thousands homeless and displaced."

Azimi was referring to the magnitude 6.5 earthquake in March that struck much of Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. Also, an earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, striking a rugged, mountainous region, wiped out stone and mud-brick homes and killed at least 1,000 people.

"The situation is worse than we imagined with people in devastated villages still desperately trying to rescue survivors from under the rubble with their bare hands," said World Vision, a global charity.

Reinforcements from

Kabul arrived on Sunday but the area of the quake has only one government-run hospital.

"Our colleagues and their families are processing this devastation in their hometowns, and yet we are responding with everything we have," said Thamin-dri de Silva, the head of the Afghanistan office of the charity. "People need urgent medical care, water, food, shelter and help to stay safe. Please stand with us as we respond."

Dozens of teams have scrambled to help with rescue efforts, including from the military and nonprofit groups. Irfanullah Sharafzai, a spokesman for the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said more than 20 teams were on the ground yesterday and have set up a temporary camp for the displaced.

In neighboring Pakistan, the government held a special session to review aid for Afghanistan, including relief teams, food items and medicines, as well as tents and blankets. MDT/AP

AD

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MIDEAST | EXPLAINER

Israel declares war, bombards Gaza Strip after unprecedented Hamas attack

THE Israeli government promised yesterday to hunt down Hamas fighters and to punish the Gaza Strip following a surprise weekend attack killed more than 700 people in Israel, including at least 260 at a crowded music festival that became the scene of one of the country's worst civilian massacres.

A day after formally declaring war, Israel's military worked to crush Hamas fighters who might remain in southern towns and intensified its bombardment of Gaza, where more than 400 people have died since Saturday's unprecedented incursion.

The militants blew through a fortified border fence and gunned down civilians and soldiers in Israeli communities along the Gaza frontier during a Jewish holiday. Israel struck back with airstrikes, including one that flattened a 14-story tower that held Hamas offices.

Here are some key takeaways from the conflict:

WHAT DOES THE WAR DECLARATION MEAN?

The declaration gives the green light for Israel to take "significant military steps" against Hamas. But a major question was whether Israel would launch a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Monday that he has ordered a "complete siege" on Gaza and that authorities would cut electricity and block the entry of food and fuel.

The announcement came after the Israeli military said it had regained "control" of border communities taken by Hamas. Speaking to reporters, the chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said there were some isolated incidents but no fighting going yesterday morning.

He cautioned, however, that there could still be militants in the area and that forces were conducting searches.



Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin Mosque destroyed after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City

Israel and Egypt have imposed various levels of blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007.

Israel hit more than 800 targets in Gaza by Sunday, its military said. That included airstrikes that leveled much of the town of Beit Hanoun in the enclave's northeast corner. Hamas had been using the town as a staging ground for attacks, Hagari said.

The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which participated in Saturday's attack, said it was holding more than 30 Israelis among dozens of captives in Gaza. He said they would not be released until all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are freed.

WHAT HAS BEEN WORLD'S RESPONSE?

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel. The deployment — which also includes a host of ships and warplanes — underscores the concern that the United States has in trying to keep the conflict from growing.

Preliminary reports indicated at least four U.S. citizens were killed in the attacks, and seven more were missing, a U.S. official said.

The U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting about the situation and took no immediate action on a U.S. demand that its 15

members condemn the Hamas attack.

Russia's U.N. ambassador told The Associated Press that long-stalled negotiations between the two sides need to resume. China's ambassador said it was important to come back to a two-state solution, where Israel and Palestine live side-by-side.

But U.S. Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood said the ongoing violence needed to be dealt with first.

Germany's development minister said her country would review its aid for Palestinian areas.

In Iran — a longtime supporter of Hamas and other militant groups — senior officials praised the incursion. President Ebrahim Raisi spoke by phone with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhalah, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday.

Egypt spoke with both sides about a potential cease-fire, but an Egyptian official said Israel was not open to a truce "at this stage."

IS ANYTHING BEING DONE TO PROTECT CIVILIANS?

The number of displaced Gazans staying at schools converted into shelters jumped by tens of thousands, to some 123,000, the U.N. said. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said a school sheltering more than 225 people took a direct hit but there were no casualties amid heavy shelling and

airstrikes in different parts of the crowded territory of 2 million people.

Associated Press video Sunday showed a large crater in the middle of the school.

