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**A TOTAL OF 859 INVESTMENT AND TRADE DEALS WORTH RMB2.24 TRILLION COMBINED WERE SIGNED AT EVENT FOR THE GREATER BAY AREA** P4

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**US MILITARY PLACING EMPHASIS ON GROUND TROOPS FOR PACIFIC DEFENSE** P8



AP PHOTO



**Myanmar** The head of military government has charged that a major offensive in the country's northeast by an alliance of armed ethnic minority organizations was funded in part by profits earned by one of the groups from the region's lucrative drug trade, state-controlled media reported yesterday. The allegation made by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing (pictured) came after his government was caught off guard by fierce fighting in several towns in the country's northeastern border region.

AP PHOTO



**Uganda** The French oil company TotalEnergies is failing to protect the sanctity of hundreds of graves in a controversial project that aims to build a heated pipeline from oil fields in Uganda to a port in Tanzania, according to a report by a New York-based climate watchdog. In a report released yesterday, GreenFaith charges that TotalEnergies "has consistently failed to respect local customs and traditions related to the treatment of graves," distressing local communities in the East African nations of Uganda and Tanzania.

AP PHOTO



**UK-S.Korea** King Charles III immersed himself yesterday [Macau time] in London's vibrant Korean scene before the state visit later this month of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. During the state visit, the South Korean leader and his wife will receive Britain's traditional royal pomp and ceremony as well as commemorating the sacrifice of British soldiers during the Korean War. Charles and Queen Camilla will formally welcome the president and his wife.

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RODRIGUES TO CARRY THE FLAG OF MACAU'S NEW RACING TALENT

▲ SUPPLEMENT

# DISNEY CONCERT TO SWEEP AUDIENCE AWAY WITH NOSTALGIA FOR FAVORITE CLASSIC SONGS

LYNZY VALLES

**D**ISNEY Princess – The Concert is coming to The Venetian Theatre from tonight until Sunday to serenade Disney local audiences with Disney princesses' greatest hits.

The concert features an award-winning cast of Broadway stars who have all performed in various Disney productions, and will showcase such popular songs as "Let it Go," "A Whole New World," "How Far I'll Go," "Colours of the Wind," and "Almost There."

Local fans will enjoy performances from Anneliese van der Pol, known for her role as Chelsea in the 2003 sitcom *That's So Raven*; Krysta Rodriguez, best known for her roles as Ana Vargas in the NBC series *Smash*; Steffanie Leigh, who made her Broadway debut as *Mary Poppins* in the Disney Broadway musical *Mary Poppins*; and Storm Lever, who will play Anne Boleyn in the 2023-24 Broadway Production of *Six the Musical*, beginning December.

Also on the stage will be Aisha Jackson, who made history as the first black woman to play Anna in the Broadway adaptation of *Frozen*; Adam J Levy, who is currently in Broadway's *Moulin Rouge*; and Benjamin Rauhala as the show's music director.

For the first time in forever, Macau audience are in for a musical performance that has larger-than-life animation and theatrical effects accompanying the music that will immerse the audience in pure Disney magic.

The singers have revealed to the Times that this is the first time all 13 Disney Princesses plus the two queens Anna and Elsa will be represented in a single production.

Disney Princess – The Concert will be staged at The Venetian Theatre tonight until Nov. 12.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Tell us about the upcoming concert. What's in store for the audience? Can you give us a sneak peak of what's about to come?**

**Steffanie** – This show is a giant celebration of all things Disney Princess! This is the first time all thirteen Disney Princesses plus our two queens Anna and Elsa are represented in one show. The music is performed by four of Broadway's leading ladies. We all share



From left, clockwise: Steffanie Leigh, Storm Lever, Krysta Rodriguez, Anneliese van der Pol

our own love of the Princesses and the effect they have on our lives and careers. We also share stories of what it is like to be a Broadway performer. We even bring along our own Prince to help us with all those classic romantic tunes. And of course, we have our magical music director leading us through the evening.

**Storm** – One of the many magical things about Disney, is it speaks to us at any age. The audience will be swept away in the nostalgia of their favorite classic Disney songs. We feature a song from every single Disney Princess. Our magical musical director, Benjamin Rauhala, has arranged some of the most beautiful four-part harmonies to some of your favorite songs that breathe new life into these classics that we've all loved for generations.

**Anneliese** – Our show is a magical, nostalgic good time! It's for anyone from the ages of 6-100 and we mean that. Truly there is something for everyone to love.

**MDT - You will be performing all of the best Disney songs. Are there any vocal arrangements that are unique to this show?**

**Storm** – Truly every song in the

Disney catalog is a hit. But our show focuses specifically on the princesses. We take a deep dive on what makes these women unique and worthy of celebration. And we learn through their songs that it's their courage and strength that makes them admirable. Alone, these songs already tug at our heartstrings, but Benjamin Rauhala's arrangements breathe new life into these songs while also honoring the original score and maintaining the integrity of the music. Add Broadway vocals to the songs and you have the magic that can only be found at Disney.

**Anneliese** – There are so many unique vocal arrangements in this show. But my all-time favorite is a medley of "All Is Found" and "Into The Unknown" from *Frozen 2*, which has been beautifully arranged by Benjamin Rauhala, as well as the most luxurious and lush version of "Just Around the Riverbend."

**Krysta** – Our music director, Benjamin Rauhala, has created so many unique arrangements for this tour. We have four powerhouse singers who are star performers in their own right but there's a special magic when we

all sing together in four-part harmony.

**MDT - What are your thoughts about being able to perform in Macau? Are there any expectations you have of the audiences here? Are you excited to explore Macau?**

**Storm** – I've never been to Macau and it's a wonderful opportunity to visit. Visiting the Ruins of St. Paul and the Macao Museum have to be top priority on my "to-do" list. I always try to make my way to an art gallery or show of some kind when visiting a new city. We are so grateful to the city of Macau for welcoming us and embracing our artistic expression. In turn, I believe it's important to prioritize finding local art and supporting local artists during our visit. It's a great way to instantly feel connected to the cities we visit.

**Krysta** – I'm very excited to be visiting and performing in Macau. It's my first time here and it really adds to the magic of the experience when we're in a new place. I hope we get audiences who love Disney, and are ready to be inspired, surprised, and willing to sing along.

**MDT - What is your favorite song to perform in the show and why?**

**Steffanie** – Right now, I love singing "Just Around the Riverbend." I remember belting that song out in the car when I was growing up with my best friends, windows down, wind blowing in our hair. Flash forward and here I am singing the same song in a stunning new arrangement in four-part harmony with my friends traveling all across the world. It feels like a full circle moment.

**Storm** – I think "Beauty and the Beast." Ben's arrangement is simply stunning.

**Anneliese** – Probably the "Beauty and the Beast" medley I get to sing, just because the role of Belle is so close to my heart.

**Krysta** – I love singing "Into the Unknown!" It's such a powerful, driving song and the harmonies are so interesting.

**MDT - You have performed to a varied global audience. How does the audience reception differ around the world?**

**Steffanie** – I am constantly surprised by how similar the audiences are all across the world. Perhaps it is because the music of Disney transcends culture and time and evokes something very human in all of us - our desire for wonder and magic, imagination, and awe.

**Storm** – Everyone loves Disney. It's nice to see how far the reach of these films has extended, and that the message of these movies have struck a chord with people from so many different walks of life. Like us, these princesses crave community in a world where they often feel like outsiders. They yearn for a place of belonging and go on a journey of self-discovery. I smile ear-to-ear every night when I see how many people have come together to revel in pure Disney bliss together. These songs are our unifier, giving us community and helping us connect to a special part of ourselves.

**Krysta** – Every audience is a little different, but the common thread is a universal love for Disney music. It's been a joy to witness how, no matter where we go, everyone knows and loves the music and can sing along.

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**DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Lynzy Valles  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

**NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí  
**DESIGNERS** Miguel Bandeira, Rebeca Almeida | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua  
**SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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**ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

**Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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AL PLENARY

# Lawmakers call on structural changes for daycares, while IAS reviews the rules

RENATO MARQUES

**D**URING the recent Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary, at least two lawmakers, including Lo Choi In and José Pereira Coutinho, have called for the government to review and amend regulations governing nursery facilities in Macau.

These calls, expressed through oral inquiries before the agenda of the last plenary session, come in the wake of the sudden death of a four-month-old child at the Fong Chong Nursery in Taipa.

Lawmaker Lo highlighted concerns that the child-to-caretaker ratio in Macau's childcare facilities is much higher than the global average and exceeds that of neighboring regions, resulting in inadequate care and attention to the children.

Lo noted that the regulations established by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) lack specific and provide minimal guidance on the



number and qualification of the caretakers for nurseries. A consequence of this is that nurseries may employ unqualified and insufficient staff in their daily operations.

In line with Lo's concerns, lawmaker Coutinho noted that lack of staff qualifications and

criticized the governing regulations and laws that establish the criteria for hiring staff in nurseries and daycare centers. According to Coutinho, the existing legal framework is "clearly outdated and needs to be reviewed with the utmost urgency."

The lawmaker noted that re-

view and overhaul of the existing regulations, which date back to 1999, are essential "to prevent similar tragedies from occurring again."

