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ESTIMATED GROSS GAMING REVENUE NEXT YEAR IS PROJECTED TO REACH MOP216 BILLION, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT CONSERVATIVE FORECAST P4

GOV'T TO SPEND MOP235M NEXT YEAR TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS P4

HONG KONG'S LUSTER REVIVAL AS TALENT SCHEME LURES MAINLAND CHINESE P8-9



AP PHOTO



Hong Kong leader John Lee will not attend an upcoming economic conference in the U.S. due to "scheduling issues," following reports that he would be barred from the gathering due to U.S. sanctions. In a statement, the HK government said that it had received an invitation to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Economic Leaders' Meeting taking place Nov. 15 to 17 in San Francisco, but that Lee would not be able to attend in person due to issues with scheduling.

AP PHOTO



USA Authorities publicly identified Robert Card as a person of interest about four hours after he shot and killed 18 people and wounded 13 others during attacks last week at a bowling alley and bar in Lewiston, Maine. But Card, who was found dead two days after his rampage, had been well known to law enforcement for months. Documents revealed yesterday show interactions he had with sheriff's deputies, his family and members of his Army Reserve unit for months.

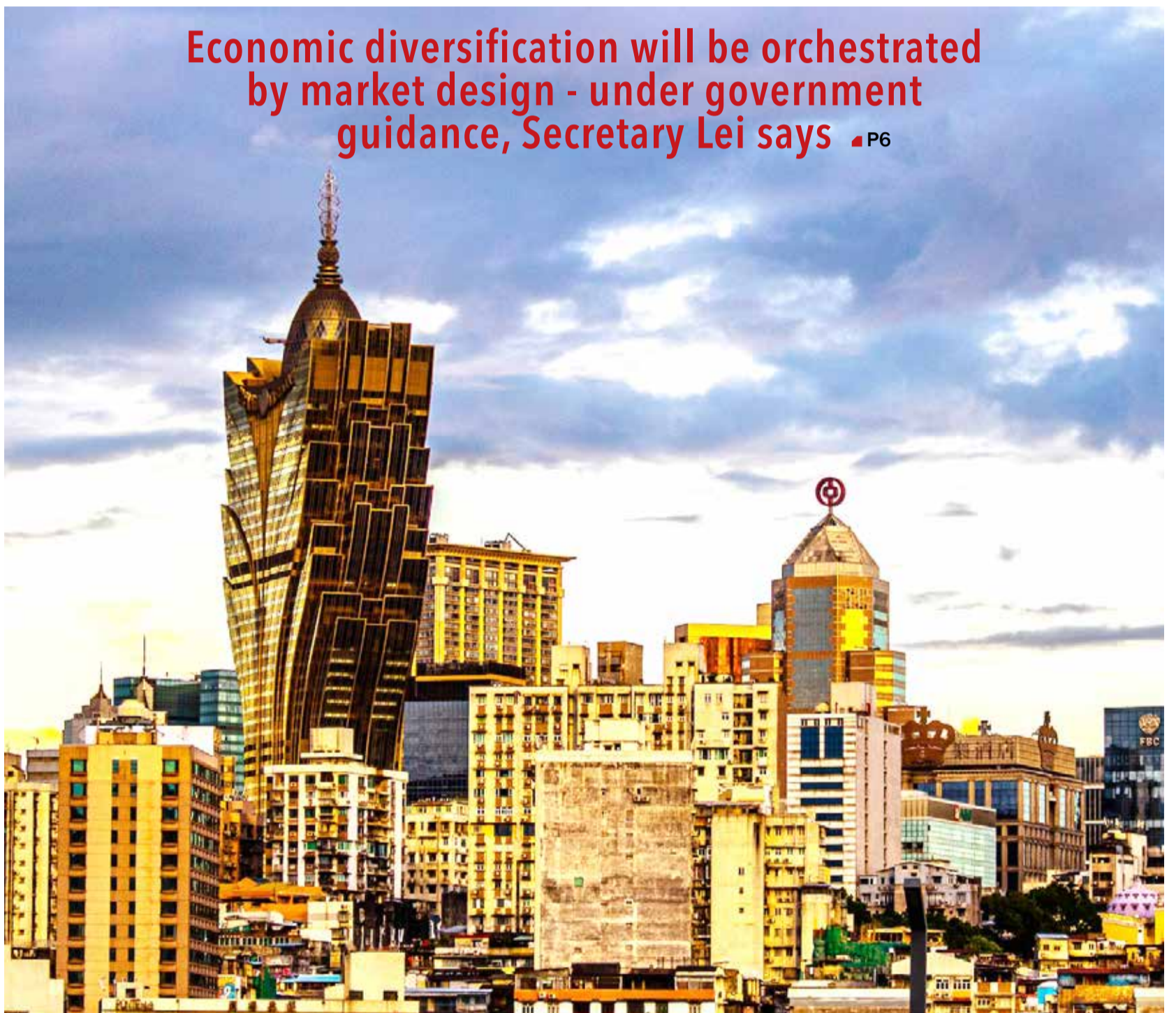
AP PHOTO



USA President Joe Biden's administration is preparing to announce that it will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel's military assault on Hamas in Gaza. The White House announcement had been expected last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. **More on backpage**

INTELLIGENT DESIGN?

Economic diversification will be orchestrated by market design - under government guidance, Secretary Lei says P6



GAMING
OCTOBER REVENUES SURGE AS MACAU BENEFITS FROM GOLDEN WEEK



TASTE OF EDESIA

DAY OF THE DEAD

THE SACRED HOLIDAY IS FAR MORE THAN A 'MEXICAN HALLOWEEN'

MATHEW SANDOVA
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

MANY Latinos regularly declare: "Día de los Muertos is not Mexican Halloween." The declaration is increasingly repeated by non-Latinos too.

Drawing a clear line between the two holidays is a rhetorical strategy to protect Day of the Dead's integrity as Mexican cultural heritage and separate it from American popular culture. However, as a Mexican-American who celebrates Día de los Muertos and as a scholar of culture and performance, I believe it's time to fully acknowledge the cultural intermixing that's happening between the two holidays.

Halloween's influence is transforming Día de los Muertos into a hybrid cultural tradition that simultaneously honors the dead and celebrates the macabre.

THE ORIGINS OF THE DISTINCTION

Día de los Muertos is a traditional fiesta in honor of the deceased that is celebrated in Mexico and other parts of Latin America on Nov. 1 and 2. The holiday is celebrated through ritual observations like constructing altars filled with offerings to the dead and decorating family gravesites to commune with the dead. Day of the Dead is also commemorated through vivacious fiestas in which communities gather in town plazas and community centers to celebrate by dancing, playing music, feasting, drinking and masquerading as death.

Although Day of the Dead is a long-standing tradition in Mexico, the holiday wasn't celebrated widely or publicly among Latinos in the U.S. That changed in the 1970s and 1980s when artists and activists introduced Day of the Dead to their communities as part of the Chicano movement, the social and cultural movement for Mexican-American empowerment.

As Latinos began celebrating the holiday proudly and publicly in the U.S., they also began distinguishing it from Halloween. That's because many non-Lati-



nos mistakenly interpreted Day of the Dead's skull and skeleton imagery as witchcraft. Latinos used the phrase "Día de los Muertos is not Mexican Halloween" to protect the holiday from misrepresentation, educate the broader public about the cultural tradition and shield themselves from discrimination.

The declaration was also used in the 1970s and 1980s by Mexico's tourism industry when it began vigorously promoting Day of the Dead internationally as a cultural attraction. Tourists arriving in Mexico were informed that Día de los Muertos was an authentic national holiday that bore no relation to Halloween.

THE 1990S AND 2000S

In the 1990s, "Día de los Muertos is not Mexican Halloween" became a political statement. The North American Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1994, flooded Mexico with U.S. consumer goods, media and popular culture. Halloween's importation was seen by some Mexicans as a symbol of U.S. "cultural imperialism," the process by which the United States uses culture to maintain political and economic domination over Mexico.

But by the early 2000s, Mexican, U.S. and British anthropologists reported that Halloween was already fusing with Día de los Muertos in fascinating ways. Halloween candy, costumes and ornaments appeared in stores and street markets, where it was

displayed next to Day of the Dead material. Jack-o-lantern and spider-web decorations adorned ofrendas, the traditional altars erected for the dead. The streets were increasingly filled with trick-or-treating children dressed as witches, vampires and monsters. Bars and nightclubs in southern Mexico hosted Halloween and Day of the Dead costume parties for adults.

Some Mexicans denounced Halloween as "an invasion." Some referred to Halloween as "cultural pollution."

Such fears led the United Nations in 2003 to officially designate Día de los Muertos a form of "intangible cultural heritage," a classification reserved for cultural traditions like rituals, oral traditions and performing arts that are endangered by globalization or lack of support. This gave the United Nations authority to work with the Mexican government to "protect and conserve" Day of the Dead, which would presumably safeguard the holiday from influences like Halloween. But it was too late.

HOLLYWOOD'S INFLUENCE

Today, Halloween haunts Día de los Muertos in Mexico like never before. Children trick or treat in costume for a full week during Day of the Dead season. They beg for candy from shops and restaurants by crying "Queremos Halloween!" – literally meaning, "We want Halloween!" On Nov. 2 at the country's largest cemetery,

Panteón de Dolores, you'll find graveyard ofrendas decorated with cobwebs, vampires, witches and pumpkins.

The fusion of Halloween and Day of the Dead is largely facilitated by Hollywood. A prime example is the celebration at the famous Panteón de San Fernando, a cemetery where the remains of some of Mexico's most important presidents and dignitaries are buried. As part of holiday festivities, the cemetery hosts a screening of the horror classic "Night of the Living Dead." Hundreds dressed in Day of the Dead attire gather at the tomb of President Benito Juárez, eating candy while watching zombies terrorize a small American community.

The impact of Halloween's horror movie influence is most noticeable at the country's largest Día de los Muertos celebration. The Gran Desfile de Día de Muertos, or the Great Day of the Dead parade, which began in 2016 as a simulation of the one depicted in the James Bond movie "Spectre," annually attracts more than a million attendees.

In addition to sugar skull makeup and skeleton attire, participants also don Hollywood horror costumes typically reserved for Halloween. You'll find people dressed as Jigsaw from the "Saw" movies, Chucky from "Child's Play," Ghostface from the "Scream" series and Pennywise from Stephen King's "It."

By far the most popular costume in 2022 was Michael Myers

from "Halloween." This is hardly surprising. The franchise's most recent installment, "Halloween Ends," was huge in Mexico. When the film was released in Mexico during Day of the Dead and Halloween season, it was one of the highest-grossing movies in the country. In fact, of the 70 counties where the film was released, Mexico had the third-highest ticket sales.

CHARACTERS FROM DISNEY AT CELEBRATIONS

In particular, Disney's influence on both Halloween and Día de los Muertos is immense. The number of children and adults costumed as Darth Vader, Spiderman or Jasmine and Aladdin at Day of the Dead celebrations is bewildering.

And they're not just at the festive events like the Gran Desfile de Muertos, either. They're at the ritual ceremonies, too. One can find all manner of Avenger superheroes at the Panteón de Dolores gathered graveside and making offerings to the dead.

Then there's the dilemma posed by Disney-Pixar's "Coco," the beloved animated film about Día de los Muertos. Similar to every Disney entity, companies license and manufacture Halloween costumes based on characters from the movie.

These costumes are now popular in Mexico, where people dress up as characters from "Coco." But when they masquerade as the skull-faced Miguel, Ernesto de la Cruz or Mama Imelda, it's hard to say whether they're wearing a Halloween costume or a Día de los Muertos costume. I'd venture to say that it's both simultaneously.