"Schools and other civilian infrastructure, including those sheltering displaced families, must never come under attack," UNRWA said in a statement.

Cease-fires have stopped major fighting in past rounds of conflict but have always proven shaky. Each agreement in the past has offered a period of calm, but the deeper, underlying issues are rarely addressed, setting the stage for the next round of airstrikes and rockets.

WHAT PROMPTED THE ATTACK?

Hamas officials cited long-simmering tensions including a dispute over the sensitive Al-Aqsa Mosque sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Competing claims over the site, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, have spilled into violence before, including a bloody 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in 2021.

In recent years, Israeli religious nationalists — such as Itamar Ben-Gvir, the national security minister — have increased their visits to the compound. Last week, during the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot, hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jews and Israeli activists visited the site, prompting condemnation from Hamas and accusations that Jews were praying there in violation of the status quo agreement.

Hamas also has cited the expansion of Jewish settlements on lands Palestinians claim for a future state and Ben-Gvir's efforts to toughen restrictions on Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Tensions escalated with recent violent Palestinian protests. In negotiations with Qatar, Egypt and the United Nations, Hamas has pushed for Israeli concessions that could loosen the 17-year blockade on the enclave and help halt a worsening financial crisis. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1999 MILLENNIUM WHEEL EDGES UPWARDS



Thousands have assembled to watch a giant Ferris wheel move into position as the new landmark on the London skyline.

The engineering feat has taken all weekend. The wheel now stands some 400ft (125m) high, surpassing the Big Ben clock tower and St Paul's Cathedral.

But it still has some way to go and now leans at 65 degrees above the River Thames.

One sceptical observer said: "It looks like a large bicycle wheel with spokes, I assume it works all right but it looks highly dangerous to me - I'm not going on it!"

Others came to marvel at the complex engineering operation.

"We've driven up specially today just to see it...it's tremendous."

Others came to capture a fast changing London landscape with their easels and sketchbooks.

Hoisted by cables and cranes, the £20 million, 1700 metric tonne steel construction moved towards its upright position at the speed of 3.5 metres per hour.

Under the media spotlight a month ago, the first attempt to crank the structure off the ground failed when one of a series of sockets holding high-tension cables to the wheel's rim suddenly slipped.

Now the sockets have been redesigned. 6.5 kilometres of high-tension cable have been attached to the wheel's 80 spokes to help haul it into position.

The wheel will be in its vertical position by next week, and developers promise it will be ready to take its first visitors by New Year's Eve.

Officially the Millennium Wheel has been given a five year lifespan, but Paul Baxter, the project manager, thinks it will last much longer.

"The Eiffel tower was initially there just for the Paris exhibition," he said.

Built for the 1889 Paris exhibition, the Eiffel Tower remains to this day one of the most famous landmarks of the French capital.

The Millennium Wheel's designers and developers are hoping the London attraction will achieve similar immortality.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

One of the tallest structures in London, the Millennium Wheel, better known now as the London Eye, stands 135 metres high on the South Bank of London between Waterloo station and Westminster Bridge.

It has proven one of the most successful Millennium ventures. Since its opening the attraction has had an average of 10,000 visitors a day. Despite its engineers' assurances, a last minute technical hitch stopped the wheel spinning at its planned VIP opening on New Year's Eve 2000. It takes around 30 minutes for the wheel to do one revolution. Visitors hop on and off each of the 32 capsules as the wheel continues to move.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Don't bang your head against a wall. Opportunities for advancement at work are apparent. Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. Your sensitive, affectionate nature will capture the heart of anyone you are attracted to.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. You will upset your partner if you have spent money on things that aren't necessary.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 You will want to complain about the injustice that is going on. You may want to sign up for lectures or courses that will bring you mental stimulation.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 It may not be the best time to socialize with clients or colleagues today. Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself and you won't get dragged into an unsavory debate.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Strengthen your position among your peers. Take a short business trip if possible. Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Situations in your personal life are moving a little fast lately. Don't evade issues or twist the truth around. You need more space for the whole family.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You can meet someone who will become very dear to you if you get out and socialize. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. Get busy.