Coutinho also urged the government to mandate the installation of surveillance cameras in such facilities to increase supervision and

prompt detection of abnormal behavior.

The IAS issued a response in a statement yesterday attesting that it has met with officials from the Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) to discuss installing video surveillance systems following requests from both parents and institutions.

The IAS is also said to be reviewing the regulations and has, in the interim, called on all institutions to reinforce supervision.

Regarding the announced closure of the Fong Chong Nursery in Taipa, the IAS said that will provide support to parents and to transfer their children to other facilities.

Meanwhile, Coutinho, who had previously announced the circulation of a petition within the community, revealed yesterday that he would deliver a letter endorsed by approximately 8,000 petitioners to the government today. The petition calls urgently for video surveillance systems in all daycare centers.

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AL PLENARY

# LAWMAKERS CALL FOR SALARY UPDATES FOR GAMING CONCESSIONAIRE WORKERS

RENATO MARQUES

**LAWMAKERS** Nick Lei and Ella Lei are calling on the government to push the gaming concessionaires to increase the salaries of their workers.

The call follows the government's announcement that, from January next year, it will update the salaries of all civil servants, with the two lawmakers seeking to align the remuneration of private company employees to that of government workers.

According to Nick Lei, the gaming industry now accounts for about 52,000 members of the local workforce. Given this contribution and the challenges these workers have faced during the pandemic, he argues that their position should not be overlooked.

In his view, the government should exercise in-



Lawmakers Nick Lei (left) and Ella Lei

fluence over the concessionaires to update the salaries of workers, ideally by a percentage comparable to that which is applied to civil servants.

Expressing similar sentiments, Ella Lei also called for a salary update. She noted that although casino revenues have been growing exponentially and demonstrating better recovery than any other sector, concessionaires have provided no compensa-

tion for the extended period of layoffs and reduced salaries that took place over the three years of pandemic restrictions.

According to the same lawmaker, workers have been complaining about the growing volume of work, linked to the increase in tourists, and the fact that staff numbers have not yet recovered to the pre-pandemic levels. This has resulted in workers being subjected to

extended working hours, increased overtime, and a reduction in the number leave days available.

She added that some of the workers have also expressed many security concerns since the resumption of casino activities has brought back many illegal and unlawful activities such as illegal currency exchange and other issues that result in employees feeling vulnerable and at risk when dealing with offenders.

GBA

# INVESTMENT DEALS WORTH OVER USD300B SIGNED

A total of 859 investment and trade deals worth an approximate combined 2.24 trillion yuan (about USD312 billion) have been signed at an investment promotion event for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, according to the event organizer this week.

The event is a collaboration between the Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau governments and drew participation from leading companies, professional organizations, and commerce associations from around the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

The secured projects encompass numerous sectors including new-

generation electronics, renewable energy, advanced materials, green petrochemicals, and artificial intelligence, all geared toward bolstering the region's modern industrial framework and growth.

Clean energy initiatives were a highlight at the event, with the Guangdong-North America clean tech session attracting prominent U.S. business leaders.

Feng An, founder and executive director of the U.S.-China Cleantech Center, emphasized the vast potential for cooperation between China and the United States in clean technology, clean energy, and climate technology, predicting substantial enterprise growth in these sectors.

MDT/XINHUA

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Notice

**Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D Application (Type A & B) of 2023**

**I Objectives**

In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to enhance innovation and R&D in Macao enterprises, create a research-friendly environment, and inspire enterprises to increase their R&D investment through providing financial support, so as to promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the transformation of scientific research achievements, cultivate emerging industries, and promote the moderately diversified development of related industries in Macao.

**II Support Areas**

The research projects shall align with the Second Five-Year Plan of Macao economic and social development, the Macao SAR Government's Policy Address for 2023, related planning and programs of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, etc., especially the projects that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.

**III Applying Entities · Funding Amount · Duration and Requirements for Expected Project Findings of Type A & B**

Type A	Type B
<p><b>A. Applying Entities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more;</li> <li>The enterprise is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR;</li> <li>50% or more shares of enterprises shall be held by Macao residents;</li> <li>No less than three full-time employees;</li> <li>In case of full-time employees less than three, the applying entity shall be recommended by a nation-level makerspace established in Macao.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Funding Amount and Project Duration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amount applied for each project shall not exceed MOP 1,000,000;</li> <li>Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years.</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The supporting funds invested by the applying enterprise for R&amp;D shall not be less than the funding amount of FDCT;</li> <li>The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project;</li> <li>The project proposed shall aim at reaching TRL(Technology Readiness Level) 4 or above upon its conclusion.</li> </ol>	<p><b>A. Applying Entities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more;</li> <li>The enterprise is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR;</li> <li>No less than five full-time employees;</li> <li>The applying entity shall be an "enterprise engaged in scientific and technological innovation activities" accredited by the "Scientific and Technological Innovation Commercial Enterprise Accreditation Committee" according to law as stipulated in Article 6 of Law No. 1/2021 – Tax Preference System for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities, or an enterprise previously funded by FDCT, without prejudice to the high-tech enterprise certification issued by other government departments.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Funding Amount and Project Duration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amount applied for each project exceeds MOP 1,000,000, but shall not exceed MOP 3,000,000;</li> <li>Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years.</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The supporting funds invested by the applying enterprise for R&amp;D shall not be less than the funding amount of FDCT;</li> <li>The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project;</li> <li>The expected TRL of the project proposed shall be TRL 4 or above upon its conclusion.</li> </ol>

**IV Assessment Criteria**

- The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund as approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 93/2023.
- Key considerations will be given to the followings: (Please refer to the online Application Guidelines for further information)
  - Assessment of technologies and research findings
  - Competence of the applying entity
  - Project planning
- The priority goes to the industry-university-research projects conducted in partnership with higher education institutions or scientific research institutions inside or outside Macao.

**V Application Period**

10th November, 2023 to 11th December, 2023

**VI Application Method**

The applying entities shall log in the online application system to complete the proposal prior to the deadline of application: <https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>  
Office Address: Room K, 11/F, Macau Square, No.43-53A Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, Macao.  
Tel.: 28788777.

President of FDCT Administrative Committee,  
Che Weng Keong  
2023 / 11 / 09

GAMING

# MGM optimistic on further market growth amid decoupling

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU'S recovery is set to continue amid discussions on broader macroeconomic issues in China, according to Hubert Wang, president and chief operating officer of MGM China.

In an earnings call with analysts, the executive pointed to the government's gross gaming revenue (GGR) of MOP216 billion in 2024, which is "is quite consistent with our belief, our own expectation and the market consensus as well."

China is currently experiencing a softening in its overall macroeconomic situation.

The GDP growth is around 4% to 5%, a trough when considered in a long-term context.

"But I believe that Macau is not merely a reflection of the average GDP growth or spending patterns in China. As a town, we cater to about 30 million visitations a

AP PHOTO



year. The unique visitation figures are probably less than half of that," said Wang.

"It's still a very small number in the grand scheme of population in China. I would say we ca-

ter to the middle and upper middle classes in China," he added.

For Wang, Macau is positioned to cater to groups with high spending habits. He added that the government and concessions

are aligned in their efforts to attract this market share through incentives.

During the third quarter, MGM's net revenue grew by 10% to HKD6.4 billion compared to

2019, with an adjusted EBITDA of HKD1.9 billion (equivalent to 122% of 2019), consistently outperforming the market.

In the same earnings call, Bill Hornbuckle, chief executive officer and president of MGM Resorts, expressed confidence in the Macau market as the third quarter net revenue adjusted property EBITDA surpassed that of 2019 figures and adjusted property EBITDAR mass GGR and visitation.

"In the Macau market, it is evident that business is booming," said Hornbuckle.

"To kick off the fourth quarter, we had an amazing Golden Week that led to a market share for October of over 15% and an all-time record adjusted property EBITDAR for the month," he added.

The group is currently laser-focused on three key priorities, being, "making opportunistic changes to our casino floor and existing room products to maximize yield, taking care of our mass and premium mass customers, and driving international tourism."

At MGM Cotai, the group will also start remodeling its platinum area for completion early next year. At the MGM Macau, the gaming operator has begun planning a villa upgrade and the addition of six new villas.

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**Notice**

**Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D Application (Type A & B) of 2023**

**I. Applying Entities**

1. Local higher education institutions under the supervision of the Macao SAR Government;
2. Laboratories or other entities engaged in scientific and technological R&D in the Macao SAR;
3. Private non-profit organizations registered in the Macao SAR;
4. Researchers engaged in R&D activities in the Macao SAR.

**II. Types of Application and Application Requirements**

1. Type A: For research projects conducive to enhancing scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability;
2. Type B: For research projects with application-oriented scientific research findings;
3. The amount applied for each project shall not exceed MOP 3,000,000;
4. Each project has a maximum funding duration of 3 years.
5. To support the industry-university-research collaboration in Macao, priority will be given to Projects Type B and C in case of limited budget.

**III. the objectives, support areas and requirements for Supporting Fund and expected project findings of type A & B**

Type A

**A. Objectives**

In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to assist local research institutions and researchers in launching all kinds of in-depth research projects, for the purposes of enhancing their scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability in Macao and maintaining the leading position of Macao's dominant discipline.