And therein lies the crisis of identity currently facing Mexico's Day of the Dead. The influence of Hollywood is making it more and more difficult to credibly say "Día de los Muertos is not a Mexican Halloween."

The fusion between the two holidays is happening in rural and urban areas, and in the borderlands and deeper parts of Mexico. It's altering Day of the Dead's popular festive qualities and its ceremonial customs.

Cultural conservatives will no doubt bemoan this as "pollution" of a sacred tradition. But they forget that transformation and adaptation are what ensure any tradition's survival. Día de los Muertos may live eternally, but it'll be thanks to the vampire bite of Halloween.

MDT/THE CONVERSATION

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GAMING

October gaming revenues surge as city benefits from Golden Week

LYNZY VALLES

IN October, the city's casino revenue surged to another all-time post-pandemic high, as tourists flocked to Macau during the National Day Golden Week.

Data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau yesterday revealed that gross gaming revenue (GGR) exceeded analysts' estimates of 392% growth, with revenues growing 400% to MOP19.5 billion. This marks a return to 74% of pre-Covid revenue levels.

During the eight-day holiday early last month, the city saw over 931,429 tourists, with the majority coming from mainland China, accounting for about 84% when compared to the same period in 2019.

The rebound comes after the city saw a slowdown in September following a holiday boom in July and August.

Last month, casino revenues fell to a five-month low to MOP14.9 billion, equivalent to 68% of 2019 levels, as Typhoon Saola disrupted the city. The government ordered a rare shutdown of casinos for nine hours as the city braced for the storm, hoisting its highest storm sign No. 10.

Typhoon Saola disrupted transportation and temporarily closed border entry points and affected travel plans for visitors.

However, analysts were op-



timistic about a boost in the gaming sector in October from China's Golden Week holiday.

However, a note from Morgan Stanley pointed out that although there was a strong tourism rebound, revenue per person was only up 7% amid China's slowing economy, due to weakened global demand for its exports and an ongoing crisis in the property sector.

Meanwhile, official data revealed that gaming revenue from mass tourists had returned to 93% of 2019 levels in the third quarter, while mass gaming income is expected to reach about 110% of 2019 levels next year. These factors are predicted to drive casinos'

profits toward a full recovery by mid-2024, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s estimates.

JPMorgan previously sta-

ted that "Macau's [autumn] Golden Week turned out to be pretty golden – much better than we and the market had feared."

MONTHLY GROSS GAMING REVENUE

	2023	2022	Variance
Jan	11,580	6,344	+82.5%
Feb	10,324	7,759	+33.1%
Mar	12,738	3,672	+246.9%
Apr	14,722	2,677	+449.9%
May	15,565	3,341	+365.9%
Jun	15,207	2,477	+513.9%
Jul	16,662	398	+4082.9%
Aug	17,213	2,189	+686.4%
Sept	14,937	2,962	+404.2%
Oct	19,501	3,899	+400.2%

*Units: MOP million



BEIJING APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AT FORUM MACAO

Xie Ying has been appointed as the new deputy secretary-general of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum, a role bestowed by China's Ministry of Commerce. Xie Ying will step into the position, replacing Ding Tian in the role. The new deputy secretary-general has previously held positions in the Economic and Commercial Department of the Chinese Embassy in Brazil and in the Department for European Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce. According to the announcement, Xie has a "rich experience in the areas of economic and commercial cooperation abroad, speaks Portuguese and is well aware of the situation of economic and commercial cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries."

MAINLAND CANCELS BORDER HEALTH CODE

The mainland has discontinued its Customs Code (border health code) effective from yesterday. Travelers no longer need to fill in a health declaration card when entering and leaving the country. There is no longer a requirement to disembark from vehicles in the entry and exit lanes for code scanning and temperature checks.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' DAILY WAGE

The average daily wage of construction workers decreased by 0.5% quarter-on-quarter to MOP782 in the third quarter of 2023. Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed that the average daily wages of local workers (MOP988) and non-resident workers (MOP694) went down by 0.7% and 0.3% respectively. As regards construction materials, the average price of spiral and round reinforcing steel bars (MOP5,687 per tonne) in the third quarter fell by 5.2% quarter-on-quarter, while that of concrete (MOP1,100 per cubic metre) edged up by 0.4%.

SWIMMING SEASON ENDS

With the conclusion of the 2023 swimming season, lifeguards will no longer be on duty at the beach, and the Marine and Water Bureau will also remove the boundary buoys from the beach swimming area. The bureau appealed to the public to exercise greater care and pay attention to safety when swimming, playing in the water or engaging in water activities without lifeguard supervision. This swimming season saw about 161 rescue services provided in total during the period.

GAMING

Gov't reviewing casino ops' 2024 plans

THE city's six gaming operators have submitted their work plans for the upcoming year, and the government is scheduled to review them within the next 60 days.

Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, speaking yesterday at a press conference on the city's diversification plan, revealed that the government requires the 'big six' gaming operators to submit monthly and quarterly reports. There are currently no delays

in this process as yet.

In December of 2022, the six gaming operators renewed their concession contracts for the next 10 years, pledging their commitment to the diversification of the local economy with an investment of over MOP100 billion. Additionally, Macau government's contracts with the six gaming concessionaires stipulated that an additional 20% of their pledge in non-gaming investment will be required if gaming revenues reach MOP180



billion this year.

As of October, the city's gaming revenues already surpassed the government's initial expect-

tation of MOP130 billion, reaching MOP148.45 billion.

Earlier this year, Fitch Ratings noted that it ex-

pects the "diversification into non-gaming industries to remain slow. Human capital constraints and skill gaps pose a key challenge for Macau to substantially reduce its high dependence on the gaming industry."

Lei also confirmed that the casino operators' promised investments in non-gaming elements are being fulfilled.

The plan for this year was submitted and approved in March and is currently progressing in an organized manner, the official said. LV

CE TO DELIVER POLICY ADDRESS NOV. 14

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng will deliver the Policy Address for the 2024 Fiscal Year on November 14 at the Legislative Assembly, followed by a press conference at the Government Headquarters. He is set to explain the government's policy program and to take questions from lawmakers. Also, the government's five policy secretaries and their subordinates will present their 2024 policy guidelines to the AL from November 20 to 29, with the Secretary for Administration and Justice presenting first, and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works presenting last.

CITY TO SEE FLAGS AT HALF-MAST TO MOURN LI KEQIANG

Flags at Government Headquarters, Santa Sancha and at all boundary checkpoints of the Macau SAR will fly at half-mast today to mourn the late premier Li Keqiang. The remains of the former premier of the State Council, who died on October 27 in Shanghai at the age of 68, will be cremated in Beijing today. His remains were transferred to Beijing from Shanghai aboard a special flight on October 27. National flags will fly at half-mast today in several sites and regions including the Tiananmen Square, Xinhuaamen, the Great Hall of the People, and border ports and Chinese embassies.

ALIBABA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION TO END NEXT WEEK

The application deadline for the Alibaba training and internship program for Macau youths in Hangzhou is November 6. The program encourages companies to recommend employees engaged in digitalization and platform economy business for participation. The training program was launched by the Labour Affairs Bureau in cooperation with Alibaba Group, and is now in its third phase. The program spans eight weeks and offers a total of 42 positions, covering 15 categories such as marketing, project management, and business operations. During this period, each trainee will receive an allowance of MOP5,000 every four weeks, along with a one-time round-trip transport allowance of MOP4,000.

DIVERSIFICATION PLAN

GOV'T TO SPEND MOP235M NEXT YEAR TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS

ANTHONY LAM

A total sum of MOP235 million has been reserved to attract international visitors, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong disclosed yesterday afternoon.

When responding to a question at the press conference held to announce the plan for economic diversification covering the period between 2024 and 2028, the senior official emphasized that part of the government's role in diversifying the economy is to establish a conducive environment. He disclosed that further investments will be made to attract visitors from a wider pool.

The allocation of money is subject to approval by the parliament,



although there has been no instance of the budget failing to pass in the past.

When questioned by the Times about the details of how the allocated funds will be spent, Lei

underscored the importance of non-Greater China source markets in the government's tourism strategy. He further revealed that attracting family visitors will also be a core part of the city's target.

TOURISM

MGTO exploring 'Travel Around Macau' plan to enhance cultural values

THE government intends to launch a tourism initiative called "Travel Around Macau" as part of its economic diversification plan, according to Macao Government Tourism Office director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes. The relevant plans are currently under consideration and analysis.

In a press conference on economic diversification,

Senna Fernandes said that three special funding plans have been launched this year, aimed at fostering community tourism economic development, promoting gastronomy, and encouraging sea tourism to support various communities to enhance their distinctive tourism offerings.

As of the end of September, 16 projects have

been completed, with an additional seven projects expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year.

In another announcement, the MGTO stated that as of September this year, 50% hotel discount coupons have generated more than 994,000 room nights, resulting in nearly MOP1.03 billion in order value. The "buy one air

ticket, get one free" promotion has driven nearly 106,000 ticket bookings, amounting to an order amount of nearly MOP152 million patacas.

A subsidy program was also launched in February this year to attract more mainland, Taiwan and international tourists to come to Macau on group tours. As of the end of September, a total of 11,649

groups had applied for the subsidy, amounting to 312,000 people, with an average stay of 2.4 nights.

Furthermore, the "buy-one-get-one-free" discount on bus ferry tickets, designed to attract Hong Kong residents and Taiwanese and international tourists visiting Hong Kong to visit Macau, has resulted in about 295,000 ticket bookings. LV

BUDGET

GOV'T MAINTAINS CASH HANDOUTS, EXPECTS MOP216B GGR IN 2024

STAFF REPORTER

THE SAR government submitted the budget for the 2024 fiscal year to the Legislative Assembly, anticipating a surplus in the public finances again next year without tapping into fiscal reserves to cover the fiscal gap. The estimated gross gaming revenue (GGR) next year is projected to reach MOP216 billion.

The budget proposal estimates that the SAR's general comprehensive budget

revenue will be MOP107.11 billion next fiscal year, while the general comprehensive budget expenditure is anticipated to reach MOP105.93 billion.

In its statement of reasons, the government highlighted the continuing improvement of Macau's business environment and job market.

Similarly, the unemployment rate and inflation rate have remained low, and economic recovery prospects are cautiously opti-

mistic. These trends are expected to continue into the next fiscal year, according to the report.

Furthermore, due to a significant reduction in expenditure on health and epidemic prevention, and associated financial aid measures, the government intends to adjust its resource allocation and investment in public infrastructure accordingly.

The plan will continue to implement a series of measures aimed at bene-

fitting the people, including a cash sharing plan, a medical subsidy plan, a residential unit electricity subsidy and subsidies for continuing education and development, with an estimated total expenditure of MOP8.514 billion.

The estimated total expenditure on disability pensions, disability allowances, special living allowances for three types of disadvantaged families, and regular assistance is projected to be MOP13.063 billion.

Lei specifically mentioned that the proportion of non-Greater China visitors to Macau had grown from 10% in January to 70% in October, suggesting that strategies employed by the government had been effective.

Looking forward, the government will continue promoting Macau in a wider range of locations. Roadshows may be held again in the coming year as the senior official noted that local businesspeople will be motivated to seek markets outside of Macau.

More efforts will focus on markets in Northeast and Southeast Asia, and the government will aim to attract the attention of those visiting neighboring localities by suggesting that they consider travelling to Macau enroute.

This includes multi-stop tours, a concept that has recently gained prominence in government discourse, with an emphasis on quantity.