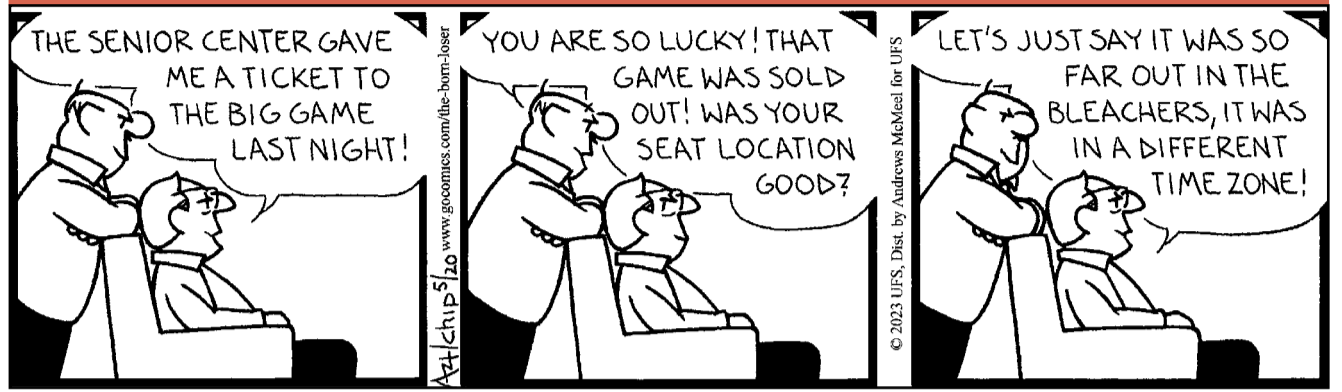
SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Your high energy will help you through this rather hectic day. You will have a problem holding on to your cash today. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. Opportunities to meet new lovers will evolve through your interaction with groups or fundraising functions.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it. Don't fall into the trap. This is not the time to lend or borrow money or possessions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

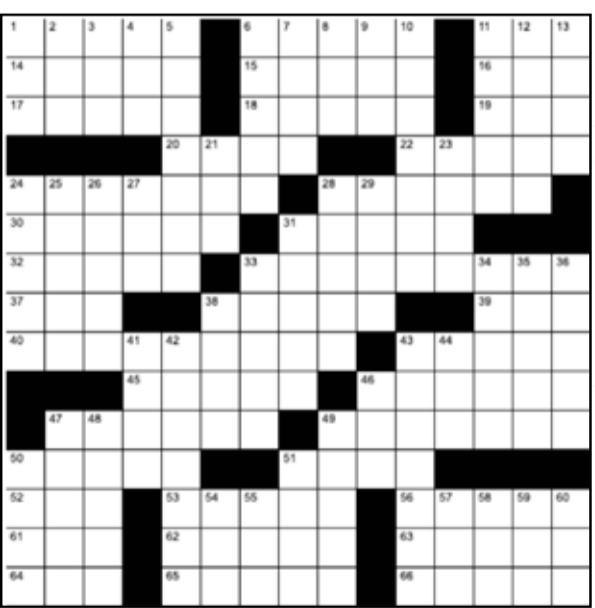
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	22	fine
Changchun	5	19	fine
Chengdu	15	19	rain
Chongqing	18	21	cloudy
Fuzhou	22	27	overcast
Guangzhou	20	24	rain
Guiyang	14	18	overcast
Haikou	24	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	15	23	overcast
Harbin	4	15	fine
Hefei	13	22	overcast
Nanjing	13	21	cloudy
Shanghai	18	24	cloudy
Taipei	23	24	rain
Wuhan	16	22	rain
Hong Hong	24	27	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	-2	3	rain
Frankfurt	11	23	overcast
Paris	12	28	overcast
London	16	23	overcast
New York	11	19	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Strength; 6- Journalist Pyle; 11- Grown elver; 14- Having wings; 15- Main artery; 16- Slugger's stat; 17- Called one's bluff; 18- Browned sliced bread; 19- Simile center; 20- Staff leader?; 22- In search of; 24- Nocturnal carnivore; 28- Large terrestrial monkey; 30- Places of contest; 31- Silk fabric; 32- Give; 33- Versifier; 37- Goddess of dawn in Greek mythology; 38- Trims; 39- That, in Tijuana; 40- Sugar; 43- Left-hand page; 45- Dike, Eunomia and Irene; 46- Talks back to; 47- Talisman; 49- Snake; 50- Garden intruders; 51- ___ impasse; 52- Start of something?; 53- Puccini classic; 56- Little bits; 61- Speck; 62- Chicago's airport; 63- Long-billed sandpiper; 64- Hot tub; 65- Warble; 66- Troy beauty;