**B. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings**

The expected project findings, not limited to academic or applied achievements, may include papers, monographs, research (consultation) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc.

Type B

**A. Objectives and the support Areas**

In line with the Macao SAR Government's policies, FDCT is committed to promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the production of application-based research findings, so as to improve the contribution of scientific and technological innovation to social and economic development in Macao, specially the projects that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.

**B. Requirements for Supporting Fund and Expected Project Findings**

1. The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project;
2. The expected TRL (Technology Readiness Level) of the project proposed shall be TRL 4 or above upon its conclusion.

**IV. Assessment Criteria**

1. The assessment is performed by FDCT according to the Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund as approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 93/2023.
2. Key considerations will be given to the followings: (Please refer to the online Application Guidelines for further information)
  - 2.1 Scientific value and cutting edge
  - 2.2 Competence of the applying entity
  - 2.3 Project planning
3. The priority goes to the collaborative projects jointly proposed by the applying entities and commercial institutions inside or outside Macao.

**V. Application Period**

10th November, 2023 to 11th December, 2023

**VI. Application Method**

The applying entities shall log in the online application system to complete the proposal prior to the deadline of application: <https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>  
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Tel.: 28788777.

President of FDCT Administrative Committee,  
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2023/11/09

MENTAL HEALTH

# HEALTH BUREAU REPORTS 15 SUICIDE CASES FOR Q3

**T**HE Health Bureau (SSM) has reported a 4.3% decline in the number of suicides during the third quarter (Q3) of this year compared to the same period last year.

According to SSM's analysis of suicide-related fatalities, there were a total of 15 confirmed suicides, involving seven males and eight females aged between 15 and 86 years old.

A significant majority (13) of these cases were Macau residents, accounting for 86.7% of the total.

The same officials also noted that when comparing the current year's data to 2022 for the first three quarters (January to September), there is a greater drop in suicide rates at 4.6%.

Data analysis in Q3 suggests that mental illnesses as well as chronic or



physiological illnesses are the primary contributing factors to suicide. SSM added that the causes of suicide are complex and often involve mental health issues, psychological, socioeconomic, family dynamics, interpersonal relationships and biological / genetic factors.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) urges residents to remain vigilant about their psychological and emotional well-being, as well as those of their relatives and friends. In times of need, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525222) or IAS' counseling hotline (28261126). **RM**

INSURANCE

# MANULIFE REPORTS ROBUST GROWTH IN THE SARs FOR Q3 2023

**I**N the third quarter of the year, insurance agency Manulife achieved significant growth in its Macau and Hong Kong offices, with double-digit year-over-year increases in insurance Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) sales, as highlighted in their recent statement.

Third-quarter APE sales and core earnings rose by 57% and 50% to HKD1.64 billion and HKD1.49 billion respectively, compared to the same period in 2022.

The insurer attributed this growth primarily to "a return of demand from mainland Chinese visitors (MCV) following the reopening of borders, as well as robust domestic sales."

Another important factor, the insurer suggested, is the launch of a new product in the third quarter that support late-stage cancer treatment at affordable premiums. The new product "has been receiving a favorable response from



both domestic and MCV customers," and is first of its kind in the market.

New Business Value (NBV) in the third quarter rose by 20% year-on-year to HKD1.03 billion, driven by strong sales volumes, partially offset by changes in product mix. The new business contractual service margin (CSM) in the third quarter increased by 29% to HKD0.98 billion, "further

reinforcing a strong foundation for the company's high-quality and sustainable earnings growth."

The insurer also capped that it had commenced a partnership in the third quarter with a private health facility in Hong Kong and expanded its medical provider network. A new prestigious business center was also opened in Hong Kong. **AL**

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# GalaxyArt Presents Wing Shya +853 Moments in Macau Photography Exhibition at Galaxy Macau™

**G**alaxyArt is an art space located within Galaxy Macau™ Integrated Resort. Since its launching in July 2021, it has actively collaborated with the Macau Special Administrative Region government and relevant organisations to organise various cultural and artistic events. From now to December 29, 2023, GalaxyArt will present Macau's first-ever solo photography exhibition by renowned film director and photographer, Wing Shya, titled Wing Shya +853 Moments in Macau. Curated by Sean Kunjambu, a longtime collaborator of Shya, they invite the audience to experience the photographer's unparalleled cinematic lens. The exhibition creates a journey through visual storytelling, juxtaposing vibrant, intense colors of decades past with the tranquil and serene palettes of the present. This allows the audience to become one with the photographs, immersing themselves into fantastical surroundings.

Born in the 1960s in Hong Kong, Wing Shya is a versatile artist straddling the realms of film, art, design, and fashion. After completing his fine art studies at Emily Carr Institute in Canada, he founded the acclaimed design studio Shya-la-la Workshop. In 1997, appointed as the exclusive photographer and graphic designer, Shya started his collaboration with the renowned movie director, Wong Kar-Wai on *Happy Together*, continued then on *In the Mood for Love*, *Eros* and *2046*.

Nearly 30 years of exploration and demonstration in various art forms have cultivated Shya's unique artistic style, this exhibition includes 3 zones with multimedia effects & immersive experiences. In addition to a selection of Shya's archive photos shot in Macau,



Renowned photographer and film director, Mr. Wing Shya, launched the exhibition at GalaxyArt with international celebrity actors Ms. Gemma Chan and Mr. Lee Jung Jae

the exhibition's highlights include Shya and Kunjambu's creation for a visionary photoshoot for Vogue Hong Kong starring Squid Game actor Lee Jung Jae, transporting audiences to a bygone era by using one of Macau's UNESCO

World Heritage Sites - Mandarin's House. Roaming in this historical gem, Lee became a vision of nostalgic splendence under Shya's thoughtful lens. The exhibition continues with the archive photos taken by Shya of iconic figures

in the film industry, including Gong Li, Gwei Lun-Mei, Du Juan and Huang Xiaoming and more.

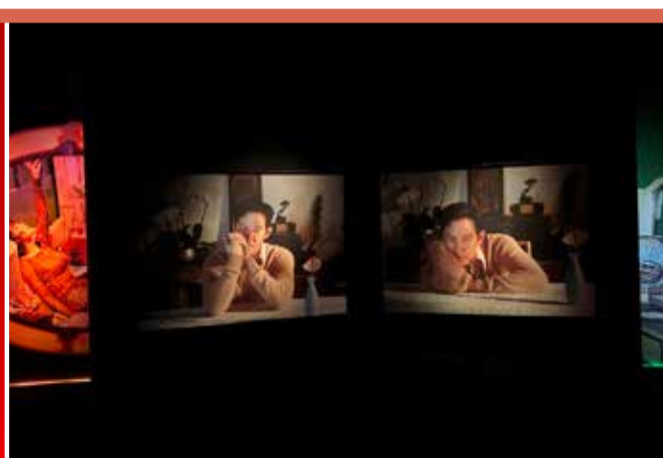
**Exhibition venue:** GalaxyArt, Galaxy Macau™  
**Period:** showing until 29 December, 2023



The exhibition launch presided over by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Foundation and GalaxyArt Executive Director, Mrs. Joanna Lui Hickox



Immersive activations at GalaxyArt of the iconic photography featured in "Wing Shya +853 Moments in Macau"



Mr. Lee Jung Jae photographed by Mr. Wing Shya at Macau UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mandarin's House



Mr. Lee Jung Jae proudly snaps a selfie in front of his photo montage featured in "Wing Shya +853 Moments in Macau" at GalaxyArt



Mr. Lee Jung Jae at the exhibition launch of "Wing Shya +853 Moments in Macau" at GalaxyArt

## ANALYSIS

## US MILITARY IS PLACING A NEW EMPHASIS ON GROUND TROOPS FOR PACIFIC DEFENSE

DAVID RISING, BANGKOK

As Chinese missile testing in the waters around Taiwan grew increasingly aggressive in 1996, the U.S. sailed two aircraft carrier groups to the island that Beijing claims as its own, and China was forced to back down.

It employed a similar response to Hamas' surprise attack on Israel a month ago, dispatching two carrier groups to the eastern Mediterranean in a rapid and massive show of force meant to deter other countries or Iran-backed proxy groups such as Hezbollah from joining the fight.

But what is still viable in the Mideast is increasingly less practical with China, which in 1996 had no carriers of its own and little means to threaten the American ships, but now has the world's largest navy, including three aircraft carriers, and a coastline bristling with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles.

Instead, ongoing exercises in Hawaii, which conclude today, highlight part of a new American approach to Pacific defense and deterrence, with a focus on small groups of mobile land forces operating from islands like those off China's coast.

In the exercises, the largest-scale training held in Hawaii so far, more than 5,000 troops from the 25th Infantry Division, along with units from New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand and Britain and supported by the U.S. Air Force, have been practicing fighting in an island jungle environment against an advanced enemy force, with exercises including paratrooper drops, a long-range air assault, and re-supply by air and sea.

"All of those are examples of the importance of being able to project force here in the Pacific, which first requires seizing and holding ground and building up a base of operations where you can consolidate gains, secure and hold key infrastructure such as an airfield, and then introduce additional combat power," said Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division, in an interview from Wheeler Army Airfield on Oahu.

