

The Alcohol Control Law
shall enter into force on
5th November 2023

Enjoy a healthier life:
Quit smoking and limit alcohol
consumption!

Scan QR code for related infographics

ARTYZEN
GRAND LAPA MACAU
澳門雅辰酒店

DISCOVER
Good Life Starts Here

LOCAL CATERERS PAUSE OPERATIONS TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS AT FOOD EXPOS AND FAIRS, CAPITALIZING ON HIGH VISITOR ATTENDANCE

TRIAL: PUBLIC PROSECUTOR KONG CHI BELIEVES IN COINCIDENCES

EVIDENCE SHOWS HAMAS USED NORTH KOREAN WEAPONS IN ATTACK ON ISRAEL



AP PHOTO



Indonesia Thousands of noisy, flag-waving political supporters created a celebratory atmosphere outside Indonesia's election commission yesterday as candidates started registering for next year's elections in the world's third-largest democracy. More than 2,400 police were deployed around the General Election Commission compound in Jakarta and roads were blocked around the building, where traffic was snarled as the presidential and vice presidential candidates arrived. More on p9

AP PHOTO



Japan A member of the International Atomic Energy Agency team visiting Fukushima for its first marine sampling since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant started releasing treated radioactive wastewater into the sea said yesterday he does not expect any rise in radiation levels in the fish caught in the regional seas. The IAEA team watched flounder and other popular kinds of fish being caught off the coast yesterday and brought on boats to the Hisanohama port in southern Fukushima for an auction.

AP PHOTO



Denmark Northern Europe braced for bad weather including gale-force winds from the east yesterday, with authorities saying floods could cause major problems in inland Danish waters and in the Baltic Sea. Danish broadcaster TV2 said it likely would be the worst flooding in 110 years, and the Danish Meteorological Institute said waves could reach 4 meters along east-facing coasts.

More on backpage

EVENTFUL COTAI

Three trade exhibitions open concurrently in Macau to boost key industries and align with China's 'dual circulation' economic strategy

RENATO MARQUES



P2-3

GAMING

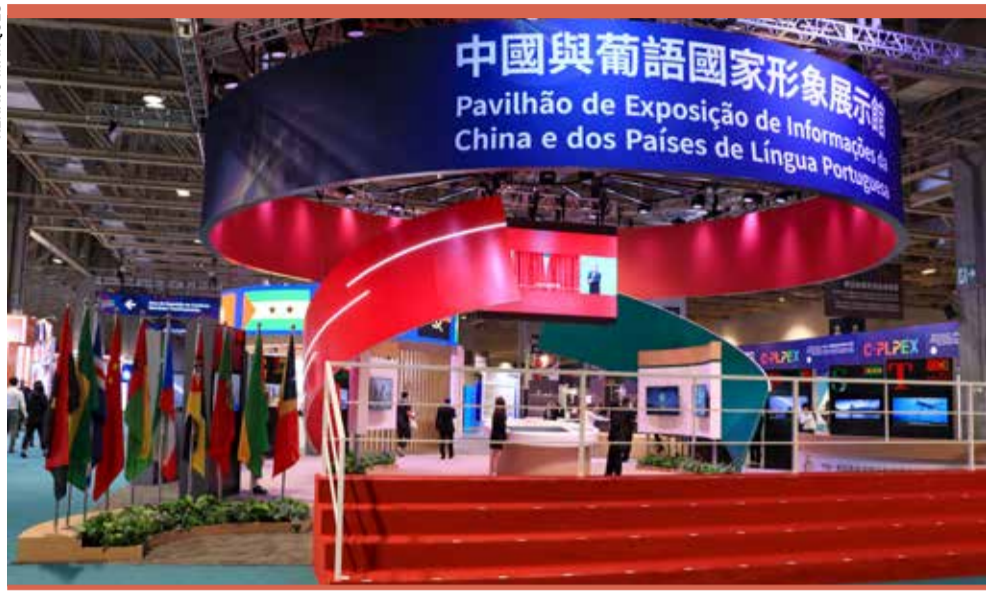
LVS REVENUE AND PROFITS RISE SHARPLY, MOSTLY ON MACAU UPTURN

P7

TASTE OF EDESIA



P15



C-PLPEX

PLP: COOPERATION NEEDS REALIZATION

RENATO MARQUES

THE synergies and cooperation agreements established between companies from the Portuguese-speaking countries (PLP) and China need real implementation in projects and cannot stay only at the level of business contacts, Mussurá Canté, Secretary of the State of the Plan and Regional Integration of Guinea-Bissau, said, in representation of the all the PLP.

In a speech delivered at the inauguration of the 1st China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Economic and Trade Expo - Macao (C-PLPEX), Canté

said Macau SAR has been playing a very important role as a platform that has brought the PLP many opportunities that they value and have used.

Nevertheless, "The synergies and cooperation between enterprises cannot be limited to the organization of business matching sessions but should pass also through the implementation of concrete and specific entrepreneurial projects and partnerships from PLP and China, which will gradually promote mutual trade and investment," she said.

The PLP representative also noted the 1st C-PLPEX

is "an opportunity to respond to the challenges of globalization and to promote the social and economic development of all those involved."

MACAU WITH ADDED ROLES ON BLUE ECONOMY

Minutes earlier in the speech officially launching the event, Fan Shijie, representative of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and Director-General of the Department of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs, had said Macau's role as the link between the maritime Silk Road will be reinforced, considering the

purpose of Sino-Portuguese cooperation in the blue economy.

"We will implement the spirit of President Xi Jinping's speech at the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which articulated the promotion of China's participation in the construction of the Belt and Road initiative with the PLP.

We will promote the joint participation of China and PLP in the Belt and Road initiative construction and we will give full play to the Macau role as a keynote on the maritime Silk Road, deepen Sino-Portuguese cooperation in the maritime economy, and promote the smooth flow of trade between China and Portugal," Fan said.

The same official added China will also raise the level of investment and cultivate momentum for economic development.

Fan noted that for the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, the 1st C-PLPEX is "an opportunity for the transaction of high-quality commodities from PLP and the landing of corporation projects with potential. To promote that, you must have enough tangible results inside Portuguese economic entry areas."

Another area that the central government wants to see developed is the Sino-Portuguese e-commerce cross-border cooperation.

possible," the same official said.

Addressing the results of the IPIM's activities of promotion and business visits, the President noted that when a delegation visited Portugal last April, the IPIM was able to negotiate with entrepreneurs from the Madeira Archipelago, which resulted in some of these entrepreneurs attending this year's 1st C-PLPEX.

The Macau government is interested in deepening the relationship with the Portuguese Archipelago, which is famous for its wine and for Cristiano Ronaldo, U noted.

C-PLPEX

Portugal wants new business with Macau, beyond cultural ties

PORTUGAL'S vice-minister for Economy, Pedro Cilínio, yesterday said his country wants to broaden ties with the Chinese region beyond cultural links, eyeing investment in renewable energies and the blue economy.

"Macau has so far been explored very much in a logic of what the cultural ties with Portugal are. We want to go beyond that," Cilínio remarked, in an interview with Lusa News Agency on the sidelines of the inaugural C-PLPEX in Cotai.

Cilínio emphasized that while cultural connections provide a base for potential future business development, Portugal is keen on exploring other sectors that are "enhanced by the Portuguese presence in the territory."

He cited renewable energies and the blue economy as prime examples, recognizing the representation of companies in these sectors at the C-PLPEX.

He noted the significant representation of the Global Ocean Forum at the event, underlining the importance of the blue economy for the Greater Bay Area's development.

"Portugal, in this scope, has a set of 'know-how' specialties that

can enhance these types of connections," he told Lusa.

Addressing the hurdles faced by Portuguese entrepreneurs entering the Chinese market, Cilínio acknowledged continuous efforts to "identify the difficulties and find the solutions" to foster smoother market entry in the future.

In the interview with the Portuguese agency, he underscored the Greater Bay as a "very interesting project," with a clear vision and many steps ahead to facilitate business for Portuguese-speaking countries in the region.

Moreover, marking a new chapter in Sino-Portuguese economic cooperation, Cilínio reflected on the initial phase where Chinese investments were made in strategic assets in Portugal.

According to Lusa, he now sees a shift towards concrete investment intentions in pivotal areas like electric mobility and sustainability, aligning with European interests.

In the first half of this year, Chinese investment in Portugal saw a 10% increase, amounting to around 3.5 billion euros, highlighting a "promising trajectory in bilateral economic engagements," he concluded. **PC**

C-PLPEX

IPIM, MAINLAND TO TALK TO EASE CUSTOMS FOR PLP PRODUCTS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) will meet central government authorities to facilitate the entry of products from Portuguese-speaking countries (PLP) to the Chinese market, the president of IPIM, Vincent U, said on the sidelines of the inauguration of the 28th Ma-

cao International Trade and Investment Fair.

Asked about the many problems that still make the entry of PLP products into the Chinese market difficult, U told media, "we will promote more measures favorable for the PLP products, which include, besides the easing of access to the Macau market, the promotion of products to enter the

mainland and the Chinese market."

"This involves several customs-related issues, and we know that there are several difficulties, but we will communicate with mainland authorities so PLP products can enter directly into the Chinese market through the [special economic zone]. We will try to support the work for the PLP as much as



Pedro Cilínio

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo
REACHING OUT!
+25,000
Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai
NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí
DESIGNERS_Miguel Bandeira, Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com
SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

PLPEX re-brands for main role in MIF

RENATO MARQUES

THE former Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition – Macao (PLPEX) has re-branded itself this year, becoming the 1st China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Economic and Trade Expo – Macao (C-PLPEX).

C-PLPEX, which has run as a stand-alone event concurrently with the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) since 2017, is also taking the main role in the 28th MIF, which began yesterday.

According to the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), which organizes the events, the idea to rebrand PLPEX to C-PLPEX came as part of the activities that celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao) (Forum Macau).

IPIM said the elevation of status aims to nurture brands originating in China and Portuguese-speaking countries, organizing officials and enterprise representatives from both sides to join the



event and to introduce a greater variety of products and broader possibilities or trade deals and partnerships.

With almost 300 exhibitors, the C-PLPEX will take a central role in this year's MIF, presenting a variety of products and services in which the agri-food sector has a clear prevalence.