DOWN 1- Mouse's milieu; 2- Pay stub?; 3- Armed conflict; 4- Hot time in Paris; 5- British soldier; 6- Devoured; 7- It's over your head; 8- Heston's org.; 9- T.G.I.F. part; 10- OK to consume; 11- One of the Muses; 12- Clamptett player; 13- One telling tales; 21- ___ Lobos; 23- Adversaries; 24- Fads; 25- Shaft shot from a bow; 26- Break off; 27- MSNBC rival; 28- Purchaser; 29- Charity; 31- Trio; 33- Charged; 34- Brief; 35- Ruhr city; 36- Perch; 38- French father; 41- Israel's Barak; 42- Russian novelist; 43- Gloss; 44- Clairvoyant's claim; 46- Multitude; 47- Author of fables; 48- Hostess Perle; 49- Madame de ___; 50- Marries; 51- Plot unit; 54- What have we here?; 55- Blue; 57- United; 58- "... the cows come home"; 59- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 60- DC bigwig;

Friday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
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	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	

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Coloane Village
 HKD 10,500/mth 1 bed 1 bath

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Lopsided quarterfinals highlight absurdity of

STEVE DOUGLAS

THE absurdity of the decision to stage the draw for the pool stage of the Rugby World Cup three years out from the tournament will really hit home this week.

The quarterfinals are upon us — for many casual observers this is where the World Cup really begins — and that means arguably the best 48 hours the sport can offer.

Look at the weekend schedule for the last eight, though, and it's hard not to feel sorry for the two teams out of Ireland, France, New Zealand and South Africa — comfortably the four leading rugby nations in the world — whose Rugby World Cup hopes will be over by Sunday night.

On Saturday, it's No. 7-ranked Wales vs. No. 9-ranked Argentina followed by No. 1-ranked Ireland vs. No. 4-ranked New Zealand.

On Sunday, it's No. 6-ranked England vs. No. 8-ranked Fiji followed by No. 2-ranked France vs. No. 3-ranked South Africa.

Why, many will ask, are the best four teams in the world facing each other in the quarterfinals rather than the semifinals?

Well, it comes back to World Rugby's decision to hold the pool-stage draw on Dec. 14, 2020. But the rankings were very different then to how they are now. Back then, England and Wales were coming off semifinal appearances in the 2019 Rugby World Cup — England got to the final, losing to the Springboks — so were in the top

four, and therefore top seeds in the draw.

England and Wales have slipped down the rankings since and been replaced by Ireland and France.

The draw was made so long ago so the French tournament organizers could get the buzz started on ticket sales before locals had a chance to buy tickets for the 2024 Paris Olympics. World Rugby chief executive Alan Gilpin accepted this year that the method was "outdated" and would be changed for future World Cups.

"I understand the frustrations of coaches and players," he said in May.

Not everyone is unhappy, however.

The likes of England and Wales, who will head into the semifinals as favorites in their matches, are benefitting greatly from the lopsided nature of the draw. Both looked in desperate shape before the Rugby World Cup, yet could reach the semifinals without having to play any of the world's top five.

"The way the draw was made three years ago, it turned out a bit unfair," Ireland captain Jonathan



Sexton said, somewhat diplomatically. "It is the hand that we were dealt."

INJURIES
Injuries have already wiped out a number of big names before and

QUARTER FINALS

	Date	Time	Home	Away
Sat	Oct 14	16:00	Wales	Argentina
		20:00	Ireland	New Zealand
Sun	Oct 15	16:00	England	Fiji
		20:00	France	South Africa

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



early draw for pool stage



Blacks, Ireland has concerns over the fitness of wingers Mack Hansen (calf) and James Lowe (eye) and lock James Ryan (wrist). Wales will be without irreplaceable No. 8 Taulupe Faletau (broken arm) for its quarterfinal against Argentina, for whom star flanker Pablo Matera could be missing with a hamstring injury.

Then there's France star Antoine Dupont, who appears to be touch and go to return for the match against the Springboks after his facial fracture.

FAREWELLS

Unsurprisingly, Portugal, Chile and Japan are heading home after the pool stage. They'll be missed.