While the exercises are not officially directed against a specific threat, the U.S. Department of Defense in its report last month to Congress reiterated that it considers China its "pacing challenge" as "the only competitor to the United States with the intent and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order."

Even though China's navy is now larger than that of the U.S. in terms of numbers of ships, the

AP PHOTO



In this photo released by the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force conducts an airdrop during Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC), at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii

U.S. Navy, according to military experts, is still more capable and has 11 carriers to China's three, among other advantages. But where China's main focus is on its nearby waters, the U.S. Navy operates globally and in the event of a Taiwan conflict, it would take time for many of its assets to get to the region.

As part of its "Operation Pathways" revamp of Pacific defense set in motion nearly a decade ago, the U.S. has been increasing its number of exercises with partners in the Indo-Pacific. It has also been re-thinking the way its soldiers and Marines operate in the first island chain off of China, which includes southwestern Japanese islands, Taiwan and the northwest Philippines, and the second island chain, which includes the Mariana Islands and the heavily fortified American territory of Guam.

Those islands give them platforms from which anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles can be launched by mobile units that can quickly relocate to avoid counter battery fire, said Euan Graham, a defense analyst with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

"The U.S. already has a positional advantage by being forward deployed and having allies there, so it wants to utilize that geography in its favor," Graham said. "And that helps the U.S. to overcome its numerical disadvantages as China's navy is continuing to

expand. The U.S. has to do what it can to try and close the gap, and land forces are part of the equation."

Beyond just being able to take and hold positions, the military has to overcome what Evans called a "tyranny of distance" in the Pacific where troops may find themselves on remote islands many hundreds of kilometers away from new supplies of water, fuel and ammunition. Among several new technologies being tested in the ongoing exercises in Hawaii are three variants of an "atmospheric water generator" to produce potable water in field conditions.

Operating from the first and second island chains would require the consent of the countries they belong to, and the U.S. has also been working hard to shore up and expand alliances in the region.

It runs large-scale training exercises with the Philippines, where earlier this year it signed an agreement to expand its use of bases, as well as with South Korea, Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and India.

The exercises provide experience in technical and procedural interoperability and also build human bonds that can be critical in times of crisis.

"We are just finishing up a defense here on the island of Oahu and watching soldiers from Indonesia, Thailand and New Zealand

alongside soldiers from the United States Army dig fighting positions together, experience a crucible of privation -- that challenges, but most importantly forges relationships," Evans said.

On the political level, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin is on his ninth trip to the Indo-Pacific this week with stops in India, South Korea and Indonesia, in which he is to "underscore the depth of the longstanding U.S. commitment to strengthening the Indo-Pacific's dynamic security architecture." Austin's travels overlap with Secretary of State Antony Blinken's own visits to Tokyo, Seoul and New Delhi.

Planning and training by the U.S. and its allies have not been going on in a vacuum, and China has been working hard to extend the operational capability of its navy. It has also developed so-called "carrier killer" missiles able to hit targets at long distances, and a ballistic missile capable of striking Guam.

It launched its first domestically designed and manufactured aircraft carrier in 2022, and that same year signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands in the Pacific, which many say could be used as a port to re-supply Chinese navy ships.

That could give the Chinese navy a better ability to operate well beyond the second island chain and disrupt American supply lines or reinforcements co-

ming from Hawaii -- making it even more important for forward units to buy time in the event of a conflict.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has not ruled out the use of force to take Taiwan, and while the American policy on whether it would come to Taiwan's aid is that of "strategic ambiguity," or not saying how far it is willing to go, U.S. President Joe Biden has said that Washington would intervene militarily.

With tensions rising over Taiwan, the U.S. use of the island chains could both deter China from considering an invasion, and also exact a heavy price if they tried, Graham said.

"Having long-range anti-ship missiles and long-range air defense missiles operated by small groups that are designed to be resilient, and logistically able to operate without resupply under distress, they could do a lot to deter the Chinese from ever thinking about operating in that scenario," he said. "But if push comes to shove, they could impose a cost in terms of attrition of those forces as they move closer to Taiwan."

Aircraft carrier groups would still likely play a large role in a conflict but would more likely be surged in and then quickly moved out, putting them at greater risk than in the past, he added.

"But then," he said, "aircraft carriers are designed to be risked." MDT/AP



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

BACK IN CHINA 50 YEARS AFTER HISTORIC TRIP

# A Philadelphia Orchestra violinist hopes to build ties

**F**IFTY years after the Philadelphia Orchestra's history-making visit to China in 1973 that helped build then-fledgling U.S.-China ties, Davyd Booth hopes for a repeat performance.

The 73-year-old violinist returned to China this week with 13 fellow orchestra members to mark the 50th anniversary of the trip and carry on the ensemble's decadeslong effort to bring the United States and China closer together despite current political disagreements.

"People all over the world are absolutely the same," Booth said yesterday in Beijing, on the eve of their performance with the China National Symphony Orchestra at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

The orchestra's return in itself is a sign of improving ties ahead of a highly anticipated meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping.

There may be differences in governments and religion but people's reaction to music is the same, Booth said after playing piano at a hospital with a violinist and cellist from the orchestra.

"Music touches the hearts of everyone, regardless of where they are in the world, where they grew up," he said.



Philadelphia Orchestra's 73-year-old violinist Davyd Booth in Beijing

The orchestra's trip comes at a fraught time as the world's two largest economies feud over trade, technology, defense and human rights. Both sides hope that the Biden-Xi meeting in San Francisco next week will bring some stability to the relationship, though no ma-

major breakthroughs are foreseen.

Booth noted that a number of Chinese play for the Philadelphia Orchestra, and some of the world's top soloists are Chinese.

"We're so important to each other. I mean, half the things that we use in our life are made in Chi-

na," he said. "Our lives are ... closely entwined, perhaps even more so than the governments would like to admit."

After the 50th anniversary concert in Beijing today, the musicians will later perform at the Tianjin Julliard School and give

chamber concerts in Shanghai and the nearby historic city of Suzhou. They will also offer master classes during their stay.

Booth remembers the trip he made as a 23-year-old violinist, when then-music director Eugene Ormandy brought the Philadelphia Orchestra to China at the request of President Richard Nixon, who a year earlier made his own historic visit to the country.

For Booth, his first trip abroad was eye-opening. Everyone had the same hairstyle and wore the same type of jackets, and he had trouble distinguishing women from men. Looking back, he feels fortunate to have gotten a glimpse of China before it embarked on its rapid path to modernization.

"Beijing was a lot of farm country," he said. "I remember seeing fields where there were farmers working. They had wooden carts, wooden wheels. ... It was just an amazing sight."

Booth returned 20 years later, in 1993, to a changed China on the orchestra's next trip — people no longer wore the same jackets. Watching from his hotel room window, he was astonished by the speed at which a building was going up, adding a new floor every day.

Since then, the full orchestra has made 10 more trips to China and is planning to come again next year. **MDT/AP**

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KAZAKHSTAN

# PUTIN VISITS ASIAN NEIGHBOR, PART OF HIS EFFORTS TO CEMENT TIES WITH EX-SOVIET ALLIES

**R**ussian President Vladimir Putin visited Kazakhstan yesterday, part of his efforts to cement ties with the ex-Soviet neighbor and major economic partner in the midst of tensions with the West over Ukraine.

Putin's talks in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana follow his trip last month to Kyrgyzstan for a summit of ex-Soviet nations and a visit to China.

Speaking at the start of his talks with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Putin hailed "multi-faceted" ties between the countries and said they would determine new areas of "strategic" cooperation.

Oil-rich Kazakhstan and other Central Asian nations have maintained a delicate balancing act, preserving strong economic ties with Moscow but refusing to recognize its annexation of Ukrainian regions.

The Russian leader has made few foreign trips since he sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. The International Criminal Court's move to indict Putin in March for alleged war crimes

connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine has affected his travel as any country that is party to the court is obliged to arrest him on its soil. Kazakhstan isn't part of the agreement that created the tribunal.

Putin's trip to Kazakhstan comes days after French President Emmanuel Macron visited Astana and hailed Tokayev for withstanding geopolitical "pressures," in a hint at Moscow's efforts to keep the neighbor in its orbit.

Relations with Kazakhstan and other former Soviet republics in Central Asia have become increasingly important for Russia as it has sought new import routes to bypass bruising Western sanctions over its actions in Ukraine.

The U.S. and its allies have closely monitored Kazakhstan and other Central Asian nations to make sure they don't serve as conduits for Russia to import Western high-tech products, bypassing the restrictions. Officials in Kazakhstan and other countries in the region have repeatedly pledged to comply with the sanctions.

Russian officials, meanwhile,



Putin with Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev upon his arrival at the International airport outside Astana, yesterday

have voiced concern about what they describe as Western efforts to pull Moscow's allies away from its orbit.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted last month that

the West was aggressively courting Central Asian nations, offering them trade and economic benefits in order to discourage them from maintaining strong ties with Moscow.

He added that while countries of the region are free to choose their partners, Russia will try to protect Central Asian nations from "unscrupulous" overtures by the West. MDT/AP

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DIPLOMACY

# US and South Korea close ranks on common global issues during Blinken visit

MATTHEW LEE &  
KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**T**HE United States and South Korea closed ranks behind common approaches to North Korea, Russia and China yesterday, vowing to continue to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and boosting humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in Gaza caught in Israel's war against Hamas.