Technology, particularly services and platforms linked to the promotion of services and goods on the internet, is also present this year and includes representatives from Macau. Speaking to the media, Lio Son Wan, a representative of Gen Z Digital Culture and Entertainment (Macao) Technolo-

gy Co. Ltd., noted the company's scope in internet promotion.

He said the MIF's main goal in participating this year is to promote several mainland internet promotion and sales platforms that the company is part of to the markets of Portugal and Brazil.

The same representative said that, so far, the company has few contacts in those countries and so the participation in the event aims to "open doors."

Also interviewed by the media, Nilo Santiago, Senior Adviser on International Relations of the [Brazilian] Instituto Jovem Exportador (Young Exporter Institute), said over 20 companies are show-

ing their products - mostly from the agro-food sector - at the fair.

Santiago said all these companies are new to the event and the relationship with China. Participation from C-PLPEX, as well as the contacts made through IPIM, have been important to provide small and medium enterprises in areas of Brazil, such as the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, to enter the export market with very unique products from the Amazon rainforest. Other products are already well known, such as coffee and some that are starting to arrive in Asia like the Açai.

Santiago said Brazilian exporters mainly face logistics issues shipping products to Asia in gene-

ral and China in particular.

He is attending this year's event to present a new shipping route, which he said opened about one month ago.

Named the "Bioceanic Route," the new route links Central Brazil to Asia and Oceania passing through Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile. It promises to reduce the time of transportation of goods by maritime route to 17 days.

On the new route, goods are shipped via the Ports of Iquique or Antofagasta (in Chile), unlike existing routes that only use the Port of Santos in the city of São Paulo. Santiago said the change not only saves time but also a lot of money as the new route will cut on shipping costs.

MIF RUNS UNTIL SUNDAY UNDER THE THEME 'MORE THAN BUSINESS'

THE 28th Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (MIF) will run until Sunday (Oct. 22 at 6 p.m.) with days 2 to 4 (Oct. 20 to 22) open to the public. Besides the MIF and the 1st C-PLPEX, the fair is running

concurrently with the 2023 Macao Franchise Expo (MFE) exhibition. The multievent also includes CHEXPO Macao 2023, and Science and Technology Week 2023 to take advantage of the synergy effects.

AD

WIZARDING WORLD
Harry Potter
THE EXHIBITION

COMING 15TH DECEMBER 2023
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

From MOP **218** / Adults HKD **218** From MOP **168** / Children HKD **168**

SCAN FOR DETAILS

COTAITICKETING.COM/HPExHIBITION

WB imagine emc+

THE LONDONER
MACAO

GBA SURVEY SUGGESTS SALARY RISE IN 2024

Macau employees may receive a higher salary next year, according to the 2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Pay and Benefit Survey, local media has reported. The survey has forecast salary growth between 2.8% and 3.3% for Macau in 2024, with frontline workers expected to see the biggest gains. Salary growth for Hong Kong's workers was projected to be between 3.5% and 3.8%. Almost 183,000 employees responded to the poll, which was rolled out across the entire Greater Bay Area. Twenty-one of the firms represented are Macau-based.

MACAU CHAMPION LEE TEES UP SHOT AT THE BIG TIME

Min Woo Lee's American dream is on the brink of coming to fruition. After honing his skills on the DP World Tour, the highly regarded Australian has risen to 45th in the world rankings. Lee has a pair of wins on the DP World Tour and is coming off a 30-under-par performance to win the Macao Open on the Asian Tour last week. Although he has not yet secured his 2024 PGA Tour card, Lee is in an excellent position to do so. The 25-year-old plans to play regularly in the US for the first time next year and already has plans to relocate to Las Vegas, where he will stay with PGA Tour buddy Kurt Kitayama until he finds a place of his own, according to China Daily.

CASINO HEIRESS, ACTOR-HUSBAND ENJOY TENNIS DATE

Laurinda Ho and her actor husband, Shawn Dou, showed their best selves as spectators at the ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai tennis tournament, according to Chinese media. During the match, the couple openly exchanged sweet gazes and subtle public displays of affection, prompting many Chinese social media users to express admiration for their relationship. "As expected from newlyweds, they look really happy," one user commented. Ho and Dou had a multimillion-dollar wedding in April this year. They have been residing in a luxurious apartment in Shanghai ever since. Ho, 32, is the daughter of the late casino mogul, Stanley Ho, and his third wife, Ina Chan. Her father was renowned for his casino empire, and Forbes estimated her mother's net worth at around \$1 billion.

COURTS

PROSECUTOR EXPLAINS SECOND DEFENDANT'S LINK IN ARCHIVED CASES AS COINCIDENCE

ANTHONY LAM

ASSISTANT prosecutor general Kong Chi said it was a coincidence that he had contacted second defendant Choi Sao Ieng before and after he archived some cases, local media has reported.

Concerning a criminal case in 2012, Kong told the court he had lawfully retrieved HKD100,000 in custody for witness Wong Kuong Fei and accused Wong of making ungrounded accusations that Kong took bribes.

There were two cases concerning Lei Sio Kun in early 2013, the accused in a 2012 case. Kong, who was not handling the cases, was said to have passed information about the cases to Wong so that the latter could seek reconciliation with Lei. Both cases were ultimately archived.

Stating he could not remember if he had viewed



documentation on the two latter cases, Kong wondered why the documents that ended up at the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) were in Wong's possession in the first place. He admitted to suggesting Wong seek reconciliation.

It was revealed that in 2014, Kong had archived a case about the use of forged documents to acquire a Macau ID. The four defendants were said to have requested HKD300,000 from the accused.

The prosecution said Kong's bank account had received MOP75,000 in two instalments after archiving the Macau ID case. In reply, Kong explained the fund movements by saying he had regularly contacted Choi about currency exchange. He said it was coincidence that the time of archive matched that of the bank deposit.

For another sham marriage case handled by Kong in 2014, the four defendants were said to have requested MOP50,000 as graft. Based on the then text messages between Kong and Choi shown on court, the prosecution asked Kong what exactly he was requested to resolve. In response, Kong said it might have been related to hiring a lawyer.

In the same year, two people from Jiangxi Pro-

vince were accused of offering a ride to illegal entrants. The vehicle was retained under custody. Kong handled the case and ultimately archived it. On this, Kong said he had not passed paper strips with Choi's phone number to the suspects, nor was he clear if they had contacts.

Once again, conversation transcripts were shown in court. It was alleged Kong had asked Choi if "it was received." The presiding judge asked Kong to explain what "received" meant, and Kong said he meant if the case had been taken and if a lawyer had been appointed. He said the fact that the time of archive matched that of the conversation was a mere coincidence.

The CCAC found several documents in Kong's office noting people, the handling prosecutors, the amount in custody and the case number, among other details. He said he did not write all these documents, and that "every now and then" he would receive requests from people - not only Choi.

The indictment noted Choi had rented an office between September 2012 and February 2016 and had offered it to Kong without remuneration to use as the registered ad-

dress for two Hunan associations.

Kong said he was told by Choi that she administered the premises. He said he was unaware of that until receiving the indictment.

On this ground, the prosecution doubted that using an apartment for free can already be considered a type of advantage. Kong replied it had nothing to do with his cases, and that he did not consider it a benefit arising from the commission of crimes.

In March 2014, a case Kong handled and archived involved a person, Wu Kuok Leong, accused of swindling. It has been alleged Kong and the other defendants had requested HKD76,000 from Wu.

At the time of the retrieval of funds under custody, Kong and Choi had several phone conversations, while the fourth defendant, Kuan Hoi Lon, collected the funds under custody for Wu, which equated to HKD76,000.

Kong was asked why Kuan knew the money was available for collection, and said that everything was conducted as per due procedures.

He also said he had not leaked any secrets to external case stakeholders.

AD

KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084
Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Melco highlights Macau's appeal as a key business and leisure destination in the Philippines

IN support of the Macau government's drive to attract international travelers and diversify visitor sources to the city, Melco Resorts & Entertainment last week hosted an event titled 'Glow Your Way to Macau' at City of Dreams Manila to promote Macau's appeal as a key destination for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) and leisure. Joined by representatives from Macau's business associations and tourism and MICE sectors, the event went beyond being an introduction to Melco's hotel, entertainment, dining, and exhibition facilities in Macau to entice attendees with the diverse historical and cultural offerings and attractions available across the city. Showcasing the Company's unwavering commitment to promoting Macau as a global hub for both leisure and business travelers, the establishment of Melco's first sales office in the Philippines at City of Dreams Manila, together with forthcoming sales offices soon to be opened in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Republic of Cyprus, was also announced.

Mr. David Sisk, Melco's Chief Operating Officer - Macau Resorts, said, "In alignment with the Macau government's vision of diversifying visitor sources and propelling sustained economic growth, the objective of our 'Glow Your Way to Macau' event is to attract a greater influx of international visitors by enhancing their perception of Macau. Through highlighting Macau's appeal as a



key destination for business and leisure travelers, we aim to entice local stakeholders and travelers from the Philippines to visit Macau with its abundance of exciting historical and cultural offerings."

Ms. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, said, "Following the activation of Melco's Macao Regional Sales Office last month here in Manila, this event celebrates the opening of a brand-new avenue to boost tourism relations between the Philippines and Macao. Melco Resorts needs no introduction neither in the Philippines nor in Macao, and I am very encouraged to see Melco leverage its well-established tourism brand to drive visitor flows between our two sides."

Mr. Vincent U, President of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, said, "In our goal to spearhead and accelerate Macau's sector development, it is great to see Melco continue to implement its drive to promote the city and its MICE infrastructure to overseas markets such as the Philippines. In collaboration with cross-sector stakeholders in Macau, IPIM will strive to attract more international enterprises to hold annual conferences, summits and professional exhibitions in the city, both on a regional and global scale."

Ms. Sharlene Batin, Regional Director, The Philippine Department of Tourism - National Capital Region, said, "Today's showcasing event has offered exciting insight into the allure of the city of Macau.

We anticipate and look forward to the positive exchanges to be made between both leisure and business travelers from the Philippines and the Greater Bay Area as a result."