Portugal, in particular, has illuminated the tournament with its attacking rugby and finally got its first ever win in the tournament by beating Fiji in a thriller yesterday [Macau time].

Chile's fans had a party in their first Rugby World Cup. Japan's spirit never died.

It's just a shame these nations will barely be seen again by many until the next World Cup, given their lack of exposure to the tier one rugby nations.

KEY STATS

The Irish are looking to tie the record — held jointly by New Zealand and England — for the longest run of victories by a tier one nation. They are on 17 in a row ahead of their meeting with New Zealand, which lost a home series to Ireland last year for the first time.

Also, countries from the northern hemisphere — France, Ireland, Wales and England — won each of the four pools. That's never happened before.

SIX NATIONS REVAMP

The latest lackluster effort from Italy and the performances of Portugal, in particular, is sure to revive calls for a shake-up of the Six Nations to allow for emerging countries to get a chance.

Italy, which has never reached the World Cup quarterfinals and conceded a combined 156 points to New Zealand and France in the pool stage, has finished last in the Six Nations in its last eight edi-

tions — winning just once in that time.

The likes of Georgia, Romania and now Portugal rightly must wonder what it needs to do to get a shot at France, Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland in the Six Nations.

Expect any calls to fall on deaf ears.

The Six Nations Council, which oversees the privately run competition, is happy with its current set-up, seeing Italy — which joined an expanded tournament in 2000 — as a bigger cash cow than any prospective replacement.

In 2017, then-Six Nations CEO John Feehan said it would need "10 or 15 years" before a convincing argument for change is made, and that it would need agreement from all six competing nations — therefore, including Italy — to bring about reform.

It's a cosy club and it's likely not for changing. MDT/AP

during this World Cup — think France's Romain Ntamack, South Africa's Malcolm Marx and England's An-

thony Watson — and they continue to cause havoc.

For their match against the All

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand	73	0	Uruguay
France	60	7	Italy
Wales	43	19	Georgia
England	18	17	Samoa
Ireland	36	14	Scotland
Japan	27	39	Argentina
Tonga	45	24	Romania
Fiji	23	24	Portugal

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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

SENATORS' VISIT
COULD HELP
WASHINGTON MAKE
MORE INFORMED
AND REASONABLE
DECISIONS

A bipartisan group of six US senators, three Democrats and three Republicans, is visiting China in what some observers say is a sign of improving bilateral relations.

It may be too early to say the strained Sino-US relationship is improving. But if the ongoing visit proceeds well, perhaps with the delegates meeting senior Chinese leaders, it may pave the way for the much-needed improvement — ideally a widely expected meeting between Chinese and US leaders in San Francisco on the sidelines of the APEC meeting, to be held from Nov 12 to 18.

Led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the congressional delegation will visit multiple Chinese cities and meet with government and business leaders. No matter how the trip ends, it no doubt will “contribute to a more objective understanding of China in the US Congress”, as the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement last week.

After all, seeing what is actually happening here with their own eyes, comparing notes face-to-face with real people running businesses, government institutions and the country may help the US senators better understand the country they have labeled their “No 1 rival”.

US politicians may not entertain China's complaint that their policy choices vis-a-vis China are too often driven by misperceptions and distortions. The real China is different from what they frequently berate and act against on Capitol Hill. A short trip like this may not suffice to remove every misgiving, but it surely will be conducive to reducing, more or less, some of the misconceptions. Face-to-face communication is always better when it comes to mitigating misunderstanding.

Senator Schumer has said: “Members of Congress have their finger on the pulse of what the American people are feeling ... I want to hear from the Chinese exactly what vexes them about the United States, just as I think they should hear what vexes us about China.”

It always helps to hear from both sides. And the US lawmakers will gain important firsthand knowledge about what the Chinese people are feeling right now. This in itself could help make informed decisions about the two countries' relations in terms of lawmaking. For that reason alone, Senator Schumer was right to say the visit “is certainly worth trying”.

This might not be the “propitious moment” Senator Schumer had described. But this certainly is a moment when people-to-people communication at all levels is badly needed for stabilizing the China-US relationship. Such communication is necessary not only for better mutual understanding, but more importantly for avoiding misjudgments and potential subsequent crises.