In talks with South Korea's leadership, including President Yoon Suk Yeol, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the growing threat posed by North Korea and its alleged provision of military equipment and munitions to Russia to help it wage war on Ukraine, the State Department said. They also spoke of the importance of U.S.-South Korea cooperation on global challenges, including China's assertiveness and the instability in the Middle East.

"They shared concerns about the DPRK's provocations in the region and strongly condemned the provision of military equipment and munitions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation for use in its war against Ukraine," the State Department said of Blinken's meeting with Yoon, referring to North Korea by its formal name.

The Blinken-Yoon meeting also covered improving relations between South Korea and Japan as well as the importance of three-way cooperation between Washington, Tokyo and Seoul, the State Department said.

At a news conference later with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, Blinken said they discussed unspecified further actions the countries could take to intensify pressure on Moscow not to transfer military technology to North Korea in violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions.

North Korea has been supplying artillery shells and other munitions to Russia in recent months to fuel its war efforts in Ukraine, U.S. and South Korean officials have said, and they suspect that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could be seeking Russian technologies and other assistance in return to upgrade his own military.

"We're seeing a two-way street. We're seeing the DPRK provide military equipment to Russia for its brutal aggression against Ukraine but we're also seeing Russia provide technological support

AP PHOTO



Blinken shakes hands with his Korean counterpart Park Jin after a joint news conference in Seoul yesterday

to the DPRK for its own military programs and that's a real concern for the security of Korea," Blinken said.

Blinken also criticized North Korea's ramped up missile testing activity in recent months, which included events it characterized as simulated attacks on South Korea involving tactical nuclear weapons, saying the North is "increasingly engaged in threatening irresponsible rhetoric."

"We've seen the DPRK missile launches, pursue weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile capabilities all of which are in violent violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. They're also dangerous and destabilizing," he said.

Both diplomats urged China — North Korea's main ally and economic lifeline — to take a greater role in pulling the North back from destabilizing behavior, with Park arguing that the potential arms alignment between Russia and North Korea would go against Beijing's interests.

Park also addressed concerns that North Korea could consider providing weapons and other assistance to Hamas, a possibility that has been raised by South Ko-

rean officials in recent weeks.

North Korea, which has blamed the United States for the violence in Israel and Gaza, has a history of selling weapons to Hamas. South Korea's military told reporters last month that North Korean-made rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons were likely used by Hamas during their Oct. 7 assault on Israel.

During a closed-door briefing to lawmakers last week, South Korea's main spy agency said it believes that Kim, the North Korean leader, instructed officials to "comprehensively support" the Palestinians and that the North could be considering selling weapons to militant groups in the Middle East, according to Yoo Sang-bum, one of the lawmakers who attended.

"If any relationship between North Korea and Hamas is revealed then North Korea should be condemned accordingly," Park said. "This crisis that is unfolding in the Middle East is related potentially to the situation on the Korean Peninsula."

The surprise attack on Israel by Hamas has raised concerns in South Korea about the possibility of a similar assault by North Korea

and prompted the Yoon government to openly discuss suspending a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on reducing border tensions to strengthen front-line surveillance on the North. Without elaborating on what was discussed, Blinken said he talked about the inter-Korean agreement during his meetings with South Korean officials and that the allies may further discuss the issue when U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin comes to Seoul for a security meeting next week.

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle. Before Blinken's arrival, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency condemned the visit as well as the upcoming one by Austin, describing them as "warmongers" bringing a "new war cloud" to Asia.

Blinken arrived in Seoul following a G7 foreign ministers meeting in Japan that previewed much of what he was to discuss.

"We reiterate our call for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and demand

that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and any other WMD and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions," the G7 ministers said.

Both North Korea and Russia have denied the accusations that North Korea has been providing Russia with munitions.

On China, the G7 adopted a very similar line to that held by the U.S. — that members are willing to work productively with Beijing as long as it respects international rules and regulations.

"We underscore that China has a responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in their entirety," the ministers said. "We remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas, strongly opposing any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion," the G7 said.

U.S. President Joe Biden is expected to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping next week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum summit in San Francisco. **MDT/AP**

UK

# Home secretary sparks furor by accusing police of favoring pro-Palestinian protesters

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

**B** RITAIN'S interior minister yesterday accused the country's largest police force of being more lenient toward pro-Palestinian demonstrators than other groups, deepening a political feud sparked by the Israel-Hamas war.

In a highly unusual attack on the police, Home Secretary Suella Braverman said London's Metropolitan Police force was ignoring lawbreaking by "pro-Palestinian mobs." She described demonstrators calling for a cease-fire in Gaza as "hate marchers."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was under growing pressure to fire Braverman, a divisive figure popular with the authoritarian wing of the governing Conservative Party. Sunak's spokesperson, Max Blain, said Braverman's article had not been approved by the prime minister's office before publication, but that Sunak still had full confidence in the home secretary.

Pro-Palestinian protests have been held in London and other British cities every weekend since the war began more than a month ago. The government has criticized organizers for planning a march on Saturday because it is Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of World War I, when many in Britain pause to remember victims of war.

The march is a day before the main Remembrance Sunday commemorations, when King Charles III, senior politicians, diplomats, military leaders and veterans are to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial in central London. The planned route does not pass close to the monument, which is steps from Parliament.

Sunak has criticized planned protests on Remembrance weekend as "provocative and disrespectful." But after summoning police chief Mark Rowley for talks on Wednesday, Sunak said the government backed "the right to peacefully protest. And the test of that freedom is whether our commitment to it can survive



Britain's Home Secretary Suella Braverman

the discomfort and frustration of those who seek to use it, even if we disagree with them."

That appeared to end the dispute, but Braverman escalated it dramatically with an article in the Times of London newspaper. She accused the police of acting more leniently toward pro-Palestinian demonstrators and Black Lives Matter supporters than to right-wing protesters or soccer hooligans.

Braverman said "there is a perception that senior police officers play favorites when it comes to protesters," and called demonstrations calling for a cease-fire in Gaza "an assertion of primacy by certain groups," particularly Islamic extremists, "of the kind we are more used to seeing in Northern Ireland," an apparent reference to demonstrations by Irish republican groups.

More than 3,600 people died in 30 years of violence involving Irish republicans, British loyalists and U.K security forces in Northern Ireland. Many politicians there called Braverman's comparison insensitive and inaccurate.

Colum Eastwood, leader of the Irish nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, said Braverman showed "ignorance of the conditions faced by the civilian population in Gaza, ignorance of the role of the Met police, ignorance of the complex history and traditions of marching and protest

in Northern Ireland."

"She has managed to offend just about everyone – no mean feat in a divided society," he said.

Opposition politicians said Sunak's unwillingness to fire Braverman showed weakness on the prime minister's part.

"He must know that this isn't the way that a home secretary should behave," said opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer. "He must know in himself that the role of responsible government is to reduce tension and to support police in the difficult decisions they have to make."

Hundreds of thousands of people have taken part in the Saturday demonstrations since the war began, sparked by Hamas' deadly incursion into Israel on Oct. 7. The protests are organized by left-wing groups and Muslim organizations. There also have been large rallies supporting Israel and demanding Hamas free the hostages it seized in its Oct. 7 attack.

Police say there have been almost 200 arrests across London related to the conflict, including 98 for suspected antisemitic offenses and 21 for alleged anti-Muslim offenses.

Protests can be banned in Britain only if there is a risk of serious disorder. Police said that threshold has not been met, though they are worried that "breakaway groups intent on fueling disorder" may show up, including far-right activists.

The home secretary is responsible for law and order and immigration policy, including the government's stalled plan to send asylum-seekers who arrive in Britain in boats on a one-way trip to Rwanda.

Braverman, a 43-year-old lawyer, has become a leader of the party's populist wing by advocating ever-tougher curbs on migration and a war on human rights protections, liberal social values and what she has called the "tofu-eating wokera-ti."

Critics say Braverman is trying to position herself for a party leadership contest that could come if the Conservatives lose power in an election expected next year. Opinion polls for months have put the party 15 to 20 points behind Labour.

Countries around the world have grappled with how to handle the strong emotions stirred by the Middle East conflict. France's interior minister last month issued an order to local authorities nationwide to ban pro-Palestinian protests, citing risks to public order. France's highest administrative authority overturned the blanket ban a week later and said decisions should be made locally, based on risks to public order.

Since then, France has seen several pro-Palestinian protests, some authorized and peaceful, some banned and quickly dispersed by police. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1982 BREZHNEV RUMOURS SWEEP MOSCOW



Speculation is growing that Leonid Brezhnev, who has ruled the Soviet Union for the past two decades, has died.

Suspicions that a senior Communist party figure had died were fuelled by a sudden change of the television schedules on Wednesday evening.

Light entertainment programmes were replaced by sombre documentaries about the Russian revolution and the Second World War.

Newsreaders on the main evening news bulletin dressed in black but made no announcement of any death.

Mr Brezhnev was last seen in public on Sunday at the traditional Red Square parade in Moscow to mark the anniversary of the 1917 revolution.