Lei added that the local tourism board will do more to attract and encourage visitors, especially those from outside of the Greater China Region, to extend their stays in Macau.

Plano de Desenvolvimento da Diversificação Adequada da Economia da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (2024-2028)

Enquadramento do Plano e requisitos gerais

Princípios fundamentais

Aproveitamento das vantagens e desenvolvimento diversificado
Orientação pelo mercado e directriz do Governo
Abandono de preconceitos, tolerância e abertura
Impulso na inovação e desenvolvimento verde
Planeamento uniformizado e abrangente e desenvolvimento concertado
Prático, realista, imbuído de pragmatismo

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

- Aproveitar plenamente as vantagens especiais de Macau e as oportunidades de desenvolvimento do País
- Em conformidade com o posicionamento de Macau como "Um Centro, Uma Plataforma, Uma Base" e de acordo com o Segundo Plano Quinquenal, concretizar, de forma eficaz, a estratégia "1 + 4" para o desenvolvimento da diversificação adequada da economia
- Aumentar gradualmente o peso das quatro grandes indústrias, reforçando continuamente a dinâmica do desenvolvimento económico e a competitividade geral, procurando para que, no futuro, o peso do sector não-jogo ocupe cerca de 60% do Produto Interno Bruto

Principais indicadores

Item	2028
Indicador de desenvolvimento geral	
Peso do valor acrescentado bruto das actividades não jogo	Cerca de 60%
Percentagem dos empregados não relacionados com o jogo	Mantém-se em cerca de 80%
Grau de dependência das receitas correntes em relação às receitas do jogo de fortuna ou azar	Uma percentagem mais baixa em comparação com o ano de 2019 ¹
Indústria de turismo e lazer integrado	
Número de visitantes internacionais e de visitantes que pernoitem em Macau	Aumento gradual, com o objectivo de voltar ao nível atingido no ano de 2019 ^{2, 3}
Estadia média e despesa per capita dos visitantes	Mantém-se em crescimento
Indústria de big health de medicina tradicional chinesa	
Valor acrescentado da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa	Mantém-se em crescimento
Número de medicamentos tradicionais chineses registados em Macau	Um aumento significativo
Indústria financeira moderna	
Valor acrescentado da indústria financeira	Mantém-se em crescimento
Total dos activos da indústria financeira	Mantém-se em crescimento
Indústria de tecnologia de ponta	
Investimento do Governo da RAEM na investigação e desenvolvimento da inovação científica e tecnológica	Valor acumulado de investimento, no mínimo, de 5 mil milhões de patacas
Investimento de recursos na criação de suportes espaciais para o desenvolvimento das empresas de inovação tecnológica	Estudo sobre a criação de suportes espaciais para o desenvolvimento da indústria tecnológica
Indústria de convenções, exposições e comércio, e de cultura e desporto	
Área dos recintos para convenções e exposições	Superior a 260 mil m ²
Número de convenções e exposições realizadas em Macau	2.000 a 2.500
Número de convenções internacionais realizadas em Macau e credenciadas pela Associação Internacional de Congressos e Convenções (ICCA)	50 a 70
Estudantes matriculados no ensino superior	Um aumento adequado de estudantes

Indústria de tecnologia de ponta e reconversão e valorização das indústrias tradicionais

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

- Intensificar, ainda mais, o apoio aos serviços da indústria tecnológica
- Estabelecer basicamente o sistema de inovação tecnológica de Macau
- Participar activamente na construção do corredor de inovação tecnológica da Grande Baía
- Elevar a qualidade do desenvolvimento da indústria de marcas

Principais tarefas

- Criação de ecossistema de inovação tecnológica aperfeiçoado
- Aproveitamento da força endógena da investigação científica para o desenvolvimento da indústria de tecnologia de ponta
- Construção da conjuntura de inovação e desenvolvimento do "duplo ciclo económico"
- Apoio à reconversão e valorização das indústrias tradicionais através da transformação tecnológica

Projectos prioritários

- Apoio à inovação e ao desenvolvimento das empresas tecnológicas
 - Crear pelo menos 5 centros de investigação e desenvolvimento ou laboratórios conjuntos
 - Alcançar 100 bolsas de contacto entre as empresas e as instituições de ensino e investigação
 - Conceder certificações tecnológicas a pelo menos 40 empresas
- Aperfeiçoamento dos factores de produção para o desenvolvimento da inovação científica e tecnológica
 - Continuar a atrair grandes empresas e equipas de tecnologias emergentes para se instalarem em Macau e em Hengqin e orientá-las para a realização de investimentos de capital
 - Estudar a criação de suportes espaciais em Macau e em Hengqin para o desenvolvimento da indústria tecnológica
- Apoio à investigação científica das instituições de ensino superior e à transformação dos seus resultados
 - Dar prioridade no desenvolvimento da investigação científica de ponta nas áreas da medicina tradicional chinesa, concepção de *chips*, internet das coisas, inteligência artificial, ciência espacial e materiais avançados
 - Intensificar esforços para promover o Laboratório de Referência do Estado e outras plataformas científicas para realizar investigação aplicada na fase intermédia, reforçando a sua cooperação com as instituições de transformação de resultados
- Capacitação de tecnologias na valorização e reconversão do sector industrial e das indústrias tradicionais
 - Melhorar o nível de gestão das empresas industriais e reforçar a imagem de marca de qualidade dos produtos industriais de Macau
 - Promover as funções da plataforma relativa aos produtos "Fabricados em Macau", produtos "Concebidos em Macau" ou de "Marcas de Macau"
 - Prestar, em conjunto com as concessionárias de jogos de fortuna ou azar, apoio a empresas ou equipas de inovação tecnológica

Fonte: Governo da RAEM

Indústria de turismo e lazer integrado

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

Promover o desenvolvimento diversificado da indústria de turismo e lazer
Explorar mercados diversificados de clientes
Assegurar um desenvolvimento saudável do sector do jogo e de acordo com a legislação
Aprofundar a integração do turismo regional

Principais tarefas

- Promoção do desenvolvimento integrado do "Turismo +"
- Exploração e optimização dos produtos turísticos
- Reforço da colaboração entre o Governo e o sector empresarial
- Alargamento das fontes de visitantes e exploração de mercados diversificados
- Aprofundamento da cooperação com a Grande Baía e a Zona de Cooperação Aprofundada
- Promoção do desenvolvimento saudável da indústria do jogo de acordo com a lei

Projectos prioritários

- Revitalização das zonas históricas
- Expansão de mercados de visitantes internacionais e promoção da diversificação de fontes de visitantes
- Promoção de diversificação de produtos turísticos
- Promoção do turismo gastronómico e aprofundamento de trabalhos de desenvolvimento da Cidade Criativa em Gastronomia
- Impulsionamento contínuo de desenvolvimento de marcas de indústrias culturais e criativas de Macau
- Promoção de desenvolvimento de viagens de estudos
- Impulsionamento de acções de formação intensiva do sector do turismo
- Impulsionamento de desenvolvimento da indústria de turismo e lazer integrado
- Aprofundamento de cooperação com a Grande Baía e a Zona de Cooperação Aprofundada
- Impulsionamento do desenvolvimento contínuo e saudável da indústria do jogo
- Desenvolvimento da indústria do turismo por intermédio da articulação com um ensino superior de qualidade
- Obras do corredor verde costeiro da costa sul da Península de Macau (2.ª fase), da parte oeste da Ponte Governador Nobre de Carvalho até às Portas do Entendimento

Indústria financeira moderna

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

- Enriquecer a indústria financeira, promover a diversificação adequada da economia
- Integrar Macau no contexto de desenvolvimento nacional para servir as necessidades do país

Principais tarefas

- Alargamento da indústria financeira moderna
- Optimização e aperfeiçoamento de *software* e *hardware* de infra-estruturas financeiras
- Reforço do regime de fiscalização financeira
- Reforço na cooperação financeira transfronteiriça

Projectos prioritários

- Alargamento da indústria financeira moderna
 - Construir a conexão com o mercado de obrigações do Interior da China e a nível internacional
 - Estimular o desenvolvimento de plataformas inovadoras de investimento e financiamento transfronteiriços
 - Optimizar as políticas complementares referentes aos fundos de *Private Equity*
 - Promover a inovação de serviços de produtos de seguros transfronteiriços
 - Promover o desenvolvimento de finanças verdes
- Optimização e aperfeiçoamento de *software* e *hardware* de infra-estruturas financeiras
 - Elaborar a "Lei de Valores Mobiliários"
 - Rever a regulação da constituição e funcionamento dos fundos de investimento e das sociedades gestoras de fundos de investimento
 - Elaborar um novo Regime Jurídico do Exercício da Actividade de Mediação de Seguros
 - Construir uma equipa com quadros qualificados na área financeira
 - Aperfeiçoar a "Central de Depósito de Valores Mobiliários de Macau"
- Reforço do regime de fiscalização financeira
- Desenvolvimento inovador junto da Zona de Cooperação Aprofundada
 - Colaborar na criação do projecto de implementação da "cerca electrónica"
 - Impulsionar a participação da Zona de Cooperação Aprofundada na criação do centro de serviços de seguros na Grande Baía

Medidas de garantia

- Garantia das finanças
- Garantia financeira
- Garantia no aperfeiçoamento do ambiente de negócios
- Garantia dos terrenos
- Garantia dos recursos humanos
- Garantia da cooperação interdepartamental
- Garantia do desenvolvimento conjunto das indústrias da Zona de Cooperação Aprofundada e de Macau
- Elaboração das regulamentações do Plano de Desenvolvimento da Diversificação Adequada da Economia

Execução e avaliação

- Clarificar a divisão de tarefas dos projectos prioritários pelos serviços, de modo a assegurar que as principais tarefas e os projectos prioritários delineados no Plano sejam postos em prática conforme forem planeados e executados com eficácia
- Avaliar e rever oportunamente a situação da execução do Plano, optimizando as tarefas subsequentes e os projectos prioritários conforme as necessidades de desenvolvimento e a situação real

Indústria de big health de medicina tradicional chinesa

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

- Incentivar o desenvolvimento de alta qualidade da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Concretizar o desenvolvimento sinérgico da indústria de big health e da indústria de turismo integrado
- Aumentar ainda mais o nível de gestão da medicina tradicional chinesa

Principais tarefas

- Promoção da investigação, desenvolvimento e transformação de resultados no âmbito da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Promoção do desenvolvimento industrial da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Promoção da modernização da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Promoção da internacionalização da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Reforço da cooperação regional da indústria de big health de medicina tradicional chinesa
- Aceleração do desenvolvimento académico-científico da medicina tradicional chinesa e da formação dos quadros da área de big health
- Promoção do desenvolvimento conjunto da indústria de big health e dos serviços relacionados com a vida da população
- Aperfeiçoamento do regime de administração da medicina tradicional chinesa e optimização dos serviços do Governo

Projectos prioritários

- Promoção da investigação, desenvolvimento e transformação de resultados no âmbito da medicina tradicional chinesa
 - Fornecer apoio técnico à avaliação de uma terceira entidade para o registo de medicamentos tradicionais chineses em Macau, promovendo o desenvolvimento científico da supervisão de medicamentos
 - Apoiar as instituições do ensino superior locais no reforço da investigação e desenvolvimento da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Promoção do desenvolvimento industrial da medicina tradicional chinesa
 - Aproveitar ao máximo as funções do Hospital Union de Macau
 - Promover o desenvolvimento conjunto das indústrias da medicina tradicional chinesa e de dispositivos médicos
- Promoção da modernização da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Promoção da internacionalização da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa
- Reforço da cooperação regional da indústria de big health de medicina tradicional chinesa
- Aceleração do desenvolvimento académico-científico de medicina e medicamentos e da formação dos quadros da área de big health
- Promoção do desenvolvimento conjunto da indústria de big health e dos serviços relacionados com a vida da população
- Aperfeiçoamento do regime de administração de medicina e medicamentos e optimização dos serviços do Governo

Indústrias de convenções, exposições e comércio, e de cultura e desporto

Objectivos gerais de desenvolvimento

- Elevar a competitividade da indústria de convenções, exposições e comércio
- Concretizar a construção de "Uma Base" e promover o desenvolvimento da indústria cultural de Macau
- Crear eventos desportivos de marca com características próprias de Macau, promovendo o desenvolvimento do turismo desportivo e das indústrias conexas
- Alargar a escala do ensino superior e continuar a promover o desenvolvimento de mercantilização das instituições de ensino superior
- Organizar actividades de estudos para atrair a vinda de estudantes do exterior para Macau

Principais tarefas

Indústria de convenções e exposições

- Tornar Macau como destino regional ideal para a realização de convenções e exposições
- Reforçar o efeito impulsionador do sector de convenções e exposições noutras indústrias para alcançar a diversificação adequada da economia
- Continuar a impulsionar a cooperação regional na indústria de convenções e exposições

Comércio

- Continuar a melhorar o ambiente para o desenvolvimento do comércio electrónico, reforçar a aplicação de tecnologia do comércio electrónico em empresas
- Desenvolver as funções da Plataforma entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa, apoiando a ampliação dos mercados do comércio electrónico no Interior da China e no exterior

Indústria de cultura

- Construir a imagem de "Cidade Cultural" e uma "Cidade das Artes Performativas"
- Expandir o espaço de desenvolvimento da indústria cultural, reforçar a "Cultura+"
- Desenvolver o papel de plataforma de intercâmbio cultural entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa, reforçar a capacidade de divulgação cultural de Macau

Indústria de desporto

- Crear uma imagem distinta de "Cidade do Desporto" e produtos desportivos diversificados
- A sinergia entre a indústria cultural e criativa, impulsionar as empresas a desenvolverem mais projectos desportivos e de lazer

Educação

- Crear um "Cidade da Educação", promover o desenvolvimento do ensino superior de qualidade
- Inovar o sistema da indústria-universidade-investigação das instituições de ensino superior, continuar com o alargamento e a optimização das fontes de origem de estudantes do Interior da China e a nível internacional

Projectos prioritários

Indústria de convenções e exposições

- Procura empenhada para organizar ou introduzir em Macau, regularmente, eventos de convenções e exposições profissionais do Interior da China
- Organização, através da Feira Internacional de Macau, de bolsas de contacto temáticas entre as instituições de investimento e de financiamento, as indústrias-chave e as pequenas e médias empresas

Comércio

- Lançamento de actividades promocionais de grande dimensão, em cooperação com as plataformas do comércio electrónico
- Reforço da aplicação da tecnologia, por parte das empresas locais, na área do comércio electrónico

Indústria de cultura

- Revitalizar mais espaços nos edifícios históricos e aproveitar bem os recursos do património cultural intangível
- Construir uma "Cidade das Artes Performativas", introduzindo mais obras de artes performativas de renome internacional para Macau e lançando temporadas de espectáculos de estilo de Broadway
- Construir e melhorar as instalações culturais públicas, combinando as vantagens das marcas culturais com a sinergia das concessionárias para a exploração de jogos

Indústria de desporto

- Aproveitar a realização da 15.ª edição dos Jogos Nacionais, para impulsionar a integração intersectorial e apoiar a elevação do efeito impulsionador do "Desporto +"
- Promover o desenvolvimento da indústria cultural e criativa de Macau com o recurso de eventos desportivos de marca
- Ampliar o conteúdo das competições desportivas regulares e as actividades envolventes e criar produtos desportivos diversificados

Educação

- Promover a cooperação da indústria-universidade-investigação e a transformação dos resultados de investigação científica
- Maximizar as vantagens das disciplinas para criar cursos específicos

ECONOMY

BALANCING 'VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE' HANDS IN DIVERSIFICATION: LEI

ANTHONY LAM

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said economic diversification will be orchestrated under "the leadership of the market and the guidance of the government."

The official invoked an economic concept to elaborate during a press conference yesterday.

He said that the government will act as a visible hand and the market will act as an invisible one. While the latter should strive to optimize its use of available resources, the former should formulate the appropriate planning and supportive policies, improve and invigorate the market environment, and supervise market practices as well as preventing and controlling any potential imbalances.

While the optimization of resource use is



"a market order," the senior official highlighted

that the market should make use of guiding

policies and resources from the government and create products that are appealing to the market.

He was also asked how MICE – being a core industry – could be developed to achieve diversification. Underlining that the past 20 years or so have cultivated a high quality workforce and facilities for MICE in Macau, Lei said that the city should now strive to

host events, noting that the local industry had historically merely organized events in the past decades without hosting them.

The government aims to achieve over 2,000 MICE sessions per year in Macau as part of the diversification plan. In the plan, there are 81 focused projects, which will help the government achieve this aim while diversifying the eco-

nomy.

On review of progress of the plan, director of Policy Research and Regional Development, Cheong Chok Man, assured that progress will be reviewed annually. Challenges on the implementation of certain projects will be raised and discussed. If benchmarks are missed, additional resources will be invested to achieve the desired results.

Some benchmarks come with quantified determinants while others do not. Cheong said that this is because the plan is a collection of forecast and estimations. Consequently, it can be difficult to pinpoint the determinants of certain benchmarks.

To support diversification policies, the government will provide protections in certain areas such as finance, business environment, land, workforce, inter-departmental coordination, and industrial synergies between Macau and Hengqin, as well as auxiliary regulations.

This economic diversification plan is mainly focused on the "1+4" development strategy, with World Tourism Leisure Center being the utmost core of the plan.

The full texts of the plan in the two official languages are available for download at <https://www.dsepd.gov.mo/zh-hant/event/plandiversification> or can be obtained at government service centers or counters.

AD

CEM NOTICE

Temporary traffic arrangements for cable, pipelines, water pipes laying and sewer connection

Due to the joint laying works of cable, pipelines, water pipes and sewer connection by Companhia de Electricidade de Macau - CEM, S.A. (CEM), Macao Water and construction engineering companies, temporary traffic arrangements will be implemented at Rua da Gruta, Travessa da Gruta, Praça de Luís de Camões and Travessa da Palanchica from 5 November (Sunday) to 24 November (Friday). Please refer below table for details. Bus services will not be affected during the period.

Temporary traffic measures	Date	Road section
No parking	5 – 24 November	Motorcycle parking spaces on Rua da Gruta near Edif. Lai Cheung
Closed to traffic		Road section of Travessa da Palanchica near Travessa da Gruta
Limited access		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A section of Travessa da Gruta between Travessa da Palanchica and Rua da Gruta; Road section of Praça de Luís de Camões near Travessa da Palanchica; Road section of Rua da Gruta near Aroma Court.

GOV'T: LAWS CRUCIAL TO FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE government's economic diversification plan makes repeated reference to the development of modern finance, which, alongside big health, high and new technologies, as well as MICE, business, culture and sports, constitute the government's four focus areas for economic development.

According to Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, the plan also stresses the constant improvement of financial infrastructures in Macau to support economic diversification. In response to a question from the Times about what infrastructures the government believes are still required for ongoing development, Lei briefly discussed the topic due to time constraints.

He said that a central securities depository is needed to foster modernized financial products and services, and that the depository had been established.

The overall system will continue to be constructed "to accomplish an ecology for the development of modern finance in Macau, in which a clearance platform or system is crucial," Lei explained.

In contrast to common law jurisdictions, Macau requires specific laws to clarify details in almost all areas. Therefore, Lei added that local laws will be either updated or created to foster development in the financial industry.

Updates to the legal system governing the financial system came into force yesterday. Lei also disclosed that the Securities Bill is expected to be presented to the parliament in the coming calendar year. Industry consultation will be finalized by the end of this year.

"Laws construct a system to protect the safety of transactions in the market," Lei said. "The development of products and services require laws." **AL**

AP PHOTO



ENERGY

OPPONENTS OF MILITARY RULE IN MYANMAR APPLAUD NEW SANCTIONS TARGETING GAS REVENUES

A U.N.-appointed human rights expert and opponents of Myanmar's military government have welcomed the latest sanctions imposed by the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada on companies providing financial resources to the army-installed regime and high-ranking officials. The move is linked to rising violence and human rights abuses in the Southeast Asian nation.

The U.S. Treasury Department said yesterday [Macau time] it was imposing sanctions on Myanmar's state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, a joint

venture partner in all offshore gas projects and a vital source of hard cash for the military government. The sanctions block access to money and resources under U.S. control, and prohibit U.S. citizens from providing financial services to — or for the benefit of — MOGE starting from Dec. 15.

Five officials are on the sanctions list: the ministers of industry and investment and foreign economic relations; the director generals of the prosecution and prisons departments; and the chief of general staff for the combined military forces. Three organizations were also designated

for sanctions, according to the Treasury Department.

The U.K. also sanctioned five people and one entity that it said are involved either in providing financial services to the regime or the supply of restricted goods, including aircraft parts.

Canada also imposed sanctions against 39 individuals and 22 entities in coordination with the U.K. and the U.S.

Tom Andrews, a special rapporteur working with the U.N. human rights office, said in a statement that the fresh sanctions were important steps forward and that the ban on financial ser-

vices that benefit MOGE would hit the junta's largest source of revenue.

"These actions signal to the people of Myanmar that they have not been forgotten, but there is much more that the international community can and must do," said Andrews, urging U.N. member states to take stronger, coordinated action "to support the heroic efforts of the people of Myanmar to defend their nation and save their children's future."

Justice for Myanmar, an underground group of researchers and activists from Myanmar, also said the U.S. move against MOGE

was a welcome step "to disrupt the junta's single biggest source of foreign revenue." The group operates covertly because the military government does not tolerate critics of its rule.

"The U.S. should continue to target the junta's access to funds, including through full sanctions on MOGE in coordination with its allies," the group said in a statement.

The sanctions are the latest the Western governments have imposed on Myanmar's military regime, after the army seized power from the elected civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021.

Widespread nonviolent protests following the military takeover were suppressed by deadly force and triggered armed resistance in much of the country that some experts characterize as a civil war.

"Today's action, taken in coordination with Canada and the United Kingdom ... denies the regime access to arms and supplies necessary to commit its violent acts," Brian Nelson, the Treasury Department's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in a statement.

"Collectively, we remain committed to degrading the regime's evasion tactics and continuing to hold the regime accountable for its violence," he said.

The Myanmar public and human rights groups had called for sanctions targeting gas revenues shortly after the army takeover. About 50% of Myanmar's foreign income derives from natural gas revenues. Several offshore gas fields operate in Myanmar's maritime territory, run by companies from Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, India and South Korea in partnership with MOGE. China is an investor in the pipeline that delivers the gas to the country.

The European Union imposed sanctions against MOGE in February last year. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy partners with DFS Group to launch wellness-themed event



This autumn and winter, Galaxy Macau is partnering with DFS Group to launch a wellness-themed event at DFS's first "green" store in their network, the T Galleria Beauty by DFS, Macau, Galaxy Macau.

The event, titled "The Best of You, Now" aims to encourage people to "embark on a journey of healthy beauty and makeup through four lifestyle aesthetics: 'Love Your Skin,' 'Color Your Days,' 'Immerse Your Sen-

ses,' and 'Embrace Mother Nature'," as cited in a statement issued by the gaming operator.

The "Wellness Experience Day" commenced at the T Galleria Beauty.

French luxury beauty brand Guerlain's "Beautiful Flower Workshop" further immersed participants in "relaxation and healing, providing a precious respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life and reigniting their vitality and passion for life."

In addition, the T Galleria Beauty introduced facial care experiences from brands such as La Mer, La Prairie, Valmont, as well as hand care experiences from the natural skincare brand Fresh.

Sands Resorts participates in 'Macao Week in Fujian-Xiamen'



Sands Resorts Macao participated in the "Macao Week in Fujian-Xiamen" mega roadshow organised by the local government from Oct. 26 to Oct. 30.

Featuring an array of promotional activities including a major roadshow and travel trade seminar, the informa-

tive event showcases Macau's 'tourism +' elements and highlights various experiences at Sands Resorts Macao, targeting residents and industry representatives.

In addition, a travel trade seminar was held on Oct. 26 to introduce the tourism

industry and meetings and events partners to the latest offerings of Sands Resorts Macao's three European-inspired properties – The Venetian Macao, The Londoner Macao and The Parisian Macao.

The seminar spotlighted the 'one-stop' dining, accommodation, shopping, entertainment and MICE experiences across the resorts. Attendees also exchanged views on the development of tourism and MICE industries in Macau and Fujian, with a focus on deepening the Fujian market's understanding of Macao to foster cooperation and expand business opportunities.

HONG KONG

Beijing's crackdown fails to dim city's luster, as

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

THE exodus of tens of thousands of professionals from Hong Kong triggered by a crackdown on its civil liberties is being offset by new arrivals: mainland Chinese keen to move to the former British colony.

The Asian financial hub has attracted tens of thousands of visa applications from mainland Chinese under the Top Talent Pass Scheme, a program launched in late 2022 aimed at luring high-income professionals and top global university graduates from around the world, though nine in 10 successful applicants are from China.

For mainland Chinese, Hong Kong's unique attributes — such as wider freedom of speech and internet access, its cosmopolitan ambiance, a less oppressive work culture, and a society where ability largely trumps connections — set it apart, according to interviews by The Associated Press with 20 mainland Chinese visa holders.

Some, like Wu, a finance professional in his 20s, view moving to Hong Kong as a way to gain greater freedom and security. Wu,

who asked to be identified only by his surname, said he felt a sense of panic when he was trapped in unpredictable lockdowns in Beijing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was tempted to join a protest against China's stringent COVID-19 restrictions, but opted instead to "run," a Chinese euphemism for emigrating that became popular during the pandemic. He moved to Hong Kong during the summer.

"For now, it's my life boat," he said.

The leeway for public dissent has narrowed in China in recent years under leader Xi Jinping. Although they have eroded under crackdowns that followed the imposition of a 2020 national security law, Hong Kong still has Western-style civil liberties that reflect its history as a former colony. China's communist leaders promised to let the semi-autonomous region keep those freedoms for 50 years after it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Wu says he shares with many Hong Kongers a desire for freedom of speech. He's also happy it has fewer staunch nationalists, popularly known as "little pinks," than in Beijing. He enjoys the ability to free-

ly move his money to other countries and to be able to access the internet without having to use VPNs to circumvent the censorship that prevails in the Chinese mainland.

Since the Hong Kong government enacted the national security law, saying it was needed to restore stability following massive and violent pro-democracy protests in 2019, many of the city's leading activists have been prosecuted. Dozens of civil society groups have been disbanded, and outspoken media outlets like Apple Daily and Stand News have been forced to shut down.

Those political shifts, alongside strict COVID-19 controls that were lifted in Hong Kong faster than in the mainland, contributed to a decline in Hong Kong's population from 7.5 million in mid-2019 to 7.3 million in mid-2022. International companies and banks also have been moving away.

It's unclear how many Hong Kongers have left for good and how many departures were mainly because of the political climate. But more than 123,800 have moved to Britain and thousands of others gained permanent residency in Cana-



da under special policies for people from Hong Kong after the security law took effect.

The talent scheme is meant to help plug that brain drain: According to the immigration department, about 37,000 applications from mainland Chinese have already been approved. It is unclear

how many have already arrived in the city, which had about 135,000 mainland Chinese already residing there for less than seven years as of 2021, before the program was launched.

Many others have become permanent residents after staying in the city for more than seven years:

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



s talent scheme lures mainland Chinese



week. That allows him spare time to hike and socialize with friends.

"If work gets too busy, then I feel it's meaningless for me to earn money," he said.

Most of the mid-career people interviewed by AP said they were largely motivated by Hong Kong's wider educational opportunities for their children.

Monica Wang, a 39-year-old businesswoman who has secured a visa, was enticed by Hong Kong's freedom of speech and its portrayal in movies and TV shows as a modern city that embraces a variety of lifestyles. Hungry for new career options, she hopes to relocate to Hong Kong from the nearby city of Zhuhai.

"I want to see more about the world and I also hope my children can," she said.

Most people interviewed by AP appeared undeterred by the narrowing of leeway for dissent and free speech in Hong Kong, which still enjoys wider freedoms than can be found across the border in mainland China. Wang said she

viewed the security law as a way to make the city safer.

Though the new arrivals may alleviate the brain drain in some areas like finance, they may not fully make up for the loss of talent across various sectors, said Simon Lee, an honorary fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Asia-Pacific Institute of Business. The medical sector has lost some "quite experienced" professionals who can't be easily replaced by doctors who haven't been trained locally, he said.

Though the new arrivals may alleviate the brain drain in some areas like finance, they may not fully make up for the loss of talent across various sectors

Experts are unsure how the influx of mainland Chinese might shape the city's future given the dynamic interactions between new arrivals

and Hong Kong natives. Although not all newcomers can speak Cantonese — the mother tongue of many Hong Kongers — some of them can secure a job quickly as Mandarin has become an increasingly prominent language in the city after the 1997 handover.

Hong Kong has been absorbing migrants from the rest of China ever since it was a fishing village centuries ago, and while many were refugees fleeing civil war, poverty or communism, many others came simply in search of better opportunities than they could find back home.

Such factors are playing out in the lives of new arrivals like Wu, the finance professional.

He says he finds his local friends and Hong Kong media outlets have become more cautious since he arrived. If the government tightens controls and the political atmosphere becomes too suffocating, Wu said he plans to try to stay for the seven years required to get permanent residency. After that, he said, "there's a high probability that I will leave." **MDT/AP**

nearly a third of the city's residents were born in other parts of China and self-ruled Taiwan, though most of those moved to Hong Kong years ago.

Fresh graduate Zhang Guangwei, 22, said he turned down several job offers in mainland China to work as a software developer in Hong Kong,

aiming to escape from China's notorious "996" working culture, in which employees often work from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week.

Zhang got a taste of a similar workaholic lifestyle during an internship and he's happy his Hong Kong job only requires him to work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for five days a

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, TAIPEI

TAIWAN

China keeps up military pressure, sending 43 planes, 7 ships near island

TAIWAN said yesterday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 a.m. yesterday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognizes as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air defense identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military commu-

MDT ARCHIVE



nication with the U.S. to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which is part of Chinese territory.

China's military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its equipment. Despite that, the

present status of de-facto independence remains widely popular among the island's voters and the defense budget has been increased to purchase new equipment from the U.S., its chief ally, and to produce some items locally, including submarines.

At an international de-

fense forum in Beijing on Monday, China's second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan's formal independence, saying that "no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in

any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen."

Zhang, who is also vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the world's largest standing military, opened the three-day event in the absence of former Defense Minister Gen.

Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted the event.

Li was removed from his position last week after a two-month absence from public view. The government has not provided any reason for his removal.

The Beijing event, attended by military representatives from dozens of countries, was an occasion for China to project regional leadership and boost military cooperation. That comes despite frictions with the U.S., with Japan over an uninhabited East China Sea island group, with its Southeast Asian neighbors over China's claim to virtually the entire South China and with India along their disputed border.

But in a sign that Washington and Beijing were considering a possible resumption of military dialogue, the U.S. was represented at the forum by a delegation led by Cynthia Carras, the Defense Department's leading official on China. As of yesterday, it appeared she had departed without holding any formal meetings with Chinese officials or speaking to the media. **MDT/AP**

AUSTRALIA

Prime minister to raise imprisoned democracy blogger during China visit

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday he will raise the plight of a detained Australian democracy blogger with Chinese leaders during a state visit to China.

Albanese said he had approved a draft letter to the sons of Yang Hengjun, who has been detained in China since 2019.

"We're very sympathetic and understand the concerns that they would have for their father and for this Australian who has been detained now for a long period of time," Albanese told reporters.

The sons have made public a letter to Albanese, dated Oct. 28, that said there was a "narrow window of opportunity" before Albanese left for China to secure their father's freedom.

"We ask that you make it clear that it is not possible to stabilize the bilateral relationship with a government that is holding an Australian citizen just a few kilometers south of where you will be hosted," the brothers added, referring to Beijing.

They said they had just last week received the first letter Yang had been allowed to send from detention. Yang wrote: "I'm sick,

AP PHOTO



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

I'm weak, I'm dying."

Yang, who once worked for China's Ministry of State Security, is still awaiting a verdict from his closed-door trial on espionage charges in May 2021.

His sons are 24 and 31 years old. Family friend Feng Chongyi said the sons had not been publicly identified because they feared

Chinese retaliation for their father's activities.

Feng said Albanese becoming the first Australian prime minister in seven years to visit China created an opportunity for Yang.

"It's not the last chance, but it's the best chance," Feng said. "The visit symbolizes the complete normalization of relations be-

tween the two countries."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin defended Yang's prosecution and his wait of over two years for a verdict.

"China is a country under the rule of law," Wang said at a daily briefing.

"China's judiciary authority handled the case in strict accor-

dance with law, fully protected all legitimate rights of the person involved and fully respected and ensured the Australian side's consular rights, including their rights to a consular visit," he added.

Albanese's visit that begins tomorrow is a sign that bilateral relations have improved since his center-left government was elected last year following nine years of conservative rule.

Albanese will meet with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang in Beijing and attend the China International Import Expo in Shanghai during the three-day visit.

Albanese raised the plights of Yang and another detained Australian, journalist Cheng Lei, in his first meeting with Xi on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Indonesia a year ago.

Cheng was deported last month in what many saw as Beijing clearing the way for Albanese's visit.

Yang's sons wrote that said they had been "inspired by the wonderful news" of Cheng's release. They hoped Australian authorities could "achieve a second miracle by saving our father."

Asked about Cheng's case, Albanese told reporters: "Every case is ... different." **MDT/AP**

BANGLADESH

Deli and Dhaka launch new India-assisted rail projects amid opposition protests

ASHOK SHARMA, NEW DELHI

INDIA and Bangladesh launched two new railway links and a thermal power plant unit yesterday to strengthen connections and energy security in the region amid strong opposition protests in Bangladesh.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the three Indian-assisted development projects via video conferencing.

India provided \$47.8 million for a cross-border train link and a \$388.92 million concessional line of credit for the Khulna-Mongla port rail line in Bangladesh. India provided ano-

AP PHOTO



Activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party participate in a protest in Dhaka, last weekend

ther \$1.6 billion for Bangladesh's 1,320-megawatt super thermal power project, according to India's External Affairs Ministry.

Hasina is facing street protests from opposition supporters who demand

that her government resign and hand power to a nonpartisan caretaker to oversee a general election next year.

At least six people have been killed and dozens injured during street protes-

ts since Saturday, officials said.

Hasina considers a partnership with India politically significant for regional peace and development. However, India has not commented directly on the

recent unrest. The Dhaka-based embassies of Western countries, especially the United States, have regularly issued statements calling for both sides to show restraint and to find a way for a free, fair and participatory election.

China and Russia issued statements in recent months accusing Washington of interfering in Bangladesh's internal political affairs.

China also is involved in many mega projects in Bangladesh, while Russia is building the country's first nuclear power plant.

India and Bangladesh share historical and cultural ties; Bengali, which is spoken in both countries, is a strong bond. Bilateral relations have improved

since Hasina and her Awami League party came to power in 2009.

During her September 2022 visit to India, the two countries signed a water-sharing agreement and six other pacts, including ones on space technology and scientific collaboration.

Since Hasina became prime minister, her government has addressed India's concerns about anti-India militant groups taking shelter on Bangladeshi soil. However, India has failed to sign an agreement on sharing the waters of the River Teesta, a key Bangladesh demand.

Another serious concern for Bangladesh is the use of lethal weapons by the Indian border security force to kill Bangladeshis suspected of involvement in smuggling or illegally crossing the border. Unauthorized immigration to India from Bangladesh has dogged the countries' bilateral ties for years. **MDT/AP**

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Gaza's communications cut again for hours, as foreigners, wounded prepare to exit

NAJIB JOBAIN
AND SAMY MAGDY, RAFAH

GAZA was plunged into another communications blackout yesterday, with internet and phone service cut for several hours as Israeli troops battled Hamas militants. Meanwhile, dozens of foreign passport holders crowded into a border crossing ahead of what could be the first such departure from the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Communications began to be restored after Gaza's second such blackout in recent days, but aid agencies warned that the disruptions severely hamper their work in an already dire situation. Deadly airstrikes — including one that leveled apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City — have forced many to flee their homes and basic supplies are running low.

New strikes hit apartment blocks in the Jabaliya camp for a second day in a row, according to the Hamas-run government, which said many were killed or wounded, though the toll was not immediately known. Al-Jazeera television, which is still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of devastation and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital.

Despite the deteriorating circumstances, no one has been allowed to leave Gaza, except for four hostages released by Hamas, since Israel declared a total siege in the wake of the militants' bloody Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel.

But an agreement appeared to have been reached yesterday. The Palestinian crossing authority said more than 400 foreign passport holders would be permitted to leave for Egypt, as would some wounded people. Egypt has said it will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees because of fears Israel will not allow them to return to Gaza after the war.

Dozens of people could be seen entering the Rafah crossing — the only one currently operating — and ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians exited on the Egyptian side. More than 80 Palestinians — out of many thousands wounded in the war — will be brought in for treatment, Egypt's Health Ministry said, and a field hospital has been set up in an Egyptian town near the crossing.

But as a few hundred prepared to leave, the rest of of Gaza's 2.3



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel

million people found themselves cut off from the world — and each other — once again.

The Palestinian telecoms company Paltel said internet and mobile phone services were gradually being restored in Gaza following a "complete disruption." Communications had earlier gone down over the weekend as Israeli troops pushed into Gaza in larger numbers.

Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org attributed both disruptions to "measures imposed by Israel." Alp Toker, the director the group, said "service remains significantly below pre-war levels."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said communication blackouts make it harder for civilians to seek safety. "Even the potentially life-saving act of calling an ambulance becomes impossible," said Jessica Mousan, an ICRC spokesperson.

More than 8,500 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and more than 21,000 people have been wounded, the Gaza Health Ministry said Tuesday, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Palestinian militants also abducted around 240 people during their incursion and have continued firing rockets into Israel.

The Israeli military confirmed yesterday that nine soldiers have been killed in fighting in northern Gaza, bringing the total of military casualties since the start of the ground operation to 11.

On Tuesday, rescuers frantically dug through the rubble of apartment buildings leveled in Israeli airstrikes on the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, pulling out men, women and children. The director of a nearby hospital where casualties were taken, Dr. Atef Al-Kahlot, said hundreds of people were wounded or killed, but the exact toll was not yet known.

Israel said the strike, which targeted senior Hamas military leader Ibrahim Biari, destroyed a militant command center and an underground tunnel network, and killed dozens of other fighters. Military spokesman Jona-

than Conricus said Biari had also been a key planner of the Oct. 7 attack, and that the apartment buildings collapsed only because the underground Hamas complex had been destroyed.

Neither side's account could be independently confirmed.

The strike underlined the anticipated surge in casualties on both sides as Israeli troops advance toward the outskirts of Gaza City and its dense residential neighborhoods. Israeli officials say Hamas' military infrastructure, including hundreds of kilometers of underground tunnels, is concentrated in the city, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war.

Gaza has been sealed off since the start of the war, causing shortages of food, water, medicine and fuel. Israel has allowed international aid groups to send more than

200 trucks carrying food and medicine to enter from Egypt over the past 10 days, but aid workers say it's not nearly enough.

Israel has barred fuel imports, leading to a blackout in the territory that relies heavily on generators for electricity. Hospitals have warned that their own generators may soon shut down, putting patients on life support at risk. Israel says it won't allow fuel to enter because Hamas would confiscate it to use for military purposes.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten it, while also saying it does not plan to reoccupy the territory, from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. But it has said little about who would govern Gaza afterwards.

In congressional testimony on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggested that "at some point, what would make the most sense is for an effective and revitalized Palestinian Authority to have governance and ultimately security responsibility for Gaza."

Hamas drove the authority's forces out of Gaza in a week of heavy fighting in 2007, leaving it with limited control over parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinian support for the President Mahmoud Abbas has plunged since then, with many Palestinians dismissing the PA as little more than Israel's police force because it helps suppress Hamas and other militant groups.

The war has meanwhile threatened to ignite more fighting on other fronts. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have traded fire daily along the border, and Israel and the U.S. have struck targets in Syria linked to Iran, which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups in the region. MDT/AP

A STAGGERING TOLL

THE latest Israel-Hamas war has quickly become the deadliest and most destructive of the five wars fought between the sides since Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 from the Palestinian Authority. The fighting erupted Oct. 7 when Hamas carried out a bloody attack in southern Israel. Since then, Israel has relentlessly pounded the Gaza Strip with airstrikes that have wrought unprecedented destruction, flattening entire neighborhoods. Here's a look in numbers at the toll of the war as of Nov. 1.

sourced from the Gaza Health Ministry and Israeli officials as well as international observers and aid groups:

1,400
Number of people killed in Israel

8,525
Number of Palestinians killed in Gaza

125
Number of Palestinians killed in West Bank

5,431
Number of Israelis injured

21,543
Number of Palestinians injured in Gaza

2,050
Number of Palestinians injured in the West Bank

250,000
Number of Israelis displaced

OVER 1.4 MILLION
Number of Palestinians displaced in Gaza

240
Soldiers and civilians being held hostage in Gaza

5
Hostages released or rescued

217
Aid trucks let into Gaza

33,960
Residential units destroyed in Gaza

AP PHOTO



US Vice President Kamala Harris, with husband Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, arrives in London to attend the AI safety summit

UK

SUMMIT AIMS TO TACKLE THORNY ISSUES AROUND CUTTING-EDGE AI RISKS

KELVIN CHAN & JILL LAWLESS, BLETCHLEY PARK

DIGITAL officials, tech company bosses and researchers converged yesterday at a former codebreaking spy base near London to discuss and better understand the extreme risks posed by cutting-edge artificial intelligence.

The two-day summit focuses on so-called frontier AI — the latest and most powerful systems that take the technology right up to its limits, but could come with as-yet-unknown dangers. They're underpinned by foundation models, which power chatbots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard and are trained on vast pools of information scraped from the internet.

Some 100 people from 28 countries are expected to attend Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's two-day AI Safety Summit, though the British government has refused to disclose the guest list.

The event is a labor of love for Sunak, a tech-loving former banker who wants the U.K. to be a hub for com-

puting innovation and has framed the summit as the start of a global conversation about the safe development of AI. But Vice President Kamala Harris is due to steal the focus yesterday with a separate speech in London setting out the U.S. administration's more hands-on approach.

She's due to attend the summit on Thursday alongside government officials from more than two dozen countries including Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia — and China, invited over the protests of some members of Sunak's governing Conservative Party.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is also scheduled to discuss AI with Sunak in a livestreamed conversation tonight (Friday, Macau time). The tech billionaire was among those who signed a statement earlier this year raising the alarm about the perils that AI poses to humanity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and executives

from U.S. artificial intelligence companies such as Anthropic and influential computer scientists like Yoshua Bengio, one of the "godfathers" of AI, are also expected.

The meeting is being held at Bletchley Park, a former top secret base for World War II codebreakers that's seen as a birthplace of modern computing.

One of Sunak's major goals is to get delegates to agree on a first-ever communique about the nature of AI risks. He said the technology brings new opportunities but warns about frontier AI's threat to humanity, because it could be used to create biological weapons or be exploited by terrorists to sow fear and destruction.

Only governments, not companies, can keep people safe from AI's dangers, Sunak said last week. However, in the same speech, he also urged against rushing to regulate AI technology, saying it needs to be fully understood first.

In contrast, Harris will stress the need to address the here and now, including

"societal harms that are already happening such as bias, discrimination and the proliferation of misinformation."

Harris plans to stress that the Biden administration is "committed to hold companies accountable, on behalf of the people, in a way that does not stifle innovation," including through legislation.

"As history has shown in the absence of regulation and strong government oversight, some technology companies choose to prioritize profit over: The wellbeing of their customers; the security of our communities; and the stability of our democracies," she plans to say.

She'll point to President Biden's executive order this week, setting out AI safeguards, as evidence the U.S. is leading by example in developing rules for artificial intelligence that work in the public interest. Among measures she will announce is an AI Safety Institute, run through the Department of Commerce, to help set the rules for "safe and trusted AI."

Harris also will encourage other countries to sign up to a U.S.-backed pledge to stick to "responsible and ethical" use of AI for military aims.

A White House official gave details of Harris's speech, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss her remarks in advance. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1986 US HOSTAGE FREED IN BEIRUT



An American held hostage in Beirut by Muslim fundamentalists has been released.

David Jacobsen was set free in the west of the Lebanese capital after 17 months of captivity at the hands of Islamic Jihad.

After his release, Mr Jacobsen, 55, was taken to the American embassy compound in east Beirut.

He was kidnapped in May 1985 as he walked the short distance from his home on the American University Hospital campus to the hospital compound.

He is expected to leave Beirut soon with his daughters and sons who have come to the city to greet him.

Mr Jacobsen's release is being credited to the efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Terry Waite.

Soon after the hostage was freed a US helicopter collected Mr Waite from Lanarca in Cyprus where he had been conducting secret negotiations and took him to the US embassy in Beirut.

Mr Waite's intervention in the case of the Beirut hostages comes after success in freeing people held in Iran and Libya.

So far he has helped gain the release of three Beirut hostages after their relatives appealed to him for help.

The US authorities were also involved in the negotiations.

US presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said they could not divulge details because of concerns for the safety of other captives in Lebanon.

"Again we call on the captors of all hostages in Lebanon to release their innocent victims.

"No political goals are or will be achieved by resorting to extortion or terrorism," Mr Speakes said.

The US Government held the kidnapers of the remaining hostages responsible for their safety, he added.

At least two other American hostages are still being held in Beirut as well as several Frenchmen and Briton John McCarthy.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After David Jacobsen's release it emerged that in spite of earlier declarations, the US Government had been effectively buying hostages' freedom.

The US had been selling arms to Iran in return for its influence over the hostage-takers.

This led to the so-called "Iran Contragate" affair after further revelations that money from the arms sales had then been channelled to fund rebels in Nicaragua.

Hostage negotiator Terry Waite was himself kidnapped in 1987 and not released until November 1991.

The following month saw the release of the last US hostage, Terry Anderson, after seven years in captivity.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't deny yourself today. You'll stay out of trouble if you pick projects that will benefit the whole family. Your practical approach to life may charm someone who has been observing you.



TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20

Sudden changes regarding your circle of friends could prove interesting and stimulating. Limitation could set in if you've been spending too much. Coworkers may not be on your side.



GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21

Kick your shoes off and relax. Travel will be favorable. Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Avoid overloading your plate.



CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to spend less time daydreaming and more time accomplishing. You can get others to do things for you but be sure not to overpay them or lend them money.



LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You will have the ability to capture the interest of others. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups.



VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Use your better judgment before you sign up for a costly venture. You need a break from your daily routine. Problems with your partner are apparent.



LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It may not be the best time to socialize with clients or colleagues today. Your ideas are good and career moves can be realized. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job.



SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Risks will not be profitable. Relatives will be cordial. Extravagance and overindulgence are not a cure if you're feeling sorry for yourself.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Deceit around you is evident. This is not the day to be extravagant. You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do.



CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. You can get support from groups that you belong to if you're willing to step out on a limb and voice your opinions.



AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your lover probably won't put up with your behavior. Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal.



PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't be afraid to say what's on your mind. Children may be difficult to handle. A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

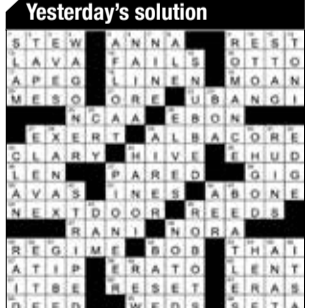
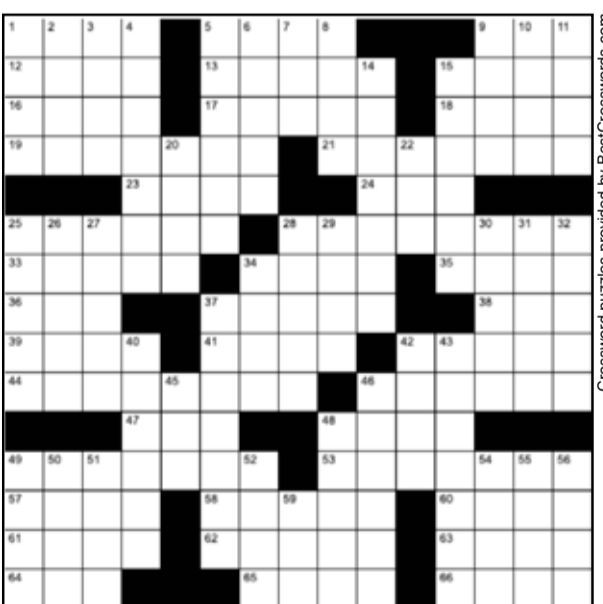
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	21	cloudy
Changchun	0	20	rain
Chengdu	16	21	cloudy
Chongqing	16	24	cloudy
Fuzhou	19	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	18	31	fine
Guiyang	12	25	cloudy
Haikou	24	28	rain
Hangzhou	14	28	fine
Harbin	-2	15	rain
Hefei	13	28	fine
Nanjing	15	27	fine
Shanghai	18	25	fine
Taipei	21	27	fine
Wuhan	14	29	fine
Hong Kong	23	27	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	0	9	rain
Frankfurt	7	13	rain
Paris	6	13	cloudy
London	8	11	rain
New York	5	12	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Footfall; 5- Ground; 9- Outdo; 12- One telling tales; 13- Cream-filled cookies; 15- Tops; 16- Dynamic beginning; 17- Summit; 18- Speck; 19- Red powdery condiment; 21- Phantom; 23- Burrows and Vigoda; 24- RPM part; 25- Priest; 28- Temporary inactivity; 33- Pays to play; 34- Hero; 35- Dreg; 36- Ocean; 37- Ventured; 38- Golfer Ernie; 39- Injure; 41- Bakery worker; 42- Move sideways; 44- Put in order; 46- Trust; 47- Him, to Henri; 48- False god; 49- Capital of Georgia, USA; 53- See; 57- Grating; 58- Neighborhoods; 60- This, in Tijuana; 61- Be dependent; 62- TV producer Michaels; 63- Ollie's partner; 64- Court fig.; 65- Toward the mouth; 66- Simon ___;

DOWN 1- Hit with an open hand; 2- ___ yellow ribbon...; 3- Clanton foe; 4- Divide proportionately; 5- Compartment for safekeeping; 6- Hand woven wall hanging; 7- Maiden name indicator; 8- Prescribed amount; 9- Kit item; 10- Savvy about; 11- Hammer end; 14- Salary; 15- Unprincipled; 20- Native Nigerians; 22- Susan of "L.A. Law"; 25- Turkish title of old; 26- Lend ___; 27- Fab Four name; 28- Ventilated; 29- Joburg settler; 30- Wanting; 31- Yo Yo's instrument; 32- Ruhr city; 34- Chantilly product; 37- Pertaining to the fingers; 40- Disease of the body; 42- Show to a table; 43- Ailment; 45- Convent dweller; 46- Elevated; 48- African sir; 49- Mogul capital until 1658; 50- Waste allowance; 51- Rhythmic swing; 52- Buck follower; 54- This, in Tijuana; 55- Remain; 56- Juniors, perhaps; 59- Goof up;

Yesterday's solution

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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 9,950/mth 1 bed 1 bath

DRIVE IN

'RUSTIN' WITH AN OUTSTANDING COLMAN DOMINGO TERRIFIC LOOK AT MARCH ON WASHINGTON

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

THE 1963 March on Washington drew an estimated 250,000 people from across the country — the largest march at that point in American history — and was the place where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech.

It likely wouldn't have happened without the work of a master strategist: Bayard Rustin, a gay Black socialist and pacifist-activist from Pennsylvania, whose close friendship with King was the engine in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

The winning, triumphant Netflix movie “Rustin” explores the stressful weeks leading up to the march from the grassroots level, with Colman Domingo starring as the organizer who many people know nothing about.

It was he who wrangled 80,000 boxed lunches, 22 first aid stations, six water tanks, 2,200 chartered buses, six chartered flights, 292 latrines, over 1,000 Black police officers and a change to the city's subway schedule, not to mention snagging celebrities like Marlon Brando, Charlton Heston, Lena Horne and James Baldwin.

Domingo is debonair, frisky, droll, passionate and utterly captivating as Rustin — the film representing the electric meeting of winning material with the perfect performer.



Jeffrey Mackenzie Jordan (left) and Colman Domingo as Bayard Rustin in a scene from “Rustin” (Netflix)

“You're irrelevant,” Rustin is told at an after-work get-together by a more militant activist. “It's Friday night. I've been called worse,” Rustin responds, taking a sip of his cocktail.

But as wonderful as Domingo is, it's the astonishing amount of talent in front of and behind the camera that will take your breath away. No matter how small, each performance brings fire and makes the most of a few minutes on camera.

Is that Jeffrey Wright as a dour Rep. Adam Clayton Powell? Yes, indeed. Wait, isn't that Adrienne Warren? Yup. Kevin Mambo and Audra McDonald, too? Yes and yes. Chris Rock ages up to play a

stuffy NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins and Glynn Turman is awesome, as always, as labor leader A. Philip Randolph.

Da'Vine Joy Randolph plays Mahalia Jackson, Michael Potts is “Cleve” Robinson, CCH Pounder as Dr. Anna Hegeman, appropriately, gets her own warm round of applause during the movie. And Aml Ameen plays an understated King, his moments with Rustin playing like two old friends.

There's excellence in the music — Branford Marsalis provides the jazzy score, including lonely sax solos and mournful double bass plucks — and Lenny Kravitz contributed an original song, “Road to Freedom.”

The biopic has a presidential seal or at least a former presidential seal — Barack Obama and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground produced. (Obama awarded Rustin a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.)

“Rustin” is more than just the public-facing story of how the March on Washington came about. It's also a portrait of a man who has to hide his sexuality. If it was widely known, his career, the march and maybe even the Civil Rights Movement itself could be at risk.

Domingo shows the immense pressures faced by being a religiously-raised, Black gay man in the racist and homophobic 1960s,

enough psychic forces to tear a man apart.

“On the day that I was born Black, I was also born a homosexual,” Rustin tells King before a crucial meeting with Black leadership. “They either believe in freedom and justice for all or they do not.”

Director George C. Wolfe, a theater legend, keeps this biopic intriguing, making it almost feel like a caper. Will they pull off their audacious effort? Of course, but the twists and turns endured make organizing the march a bit like the rush to get a big musical on its feet. Wolfe adds that energy.

The screenplay by Julian Breece and Dustin Lance Black isn't shy about exposing the divides within the movement and the ugly homophobic feelings of the era. There is a smart flashback to 1942 when the camera goes to black and white.

The movie takes viewers to places perhaps unfamiliar, like to training sessions where Black police officers were taught about nonviolence and to Manhattan apartments where protesters would talk about their own stories of segregation to convince rich white folks to contribute money for buses.

The final section — the actual march itself — mixes new footage with some from that day. There was some fear by the organizers that not enough people would come, but the hero of “Rustin” doesn't waver — and is seen bluffing with reporters right up until the end. “Rustin” is as vibrant as the movement it covers.

“Rustin,” a Netflix release in select theaters Friday and that hits Netflix on Nov. 17, is rated PG-13 for “Some violence, sexual material, brief drug use, racial slurs, thematic material, language and smoking.” Running time: 108 minutes. ★★★★★

tTUNES

Chinese boy band WayV prove their mettle with second album 'On My Youth'

SM Entertainment's Chinese boy band WayV have come out with guns blazing on their sophomore album, “On My Youth.” It's no small feat for the six-piece group to stand out, particularly because they are the fourth sub-unit (a smaller group made up from members of a larger one) from the K-pop mega boyband NCT.

But WayV manage to forge their own style and path in the dizzying world of K-pop divisions and subdivisions. They are in spirit, musically and aestheti-

cally, the new generation's EXO-M — SM Entertainment's previous Chinese subgroup of their super act EXO — loaded with similar charisma.

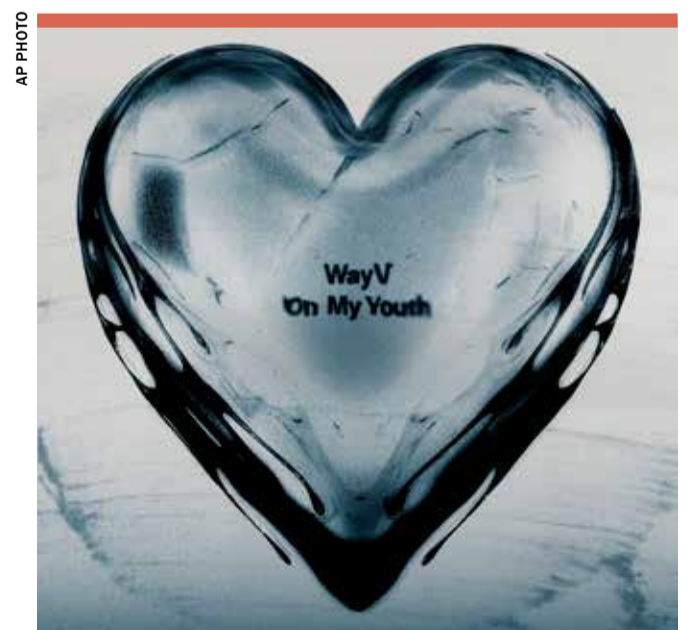
WayV, whose name is an acronym for We Are Your Vision, expertly mix hip-hop, pop and electronica on their new 10-track album in a style uniquely their own. From the neo-soulful “No One But You” and the bright pop “Be Alright,” this album is a journey that always seems to revert back to a sense of hopefulness, uplifting the listener

even when detouring with a weird trap stanza. (In that way, moving from a kind of softness to an edge feels like the sonic equivalent of watching Bambi pretend to be the hunter.)

The title track and single “On My Youth,” which also gets an all English-language version on the album, moves from electronic music to trap to rap in a mid-tempo melody, an unexpected but welcomed combo. “Poppin' Love” is ripe for dancing, with its Y2K boy band-style production flavor with a diz-

zying beat. “Lighthouse” is a pleasant stripped down piano ballad, and “Moonlight” goes full pop with a majestic string arrangement.

If there is an outlier on the album, it's found on “RODEO,” with its deep bass EDM beats and surprising reference to Lil Jon's “From the Window to the Wall.” But its uniqueness doesn't make for a disjointed listening experience — instead, it works as a great break on the album, arriving midway through. Think of it like an animated



“On My Youth” by WayV. (SM Entertainment)

intermission.

Lyrical, the entirety of the record is an ode to youth, young love, immature mistakes and hope

for the future. With beats like these, it's a safe bet the sextet will be a lasting part of the C-pop pantheon. **CRISTINA JALERU, MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TASTE OF EDESIA

Secret 'Wonderscape'

IRENE SAM, MDT

THIS season, Cloudy Bay presents the debut of **Sauvignon Blanc 2023** with an immersive 'Wonderscape' experience nestled within a secret heaven, welcoming guests with enchanting natural wonder, the captivating vibe created by local lifestyle curators.

Cloudy Bay launch was elevated with the exclusive menu curated by Will Leung, a culinary consultant and chef, renowned for his regular appearance on various TV cooking shows, also the former Executive Chef of the fine dining restaurant 1111 ONES Restaurant and Lounge. With Leung for Cloudy Bay's 'Menuscape', the talented floral artist and designer Ginger & Mite for 'Tablescape' and new emerging cityscape artist, also Forbes 30 Under 30 nominee, Elaine Chiu for 'Artscape', they all added ethereal touch to the 'Wonderscape' experience, sharing their creative visions and impeccable artistry by presenting the unique experience to the guests and inspire their guests with intimate interaction and personal connections with Cloudy Bay.

The exclusive experien-

ce was held in a charming hidden gem located in Sai Kung, Hong Kong. The venue is a secret haven with a spacious waterfront terrace that offered a tranquil escape from the bustling city. Its airy terrace extends to a shaded outdoor dining area, where guests enjoyed an alfresco tasting experience, with the special 'Wonderscape' menu, thoughtfully curated by Chef Leung, harmoniously paired with the latest launch Sauvignon Blanc 2023, offering a truly immersive and indulgent experience.

Drawing inspiration from the captivating story and diversified wine portfolio of Cloudy Bay, Ginger and Mite had curated a unique and vibrant set-up for each Cloudy Bay wine, skillfully intertwined the uniquely shaped Bells of Ireland with different layers of graceful emerald green flowers with smooth, juicy lime and lemon to form a lively sketch and created a mesmerizing tableau that came alive with the essence of the Cloudy Bay wines. The intricate floral arrangements became an integral part of the sensory experience that enhanced the visual allure and further immersing guest in the house of

Cloudy Bay.

Prior to the exceptional dining experience, guests were invited to join the exclusive art workshop by the talented Elaine Chiu. Set against the picture-like backdrop of sailboats cruising through the shimmering sea, guests indulged in the creative process while savoring a glass of Cloudy Bay wine in hand. Under Chiu's expert guidance, their enjoyment seamlessly translated onto the canvases before them. With the gentle sea breeze caressing their skin and the artistic inspiration flowing, guests discovered the joy of artistic expressions with wine.

Cuisine was served by the chef as part of the culinary experience to complement the ripe, vibrant passionfruit notes and citrus notes of the latest Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2023. And with introduction, guests were able to try the diverse wine portfolio including other wines such as Pelorus, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Te Koko and Te Wahi, all matched to dishes with the hints and tips for crafting the perfect menu that feels like home, such as the fried oyster cake inspired by the street bite in Temple Streets; HK famous razor clams.



OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



'UNWAVERING SUPPORT' FOR ISRAEL AND EROSION OF SOFT POWER

Despite Biden making balanced statements in defense of the two-state solution for Palestine, he offered Israel "unwavering support." The Jewish lobby in the U.S. is strong. However, this "unwavering support" will come at an internal political cost.

Young liberal Americans, many of whom voted for him, have been particularly vocal in their support for the Palestinians and, above all, demand that their president pressure the Israeli government to put an end to the repeated bombardments on Gaza. And the rapidly growing American Muslim population, set to surpass the Jewish population within two-three decades, should not be overlooked. But it's on the international stage where this "unwavering support" will have the most consequences.

After an initial reaction in many countries of sympathy and solidarity towards Israel for the barbaric incursion of the terrorist group Hamas into southern Israel, the Israeli response of indiscriminate bombing of Gaza City, with the death of thousands of civilians, prompted an international reaction condemning the Israeli authorities. It's clear today that the radical ultranationalists leading the Israeli government are trying to exploit the Hamas incursion to "cleanse" the Gaza Strip and, along the way, further catalyze Jewish settlements and subdue the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

During the Trump presidency, the U.S. experienced a significant erosion of its soft power. Trump's narrow-minded view concerning relations with U.S. allied countries, the withdrawal from global agreements like the Paris Climate Agreement, and lack of support for the WHO at a crucial time in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic are some of the most evident reasons for this rapid erosion. Moreover, as J. Nye aptly pointed out, "Trump was the first president that did not place a high emphasis on values."

When America emphasized values, it made the nation more attractive to [the international] society, hence [its] soft power was unrivalled." With President Biden, America's global image improved significantly. He reiterated multilateralism, uphold the values of democracy and freedom as pillars of the U.S. position in the world, and strengthened international cooperation, especially with the West+. Furthermore, the appeal of American culture and civil society has kept its soft power high.

However, as J. Nye also wrote, "domestic or foreign policies that appear hypocritical, arrogant, indifferent to others' views, or based on a narrow conception of national interest can undermine soft power." As happened after the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Biden seems to have realized he risks the same outcome if Israel crosses red lines, specifically red lines for much of the international community. But when it came to the crunch, the U.S. deployed the hard power of two naval squadrons and executed the "unwavering support" for Israel.

The American superpower, which once nurtured the illusion that the post-USSR era would lead to the "end of History" and a consequent eternal global Pax Americana, seems to fail to understand that its ability for positive attraction and persuasion to achieve foreign policy objectives is eroding with this "unwavering support."

The EU, possessing excellent soft power but weak hard power, should realize this and dissociate itself, taking a firm stance in defense of International Law.

Yemen's Houthi rebels for the first time yesterday [Macau time] claimed missile and drone attacks targeting Israel, drawing their main sponsor Iran closer into the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and further raising the risks of a regional conflict erupting.

The Houthis had been suspected of an attack earlier this month targeting Israel by sending missiles and drones over the crucial shipping lane of the Red Sea, an assault that saw the U.S. Navy shoot down the projectiles.

This time on Tuesday, however, Israel said its own fighter jets and its new Arrow missile defense system shot down two salvos of incoming

fire hours apart as it approached the country's key Red Sea shipping port of Eilat.

The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014 as part of that country's ruinous war, claimed three attacks on Israel in a later military statement, without elaborating on the timeframe of the operations and whether Tuesday's salvos represented one or two attacks.

Beyond the attack that saw the U.S. shoot down missiles, there had been a mysterious explosion last Thursday that hit the Egyptian resort town of Taba, near the border with Israel.

AP PHOTO



Chile's Zhiying Zeng serves the ball

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

57-YEAR-OLD CHINESE-CHILEAN TABLE TENNIS PLAYER WINS OVER CROWD

MAURICIO SAVARESE, SANTIAGO

TABLE tennis player Zeng Zhiying left China all alone for an adventure in Chile in 1989.

As her native country boiled with street protests that led to the Tiananmen Square crackdown that year, she remained in the north of the South American nation, near the Atacama desert, working to make the sport grow there.

About 34 years later, the 57-year-old Zeng — or Tania, as Chileans call her — is no longer by herself. She has a family and millions of fans cheering for her at the Pan American Games in Santiago.

Zeng became famous overnight in the Andean nation after she beat Dominican Eva Peña Brito by 4 sets to 2 in her first match in the women's singles tournament. She lost the first two sets, but she managed to turn the match around in front of raucous fans screaming for her.

"I came to watch the table tennis grandma," said Chilean fan Gustavo Ibarra, 14, before Zeng's round-of-16 clash with American Lily Ann Zhang yesterday [Macau time].

"Everyone in this country wants to see her win. She is just so humble." Zeng has two children, but no grandchildren.

Chile's President Gabriel Boric is another one of the table tennis player's new fans watching her on TV.

"Tremendous!," Boric wrote on his social media channels after the Chinese-Chilean's victory on Monday.

Zeng has lived most of her life in Iquique, a city near the Atacama desert 1,800 kilometers (1,118 miles) north of Santiago, Chile's capital. After teaching the sport to local children for years, she started a business and made it her main source of income until recently.

Playing table tennis as a professional only crossed her mind during the COVID pandemic. She quickly made it to Chile's national team and now hopes to be part of it for the Paris Olympics next year. Zeng is currently among the 150 best women tennis table players in the world.

"I am fighting with all I have, and the supporters are there for me now. I feel very confident. Competing at such a high level is a new

thing for me," Zeng said. "I win. I lose. Some things come a little off. But people support me the same. I really wasn't expecting any of this."

"I came here because the table tennis association of Arica, in the north, invited me. Then I moved to Iquique, and made my life there. I am Chilean, no doubt," said Zeng in a fluent Spanish she learned in soap operas. She now she prefers to watch Turkish TV series when at home.

As she arrived to play U.S.' Zhang yesterday, a big roar was heard at Chile's Olympic training center, where table tennis competitions are taking place. Zeng was no match for the American, who won 4 sets to 0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-4 and 11-5), largely thanks to her higher speed and intensive footwork.

While Zhang calmy went back to preparing for her next matches, Zeng was busy outside giving autographs.

"I will be upset for a little bit after this defeat. But life goes on," she said. "This sport is still the greatest thing for me. I am happy every day I am still in it." **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Bolivia's government severed diplomatic relations with Israel yesterday [Macau time], accusing it of carrying out "crimes against humanity" in Gaza, and Chile and Colombia recalled their ambassadors to Israel as they criticized the Israeli military offensive against Hamas militants. Bolivian officials cited the number of Palestinian casualties in Gaza that have resulted from the latest Israel-Hamas war, but made no mention of the Hamas attack on Israel at the start of the conflict. **More on p11**

Russian strikes are inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people of Ukraine and more than 40% of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior U.N. official told the U.N. Security Council yesterday [Macau time]. The U.N. human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."

AP PHOTO



Russia Huge ash columns erupted from Eurasia's tallest active volcano yesterday, forcing authorities to close schools in two towns on Russia's sparsely populated Kamchatka Peninsula. The eruptions from the Klyuchevskaya Sopka volcano sent ash as high as 13 kilometers above sea level, officials said. There were no reports of injuries.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Monday November 6. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.