UK'S LABOUR PARTY SAYS IF ELECTED IT WILL
TRACK DOWN BILLIONS LOST TO COVID-19 FRAUD

THE
BUZZ

Britain's main opposition Labour Party says that if it wins power, it will appoint a “COVID corruption commissioner” to try and recoup some of the billions lost to fraud and waste during the pandemic.

Labour economy spokeswoman Rachel Reeves is due to outline the plan in a speech today [Macau time] at the party's annual conference. She says the commissioner will bring together tax officials, fraud investigators and law enforcement officers will track down an estimated 7.2 billion pounds (\$8.8 billion) in lost public money spent on grants and contracts related to COVID-19.

Like many countries, the U.K. was forced to sidestep usual rules

as it rushed to procure essential supplies and prop up people's livelihoods during the coronavirus pandemic.

Reeves told the BBC the Conservative government was “embarrassed” by the scale of the losses and “doing nothing to get that money back.”

A multi-year public inquiry is examining Britain's handling of the pandemic, which left more than 200,000 people in the country dead.

Reeves' announcement comes during a four-day conference in Liverpool, where Labour is trying to cement its front-runner status in opinion polls before an election due in 2024.



NOBEL ECONOMICS GOES TO
PROFESSOR FOR ADVANCING
UNDERSTANDING OF
WORKPLACE GENDER GAP

DAVID KEYTON,
STOCKHOLM

THE Nobel economics prize was awarded yesterday to Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin for research that has advanced the understanding of the gender gap in the labor market.

The announcement went a tiny step to closing the Nobel committee's own gender gap: Goldin is just the third woman to win the prize out of 93 economics laureates.

She has studied 200 years of women's participation in the workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.

“Understanding women's role in the labor market is important for society. Thanks to Claudia Goldin's groundbreaking research, we now know much more about the underlying factors and which barriers may need to be addressed in the future,” said Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences.

Goldin does not offer solutions, but her research allows policymakers to tackle the entrenched pro-

blem, said economist Randi Hjalmarsson, a member of the prize committee.

“She explains the source of the gap, and how it's changed over time and how it varies with the stage of development. And therefore, there is no single policy,” Hjalmarsson said. “So it's a complicated policy question because if you don't know the underlying reason, a certain policy won't work.”

However, “by finally understanding the problem and calling it by the right name, we will be able to pave a better route forward,” Hjalmarsson said.

Goldin had to become a data sleuth as she sought to fill in missing data for her research, Hjalmarsson said. For parts of history, systematic labor market records did not exist, and, if they did, information about women was missing.

“So how did Claudia Goldin overcome this missing data challenge? She had to be a detective to dig through the archives to find novel data sources and creative ways to use them to measure these unknowns,” Hjalmarsson said.

In Goldin's analysis, a woman's role in the job market and the pay she receives aren't influenced just by broad social and economic changes. They also are

determined partly by her individual decisions about, for example, how much education to get.

Often young girls make decisions about future work by looking at their own mother's participation, each generation “learning from the successes and failures of the preceding generation,” Hjalmarsson said.

The process of evaluating prospects as times change “helps explain why change in labor market gender gaps has been so slow,” she said.

Of receiving the Nobel, Goldin, 77, “was surprised and very, very glad,” Ellegren said.

Her award follows the awards in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace that were announced last week.

The economics award was created in 1968 by Sweden's central bank and is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Last year's winners were former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig for their research into bank failures that helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

Only two of the 92 economics laureates honored have been women. MDT/AP



Poland Leading candidates were gearing up for a debate yesterday where they hope to sway undecided voters, six days before a national election that many Poles believe is the most important one since communism was toppled. The ruling conservative Law and Justice party is leading in the polls with around 35% support, yet it is at risk of losing its majority in parliament. Its nearest rival, the Civic Coalition led by Donald Tusk, is just a few points behind.



UN Security Council held an emergency meeting behind closed doors, with the United States demanding all 15 members strongly condemn “these heinous terrorist attacks committed by Hamas,” but they took no immediate action. U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood said afterward that “a good number of countries” did condemn the Hamas attack but not all council members. He told reporters they could probably figure out one of them.



Finland, Estonia said that the undersea Balticconnector gas pipeline running between the two countries across the Baltic Sea was temporarily taken out of service due to a suspected leak. Gasgrid Finland and Elering, the Finnish and Estonian gas system operators, said they noted an unusual drop in pressure in the pipeline shortly before 2 a.m. Sunday, after which they shut down the gas flow.