The 75-year-old leader had not looked well for several years but there was no indication of his imminent death.

Mr Brezhnev's failure to sign a public message of congratulations to Angola's president on Wednesday - Angola's national day - has fuelled belief he is dead.

The Soviet leader normally signs messages to all "friendly" heads of states so the absence of his signature represents a previously unheard of breach of protocol.

If he has indeed died it will mark the end of an era for the Soviet Union.

Leonid Brezhnev ousted Russia's former leader, Nikita Khrushchev, in a coup in 1964.

He has since been in undisputed control of USSR and its 260 million people.

His control of the fates of another 120 million people in eastern-bloc Communist states was famously demonstrated by the crushing of an attempt to liberalise Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Despite his declining health his grip on power has never weakened and he has outlasted five American presidents.

The delay in confirmation of Mr Brezhnev's death may mean his successor has not yet been chosen.

Commentators say the most likely candidate is Mr Brezhnev's closest colleague, Konstantin Chernenko.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The following day an official announcement was made of Leonid Brezhnev's death.

He had died of a heart attack early on Wednesday morning.

After five days of national mourning he was given a state funeral and buried in the Kremlin in Red Square.

Leonid Brezhnev was succeeded by another Communist hardliner, Yuri Andropov, the former head of the secret police.

In March 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union.

He immediately began a policy of "glasnost" and "perestroika" - openness and restructuring.

Less than a decade later, in 1991, the Soviet Union was consigned to history when the Congress of People's Deputies voted for its dissolution.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may have been trying to do too much, leaving yourself exhausted and open to colds and infections. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20

Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Plan to visit friends or relatives.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21

Sudden good fortune will help you cover your debts. Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Visitors may be likely to drop by. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Changes in your home environment are likely. You may find that your plans will cost a little more than you had expected. Organizations may cost you more than you can afford.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Don't avoid situations that may deteriorate; try to mend them. You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Be supportive in order to avoid confrontations. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Try not to be too lavish with your lover. Read some books on self awareness.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Try to include the one you love in your plans today. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Put your time and energy into home improvement.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Find a quiet spot where you can work diligently and stay out of the way. You have your own family to consider as well. Go after your professional goals.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Get some sound advice and help setting up a workable budget. Don't fall for damaging rumors, and refuse to get involved in gossip.

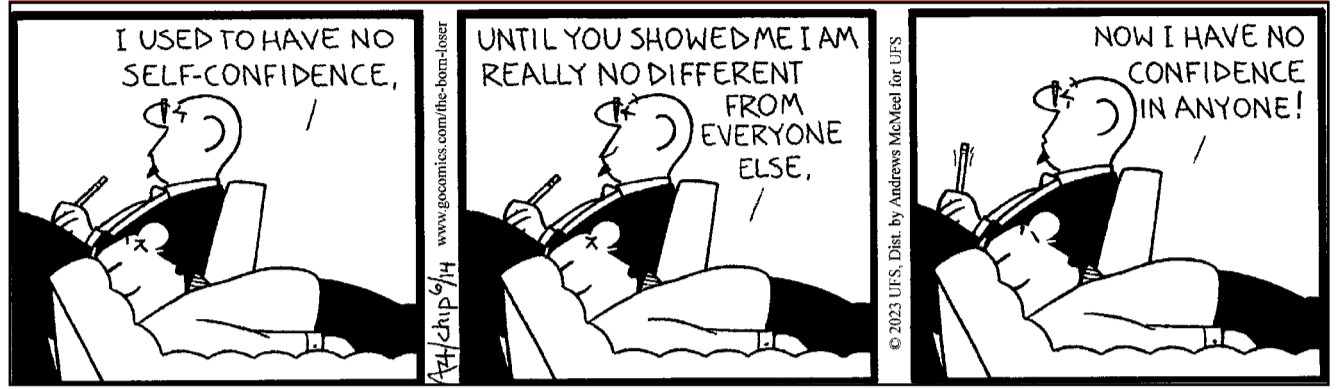
**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively. You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Home improvement projects will go well if you delegate work to all your family members. You need to spend less time daydreaming and more time accomplishing.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

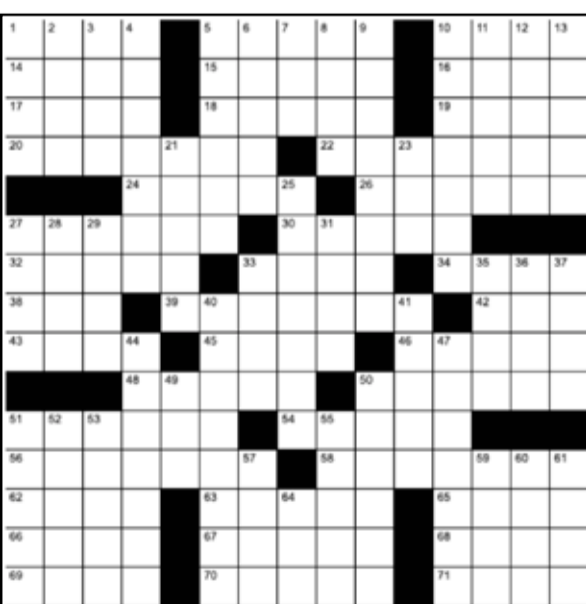
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	8	fine
Changchun	-13	-7	fine
Chengdu	14	22	rain
Chongqing	16	22	cloudy
Fuzhou	20	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	21	27	cloudy
Guiyang	14	21	overcast
Haikou	23	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	14	18	rain
Harbin	-12	-6	fine
Hefei	11	17	rain
Nanjing	12	18	rain
Shanghai	16	20	rain
Taipei	21	28	fine
Wuhan	12	17	rain
Hong Kong	26	28	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	6	fog
Frankfurt	7	11	rain
Paris	7	12	showers
London	17	23	overcast
New York	6	11	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Aloe \_\_\_; 5- Big; 10- Actress Sofer; 14- Wait \_\_\_; 15- Extra-terrestrial being; 16- Author Hunter; 17- Coal-rich region; 18- Large cat; 19- Give for a while; 20- Russian aircraft designer; 22- Love affair; 24- Public transports; 26- Passes by degrees; 27- Pour from one container to another; 30- City on the Rhine; 32- Main artery; 33- Pentathlon need; 34- Architect Saarinen; 38- Retrovirus component; 39- Causes to remember; 42- Corduroy feature; 43- Salinger girl; 45- "Peter Pan" pirate; 46- Ingenuous; 48- Hickory-nut; 50- Primate; 51- Saltworks; 54- Descendant; 56- Three-cornered; 58- Tidal river; 62- Hokkaido native; 63- Crystal-lined rock; 65- Of course!; 66- Lecherous look; 67- Academy award; 68- High schooler; 69- Otherwise; 70- Former Russian rulers; 71- Tibetan beasts;

DOWN 1- Immense; 2- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 3- Get as a result; 4- Performer of gymnastic feats; 5- Current; 6- Not dead yet; 7- Semi; 8- Will of "The Waltons"; 9- Registered; 10- Backslide; 11- 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.; 12- John \_\_\_ Garner; 13- Aconcagua's range; 21- Pertaining to the moon; 23- Fannie \_\_\_; 25- Modern humans; 27- Challenge to complete a task; 28- Seemingly forever; 29- Pull an all-nighter; 31- Lacoste of tennis; 33- Austen novel; 35- Actor Estrada; 36- Split apart; 37- Comply; 40- Edible snail; 41- Snob; 44- Connoisseur; 47- Pension; 49- Brian of Roxy Music; 50- Money-grubbers; 51- Old; 52- The Little Mermaid; 53- Queues; 55- Cupressus; 57- Capone's nemesis; 59- In the Black?; 60- Stink; 61- Cravings; 64- South American tuber;

**Yesterday's solution**



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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**Nam Long (Old Taipa)**  
HKD 10,200/mth 1 2 beds 1 bath

**Coloane Village**  
HKD 9,950/mth 1 bed 1 bath

AD

DRIVE IN

# NICOLAS CAGE FINDS FAME TO BE HIGHLY OVERRATED IN CHILLINGLY FUNNY 'DREAM SCENARIO'

JOCELYN NOVECK, MDT/AP

**QUICK:** What's a good adjective for Nicolas Cage's screen presence? Mercurial, perhaps? Volcanic? Volatile?

How about mundane, schlubby, average? Not the page we'd think to turn to in our Roget's Thesaurus.

Yet here Cage is, channeling his inner drabness to chillingly comic effect in Kristoffer Borgli's "Dream Scenario." As Paul Matthews (heck, even the name is drab), a college professor at nowhere famous, he performs his job with perfect mediocrity, and seems a fairly mediocre husband and dad, too. With his graying beard, wire-rimmed specs and shiny bald spot, Cage's Paul is the guy in the room you ignore.

Until, suddenly, you can't. Because something weird starts happening. Paul starts appearing in people's dreams. Everyone's dreams.

The premise is delicious — and precarious. It recalled for me the setup in a very different movie, "Yesterday," where only one guy on Earth remembers the Beatles. It makes for a fantastic beginning, but you immediately worry how they'll manage to keep it going.