Melco had the esteemed privilege of welcoming Ms. Sharlene Batin, Regional Director, The Philippine Department of Tourism - National Capital Region; Ms. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of Macao Government Tourism Office; and Mr. Vincent U U Sang, President of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, as guest speakers for the event. In addition, the event was attended by guests of honor including Mr. Andy Wu, Chairman of Travel Industry Council of Macau; Mr. Osborn Lo, Chairman of Macau Federal Commercial Association of Convention

& Exhibition Industry; Mr. Kenny Lee Koi Ian, Chairman of Macau Youth Entrepreneur Association; Ms. Jocelyn Wong, Chairman of Macau Hotel Association; Mr. He Hai Ming, Chairman of Macao Association of Convention, Exhibition and Tourism Sectors; Mr. Jeffrey Vong Chiok Va, Vice President of Industrial Association of Macau; Mr. Paul Wong, Chairman of Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association; Ms. May Wong, Vice-Chairman of Macau Hotelier and Innkeepers Association; Mr. Leong Sio Pan, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-in-Chief of Macau Travel Agency Association; Ms. Jenny Chung Ching Yee, President of The Association of Advertising Agents of Macau; Mr. Navi Sit Man Chong, Council Member of Macau Fair and Trade Association; Mr. Roberto Zozobrado, President of Tourism Congress of the Philippines; Ms. Fe Ablang-Yu, President of Philippine Tour Operators Association; and Ms. Patria Chiong, President of Philippine Travel Agencies Association; along with Dr. Kent Wong, Chief Advisor of Melco, Mr. Kevin Benning, Senior Vice President of Melco and Property General Manager of Studio City; and Mr. Ben Leong, Vice President, Global Marketing of City of Dreams Manila and representatives from various local government departments, plus over 100 local companies including travel agencies, tourism-related organizations, and renowned enterprises.

As one of Macau's integrated resort operators awarded with the highest number of MICHELIN-stars, Melco's award-winning culinary team from Macau were invited to craft a sensational 6-course dinner for all guests at the event. Demonstrating the Company's commitment to providing unparalleled dining and hospitality, the experience left a lasting impression on attendees and further highlighted Macau's position as a UNESCO-designated Creative City of Gastronomy.



David Sisk



Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes



Vincent U



Sharlene Batin





SOME CATERERS HALT NORMAL BUSINESS TO SUPPORT FAIR EXPOSURE

A number of local caterers will suspend business to display products at food expos or fairs, local media has reported.

Many local eateries have struggled since the lifting of disease control measures due to their locations in traditional residential areas.

People have traveled from these areas out of Macau without a comparable number of tourists entering Macau, the representative of a regional realty agency has noted.

Fung Kin Fu, deputy executive director of the United

Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macao, echoed this opinion and added that business in the upcoming two months will generally be busier.

Some caterers in traditional districts will participate in expos and display their products, departing from the usual practice of posting on social media, Fung told Macao Daily News.

He said the number of caterers registering for recent expos and fairs has outnumbered the quotas provided by respective organizers. To attend these

expos and fairs, such as the upcoming Food Festival, these caterers will suspend business operations to focus on the special events, Fung said. Their shops will provide backing services to the operations at expos and fairs.

Fung also said that most caterers would earn several times more revenue at the annual Food Festival than they would have via standard shop operations period-over-period.

Fung said caterers in tourist areas would need to expand their workforce. AL

40% more part time positions in 2H2023

With a series of festive, business or entertainment events in the second half of the year, 40% more part time vacancies are available than in the first half of the year, local media has reported.

Salaries have reached at least MOP70 per hour, higher than the average in the first half of the year, between MOP50 and MOP60.

An unnamed human resources agency has noted there are many major events in the last quarter of the year.

However, preparations need to start early, requiring many event organizers to start hiring part time workers around the middle of the year, as reported by Chinese media.

The human resources agency said new business arrivals and adjusting down-stream operations in the gaming industry are expected to need part time workers to fill vacancies before the picture becomes clearer.

Recruiting part time workers is a much easier process compared with full time workers.

In terms of attractiveness, it was noted that the easy recruitment procedure is also enticing to jobseekers. Some positions requiring higher qualifications may offer salaries up to MOP100 per hour, which can attract many young people.

The economy's recovery rate will dictate the workforce's expansion rate, the human resources agency said. It did not rule out the possibility that brands will open stores for the coming festivals, which will create the need for a bigger workforce. AL



CORPORATE BITS

Morpheus receives World's Most Beautiful Hotels UNESCO award



Morpheus, located at City of Dreams in Cotai, has been recognized as one of the world's most beautiful hotels by Prix Versailles, the world architecture and design award at UNESCO.

This makes it the only hotel in Macau to "receive this esteemed recognition," the company said yesterday in a press

release.

Morpheus stands as "a unique architectural marvel," being the world's first free-form exoskeleton high-rise, a creation of the late Dame Zaha Hadid.

The Prix Versailles, held annually at UNESCO since 2015, honors exemplary projects globally that embody in-

novation, local heritage reflection and intelligent sustainability, considering their ecological, social and cultural impacts.

Lawrence Ho, Chairman and CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, expressed his gratitude stating, "we are humbled and honored by Morpheus being listed among the world's most beautiful hotels by the esteemed Prix Versailles at UNESCO. The accolade enhances Melco's positioning as a global premium brand that extends beyond gaming to elevate luxury hospitality standards."

This isn't the first honor for Morpheus. After its 2018 opening, TIME Magazine named it one of the world's greatest places, and in 2019, it clinched a Prix Versailles regional award for hotels, Central and Northeast Asia.

Innovative treatments blending Chinese medicine and modern science at Four Seasons



The Four Seasons Hotel spa introduces "001 Skincare London" by Ada Ooi, blending Chinese medicine with modern science through a "Unique Transdermal Waterzyme Release" skincare system, aimed at "personalized, effective skincare solutions," a statement from the Cotai hotel reads.

The system melds "Bespoke Hydro-Complex" and "Bespoke Lipo-Complex" to address na-

tural ageing and hormonal changes, "revitalizing cell communication and skin balance using proven actives and antioxidants."

The Four Seasons note says "the products target both internal imbalances and external skin issues, extending benefits post-treatment."

Four specially formulated massage oils, based on traditional Chinese medicine, "pro-

mote holistic wellness."

The products, infused with Eastern herbs and modern patented substances, are vegan-friendly, ethically produced and packaged sustainably, the note adds.

Exclusively at The Spa, two new treatments are offered this fall. Medic Brush-Cup and Gua Sha Tension Release "utilizes dry brush, glide cupping and microSculpt gua sha technique to relieve longstanding physical and mental tension, enhancing blood circulation and muscle flexibility."

The Bespoke microSculpt® Medic Gua Sha Facial, "a clever fusion of gua sha, acupressure and lymphatic drainage, rejuvenates facial contours using tailored formulations of patented actives and botanicals, known among the A-List for its visible lifting effects, making it a preferred choice for high-profile events."

GAMING | Q3 2023

LVS revenue and profits rise sharply, mostly on Macau upturn

PAULO COUTINHO

IN Q3 2023, Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS) showcased a promising recovery, particularly in its Macau operations, buoyed by the resurgence in travel and tourism following the easing of pandemic restrictions.

The company yesterday [Macau time] reported a notable increase in both revenue and profit, exceeding Wall Street expectations.

The reported quarterly net revenue almost tripled to \$2.80 billion, from \$1.01 billion the previous year, driven by heightened gaming volumes and retail sales stemming from the influx of tourists to Macau and Singapore.

The Macau operations witnessed a surge in both gaming and non-gaming segments, contributing to a robust financial performance for the quarter.

The Adjusted Property Earnin-



gs Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) for Sands China Limited stood at \$631 million. Additionally, the firm's consolidated Ad-

justed Property EBITDA reached \$1.12 billion.

The financial results also revealed a net income of \$449 million for the quarter, showca-

ing a strong rebound from a net loss of \$380 million in the same quarter of the previous year.

The booming tourism sector played a pivotal role in this upturn.

Macau and Singapore both saw a dramatic increase in visitation, with Macau's visitation surpassing three million in August, a first since the onset of the pandemic.

This influx was a result of eased pandemic restrictions, propelling LVS's revenue growth, particularly from the mass segment in its properties like The Londoner and The Venetian in Cotai, as opposed to the VIP segment.

The encouraging figures prompted a 5.13% rise in LVS's shares in post-market trading following the announcement.

Furthermore, Sands China Ltd reported a total net revenue of \$1.78 billion, a remarkable recovery from \$251 million in Q3

2022, and a net income of \$231 million, reversing the net loss of \$472 million from the previous year's corresponding quarter.

The promising Q3 2023 results underscore the strategic importance of Macau in LVS's portfolio, with the recovery in travel and tourism spending in the region significantly contributing to the company's revenue growth and overall financial recovery.

"As the Macau market revenues continue to recover, our margins will naturally benefit from the improved business mix," Patrick Dumont, president and COO of Las Vegas Sands said.

However, LVS still sees its Macau business being hindered by travel challenges.

In the conference call yesterday, Dumont said the company's Macau business has seen slower returns from lower-spending consumers since the region reopened post-pandemic, which he attributes to still-hampered travel methods.

He said that visitation to Macau from some parts of China is still lower than in 2019 as a result of transportation challenges.

"The recovery story is not fully there in terms of air travel and in terms of accessibility," he said. "I think it's on the way, but it's not fully back."

ADVERTORIAL




GALAXY MACAU

One Destination, Unlimited Experiences



Photogenic Swing with Garden-like Furnishing

CHA BEI - Redefining Cafe Culture with an Eclectic Mix of Food, Fashion, Travel, Art Design and Community

CHA BEI, a name derived from the Chinese term for "tea cup", stands out prominently in the Galaxy Macau™'s dining scene due to its unique decor. With its pastel hues and exquisite floral decorations gracing the interior, this establishment, which doubles as both a cake shop and a tea salon, offers a truly distinctive experience to guests. Adorned with exquisite floral arrangements and pastel walls, the interior serves as a tranquil backdrop, providing solace for solitary moments while simultaneously becoming a captivating focal point. This enchanting ambiance enhances the overall experience, beckoning guests to



Instagrammable Afternoon Tea



Vegetable Moussaka



IMPOSSIBLE Meat wellington



Special Vegetarian Menu

Green Eating: Limited Vegetarian Special

In light of the celebration of "World Vegetarian Month", CHA BEI has unveiled a limited-time vegetarian menu in autumn, designed to satiate your palate with delectable and high-fiber nutritional offerings.

We are delighted to present two standout creations: the traditional Greek casserole "Vegetable Moussaka" and a vegetarian Beef Wellington, which is made with IMPOSSIBLE™ plant-based meat.

These Greek-inspired delicacies offer fusion of flavors and textures that will captivate most discerning palates. Our Thousand-Fleu Pie is a culinary masterpiece that brings the essence of autumn with the robust flavors of eggplants, paired with fragrant tomato sauce. Also, the plant-based Beef Wellington is a must-try. Encased in a golden pastry and accompanied by a mushroom walnut puree, this dish boasts a perfect combination of colors, flavors, and textures.



Please Scan the QR code For more information

US REPORT

China is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal faster than previous projections

TARA COPP & LOLITA C. BALDOR, WASHINGTON

A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal and is "almost certainly" learning lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine about what a conflict over Taiwan might look like.

The report released yesterday also warns that China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms that, if fielded, would allow Beijing "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska."

The China report comes a month before an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The annual report, required by Congress, is one way the Pentagon measures the growing military capabilities of China, which the U.S. government sees as its key threat in the region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

But after Hamas's Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, the U.S. has been forced again to focus on the Middle East, instead of its widely promoted pivot to the Pacific to counter Chi-



This image from video provided by the Department of Defense, shows an intercept of a U.S. warplane by Chinese aircraft in the Pacific Ocean in June 2022

na's growth. The U.S. is rushing weapons to Israel while continuing to support and deliver munitions to Ukraine in its 20-month struggle to repel Russia's invasion.

Still, the Pentagon's national defense strategy is shaped around China remaining the greatest security challenge for the U.S., and that the threat from Beijing will determine how the U.S. military is equipped and shaped for the future.

The Pentagon report builds on the military's warning last year that China was expanding its nuclear force much faster than U.S. officials had predicted, highlighting a broad and accelerating buildup of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or

surpass U.S. global power by mid-century.

Last year's report warned that Beijing was rapidly modernizing its nuclear force and was on track to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has to 1,500 by 2035. The United States has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.

The 2023 report finds that Beijing is on pace to field more than 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030, continuing a rapid modernization aimed at meeting Xi's goal of having a "world class" military by 2049.

After the previous report, China accused the U.S. of ratcheting up tensions and Beijing said it was still committed to a "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons.

The Pentagon has seen no indication that China is moving away from that policy but assesses there may be some circumstances where China might judge that it does not apply, a senior U.S. defense official said without providing details. The official briefed reporters Wednesday on condition of anonymity before the report's release.

The U.S. does not adhere to a "no first use" policy and says nuclear weapons would be used only in "extreme circumstances."

The report said China is intensifying military, diplomatic and economic pressure not only on Taiwan but also toward all its regional neighbors to push back against what it sees as U.S. efforts to contain its rise. The pressure against Taipei includes ballistic missile overflights, increased warplane incursions into its international defense zone and a large-scale military exercise last August that encircled Taiwan.

Beijing has vowed to bring Taiwan under its control, by force if necessary. Xi has given his military until 2027 to develop the military capability to retake the self-ruled island that is part of China's territory.

The U.S. has committed billions of dollars in military weapons to Taiwan to build up its defenses and help it rebuff any potential attack.

But China also has devoted billions to its military. According to its public budget numbers,

China's military spending for 2023 rose 7.2% to 1.58 trillion yuan, or \$216 billion in U.S. dollars, outpacing its economic growth. U.S. officials say the actual figure may be much higher. Beijing says it implements a defensive military policy to protect the country's interests.

The report also noted that China has increased its harassment of U.S. warplanes flying in international airspace in the region and recorded more than 180 instances where Chinese aircraft aggressively intercepted U.S. military flights.

The report focuses on China's activities in 2022, but does look at the U.S. overflight of China's spy balloon and how a lack of communication between the two militaries increased the risk of escalation. It does not include the latest war between Israel and Hamas, but it found that Beijing is using what it learned from the Russia-Ukraine war. China, it said, is working toward industrial and economic self-reliance after seeing the impact of Western sanctions against Moscow.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine "presented a major, unexpected challenge" for China, the report said, forcing it to measure its relationship and material support to Russia against the "reputational or economic costs" it could incur that would impede its overall goal of rising as a national power. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Russia's foreign minister offers security talks with North Korea and China

RUSSIA'S foreign minister proposed regular security talks with North Korea and China to deal with what he described as increasing U.S.-led regional military threats, as he met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top diplomat yesterday in Pyongyang.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in North Korea's capital on Wednesday on a two-day trip expected to focus on how to boost the two countries' defense ties following a September summit between Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Last week, the United States said North Korea had transferred munitions to Russia to boost its fighting capabilities in Ukraine in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading involving North Korea.

Yesterday, Lavrov met Kim for talks that lasted about an hour, Russia's state-run Tass news agency reported, without elaborating. Lavrov met his North Korean counterpart, Choe Son Hui, earlier and lauded deepening bilateral collaboration.

Lavrov and Choe discussed "resuming full-fledged

contacts" and intensifying economic cooperation, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It added that Lavrov invited Choe to visit Moscow "at her convenience." The ministry also said Lavrov recommended that Russian tourists start holidaying in North Korea.

The Lavrov-Kim meeting "means that the recent fleet of containers likely carrying munitions from North Korea to Russia was not the last Kim-Putin transaction the world has to worry about," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha

University in Seoul.

"After accepting Pyongyang's help to resupply the illegal invasion of Ukraine, Moscow is set to commit further violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions by providing North Korea with weapons technology that could threaten stability in East Asia," Easley said.

Tass quoted Lavrov as telling reporters that he supports holding regular talks on security issues on the Korean Peninsula with North Korea and China.

"The United States, Japan and South Korea intensifying military activity here



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry, Kim Jong Un and Sergey Lavrov greet each other during a meeting in Pyongyang, yesterday

and Washington working toward moving strategic infrastructure, including nuclear aspects, here, are of great concern to us and our North Korean friends," Lavrov said, according to Tass.

The recent flurry of diplomacy between Russia

and North Korea underscores how their interests are aligning in the face of their separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States — North Korea over its advancing nuclear program and Russia over its war with Ukraine. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

Presidential candidates register for next year's elections as supporters cheer

NINIEK KARMINI
& EDNA TARIGAN, JAKARTA

THOUSANDS of noisy, flag-waving political supporters created a celebratory atmosphere outside Indonesia's election commission yesterday as candidates started registering for next year's elections in the world's third-largest democracy.

More than 2,400 police were deployed around the General Election Commission compound and roads were blocked around the building in Jakarta where traffic was snarled as the presidential and vice presidential candidates arrived.

Anies Baswedan, an opposition candidate and former Jakarta governor, was the first to register for the presidential race, alongside his running mate, Muhaimin Iskandar, the chairman of the National Awakening Party or PKB.

Ganjar Pranowo, the ruling party's candidate and former Central Java governor, registered with his running mate, Muhammad Mahfud, the current top security minister.

The election to succeed President Joko Widodo, who is serving his second and final term, is shaping up as a three-way race.

Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, who lost to Widodo in the last two presidential elections, is expected to run but it's not clear when he will register as he hasn't announced his running mate.

The deadline for candidates to register for the legislative and



Presidential candidate Anies Baswedan (right) and his running mate Muhaimin Iskandar upon arrival to the General Election Commission building in Jakarta, yesterday

presidential elections on Feb. 14, 2024, is next Wednesday.

Opinion polls forecast a close race between Subianto and Pranowo while Baswedan is consistently in third place.

Baswedan, 54, was education and culture minister before Widodo removed him from the cabinet in 2016.

He was known as a progressive Muslim intellectual but the religious identity politics in the 2017 election for Jakarta governor were seen as distancing him from moderate Muslims. His choice of Iskandar is seen as an attempt to rebuild that support.

Iskandar's PKB party has strong ties with Indonesia's largest Islamic organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, which boasts over 45 million members.

"We bring the idea of change to be felt by families in Indonesia. We want basic needs to be affordable. Farmers will have a more prosperous life, fishermen will have a more prosperous life. We want there to be equality of opportunity. ... The basic idea is that change brings equality and justice," Baswedan said at a news conference at the General Election Commission yesterday.

Some of Baswedan's supporters who gathered at the election commission building were from the groups that held mass protests in 2016 against Jakarta's ethnic Chinese Christian governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who was imprisoned for blasphemy after quoting the Quran in a speech. Anies galvanized street protests of hundreds of thousands and capi-

talized on the controversy in his successful run for governor.

The nationalist party Nasdem has endorsed him in the upcoming presidential election and praised his achievements in promoting religious and ethnic tolerance during his term as governor.

Pranowo, 54, was a national legislator for the ruling Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle or PDIP for 10 years before elected in 2013 for the first of his two terms as Central Java governor.

Widodo praised Pranowo as a leader who is close to the people and "always goes down to the grassroots and is very ideological."

"We want to develop Indonesia faster and continue the good things that have been done by the current government, to fix what

is not good enough and to leave the bad ones," Pranowo said in a news conference.

Pranowo has faced criticism and backlash from soccer fans after FIFA earlier this year stripped Indonesia of its right to host the Under-20 World Cup.

He was among those who had voiced opposition to Israel's participation in the tournament. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation and does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Subianto, 72, has focused his ultra-nationalistic campaign on what he sees as Indonesia's weakness in the world relative to its vast land area rich in natural resources and a population of more than 270 million people.

A longtime commander in Indonesia's Kopassus special forces, Subianto was discharged from the military in 1998 after Kopassus soldiers tortured activists who opposed dictator Suharto, his father-in-law.

He self-exiled to Jordan before returning and founding the Gerindra Party in early 2008.

In the past he worked closely with hardline Islamists to undermine his opponents, but lost to Widodo in 2014 and 2019 elections which were marred by dirty campaigning and wild internet rumors.

Subianto testily refused to accept both election results, but decided to join Widodo's Cabinet after Widodo offered him the defense minister position in a bid for unity. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Exports rise and imports decline in September as auto shipments to US and Europe climb



JAPAN'S exports climbed 4.3% in September from a year earlier as shipments of vehicles, machinery and electronics rose while imports of oil and gas fell sharply, the government said.

Exports totaled 9.2 trillion yen (\$61 billion) in September while imports fell 16.3% from the year before to 10.9 trillion yen (\$72 billion), according to provisional customs data released yesterday.

That left a positive ba-

lance of 62.4 trillion yen (\$410 billion), the first monthly trade surplus in three months.

September's increase in exports was the biggest gain since March and was stronger than analysts had expected. The figures suggest strong activity in Japan's vital manufacturing sector despite faltering global demand.

Economists said the drop in imports was mainly due to base effects from the

year before.

In the first half of Japan's fiscal year, from April-September, exports edged up just 1.4% from a year earlier, to a record 50.2 trillion yen (\$330 billion) while the trade deficit shrank by three-quarters to 2.7 trillion yen (\$18 billion).

Trade with the rest of Asia has weakened in the past half-year, with a drop in exports of computer chips and semiconductor making equipment taking a

toll on exports to China.

"The global electronics slump seems like it is continuing with semiconductor equipment down 14.5%, contributing to a decline in exports to China, the biggest destination of IT products," ING Economics said in a report.

Shipments to the U.S. and Europe rose, mainly thanks to strong sales of autos and auto parts, which jumped nearly 24%. Exports of electrical equipment surged 17% and exports of machinery were up 18%.

Japan's imports of oil fell 28% in April-September from a year earlier, while imports of liquefied natural gas sank almost 38% and imports of coal plunged 37%. **MDT/AP**

NORTH KOREA

EVIDENCE SHOWS HAMAS USED NORTH KOREAN WEAPONS IN ATTACK ON ISRAEL

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

HAMAS fighters likely fired North Korean weapons during their Oct. 7 assault on Israel, a militant video and weapons seized by Israel show, despite Pyongyang's denials that it arms the militant group.

South Korean officials, two experts on North Korean arms and an Associated Press analysis of weapons captured on the battlefield by Israel point toward Hamas using Pyongyang's F-7 rocket-propelled grenade, a shoulder-fired weapon that fighters typically use against armored vehicles.

The evidence shines a light on the murky world of the illicit arms shipments that sanction-battered North Korea uses as a way to fund its own conventional and nuclear weapons programs.

Rocket-propelled grenade launchers fire a single warhead and can be quickly reloaded, making them valuable weapons for guerrilla forces in running skirmishes with heavy vehicles. The F-7 has been documented in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, said



Suspected North Korean-made F-7 rocket-propelled grenades, many with a distinctive red stripe on their warhead, are seen at an Israeli military base in southern Israel last Sunday

N.R. Jenzen-Jones, a weapons expert who works as the director of the consultancy Armament Research Services.

"North Korea has long supported Palestinian militant groups, and North Korean arms have previously been documented amongst interdicted supplies," Jenzen-Jones told the AP.

Hamas has published images

of their fighters with a launcher with a rocket-propelled grenade with a distinctive red stripe across its warhead, and other design elements matching the F-7, said Matt Schroeder, a senior researcher with Small Arms Survey who wrote a guide to Pyongyang's light weapons.

"It is not a surprise to see North Korean weapons with Hamas,"

Schroeder said.

The North Korean F-7 resembles the more widely distributed Soviet-era RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade, with a few noticeable differences. Jenzen-Jones described the F-7 rocket-propelled grenade as "intended to offer a lethal effect against personnel" given its shape and payload, rather than armored vehicles.

Weapons seized by the Israeli military and shown to journalists also included that red stripe and other design elements matching the F-7.

In a background briefing with journalists Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff specifically identified the F-7 as one of the North Korean weapons it believed Hamas used in the attack. The Israeli military declined to answer questions from the AP about the origin and the manufacturer of those rocket-propelled grenades, saying the ongoing war with Hamas prevented it from responding.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment from

the AP. However, Pyongyang last week through its state-run KCNA news agency dismissed claims that Hamas used its weapons as "a groundless and false rumor" orchestrated by the United States.

Hamas propaganda videos and photos previously have shown its fighters with North Korea's Bulsae guided anti-tank missile. Jenzen-Jones said he believed, based on imagery of the weapons wielded by Hamas fighters in the Oct. 7 attack, they also used North Korea's Type 58 self-loading rifle, a variant of the Kalashnikov assault rifle.

"Many North Korean weapons have been provided by Iran to militant groups, and this is believed to be the primary way by which Palestinian militants have come to possess North Korean weapons," Jenzen-Jones said.

Iran also has modeled some of its ballistic missiles after North Korean variants.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. Officials in Iran long have supported Hamas and have praised their assault on Israel. **MDT/AP**

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha ° 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues ° 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata ° 趙魯 Zhao Lu °* 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Icília Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陳芷喬 Joana Chan

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

陳健雄 Eurico Chan
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家及外地註冊律師

JURISTS AND LAWYERS
QUALIFIED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:
林思潔 Jessie Lin
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
伍福賢 Domingos Ng
許栢桓 Rui Fernandes Brás

WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623

° 私人公證員 Notary Public * 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



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



GAZA STRIP

Palestinians trapped find nowhere is safe during Israel's relentless bombing

ISRAELI airstrikes pounded locations across the Gaza Strip yesterday, including parts of the south that Israel had declared as safe zones, heightening fears among more than 2 million Palestinians trapped in the territory that nowhere was safe.

In the nearly two weeks since a devastating Hamas rampage in southern Israel, the Israeli military has relentlessly attacked Gaza in response. Even after Israel told Palestinians to evacuate the north and head to what it called "safe zones" in the south, strikes continued overnight throughout the densely populated territory.

A residential building in Khan Younis, a city in southern Gaza where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had sought shelter, was among the places hit. Medical personnel at Nasser Hospital said they received at least 12 dead and 40 wounded.

The bombardments came after Israel agreed Wednesday to



allow Egypt to deliver limited humanitarian aid to Gaza, the first crack in a punishing 11-day siege. Many among Gaza's 2.3 million residents have cut down to one meal a day and resorted to drinking dirty water.

The announcement of a plan to bring water, food and other supplies into Gaza came as fury over a Tuesday night explosion at Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital

spread across the Middle East. There were conflicting claims of who was behind the blast, which the Hamas-run Health Authority said had killed hundreds of Palestinians.

Hamas officials in Gaza blamed an Israeli airstrike, saying hundreds were killed. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed

the blast was instead due to a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed the Israeli claim.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who visited Israel on Wednesday, said data from his Defense Department showed the explosion was not likely caused by an Israeli airstrike. The White House later said an analysis of "overhead imagery, intercepts and open-source information" showed Israel was not behind the attack. But the U.S. continues to collect evidence.

Video from the scene showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. Hundreds of wounded were rushed to Gaza City's main hospital, where doctors already facing critical supply shortages were sometimes forced to perform surgery on the floors, often without anesthesia.

More than 1 million Palesti-

nians, roughly half of Gaza's population, have fled their homes in Gaza City.

Following early yesterday's airstrikes, sirens wailed as emergency crews rushed to rescue survivors from a building where many residents were believed trapped under misshapen bed frames, broken furniture and cement chunks.

A small, soot-covered child, unconscious and dangling in the arms of a rescue worker, was taken out of a damaged building and rushed toward a waiting ambulance.

The Israeli military said it killed a top Palestinian militant in Rafah, near the Egyptian border, and hit hundreds of targets across Gaza, including tunnel shafts, intelligence infrastructure and command centers. It said it hit dozens of mortar launching posts, most of them immediately after they launched shells at Israel. Palestinians have been launching barrages of rockets at Israel since the fighting began. **MDT/AP**

藝術氣息
ARTISTIC VIBES

MACAUCLOSER

JÁ À VENDA

藝文薈萃 2023 揮毫
個個天賦異非凡
THE CITY COMES ALIVE
WITH ART THIS SUMMER
AT ART MACAO 2023

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE
MACAUCLOSER

仁德 *CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER*
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan lo

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

GAZA STRIP

EU seeks answers to rising security challenges as Israel-Hamas war fuels new concerns

LORNE COOK, BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union interior ministers yesterday debated how to manage the impact of the war between Israel and Hamas on the bloc, amid heightened security tensions after a firebomb assault on a Berlin synagogue and killings in Belgium and France by suspected Islamist extremists.

Officials from across the 27-nation EU have expressed concerns about a rise in antisemitic attacks, the radicalization of young people online, the use of encrypted messaging services by criminals or extremists, and the need to speed up the deportation of people who might pose a public danger.

But calls for an increase in security across the board are also creating deep unease as the solutions being discussed could undermine free movement and the right to assemble in Europe.

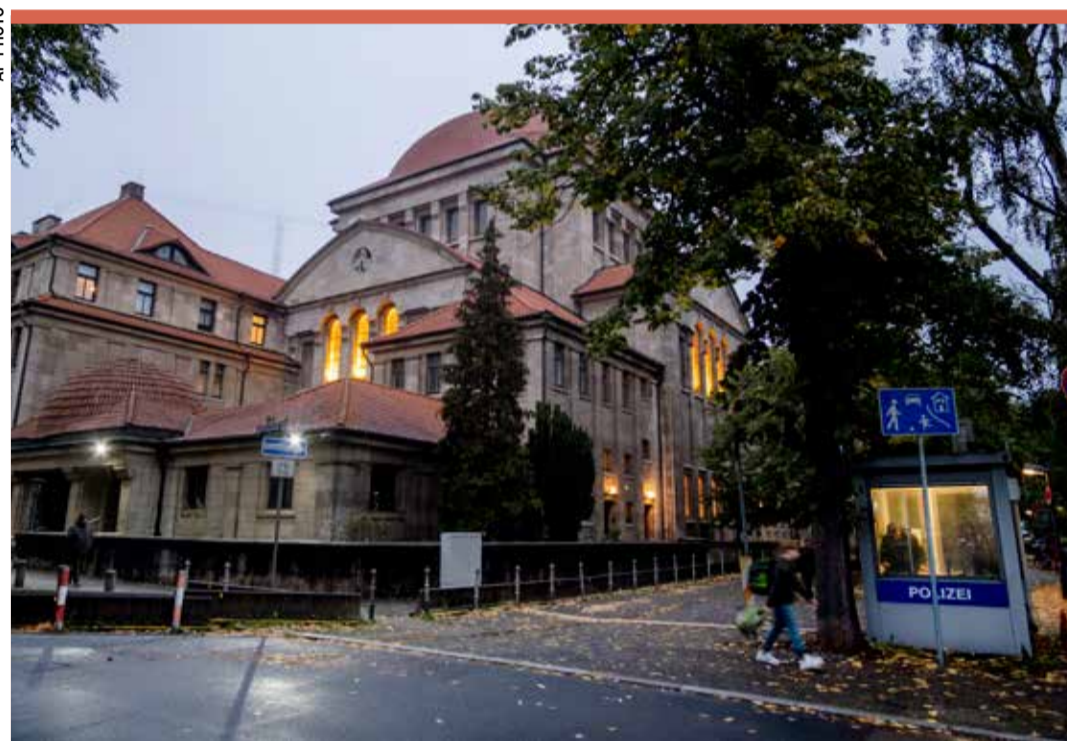
Italy is introducing border checks to counter a possible rise in tensions over the Israel-Hamas war. Denmark and Sweden are too, due to what they say is an "Islamist terrorist threat." France intends to keep checks in place until at least May 2024, citing "new terrorist threats and external borders situation."

More police have been deployed in Belgium, France and Germany.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell believes that part of the solution to Europe's security woes must involve the bloc helping diplomatically and financially to bring an end to years of conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We have learned from history that the most difficult decisions are always taken when we are on the edge of the abyss. I believe that is where we are now: on the edge of the abyss," Borrell told EU lawmakers on Wednesday.

"When I hear Muslim religious authorities speaking the language of inter-religious conflict and explicitly stating that Europe is a party to this conflict, I feel that the storm clouds are looming," he said.



A police officer stands in a police facility, right, outside a synagogue in Frankfurt

Still, not all of Europe's challenges are directly linked to the war.

Earlier yesterday, Sweden hosted a meeting of ministers from eight countries, among them Germany, Belgium and France, focused on how to handle incidents where people burn the Muslim holy book, the Quran.

Prosecutors are trying to establish whether that was a key motive for a Tunisian man who shot three Swedes in Brussels on Monday, killing two of them, ahead of a Belgium-Sweden soccer match in the capital.

While the Quran burnings are not directly linked to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, they are a sign of rising tensions between religious and other communities in Europe.

The war that began Oct. 7 has become the deadliest of five Gaza wars for both sides. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry said Wednesday that 3,478 Palestinians have been killed and more than 12,000 injured in the past 11 days.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, and at least 199 others, in-

cluding children, were captured by Hamas and taken into Gaza, according to Israeli authorities.

"We have to address multiple impacts from the continuing crisis in the Middle East" in the EU, European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas said.

"This entails the protection of our Jewish communities, but also the protection against a generalized climate of Islamophobia that has no place in our society," he told reporters in Luxembourg, where the meetings were held.

Pro-Palestinian rallies have been held in several European cities since the war. France has banned them. Germany has also promised to take tougher action against Hamas, which is already on the EU's list of terrorist organizations.

After assailants threw two Molotov cocktails at the Berlin synagogue on Wednesday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that "we will never accept when attacks are carried out against Jewish institutions."

In France, the Palace of Versailles — a major tourist attraction — and three airports were evacuated for security reasons and temporarily closed Wednesday. The incidents were the la-

test in a spate of evacuations in the past five days, and the French government is threatening to fine or jail prank callers.

They followed the killing of a teacher in northern France on Friday by a suspected Islamist extremist.

French Interior Minister Gerland Darmanin noted that two foreigners were behind the recent attacks in Belgium and France, and he insisted that long-delayed reforms of EU asylum rules must be put in place.

Europe must "manage our borders, register people and conduct the security interviews that are necessary before every asylum request," he told reporters.

Belgium's top migration official, Nicole de Moor, said that "we are facing terror in the streets of our cities, in France, in Belgium, and we cannot tolerate this. Innocent people are dying, and this is unacceptable."

She said tougher deportation laws are needed and countries that refuse to take back their nationals must be made to cooperate. The EU has agreements with Turkey and Tunisia to get them to prevent migrants reaching Europe but they are not working. Other deals, with Egypt notably, are planned. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1988 NEW LAW COULD ERODE RIGHT TO SILENCE



The British Government has announced plans to change the law regarding a suspect's right to remain silent so that remaining silent could incriminate rather than protect a suspect.

The change would be introduced first in Northern Ireland from November. Similar restrictions are expected to be made in England and Wales at a later date.

The news comes after increased pressure from senior politicians, security forces and judges over the failure to convict suspects, even with incriminating evidence, because they have chosen to remain silent.

In the proposed change to the law judges will be able to interpret the meaning of a suspect's silence and draw "an adverse inference" from it. However, a conviction will not be possible based on the silence alone.

Suspects will not be forced to speak, either in court or when being questioned at a police station, but the prosecution will be able to draw attention to the silence and invite the jury to consider the possible reasons behind it.

The problem has been highlighted in recent trials of IRA Provisionals. A man was recently acquitted despite the fact his fingerprints were found on a bag of firearms that were central to the case.

He failed to answer any questions or make a statement to confirm any details.

Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King said the law needed to be changed to prevent the deliberate abuse that currently occurs. He said that the problem had "started with terrorists and has now pervaded through racketeering into the whole system of criminal law".

"The gross, determined and persistent abuse of that right to silence, and the training in procedures to avoid it, does pose a challenge to the whole system of justice" he added.

In a recent issue of the Provisional IRA's newspaper, Republican News, advice was given on how to deal with interrogation. It ran below the headline 'Whatever you say, say nothing'.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The ability for a judge to consider the meaning of a suspect's silence became law the following November as part of the Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1988. In 1994 the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act came into force and included a section outlining the fact that a person's reason for remaining silent could be interpreted by a judge and jury.

The act caused a great deal of controversy and was seen by human rights activists as an erosion of a fundamental principle of English law that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

In response to widespread criticism of section 34 of the act relating to police questioning, the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act (1999) was introduced to ensure no adverse inferences were drawn from a silent suspect until he or she had received legal advice.

In a study published by the Northern Ireland Office in 2000 it was revealed the number of people refusing to testify had gone from 64% in 1987 to 25% in 1995.

AP PHOTO



Robert De Niro (left) and Leonardo DiCaprio in a scene from "Killers of the Flower Moon" (Apple TV)

DRIVE IN

SCORSESE'S EPIC 'KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON' IS SWEEPING TALE OF GREED, RICHLY TOLD

JOCELYN NOVECK, MDT/AP

THERE tends to be lots of fast talking and fast moving in Martin Scorsese films, often from shifty types trying to get away with something. Or sometimes, simply because the master filmmaker has so much to pack in.

But in "Killers of the Flower Moon," everything seems to slow down, and especially when the camera lands on Lily Gladstone. As Mollie, the Osage woman at the heart of this sprawling, real-life tale of greed and treachery on a scale both broad and intimate, Gladstone is the quiet, powerful center — taking her time, letting her eyes do the work, and unafraid of silence.

It's a beautifully cadenced performance, all the more impressive because Gladstone's sharing the screen with two of our most celebrated actors. Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro both turn in superb work for their legendary director, appearing together for the first time in 30 years. But Gladstone, in the rare Scorsese film that gives center stage to a female character, is the emotional core here, and it's her face that stays etched in our memory.

Based on David Grann's gripping whodunit set among the Osage in 1920s Oklahoma, "Killers" is a departure in other ways for the 80-year-old filmmaker. It's his first Western, a genre he's long wanted to explo-

re — albeit a uniquely Scorsese Western, with an upended world of heroes and villains. And in telling this Osage story, he focuses on a people he's never depicted before, deeply mindful of honoring their experience and their rituals, beliefs and customs.

It surely won't surprise anyone that Scorsese brings his full wealth of artistic resources to this endeavor, along with his brilliant cinematographer, Rodrigo Prieto, and inspired production designer, Jack Fisk. Together, on location in Oklahoma, they've created an oil boomtown astonishing in its precision, detail and spirit.

It may also not surprise anyone that Scorsese has taken three and a half hours (albeit three minutes less than "The Irishman") to tell his tale. This may be a source of debate, but it's hard to argue that a story this hefty — a chronicle of a dark chapter in American history and a shocking true crime tale, all framed in a fraught love story — doesn't deserve the length, considering the craft in every shot. And with some scenes — a boisterous prairie wedding, or a dance on a boomtown main drag — you feel you could have stayed longer still.

We begin with a late 19th-century ceremony, one of many portrayals of Osage spiritual life. Then, in a memorable image, there's a whoosh from underground: Oil, spurting from land that was supposed to be worthless.

Thanks to this discovery, we learn in a terrific prologue using silent-movie title cards, the Osage become enormously wealthy. But they're deemed "incompetent" and appointed white "guardians" who control their assets. This is how we meet Mollie, asking for her own money to pay medical bills.

Meanwhile, Ernest Burkhart (DiCaprio) steps off the train, a World War I vet with a taste for women and finer things, but no money, or talent to speak of. Perhaps his uncle can help. William Hale (De Niro) is a cattle rancher but more like a king around these parts — indeed, King's his nickname — a white man who speaks the Osage lan-

guage and calls himself their best friend.

But it's clear from the get-go Hale has sinister motives, and De Niro's just the guy to ooze sinister from every pore as this Godfather-like figure (he commits crimes, and they're organized). Scorsese and co-writer Eric Roth depart here from Grann's book, which holds us in suspense as to Hale's motives. He wants Osage money, and tells Ernest that if he woos and marries Mollie — well, even less-than-brilliant Ernest can do the math.

So can Mollie. Trusting but hardly naive, she knows Ernest covets her wealth, but there's growing affection between the two, and their marriage, gorgeou-

sly rendered, is a happy occasion.

But then the Osage start dying, one by one, in suspicious ways — including, eventually, Mollie's sisters and mother. As for Ernest, he's no angel, spending time robbing and gambling. But is he doing more? DiCaprio's mouth settles into a tortured frown as he becomes increasingly torn between marital loyalty and fealty to his venal uncle.

Finally, federal agent Tom White (Jesse Plemons, perfectly cast) shows up, working for J. Edgar Hoover in what became the FBI. (It's White who figured most prominently in Grann's book, and indeed DiCaprio was once slated to play him.) This last act finds its way to a crackling courtroom scene perhaps only Scorsese could bring together: jittery DiCaprio and menacing De Niro, joined by a bombastic Brendan Fraser and a sputtering John Lithgow.

Indeed, the vast supporting cast includes countless faces you may recognize, as well as cameos of a number of musicians, and dozens of Osage actors in key parts. Scorsese's late friend Robbie Robertson wrote the memorable score.

We won't spoil the ingenious epilogue in which Scorsese ties up the loose narrative ends — with another significant cameo. But the fact that this epilogue comes after, oh, 200 minutes of expertly sustained tension is just another sign that in the latter years of his career, Scorsese is upping the ante — in terms of scale, yes, but also ambition.

He has called his work an offering to the Osage, and to other Native peoples. It also feels like an offering to those who love cinema, allowing us to watch a master of the craft continue to force himself, unlikely as it seems, to stretch and learn. May he keep stretching — himself, and us.

"Killers of the Flower Moon," an AppleTV+ release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for violence, some grisly images, and language." Running time: 206 minutes.

★★★★★

AP PHOTO



From left: JaNae Collins, Lily Gladstone, Cara Jade Myers and Jillian Dion

tTUNES

The Rolling Stones show time's (still) on their side

NEAR the end of the exultant "Sweet Sounds of Heaven," the penultimate track on The Rolling Stones' terrific new album "Hackney Diamonds" (yes, NEW), we hear what sounds like a vocal contest between two up-and-comers: one Mick Jagger and one Lady Gaga.

"Oh yeah!" they sing, with escalating urgency. "Come on!" Are they tussling here?

The competition is emblematic of the joyous energy that infuses the Stones' first collection of original music in 18 years, out Friday. It's their best new work in decades — tight, focused, full of heart and swagger.

This all feels like a rather major development for lifelong Stones fans. For so long, it seems, there's been an unspoken contract between them and the band: You keep touring, and we will come.

On the track "Whole Wide World," when Jagger sings, "And you think the party is over," it feels like the whole album is one big answer: Um, nope!

And maybe, just maybe, we have a hint of possibility of shaking up the arena set list. A key candidate would be the aforementioned, gospel-tinged "Sweet Sounds of Heaven" — Exhibit A of what's fun about the album, starting with the fact that when you're the Stones, you can invite anybody to your party and they'll show. Like Gaga and Stevie Wonder, who joins the track on keyboards ("Play me something, Stevie," you'll hear). But the song also testifies to how vigorous Jagger's voice remains.

Another party guest: Elton John, doing piano duty on two tracks. In one, "Get Close," Jagger croons: "I walk the city at midnight with the past strapped to my back." (Strapped, OK, but not constricting the blood flow.) The lyrics are not always this poetic, but when they are, it's often a dialogue with the past. As when Richards sings in "Tell Me Straight," his poignant lead vocal outing: "Is my future all in the past? Just tell me straight."

In the furious "Bite My Head Off," the band's guest is none other than their old friend Paul McCartney — yeah, the same guy who called them a "blues cover band" recently, amusing and perhaps annoying them. Here he is, just a Beatle on bass. No biggie.

The late, great Charlie Watts, who died in 2021, appears posthumously on two of the 12 tracks. On one, "Live by the Sword," former bandmate Bill Wyman joins on bass, making for an emotionally potent reunion. Steve Jordan, the successor Watts chose, takes the beloved drummer's place on the rest of the album. Most tracks are penned by Jagger and Richards; they're joined on three by pop producer Andrew Watt (known for work with Post Malone and Justin Bieber), who clearly exhibits a golden touch with this whole project.

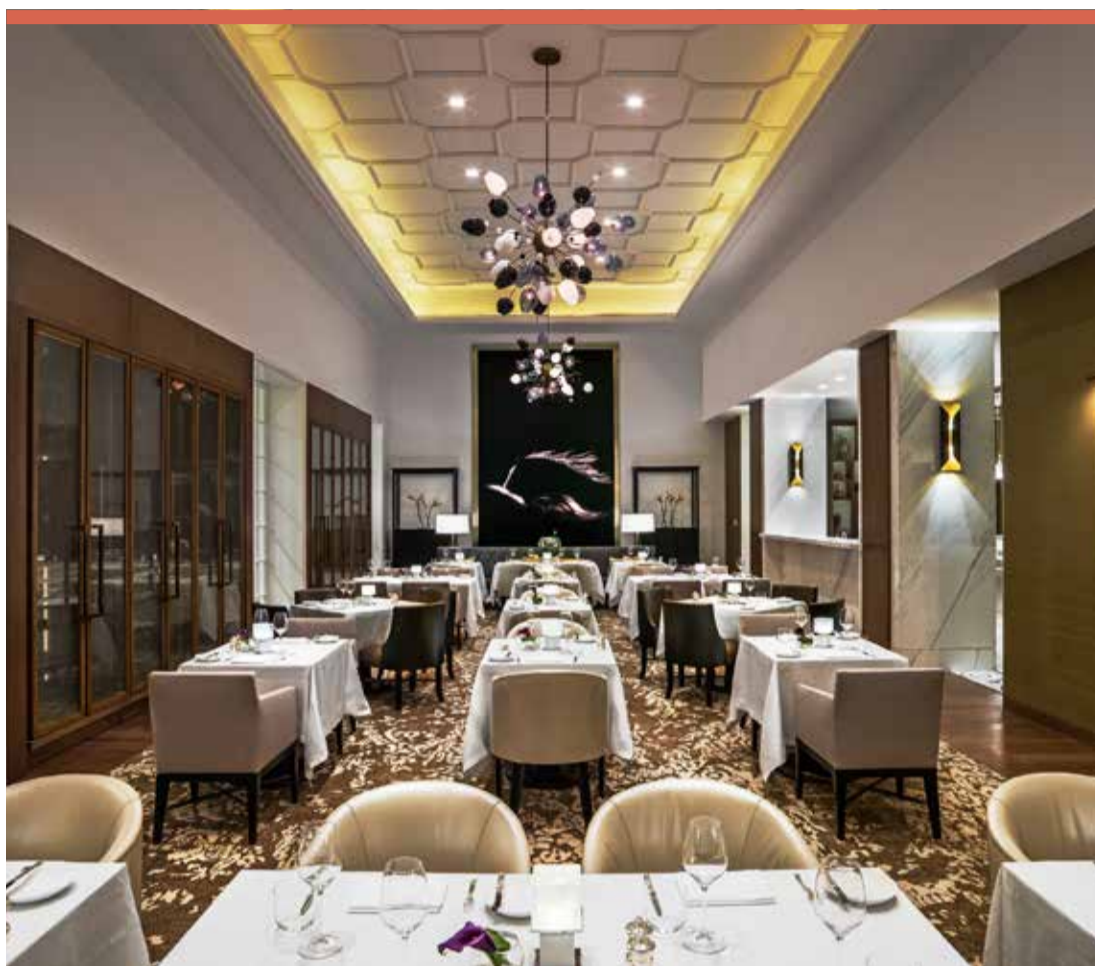
Is this the last new album? Likely not. But if it were, the final words would be "rolling stone," via a poignant Muddy Waters cover, reminding us of the blues albums Mick was carrying that fateful day he connected with Keith at a train station.

"She said 'I got a boy child coming ... he's gonna be a rolling stone,'" the last line goes.

You think the party's over? Ha. **JOCELYN NOVECK, MDT/AP**



"Hackney Diamonds" by The Rolling Stones (Universal Music)



TASTE OF EDESIA

German Indulgence

IRENE SAM, MDT

THIS week, St. Regis Macao had a unique collaboration between **The Manor** and **Heimat** by Peter Find for a two-day exquisite dining indulgence. Fusing German cuisine with locally inspired elements, Chef Find offered a four-course set lunch that celebrated a visionary blend of gastronomy.

Born in Bersrod, Germany, Chef Find began his culinary career in 1984 and has since garnered a wealth of experience in haute cuisine over the last 30 years. His restaurant in Hong Kong – Heimat, which translates to 'home-

land' in German, is modern approach to traditional dishes which have been elevated and refined to match his vision of what German cuisine should look like in the 21st century.

Chef Find brought his exemplary skills to The Manor for An Exquisite Dining Indulgence with lunch menu highlights including the Geräucherter Hering, Rote Bete and Dill – smoked herring with beetroot, sour cream, dill, and crispy rye bread; as well as the Kohlroutladen (Tacho) – a Macanese version of a traditional Portuguese stew. However, out of all the dishes, Chestnut Soup with Black Truffle was a favorite of ours.

For the dinner menu, ex-

quisite dishes included the Heimat signature Frankfurter Grüne Soße – Brittany blue lobster with a 63-degree egg and the Frankfurter seven herbs sauce; the Käse Spätzle, Weißer Trüffel – refined German hand-shaved spaetzle with white truffle and Allgäuer mountain cheese foam; as well as the Zwiebelrostbraten – a flavorful prime beef sirloin with onion in three ways.

Both menus were paired with decadent German wines such as Dr. Loosen Graacher Himmelreich 'Alte Reben' Riesling or the Schloss Reinhartshausen Spätburgunder Trocken red wine for a bespoke gastronomy experience.

OPINION

World Views

Lionel Laurent, Bloomberg



CRYPTO IS A SMALL SLICE OF HAMAS' FUNDING — BUT IT'S DEADLY

As lawyers and prosecutors rake over the ashes of Sam Bankman-Fried's fallen FTX cryptocurrency empire, another reckoning for digital currencies is underway: Governments around the world are intensifying their crackdown on sources of funding for terrorist groups — including crypto — after Hamas's bloody attack in Israel that claimed more than 1,400 lives and led to retaliatory attacks that have killed thousands.

Crypto is a small but deadly slice of overall terrorism funding: Research by analytics firm Elliptic in 2021 estimated that wallets linked to Hamas' military wing had received more than \$7.3 million in crypto, including around \$40,000 in Dogecoin, the dog-themed memecoin favored by Elon Musk. These sums aren't much compared with the \$100 million that Iran sends annually to Hamas and other Palestinian terror groups or with Qatar's \$360 million in aid for Gaza, or the approximately \$300 million Hamas gets via business taxation and extortion estimated by the Washington Institute's Matthew Levitt. But small amounts can make a difference in an era of low-cost, low-tech attacks. An estimate of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by the New York Times found they cost Al-Qaeda half a million dollars but cost the US \$3.3 trillion.

Governments are right to take crypto seriously—it allows for large sums to be moved around the world with a high degree of anonymity (albeit leaving a transaction trail) and is part of the wider tapestry of terrorist finance, often used in conjunction with social media, remittances and pre-paid cards. Funding tends to pick up during times of conflict, and Hamas' halt on Bitcoin donations, announced in April, might not be forever — Australia's national financial crime agency this week flagged appeals on Telegram for crypto donations for Hamas, according to an AFR report.

The net is widening. After Israel swooped on crypto accounts linked to Hamas last week, and reportedly froze a Barclays Plc bank account apparently tied to Hamas, the US Treasury on Wednesday slapped sanctions on financial entities and operators linked to Hamas. They include a Gaza-based money transfer and crypto business called "Buy Cash," as well as facilitators using companies in Sudan to launder money and generate revenue. The Treasury announcement highlighted not only the fundraising side of the crypto equation, but also the use of Buy Cash to transfer funds for affiliates.

This should strengthen the post-FTX drive to tighten rules governing the crypto industry, which has been pushing back against regulators' efforts to erect a firewall around traditional finance and protect consumers from another boom-and-bust cycle. Over the past week, Australia has proposed extending existing financial-sector rules to crypto exchanges; US Senator Elizabeth Warren is building bipartisan support for a tougher stance on crypto from the Biden administration; and FTX rival Binance has said it will stop accepting new users in the UK to comply with the country's crypto marketing rules. Crypto companies like Coinbase Global Inc. will find it harder to gain the legal certainty they're asking for, even as traders seem more excited by the prospect of a Bitcoin exchange-traded fund.

Some humility is warranted in this important fight: Cracking down on terrorist funding is no panacea, and it's an extremely complex affair. Getting it wrong could mean obstructing or delaying genuine humanitarian aid in a crisis where the death toll is climbing by the day. And even a successful interception of funds might only be a temporary victory.

But it's a fight worth waging. There are as many sources of terrorist funding as there are letters in the alphabet, from art to gold to zakat taxes. Crypto may not be as prevalent as cash, but it's up there. Following terrorism's money will necessarily mean more tracing of the virtual kind. [Abridged]

Courtesy Bloomberg

FBI: THOUSANDS OF REMOTE IT WORKERS SENT WAGES TO N.KOREA TO FUND WEAPONS PROGRAM

THE BUZZ

Thousands of information technology workers contracting with U.S. companies have for years secretly sent millions of dollars of their wages to North Korea for use in its ballistic missile program, FBI and Department of Justice officials said.

The Justice Department said Wednesday that IT workers dispatched and contracted by North Korea to work remotely with companies in St. Louis and elsewhere in the U.S. have been using false identities to get the jobs.

The money they earned was funneled to the North Korean weapons program, FBI leaders said at a news conference in St. Louis.

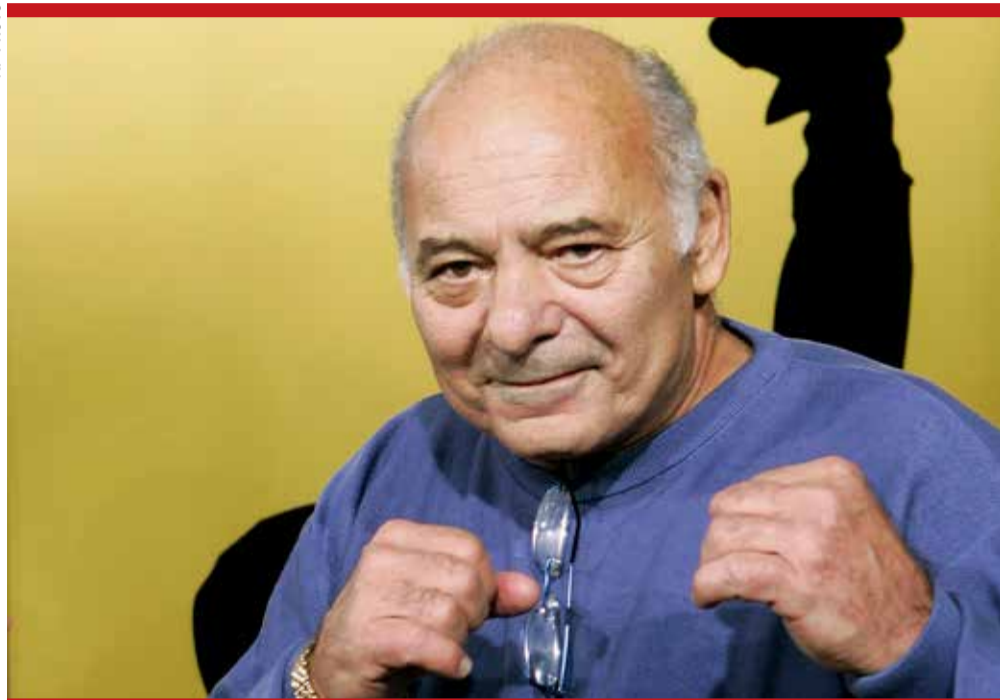
Federal authorities announced the seizure of \$1.5 million and 17 domain names as part of the investigation, which is ongoing.

Jay Greenberg, special agent in charge of the St. Louis FBI office, said any company that hired freelance IT workers "more than likely" hired someone participating in the scheme.

"This scheme is so prevalent that companies must be vigilant to verify whom they're hiring," Greenberg said in a news release.

"At a minimum, the FBI recommends that employers take additional proactive steps with remote IT workers to make it harder for bad actors to hide their identities."

AP PHOTO



BURT YOUNG, WHO PLAYED PAULIE IN 'ROCKY' FILMS, DIES AT 83

ANDREW DALTON, LOS ANGELES

BURT Young, the Oscar-nominated actor who played Paulie, the rough-hewn, mumbling-and-grumbling best friend, corner-man and brother-in-law to Sylvester Stallone in the "Rocky" franchise, has died.

Young died Oct. 8 in Los Angeles, his daughter, Anne Morea Steingieser, told the New York Times yesterday [Macau time]. No cause was given. He was 83.

Young had roles in acclaimed films and television shows including "Chinatown," "Once Upon a Time in America" and "The Sopranos."

But he was always best known for playing Paulie Pennino in six "Rocky" movies. The short, paunchy, balding Young was the sort of actor who always seemed to play middle-aged no matter his age.

When Paulie first appears in 1976's "Rocky," he's an angry, foul-mouthed meat packer who is abusive to his sister Adrian (Talia Shire), with whom he shares a small apartment in Philadelphia. He berates the shy, meek Adrian for refusing at first to go on a Thanksgiving-night date with his buddy and co-worker Rocky Balboa, and

destroys a turkey she has in the oven.

The film became a phenomenon, topping the box office for the year and making a star of lead actor and writer Stallone, who paid tribute to Young on Instagram on Wednesday night.

Along with a photo of the two of them on the set of the first film, Stallone wrote "you were an incredible man and artist, I and the World will miss you very much."

"Rocky" was nominated for 10 Oscars, including best supporting actor for Young. It won three, including best picture. Young and co-star Burgess Meredith, who was also nominated, lost to Jason Robards in "All the President's Men."

As the movies went on, Young's Paulie softened, as the sequels themselves did, and he became their comic relief. In 1985's "Rocky IV" he reprograms a robot Rocky gives him into a sexy-voiced servant who dotes on him.

Paulie was also an eternal pessimist who was constantly convinced that Rocky was going to get clobbered by his increasingly daunting opponents. His surprise at Rocky's resilience brought big laughs.

"It was a great ride, and it brought me to the au-

dience in a great way," Young said in a 2020 interview with *Celebrity Parents* magazine.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, Young served in the Marine Corps, fought as a professional boxer and worked as a carpet layer before taking up acting, studying with legendary teacher Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio.

On stage, in films and on television, he typically played small-time tough guys or down-on-their-luck working class men.

In a short-but-memorable scene in 1974's "Chinatown," he plays a fisherman who throws a fit when Jack Nicholson's private detective Jake Gittes shows him pictures proving his wife is cheating on him.

Young also appeared in director Sergio Leone's 1984 gangster epic "Once Upon a Time in America" with Robert De Niro, the 1986 comedy "Back to School" with Rodney Dangerfield, and the 1989 gritty drama "Last Exit to Brooklyn" with Jennifer Jason Leigh.

In a striking appearance in season three of "The Sopranos" in 2001, he plays Bobby Bacalieri, Sr., an elderly mafioso with lung cancer who pulls off one last hit before a coughing fit leads to him dying in a car accident. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



France's government is threatening prison terms and heavy fines for callers who make fake bomb threats after a rash of false alarms forced the evacuation of 15 airports and cancellation of 130 flights and shut the doors of Versailles Palace three times in five days. French officials suggested young people and children may be responsible. Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti blamed "little jokers, little clowns" and vowed, "They will be found, they will be punished."

AP PHOTO



UK Voters were casting ballots yesterday in two special elections in England that could add more misery to the beleaguered governing Conservative Party as it prepares to fight a national election next year. The Conservatives won both Tamworth in central England and Mid-Bedfordshire, north of London, by large margins during the last national election in 2019. But both constituencies' lawmakers resigned under a cloud.

AP PHOTO



Finland Telecom gear maker Nokia said yesterday that it is planning to cut up to 14,000 jobs worldwide, or 16% of its workforce, as part of a push to reduce costs following a plunge in third-quarter sales and profit. The Finnish wireless and fixed-network equipment provider said the planned measures are aimed at reducing its cost base and increasing operational efficiency "to navigate the current market uncertainty."