But Borgli, the Norwegian wri-



Nicolas Cage in a scene from "Dream Scenario" (A24)

ter-director making his English-language debut here (Ari Aster co-produces), is aiming for a broader statement about the nature of fame. And while the topic, which he's broached before, may not be original, it's ripe for exploration in the right hands — especially with an actor as inventive and unpredictable as Cage. Fame can be intoxicating, this film is saying, but it can and probably will turn on you in an instant, unless you're Taylor Swift

(OK, we added that last part).

We begin on an autumn day by a suburban swimming pool, where Paul is raking leaves near his teen daughter. Scary things start dropping from the heavens, and suddenly the girl is grabbed by an unknown force and lifted, screaming, into the sky. Dad? He does nothing to help.

It's only the girl's dream. But then there are more. Paul and his patient wife, Janet (Julianne Ni-

cholson, reliably excellent) run into someone at the theater, and she too has dreamed about Paul. At a dinner party, several guests discover to their shock that they've been dreaming about the same person. Yep, Paul.

What's happening? On campus, Paul's students, who mostly chat among themselves during his unremarkable lectures on evolutionary biology, start listening — they're dreaming about him, too.

In many of these dreams, Paul stands by, inexplicably, as others experience peril — slithering alligators, for example. But in real life, for once, Paul has the floor — a man who until now seethed with frustration over his unrealized ambitions as others succeeded. Now, everyone is interested in him.

Borgli never stops to analyze the science of this bizarre development, and frankly, Paul doesn't either. He takes a meeting with a snarky group of branding experts (led by Michael Cera, perfectly cast) who want to market him up the wazoo. They can get him a Sprite commercial! Well, Paul doesn't want that — he just wants a book deal for his biology research. But his ears perk up at the idea of an endorsement from Barack Obama.

("I know Malia," one of these young professionals says.)

One young woman even lets on to Paul that in her dreams, the two have great sex. This is too stunning for the schlubby Paul to ignore, especially when she invites him home to recreate the dream. Needless to say, it doesn't go as well in real life. In fact, the dénouement is utterly, agonizingly humiliating.

And then, everyone's dreams change. Suddenly Paul is the one causing harm. His students, terrified, don't want to see him anymore. He gets sent home from a dinner with friends. He can't even sit in a coffee shop and read a book without a fellow diner spitting on his food.

As for the branding consultants, well, they inform Paul that Obama is off the table — but hey, they could get him time with Joe Rogan or maybe Tucker Carlson.

We won't spoil the ending, but let's just make the obvious point that Borgli is not making a rom-com — is there a word for "horror-com"? We walk away from this funny, sad, scary film acutely reminded that if fame has two sides, one of them is pretty darned horrible.

And perhaps, as you walk home from the multiplex this time, you might even revel in the fact that nobody's paying attention. Obscurity can be underrated.

**"Dream Scenario," an A24 release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language, violence and some sexual content."**  
"Running time: 102 minutes."



BOOK IT

# Broad themes meet niche topics in Fadipe's debut novel

**DARA'S** dream of defying the odds and becoming a partner at her firm is just within reach when Lani enters the picture. This handsome Nigerian man is about to irrevocably change her life, and her best friend's and the newcomer to their book club's lives, too.

Kehinde Fadipe's debut novel, "The Sun Sets in Singapore," brings three expat Nigerian women to the stage to highlight the specific struggles that come with their race, gender and backgrounds — particularly in an upscale and competitive environment like Singapore.

Lani is joining Dara's firm, and the timing is impeccable for undermining the years of cutthroat efforts and ludicrous hours she's sunk into her job trying to secure a partnership. She tells her best friend, Amaka, in hopes they can dig up some dirt on the guy and figure out what to do.

But Amaka, who's trying to keep her workplace romance and the battle over her father's estate thoroughly compartmentalized, is zapped by an immediate attraction to Lani. Her coping mechanism of choice is pricey shoes and handbags, and with the stresses piling up, Amaka's on track to blow through everything her father left.

Then there's Lillian, a former concert pianist who followed her husband from the United States to Singapore in an attempt to escape her demons. But the emotional scars left by the death of her parents at an early age can't be outrun. When she sees Lani, he's the spitting image of her father. The grief, stress and aimlessness that have ruled her life for so long begin to bubble over.

The women find themselves in the same book club, which cycles through tons

of enticing titles that Fadipe has kindly included a list of at the end of the novel. When the women get into discussing the books they've read, it's clearly a statement on the story; halfway through, there's essentially a book report on "Americanah" about the way women oppress each other. It's heavy handed, but it works.

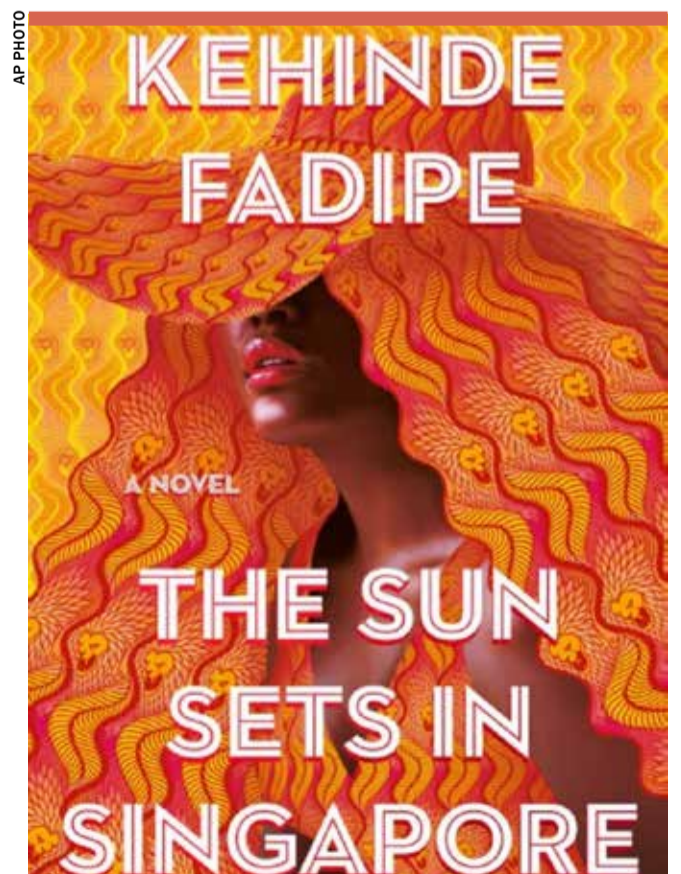
Fadipe's novel tackles broad, common themes: misogyny in the workplace, family strife and love triangles. But it's also exceptionally niche.

Dara loves Greek mythology, Amaka knows designer fashion inside and out, and classical music is embedded in Lillian like DNA. Plus, their very status as Nigerians in Singapore is a rarity that brings up hyper-specific experiences unfamiliar to most Western readers. It's uncomfortable, cool, and confusing all at once. And in the mo-

ments when you know the reference, it's highly rewarding.

"The Sun Sets in Singapore" is charming, sweet, funny and emotional — but also exhausting. Its high drama, quick turns and brutally unrelenting pace demand you keep up or drop out, which makes it all the more disappointing when the pivotal climax is as clear as day with a red flag the size of Singapore waving right in readers' faces for pages. The tone doesn't change between the women's chapters, so I found myself flipping back on multiple occasions to figure out which "she" we were reading about.

Would I read it again? No. Am I glad I read it? Absolutely. Just the opportunity to experience something completely new makes "The Sun Sets in Singapore" worth picking up. **DONNA EDWARDS, MDT/AP**



"The Sun Sets in Singapore" by Kehinde Fadipe. (Grand Central Publishing)

TASTE OF EDESIA

# Herbal Remedy

IRENE SAM, MDT

**A**UTUMN is here and humidity is starting to drop. To warm up the body and improve circulation, turmeric and ginger are some of the best herbs to use during a spa treatment.

This month, **The Ritz Carlton Spa** presents Herbal Poultice Massage, a delightful and relaxing experience combining aromatherapy with herbs to release tension and uplift senses. For the interior design, infusing elements rooted in traditional Chinese and Portuguese architecture, the spa treatment rooms reflect the unique character of Macau. Intimacy, exclusivity, and personalised attention to detail are hallmarks of The Ritz-Carlton standards of hospitality and the spa within The Ritz-Carlton, Macau proves no exception. In addition to its world-class treatments, The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Macau creates an overall exceptional spa experience for all its guests. Therapist Mae from Thailand is one of the best in Macau with her skills in deep tissue massage and tension release techniques.



TASTING KITCHEN

# Natasha Kravchuk from 'Natasha's Kitchen' shares her recipe for her mom's fluffy pancakes

**N**ATASHA Kravchuk's mom (or Baba, as her kids call her) makes these Ukrainian pancakes every Sunday, and every Sunday they are gobbled up. Like American pancakes, they're light and fluffy, but the yeasted batter gives them even more flavor, rise, and substantial texture, and they puff up like doughnuts when they hit the hot oil in the pan.

Kravchuk also loves that the batter is make-ahead friendly, and tastes even better as it sits and ferments in the fridge, which gives what she calls "Baba's Fluffy Oladi Pancakes" a subtle sourdough-like flavor.

**INGREDIENTS**

- Serves: 6-8
- 1 cup water, warmed to 115°F
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons extra-light olive oil or vegetable oil, plus more for the pan
- 2 tablespoons sugar



- 1½ teaspoons instant yeast
- 1¼ teaspoons fine sea salt
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour

Honey or jam of your choice, Sour cream (for serving)

**HOW TO MAKE IT**

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the water, buttermilk, egg, oil, sugar, yeast and salt. Add the flour, 1 cup at a time, whisking to incorporate each addition before adding more. Conti-

nue whisking until the batter is smooth with a thin, cake-batter consistency.

2. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let the batter rise at room temperature for 1½ to 2 hours, or in a warm place (about 100°F) for 1 hour. The mixture should become very bubbly and almost double in size.

3. In a large nonstick or cast-iron skillet over medium heat, add enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan. Working in batches, add heaping tablespoons

of the batter to the hot skillet, spacing them just far enough apart that they aren't touching and can still be flipped easily. Cook the pancakes for about 1½ minutes per side, until golden brown, adding more oil as needed after flipping. Feel free to reduce the heat if you find they're browning too quickly. Continue with the remaining batter, keeping the skillet well-oiled between batches to ensure crisp, tasty, and beautifully golden edges on the pancakes.

4. Transfer the pancakes to a platter and serve warm with honey, raspberry sauce and sour cream.

**PRO TIPS & TRICKS**

This recipe yields a big batch, but you could halve the ingredients for a smaller number of servings. These also reheat very well, so you could make the entire batch and reheat them in the toaster. **NATASHA'S KITCHEN/MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

# GREAT TIMES

Enjoy a 5-star Festive Feast at Home!

**I**t's never too early to plan for the festive season. Celebrate each year on the fourth Thursday in November, a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast with your cherished family and friends is the perfect way to give thanks. MGM has prepared for you a wide selection of festive takeaways, including both à la carte and set options, offering you a five-star celebration right in the comfort of your own home, save your time in the kitchen, leave the stress and hassle of cooking behind and immerse yourself in the joy of the festivities.



The takeaway menu features a variety of classic dishes. Indulge in the Herb Scented Roasted Whole Turkey expertly prepared to perfection, which is golden and crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside, and delicately flavored to tantalize your taste buds, or delight in the succulent Whisky, Orange and Honey Glazed Baked Ham boasting crunchy, charred edges and a sweet and sticky glaze. Be sure to save some space for a delectable range of festive desserts, including the Chestnut Log, Pumpkin Pie and more, to end your meal on the sweetest note and create lasting memories with your loved ones.



Elevate your precious moments with MGM's festive delights and place your order at least three days in advance. For orders and enquiries, please call the Pastry Bar at (853) 8802 2324 or Anytime at (853) 8806 2338. Order now and let the celebration begin!

OPINION

China Daily  
 Editorial, China Daily

**MEETING CAN ADD MORE BALLAST TO STABILIZE RELATIONS**

In yet another sign that relations between China and the United States are being stabilized, Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng is set to meet US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in San Francisco on Thursday and Friday, just before senior finance officials and ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation members officially meet on Saturday.

The new economic and financial forums launched in October by China's Ministry of Finance and central bank and the US Treasury are also to be convened.

In an opinion piece published by The Washington Post prior to her scheduled meeting with He, Yellen said that the United States was seeking "healthy economic competition" with China, not decoupling. "Decoupling our economies would be economically disastrous and run counter to our national interests," she wrote.

The two senior officials met previously in July, when Yellen visited Beijing to try to stabilize the worsening Sino-US relationship amid growing US restrictions on technology. That trip was part of a series of visits by high-level US officials, including those by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

The discussions during those meetings have produced the current upturn in Sino-US relations. But it would be wrong to think that has come by easily with just a few choice words. Given that the past several years have seen the two sides lock horns with each other on trade and technology issues, the Taiwan question and the South China Sea issue, raising fears that they might be heading toward direct conflict, there have been a great deal of efforts needed to clear the air and calm the gathering tempest.

Fortunately, the top leaders of the two countries have kept their eyes on the bigger picture, and have accepted the need to jointly build "guardrails" to manage the differences between the two sides. Thus concrete actions have been taken to keep key channels of communication open that serve to avoid misunderstandings and reduce the risk of miscalculations.

The more pragmatic approach that the US has taken toward China may have also resulted from the fact that even as US policymakers have sought ways to cut ties with China, the two economies remain deeply intertwined.

As economists have noted, even though the US may be reallocating its sourcing and imports away from China, it remains connected with and dependent on China through the third parties.

As the Chinese leader has repeatedly stressed, the common interests of China and the US far outweigh their differences, and the two countries stand to gain from cooperation, while they will only lose from confrontation.

It is time for the two sides to turn what they have agreed upon into substantial results that can benefit both countries.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and her Chinese counterpart will meet in San Francisco today [Macau time] to start two days of talks aimed at making progress on a slew of economic issues when competition has markedly intensified between their countries.

Yellen's talks with Vice Premier He Lifeng are designed to help lay the groundwork for an expected meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping next week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, which would be their first engagement in nearly a year.

The White House is not expecting the face-to-face meeting to result in major changes to the relationship between the two nations, according to a person familiar with the planning, although it hopes to see some signs of progress.

Analysts say expectations should be kept low, given the competitive nature of the countries' relationship.

Ahead of the meeting, China's state media laid out Beijing's major concerns: the Biden administration's China policy, supply chain curtailments, restrictions on high-tech products such as advanced chips, and tariffs on Chinese products.

AP PHOTO



SOUTH KOREA

**AN INDUSTRIAL ROBOT CRUSHED A WORKER TO DEATH AT A VEGETABLE PACKING PLANT**

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

An industrial robot grabbed and crushed a worker to death at a vegetable packaging plant in South Korea, police said yesterday, as they investigated whether the machine was defective or improperly designed.

Police said early evidence suggests that human error was more likely to blame rather than problems with the machine itself. But the incident still triggered public concern about the safety of industrial robots and the false sense of security they may give to humans working nearby in a country that increasingly relies on such machines to automate its industries.

Police in the southern county of Goseong said the man died of head and chest injuries Tuesday evening after he was snatched and pressed against a conveyor belt by the machine's robotic arms.

Police did not identify the man but said he was an employee of a company that installs industrial ro-

bots and was sent to the plant to examine whether the machine was working properly.

South Korea has had other accidents involving industrial robots in recent years. In March, a manufacturing robot crushed and seriously injured a worker who was examining it at an auto parts factory in Gunsan. Last year, a robot installed near a conveyor belt fatally crushed a worker at a milk factory in Pyeongtaek.

The machine that caused the death on Tuesday was one of two pick-and-place robots used at the facility, which packages bell peppers and other vegetables exported to other Asian countries, police said. Such machines are common in South Korea's agricultural communities, which are struggling with a declining and aging workforce.

"It wasn't an advanced, artificial intelligence-powered robot, but a machine that simply picks up boxes and puts them on pallets," said Kang Jin-gi, who heads the investigations department at Gosong Police Station. He said police were

working with related agencies to determine whether the machine had technical defects or safety issues.

Another police official, who did not want to be identified because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters, said police were also looking into the possibility of human error. The robot's sensors are designed to identify boxes, and security video indicated the man had moved near the robot with a box in his hands which likely triggered the machine's reaction, the official said.

"It's clearly not a case where a robot confused a human with a box -- this wasn't a very sophisticated machine," he said.

According to data from the International Federation of Robotics, South Korea had 1,000 industrial robots per 10,000 employees in 2021, the highest density in the world and more than three times the number in China that year. Many of South Korea's industrial robots are used in major manufacturing plants such as electronics and auto-making. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



**Japan** Nissan's profit zoomed up more than 10-fold in July-September from a year earlier, boosted by a weak Japanese yen and strong vehicle sales around the world. The Japanese automaker, allied with Renault SA of France, reported a 190.7 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) profit in the last quarter, up from 17.4 billion yen the year before. Quarterly sales surged 25% to 3.15 trillion yen (\$20.9 billion), the company said Thursday.

**Ukraine** A Russian missile strike on the Ukrainian port of Odesa hit a Liberian-flagged freighter, killing a port worker and injuring three citizens of the Philippines, who are crew members on the ship, Ukraine's armed forces said. The report did not give the name of the ship or the country of its owners, but Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said the ship was to carry iron ore to China. The extent of the damage was not immediately reported. Another port worker was injured in the attack along with the one killed.

AP PHOTO



**Spain** Veteran Spanish right-wing politician Alejandro Vidal-Quadrás (pictured) has been taken to a hospital in Madrid after being shot on a street in the capital, police said yesterday. Police said he was shot in the face on a central street at around 1:30 p.m. local time and was conscious when taken to a hospital. According to Spanish state news agency EFE, police believe the shooter was a person who escaped the scene on a motorbike wearing a black helmet.

**French** President Emmanuel Macron opened a Gaza aid conference yesterday with an appeal for Israel to protect civilians as it fights Hamas, saying "all lives have equal worth" and that fighting terrorism "can never be carried out without rules." The gathering in Paris brought together officials from Western and Arab nations, the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations.