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TWO FORMER CONTRACTORS IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO PRISON AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY OF BRIBING AN EXECUTIVE AT A MACAU HOTEL P5

EU OFFICE HEAD TO SARS ACKNOWLEDGES DIFFERENCES WITH CHINA ON POLITICAL ASPECTS P4

EV SALES IN US TO HIT RECORD, BUT STILL LAG BEHIND CHINA AND GERMANY P7



Thailand's Cabinet this week approved an amendment to its civil code to allow same-sex marriage, with an expectation for the draft to be submitted to Parliament next month. Karom Polpornklang, a government spokesperson, said the amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code will change the words “men and women” and “husband and wife” to “individuals” and “marriage partners” for same-sex couples to be able to receive the same rights that heterosexual couples receive.



Germany Hundreds of police officers searched the properties of Hamas members and followers in Germany yesterday following a formal ban on any activity by or in support of the militant group. The German government implemented the ban on Nov. 2 and dissolved Samidoun, a group that was behind a celebration in Berlin of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

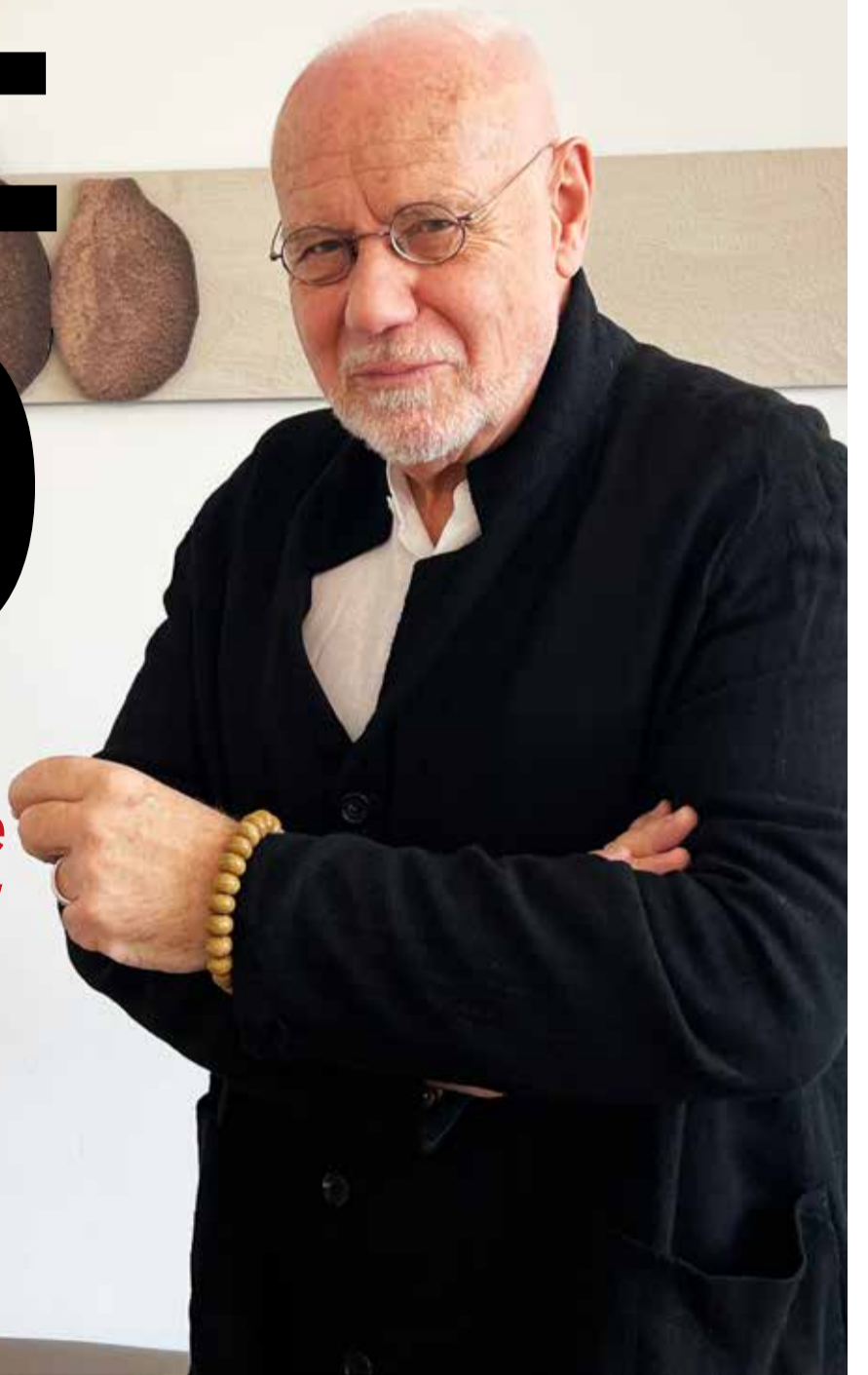


Finnish border guards and soldiers began erecting barriers including concrete obstacles topped with barbed-wire at some crossing points on the Nordic country's lengthy border with Russia to better control an influx of migrants, officials said. Finland said it will close three more crossing points, leaving only one Arctic point open for migrants seeking asylum. Some 600 migrants without proper visas and documentation, mostly from the Middle East and Africa, have arrived in Finland this month.

LYNZY VALLES

TAKE TWO

Asia-Europe International Youth Film Festival to take place in Macau in January under the guidance of defunct film festival founding-father Marco Müller P2-3



GREEN WAY EURO CHAMBER MARKS DECADE WITH GREEN FORUM P4



TASTE OF EDESIA

Q&A MARCO MÜLLER
FILM VETERAN

Macau to serve as a 'switch' in bridging

LYNZY VALLES

VETERAN film festival curator and director, Marco Müller, is set to launch a new festival in Macau in January, aiming to connect filmmakers and producers from Europe, Asia and Macau.

The Asia-Europe International Youth Film Festival will provide opportunities for young, emerging filmmakers to engage with the production and sales industries behind arthouse cinema in Europe and various parts of Asia.

Scheduled from Jan. 5 to Jan. 11, Müller regards the festival in Macau as an open door for fostering exchanges within the city's thriving film industry. In an exclusive interview with the Times, the film veteran described the festival's aim to be an "international switch" for different regions to collaborate on producing and promoting film productions by young filmmakers.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Welcome back to Macau! It has been few years since Macau has hosted a large-scale film festival. Could you tell us how you came up with this idea?

Marco Müller (MM) – I really could not afford to lose touch with what is happening in terms of new filmmakers because that is quite exciting about Macau. There is a fresh wave of new filmmakers who are re-connected with China and very often they support each other.

I have a long history with Macau. The first time I came to Macau to discuss the possibility of creating a large-scale international event was back in 1994. The Portuguese governor had invited the then former director of the film institute to bring a small team to Macau to organize a festival. In that sense, it has been an ongoing project, and that is why I devised another project for Macau.

MDT – What is the directive for this project?

MM – We have a new idea of creating a film festival centered

on young cinema, focusing solely on Asia and Europe.

It made a lot of sense to avoid creating another huge global event, and instead to do some serious groundwork to create a festival of emerging cinema. In Macau, there are still a lot of new filmmakers. No matter which angle you look from, Macau continues to be a cosmopolitan place. I think Macau has really confirmed its place as a unique platform for international exchanges. That was the idea for me – even back in 1994 – that Macau is a very special, hospitable environment and boasts a tradition of bridging different cultures between China, Asia and Europe. That is why we decided to focus on Chinese, Asian, and European filmmakers.

MDT – What can we expect from the festival's inauguration?

MM – We are planning a so-called 'edition zero' as a pilot phase to understand what it means to bring some of the top contemporary filmmakers to Macau. We have to understand how big the audience will be. We very much cherish the young Macau audience, but we should also gauge whether there will be interest from viewers from Hong Kong and mainland China. The festival will be really exciting if filmmakers can feel the pulse of young viewers.

MDT – You are a film veteran and a prestigious film director. How will you differentiate this festival from the many festivals you have previously directed?

MM – The main insight I have gained from 40 years of experience is that every period in film production and creation is unique. I aspire to create something that can act as a tool to understand what is evolving and changing in film. That is why we have to focus on young and emerging directors.

MDT – What is your take on the city's local talent in young and emerging directors?

MM – Short film showcases reveal that most short fil-



mmakers have yet to graduate, so I think this has proven that there are multiple generations of new Macau filmmakers. There are probably at least two generations of new Macau filmmakers and that is a very good sign. Because most of them are working not only in the Macau industry, which is very small, but they also have very strong connections with the Hong Kong and mainland film industries.

Again, that shows me that Macau is an essential piece in connecting the different parts of Greater China cinema.

MDT – With the integration and expansion of the GBA, and borders being fully opened, what lies ahead for the local sector?

MM – Macau's local film industry cannot be compared to the solidity of the Hong Kong film industry, even in terms of the different production centers. Guangzhou, Canton, is again another big attraction center for film production and industry. Macau needs to become the switch so all these parts can tap into the market. Even in the GBA project – a place like Macau is needed. Guangzhou and Canton will always stay in their own individual markets. However, Macau, historically, has had cinema for several decades but is now at an exciting phase that started six or seven

years ago because young mainland filmmakers have begun working for television and started making short films and documentaries.

It is a place where you can foster film culture, but does that mean there is a local audience for a festival? We have yet to determine the local audience's appetite and that is why we need a zero edition.

MDT – So the purpose of this is to understand the market?

MM – The market angle is a completely different story. In a sense, that was always my intention from the beginning. That Macau should really be the meeting place where industry from Greater China can meet with the industry from non-Chinese regions. In that respect, it is very important to focus on China-Asia and Europe and to be able to foster that connection. Not much has happened in recent years in terms of production. I think through Macau, you can really create a new platform for continuous exchange.

MDT – The government has also been committed to boosting non-gaming elements and economic diversification. With Macau being able to allocate a good amount of resources, do these provide enough advantages to meet the festival's objectives?

MM – The resources are im-

portant to make sure that we can invite key players in the Asian and European market to come to Macau each year and meet with their Chinese counterparts. This is something that cannot happen at the Shanghai or Beijing film festival.

The main reason for that is simply that they are huge events. Shanghai shows almost 400 films, and Beijing shows over 200 films. When you have a more focused environment, as is the case here, you can capitalize on a concentrated environment where people will not be distracted by many events happening concurrently.

I really think that the birth of the new festival in Macau and the birth of an international festival will also mean that this can become a permanent series of events, with workshops and exchanges fostered with China, Asia, and Europe.

MDT – There was a long pause in having film festival, attributed to the pandemic. Do you foresee a significant comeback for film festivals? I know the festival is intended to test the waters, but do you think it is possible to boost the interest of the market when the festival commences?

MM – It can be a balancing act. We need to continue walking the thin line between industry and art, commerce and pure creation. In that sense, we have to

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filmmakers from Europe and Asia

respect the fact that there will be an interest from the Asian and European film industry.

We are not just focusing on films, but we are also trying to bring about quality commercial cinema.

MDT – How has the direction of young and emerging filmmakers evolved?

MM – When I started watching the first batch of films from Macau filmmakers, I was surprised by the diversity. In a way, that reflects the diversity of film creation by young Chinese filmmakers in all territories. They are not just going in one direction. They are exploring different directions. I know it's a paradoxical statement, but they are moving forward in a 360-degree way. Some of them are going in a very precise arthouse direction but others are trying to reinvent their work. The current cinema cannot be compared to cinema pre-pandemic period, because it

has to be more exciting and has to compete with original works.

In the post-pandemic era, all Chinese territories will soon become the largest global market in terms of box office productions.

MDT – Tell us more details about the festival.

MM – We are thinking of two different parts: on one hand we need high visibility. We have already invited nearly 20 top contemporary filmmakers to Macau. Nobody says no when Macau is the destination.

MDT – Why do you think so?

MM – They still consider Macau to be an exotic place. They know China, but Macau is not 100% China. If the festival is successful, we will have to think of how to cater to the new people once they've done the trip to Macau. We have invited filmmakers to deliver masterclasses and bring

forth new ideas on filmmaking. That is the best basis for continuous exchange with the young viewers.

MDT – Can you give us some names of people who will be in attendance?

MM – One person who definitely wants to come is Japanese film director and screenwriter Ryusuke Hamaguchi. The second person is an old friend, Luca Guadagnino, director of Call Me By Your Name. They are huge names in the Chinese language territories and are regarded as icons in contemporary cinema. The fact that they have accepted invitations to deliver masterclasses and meet with young filmmakers is a very strong starting point.

MDT – So the idea is that this 'zero edition' can enhance Macau's base as a cultural platform?

MM – We are enhancing Macau's role as an international swi-

ch, surpassing the idea of merely being a platform. That is why even in the GBA, while all the other parts are larger than Macau, their connections are facilitated by Macau.

MDT – How confident are you about Macau's young filmmakers?

MM – A perfect example is the Macau director who recently won Best New Director nomination at Golden Horse Awards in Taipei. This confirms our belief in nurturing new directors.

MDT – Are we talking about betting big?

MM – Yes. That really falls within the tradition of Macau.

MDT – Tell us how the buyer-meet-filmmakers interaction work?

MM – We want to understand if it is possible for companies from China, Asia and Europe to meet with mainland China buyers in

Macau. It is important that we offer them a very special, focused environment so Chinese buyers can purchase the new films. The 'work in progress lab' is something that I devised to allow potential partners and agents to evaluate the unfinished film, a rough cut, or at least some edited scenes. They can then decide if they want to invest in the film or present the film. That is a key element in the internationalization of Chinese cinema. We are inviting directors and delegates of all important film festivals in Europe and Asia to observe these future avenues, including works of the new generation of Chinese filmmakers.

MDT – So this festival opens doors?

MM – Absolutely.

MDT – What is your perspective on the current landscape of the film industry in Macau?

MM – What is really important is that young filmmakers have learned to work with Hong Kong and the mainland industry, and have become their own embryonic film industry.

It is important to create an international event that will also feature industry players, as local producers need investors from outside Macau.

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ADANI GROUP TO BID FOR DUTY-FREE SHOPS AT MACAU INT'L AIRPORT

Indian airport major Adani Group has set up a company in Macau with the intention to bid to operate duty free shops at the SAR's international airport. As reported by The Times of India, in a BSE filing, Adani Enterprises said its subsidiary Mumbai Travel Retail Pvt Ltd (MTRPL) "has completed the incorporation process of its wholly-owned subsidiary, namely 'MTRPL Macau Ltd,' in Macau on November 20, 2023," with an authorised share capital of MOP25,000. The purpose of this company is to bid for the tender of duty-free liquor and tobacco shops at Macau International Airport.

HK'S TRANSPORT OFFICE ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF HZMB QUOTA SCHEME

The Transport Department (TD) announced yesterday that the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau governments will extend the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Greater Bay Area (GBA) Quota Scheme (Trial Phase). Eligible quota holders of Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars will receive invitation letters from the TD from late November to submit applications from December 1 this year. Under the Trial Phase, eligible Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars must have been allocated under the regular quota for travelling between the SARs via the HZMB, and one of the land crossings for travelling between Hong Kong and Guangdong. Some 400 Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars will stand to benefit from the Trial Phase.

RETAIL REVENUES HIT MOP20B IN Q3

The value of retail sales surged by 80.1% year-on-year to MOP20.19 billion in the third quarter of 2023, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The sales value of Chinese Food Products soared by 439.9% year-on-year, and notable increases were also recorded in the sales values of Leather Goods (+148.1%), Department Stores (+123.5%), Adults' Clothing (+119.6%) and Watches, Clocks & Jewellery (+115.4%). By contrast, the sales value of Supermarkets decreased by 11.3%. The value of retail sales in the third quarter of 2023 dipped by 5.9% when compared with the revised figure (MOP21.45 billion) of the previous quarter.



EURO CHAMBER MARKS DECADE WITH GREEN FORUM

ANTHONY LAM

THE Macau European Chamber of Commerce celebrated its first decade of establishment with The Green Way Macao forum yesterday.

The Green Way forum is an initiative to discuss eco-friendly solutions and has been held twice in Hong Kong. This event is the first time it has been held in Macau.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong and Ambassador Thomas Gnocchi, head of office, EU Office to Hong Kong and Macau were officiating guests. In addition, Lionel Leong, Council of Advisors member at Boao Forum for Asia, gave a keynote speech.

In his speech, Lei thanked the EU Offi-

ce and the chamber for "bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to the event, offering valuable opportunities to enjoy the rich dialogue and contribute in this Green Way context."

He then reiterated that Macau is working towards economic diversification through the strategy of "1+4," which identifies the four auxiliary sectors that are supported by the main pillar of tourism.

Meanwhile, Gnocchi pointed out that to achieve sustainability and a green economy, governments, businesses, academics and civil society should work together to discuss solutions and take action.

He also stated that the

EU had reduced carbon emissions by 25% since 1990, while the economy had grown by 60%. "Decarbonization doesn't have to come at the expense of economic growth," he concluded.

The next EU target is to cut net emissions by 55% by 2030 and to become the world's first carbon-neutral continent by 2050. Gnocchi described the target as ambitious.

Leong presented his proposal for a series of targets starting with the letter A. He said that the world should seek alternatives and foster accountability to gain awareness while adding value that provides affordability; all as a call to action targeting an agenda with all effort under an "armistice."

MACAU EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EU OFFICE HEAD APPOINTED TO SARS SAYS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT 'NOT SO COMMON GROUND' WITH CHINA

ANTHONY LAM

THOMAS Gnocchi, head of office, EU Office to Hong Kong and Macau, suggested there are political topics on which the EU and China did not agree.

On the sidelines of a business event, Gnocchi was asked, after the resumption of normality, how Macau is represented in overall EU-China relations.

He stated that EU and China have a lot of shared interests, providing sustainability and environmental protection as examples. Green topics, sustainability and climate change are topics that will be discussed not only with mainland China, but also with Macau.

Gnocchi was then asked about topics that both sides

did not agree upon.

"We have spoken to the Macau authorities on areas such as the National Security Law and legislative assembly elections ... Probably, these two areas... We believe they have an impact on 'One country, two systems,'" Gnocchi said.

When asked about how Macau can attract talented individuals to develop its economy, the EU official admitted that talented people are needed in many areas in Macau. His suggestion is that Macau should consider how it can make itself attractive to European interests.

"Although many European companies possess the know-how, they must be able to bring in experts [if they choose to expand to Macau]," Gnocchi added.



ONE SHOT NEWS



A peculiar Traffic Police officer caught the attention of passersby yesterday, with photos and videos of the cute cartoon-like officer flooding social media platforms. According to the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the 'cute traffic police officer' walking through the city was shooting a new campaign aiming to call attention to road traffic and safety as well as appropriate crossing locations.

The promotional materials, soon to be fully released, are designed to address an increasing number of tourists taking photographs of the streets for their social media pages. This trend has led to some unfortunate accidents, prompting the PSP to closely monitor certain locations and issue fines to offenders.

CRIME

HK air-con contractors jailed for bribing Macau hotel executive

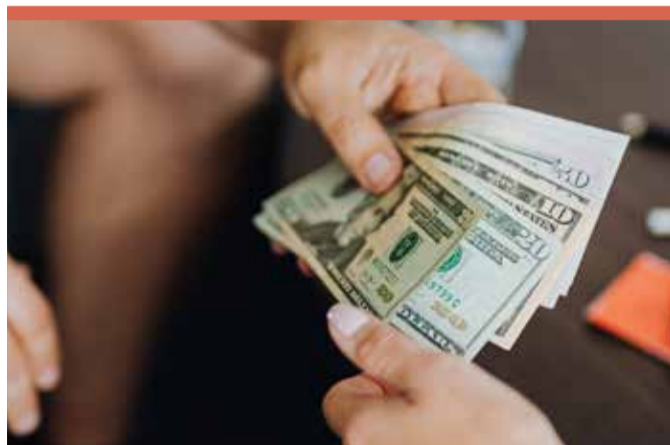
ANTHONY LAM

TWO former air-conditioning maintenance contractors in Hong Kong have been sentenced to prison after being found guilty of bribing an executive at a Macau hotel.

The news was announced by the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in a statement earlier this week.

According to ICAC reports, the bribes amounted to over HKD1 million, while the intended service contract was valued at about HKD34 million.

Woo Tak-hoi, 56, the then director of Wai Luen Air-conditioning Limited, received



a two-year prison sentence after being convicted of two counts of conspiracy to offer advantages to an agent.

Li Kin-wang, 60, previously the senior sales manager of Oh Luen Air Conditioning Equipment Limited, received a jail term of one and a

half years. He pleaded guilty to the two bribery charges along with three other counts of offering advantages to an agent.

Since 2013, Oh Luen had been an approved supplier of resort operator Wynn Resorts (Macau) S.A. The

court heard that Li became acquainted with a then director of Wynn in 2014. The then director solicited bribes from Li in exchange for opportunities for Oh Luen to submit quotations or tenders to Wynn for air-conditioning system maintenance services. Both Woo and Li agreed to provide kickbacks to the director to secure more businesses for Oh Luen.

Between June 2014 and July 2015, Li offered three bribes totaling over HKD450,000 to the director via cheque or bank transfer in Hong Kong. During the period, business between Oh Luen and Wynn increased.

Between November 2016 and January 2017, Woo and Li conspired in Hong Kong to pay two bribes totaling HKD560,000 to the director.

ICAC enquiries revealed that between 2014 and 2017, Wynn had awarded numerous air-conditioning maintenance contracts worth around HKD\$34 million in total to Oh Luen.

The ICAC expressed gratitude to the local Commission Against Corruption for its assistance during their investigations.

POLICY ADDRESS 2024 | ECONOMY & FINANCE

NO COMPENSATION FOR 3 YEARS WITHOUT CASH INJECTION INTO PROVIDENT FUND

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, confirmed at the Legislative Assembly (AL) that the absence of funds injected into eligible residents' Provident Fund accounts over the past three years will not be compensated.

Lei reiterated that under law, the government can only utilize surplus funds to distribute MOP7,000 to each permanent resident, clarifying that this distribution is not a mandatory annual payout. As such, there is no basis to compensate for the shortfall, as the government has fulfilled its obligations under the law and is not authorized to make a special distribution without a law that supports the measure.

The Secretary remarked that during the three-year period, the government provided special support to the population. Such support measures were of a much higher value than the funds usually injected into the Fund accounts.

Responding to calls for more support and benefits, Lei previously stated that the government has already allocated approximately 30% of the 2024 annual budget to benefits, tax exemptions, and other welfare measures. **RM**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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POLICY ADDRESS 2024 | ECONOMY AND FINANCE

GOV'T FORECASTS GAMING REVENUE TO REACH MOP202B THIS YEAR

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, said earlier at the Legislative Assembly (AL) that the local gaming industry is projected to conclude 2023 with gross gaming revenue (GGR) totaling MOP202 billion.

He predicted a further increase to MOP216 billion next year based on government studies, and stated that the government hopes for all involved to "do their share of work so that this goal can be reached."

Based on these positive forecasts, the Secretary said that the government could resume measures that directly benefit the population such as reins-

tating the annual injection of MOP7,000 into the permanent residents' Provident Fund accounts. He additionally anticipated a return to growth in Financial Reserve accounts, which were used to sustain the economy over the pandemic.

Responding to lawmakers' queries on gaming operators fulfilling their contracts, Lei assured that, "All operators are meeting their duties without major issues. Any time

an issue arises, the operators swiftly resolve the problem so contract terms are met."

Addressing concerns about an alleged workers' blacklist among the concessionaires that would preclude the employment by other concessionaires of workers who had previously had problems while working for one of the concessionaires, Lei remarked that such a list "is impossible exist" as there is no legal pro-

vision allowing the operation of a blacklist.

The Secretary referred to a previous investigation by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), but the investigation concluded that some workers had been rejected by certain casinos due to failing background checks, although Lei did not elaborate on the nature of such checks.

José Pereira Coutinho, who initially raised the topic, has

said that concessionaires are making use of warning letters and other tools to apply pressure on employees who voice discontentment with some of the policies and practices of the companies, which infringe upon these workers' rights.

In response, Lei requested further information and evidence to allow DSAL and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau to act on the allegations.

GOV'T RENTAL EXPENDITURE DECREASES

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong confirmed at the AL that government has been reducing spending on renting private spaces and venues to host public services.

In response to an inquiry from lawmaker Lei Chan U, the Secretary disclosed that annual spending on rent has decreased from the previous MOP70 million to the current MOP54 million.

Still, the Secretary noted that there is still

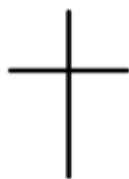
a lot of work to do as most of the government departments and services due to vacate private buildings have yet to do so as the public facilities that will host them are not yet complete.

He also acknowledged that while some of the MOP16 million in savings comes from moving services into publicly owned spaces, the majority comes from successful renegotiation of rental fees with landlords, particularly during the pandemic period.



OBITUARY

AD



ARNALDO ERNESTO DOS SANTOS

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Arnaldo Ernesto dos Santos on 16th November, at the Kiang Wu Hospital, at the age of 63. The wake and mass will be held at the Diocesan Mortuary House, on **25th November 2023 at 20:00.**

On 26th November 2023 at 11:00, a mass will be held at the Diocesan Mortuary House, followed by the funeral service at the crematorium in Zhuhai.

Our family expresses the most sincere gratitude to everyone in supporting and honouring his life. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.



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EV

US sales to hit record this year, but still lag behind China and Germany

ALEXA ST. JOHN

ELECTRIC vehicle sales are expected to hit a record 9% of all passenger vehicles in the U.S. this year, according to Atlas Public Policy. That will be up from 7.3% of new car sales in 2022.

It will be the first time more than 1 million EVs are sold in the U.S. in one calendar year, probably reaching between 1.3 million and 1.4 million cars, the research firm predicts.

Although the numbers show significant progress for electri-

fication, the nation is lagging behind countries like China, Germany and Norway.

EVs reached 33% of sales in China, 35% in Germany, and 90% in Norway for the first six months of 2023, according to a BloombergNEF EV outlook published in June. These figures include both battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid EVs.

In those countries, ambitious government zero-emissions targets, vehicle tax incentives and subsidies, and affordable options play a role in a consumer's decision to adopt a plug-in vehicle.

Several factors helped boost U.S. EV adoption this year, but in a word, prices have gone down.

Tesla, the current EV market leader, dropped the prices for its popular vehicles multiple times throughout the year. This forced other automakers to try to keep up. Car companies are also now offering greater incentives on their electric models, and dealers are discounting more deeply as EV supply builds up at dealerships.

The Inflation Reduction Act, which increased tax credits for qualifying new and used EV pur-

chases, also helped bring EV costs down for buyers, by \$3,750 or \$7,500, depending on certain requirements.

Electric car battery costs are also falling as critical battery materials like lithium get less expensive, making the vehicles increasingly affordable, too.

But even as U.S. EV market share grows steadily, hurdles still stand in the way for some car buyers considering electric. Early EV buyers were largely higher-income, willing to try unfamiliar technology, and more likely to be able to charge their electric vehi-

cles at home. The auto industry needs to address disparities with these factors as it targets the next wave of EV shoppers.

For many consumers, unreliable and inaccessible public charging infrastructure, as well as the increased upfront cost of going electric, remain barriers, according to BloombergNEF. Last month, new EVs still cost on average \$3,826 more than the average new car, going for \$51,762 versus \$47,936, Kelley Blue Book estimates.

To combat some infrastructure challenges, several major automakers have signed on to Tesla's charging technology. Tesla has long used the North American Charging Standard for its EV plugs, and it has also had the strongest public charging network. The rest of the industry has largely operated on one called CCS, or the Combined Charging System. Incorporating Tesla's tech will give non-Tesla EV drivers more opportunity to charge elsewhere, and alleviate charging concerns. But those changes won't start to kick in until next year and 2025.

The industry is also grappling with concerns over an EV market slowdown. Some automakers, including Ford Motor Co. and General Motors, are scaling back on their electrification targets.

But at the same time, many non-domestic car companies are amping up their plans. Consumers can expect Chinese EV-makers such as BYD to find their way to the U.S. market in the coming years.

Several U.S. states have set target dates by which they expect vehicle sales to be majority zero-emissions. California and Washington have mandated that 100% of new vehicles sold in the state be zero-emission by 2035, while New Jersey will ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by that same year. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy supports Tung Sin Tong with MOP700,000 donation



For the 20th consecutive year, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has provided support to Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society's annual fundraising campaign by donating MOP700,000 for

its activities and services.

Since 2004, GEG has maintained a close relationship with Tung Sin Tong.

In addition to supporting its annual fundraising

campaign, GEG also collaborates with Tung Sin Tong to organize and support an array of community initiatives. These include regular visits by GEG's volunteer team to the Elderly Activity Center of Tung Sin Tong to offer festive blessings and gift packages.

Earlier this year, GEG invited students from the Tung Sin Tong Primary School to celebrate "Earth Day" at the Galaxy Kidz Edutainment Center at Galaxy Macau, where they learned about the importance of environmental protection and were introduced to GEG's latest green initiatives.

Sands China holds Grand Prix themed activities



Sands China held a series of Grand Prix-themed activities, installations, and workshops at The Venetian Macao and the historic lec Long Firecracker Factory in support of the

70th anniversary of the Macau Grand Prix.

"Sands China is pleased to be a major sponsor of the 70th Macau Grand Prix, supporting the annual international sporting

event. [...] The company held a number of joint activities concurrently to introduce more residents and visitors to Macau's distinctive racing culture, in support of the Macau SAR government's promotion of 'sports + tourism,'" said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Sands China also sponsored the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office (SKH) Grand Prix: Parent-child Pair-up event on Oct. 28, where 30 SKH members visited the Macau Grand Prix museum to learn more about the race's history.

DIPLOMACY

Fiji's leader hopes to work with Beijing in upgrading his country's shipyards and ports

NICK PERRY, WELLINGTON

FIJI'S leader says that after meeting with China's President Xi Jinping, he hopes to collaborate with China on upgrading his nation's shipyards and ports.

Sitiveni Rabuka made the remarks to lawmakers in Parliament yesterday [Macau time].

Rabuka is generally viewed as leaning less toward China than his predecessor Frank Bainimarama, and in a visit to Australia last month, Rabuka emphasized he was "more comfortable dealing with traditional friends" such as Australia.

But in his remarks, Rabuka highlighted the economic ties his small South Pacific island nation has forged with China over 50 years of diplomatic relations.

Rabuka said that in his meeting with Xi last week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in San Francisco, he discussed how China's assistance was pivotal to Fiji's post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Rabuka said China's Belt and Road Initiative aligned with Fiji's development agenda and that China had contributed toward a number of grants and assistance packages.

"As we navigate economic challenges, discussions are underway to address our debt crisis responsibly," Rabuka said.

He said a key focus of creating sustainable economic growth in Fiji was the comprehensive upgrade of infrastructure, particularly port facilities and shipyards.

"I anticipate potential collaboration with China in that endeavor, given China's globally competitive shipbuilding," Rabuka said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing that China and Fiji are good friends and partners, and have previously cooperated on infrastructure.

"The goal is to support island countries in making life better for their people and achieving development and prosperity," Mao said.

Fiji's move comes as China looks to expand its influence in the Pacific. Last year, China fell short in an ambitious attempt to get 10 small Pacific nations to sign to a sweeping deal covering everything from security to fisheries. The attempt came soon after Solomon Islands signed a security pact with China, a move that raised alarm throughout the Pacific. **MDT/AP**

HOU LIQIANG,
CHINA DAILY

POLICY support, innovation and strong investment have seen the country leapfrog global competitors. Hou Liqiang reports.

More than four decades ago, lacking the necessary technology and research and development capabilities, China was only able to manufacture micro turbines for off-grid power generation.

In stark contrast, however, news about the giant leap forward in China's wind power development has repeatedly hit the headlines over the past two years.

In February last year, a 13-megawatt offshore wind turbine, which had the largest single-unit capacity in Asia at the time, rolled off a production line in Fujian province.

Only nine months later, the facility was dwarfed by a 16-MW offshore wind turbine, which was also assembled in Fujian and led the world in terms of single-unit capacity. In June, a 20-MW wind turbine produced in Shandong province set another record.

The contrast is indicative of the significant progress China has made in the development of renewable energy from a laggard to a leader, which has helped sharply bring down the cost for renewables, experts said.

While the achievement has not been easy, China has accumulated vast experiences that are instructive for other nations, especially developing states, in promoting energy transition on a large scale, they said.

Consistent and comprehensive policy support and the great importance attached to capacity building and production standards are among the factors that have helped China top the world in renewables, they added.

According to the National Energy Administration, the total capacity of grid-connected wind turbines across China only stood at 1.06 million kilowatts in 2005. By the end of last year, the capacity had soared to 365 million KW.

During that period, China saw its combined installed capacity for photovoltaic power jump from just 70,000 KW to 392 million KW. Its proportion of the global total skyrocketed from less than 1.4 percent to more than 33 percent.

ENVIRONMENT

'LAGGARD' CHINA

XINHUA



A wind turbine is a

By the end of June, the installed capacity of renewable energy in China had exceeded 1.3 billion KW, surpassing the installed capacity of coal-fired power for the first time.

POLICY-DRIVEN PROCESS

The development of large-scale renewable energy in China has significantly brought down the global cost of renewables, said Wang Weiyan, deputy secretary-general of the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association. "China deserves all the credit," he said.

Thanks to China's contribution, the cost of photovoltaic power generation is now as low as 1 cent for 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity in the Middle East, where the costs of land use and financing are relatively low, he said.

Wang attributed the remarkable achievement to consistent, systematic and tailor-made policies introduced during different development stages. "We have a sound system for renewable energy development," he said.

Driven by these policies,

a broad market for renewable energy development was formed. This then boosted the development of upstream manufacturing industries and also the entire industry chain, he noted, citing the subsidized price for renewable energy, or the feed-in tariff, as an example.

The feed-in tariff—a surcharge on electricity bills—guaranteed solar and wind companies above-market prices for their energy, which helped attract a large number of investors to the sector, he added.

China also introduced a dedicated renewable energy law in 2005, has incorporated renewable energy development into its five-year plans since 1996, and established a sound mechanism to guarantee the absorption of newly added renewable energy output, Wang said.

In another move, the country set up the Renewable Energy Development Fund to support development of the sector, he added.

In 2009, the country's top legislature amended the Law on Renewable Energy to require electricity

AP PHOTO



Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka

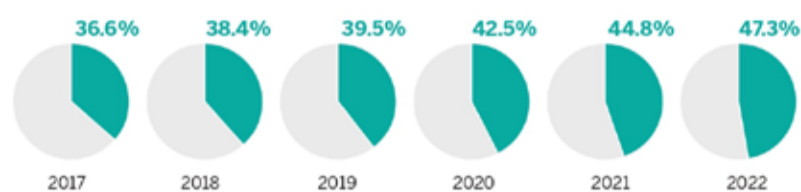
A POWERS AHEAD ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



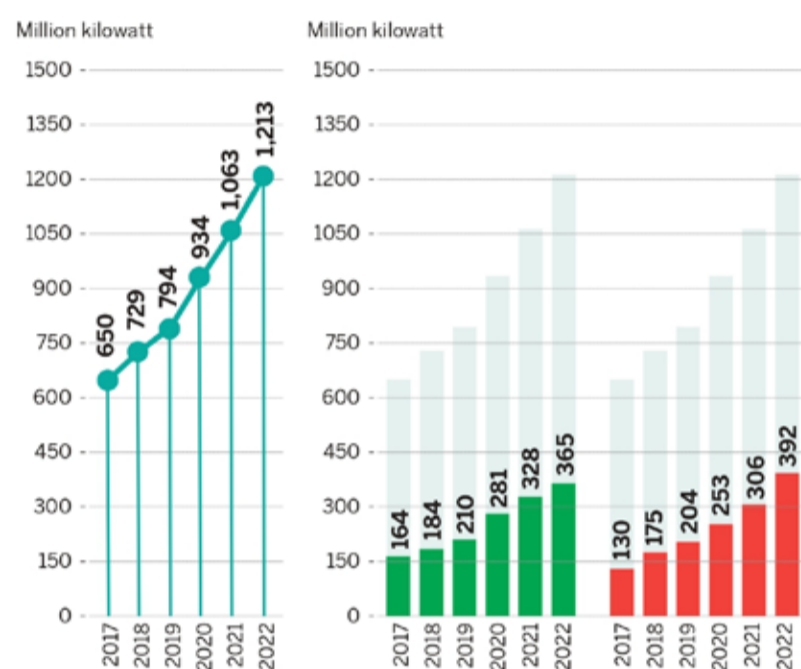
Assembled on an offshore platform in Fujian province in June

CHINA DAILY

Renewable proportion of total installed capacity



Accumulated installed capacity of renewable energy



Renewable proportion of total installed capacity

grid companies to buy all the power produced by renewable energy generators.

WINDS OF CHANGE

Hou Yuhan, group marketing director of Goldwind Science & Technology, a leading Chinese wind turbine manufacturer, underscored the importance of “continuity, stability and sustainability” in the country’s policies for the development of the wind energy sector.

“Since the 1990s, China’s central and regional governments have introduced a slew of policies concerning the renewable energy sector, creating a stable policy environment and favorable conditions for wind energy development,” she said.

Hou added that the introduction of China’s dual-carbon targets in 2020 and the national policy framework to implement the goals “have propelled the renewable energy sector to a key development stage”.

In 2020, China announced that it aimed to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and realize carbon neutrality before 2060.

The country has released a raft of new policies

to guide the energy transition, which have prioritized green, low-carbon energy development, scientific and technological innovation, institutional innovation, regulatory efficiency and international cooperation, Hou said.

Du Zhongming, president of the China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute, said China has dynamically adjusted its policies concerning renewable energy.

“Based on situations and needs at different development stages, these policies are adjusted accordingly to make the best use of the circumstances,” he said.

As technology develops and economic efficiency improves in the renewable energy sector, for instance, the subsidies for renewable energy in China were gradually reduced, he said.

After six adjustments to the subsidies for wind power and eight for solar PV power, he said, the on-grid power tariffs of these two types of renewable energy equal those of coal-fired power.

The feed-in tariff has played a role in “giving a leg up” to the wind and solar PV power sectors to get them

going, he added.

On Jan 1, 2021, China ended feed-in tariffs for new solar and onshore wind projects that had been in place for more than a decade. Before halting the tariffs, China introduced a mechanism in 2019 to guarantee consumption of renewable energy, setting minimum levels of regional consumption.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Wang, from the renewable energy industries association, emphasized the importance of a complete national standards system and international cooperation for the development of a robust renewable energy industry in China.

“Without the standards, enterprises in the sector will be sheep without a shepherd and produce products with diversified models that don’t match each other and are of mixed quality,” he said.

China has introduced many standards that cover not only manufacturing, but also the construction and operation of power farms, which guarantee the long-term and sustainable development of the sector and

have helped reduce costs, Wang said.

In the early stages of its renewable energy development, China, then a global laggard in the sector, engaged heavily in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, Wang said.

A series of demonstration projects were implemented thanks to aid from international organizations and leading countries in wind power development, such as Germany and Denmark, he added.

China improved its capacity building from such cooperation, and a large number of talented people, including policymakers, entrepreneurs and skilled workers, were developed, Wang said. Many senior executives now at leading solar and wind power companies in China participated in training programs during the period of cooperation, he added.

International companies also invested in China, and these investments were mutually beneficial, he said. While those companies made profits in the Chinese market, China managed to master the technologies it needed to de-

velop the industry.

“The development of China’s wind power industry has been closely linked to the wind power technology acquired through international cooperation,” Goldwind’s Hou said.

As early starters, developed nations’ wind power industries had accumulated abundant capital and technology. However, they also needed to expand their markets when China’s wind energy sector was in its infancy, she said.

Against the backdrop of globalization, Hou said China saw its earliest batch of wind power projects launched with support from international companies, which brought opportunities for companies like Goldwind to learn about advanced equipment and technologies used overseas. Hou said Goldwind also seized all available opportunities to go overseas to learn.

Wu Gang, the company’s chairman, has led study tours many times to European countries that are leaders in wind power development.

“By consistently digesting, absorbing and upgrading (international technologies), Goldwind embarked

on the path of independent research and development, ultimately succeeding in manufacturing China’s own big wind turbines,” Hou said.

Li Chuangjun, director of the National Energy Administration’s new energy and renewable energy department, underscored the role of innovation, which was fueled at the very beginning by international cooperation during China’s renewable energy industry boom.

He said innovation in China’s renewable energy sector has introduced, digested, absorbed, and “re-innovated” various technologies.

The country’s wind power sector has surpassed international levels in terms of large-scale technology and floating units, with breakthroughs in building key components such as spindle bearings for high-power units and ultra-long blades, he said.

“Through international cooperation, China managed to rapidly narrow the gap to international leaders by learning from their strong points and eventually surpass them,” he said. COURTESY CHINA DAILY

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



AUSTRALIA

Dozens evacuate, homes destroyed by a wildfire on the edge of Perth

DOZENS of residents have been evacuated and at least 10 homes destroyed by a wildfire burning out of control on the northern fringe of the west coast city of Perth during heat wave spring conditions, authorities said yesterday.

There were no deaths reported,

but several firefighters had sustained minor injuries including smoke inhalation, Western Australia state Department of Fires and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said.

The fire began Wednesday afternoon in a pine tree plantation on Perth's northeast edge and was

fanned overnight by 60-kilometer (37-mile) -an-hour winds, incident controller Clinton Kuchel said. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The temperature in Perth was forecast to peak at 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) on Thursday — which is extraordinarily hot for the Southern Hemisphere spring — and winds remained strong.

“Perth is experiencing ... heat wave conditions. So overlay that on top of the fire and you can imagine the conditions that our firefighters and our support staff are working on. It's really challenging,” Kuchel told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

“Whilst we're building containment lines on this fire, the conditions and the environment are such that even if we contain it, it may not be contained all the time. There may be breakouts. So it's a really challenging and dynamic environment,” Kuchel added.

Power poles had been damaged and 544 homes were without power Thursday. Around 130 people spent Wednesday night in an evacuation center, Western Australia Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti said.

“The forecast for today is unforgiving. The temperature is expected to hit a maximum of 40 degrees, and the winds continue to be strong. Today will be a difficult day for everybody,” Saffioti told reporters. **MDT/AP**

HAWAII

GOVERNOR WANTS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR TRAVELERS FROM JAPAN TO VISIT THE ISLANDS

HAWAII leaders want to make it easier for tourists from Japan to visit the U.S. state by creating a pre-clearance program allowing travelers from the country to save time at the Honolulu airport by completing immigration, customs and agricultural inspections before departure.

Gov. Josh Green and other state officials proposed the idea during a recent visit to Tokyo. Green hopes the program will help boost tourism to the islands, Hawaii News Now reported.

Tourism from Japan, Hawaii's top international visitor market, has been sluggish since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hawaii is keen on bringing more travelers from Japan back because “that's the tourist that knows how to carry them-

selves in Hawaii and how to care for our aina and so on,” Green said, using the Hawaiian word for land.

A pre-clearance program, which has been discussed for many years, could open direct routes to other islands, including Maui, Green said.

Soon after a deadly wildfire wiped out much of the west Maui town of Lahaina, the Japan government donated \$2 million in humanitarian aid.

State House Speaker Scott Saiki, who joined Green on the trip, said Japan officials were concerned about how much the program would cost and how it would be implemented and enforced.

Green said he will ask Hawaii's delegation in U.S. Congress to help make the program possible. **MDT/AP**

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



ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Truce deal for hostage release hits last-minute snag, expected to start today

WAFSA SHURAF &
KAREEM CHEHAYEB,
DEIR AL-BALAH

An agreement for a four-day cease-fire in Gaza and the release of dozens of Hamas-held hostages and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel appeared to have hit a last-minute snag when a senior Israeli official said it would not take effect until today, a day later than originally announced.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the over 1.7 million Palestinians who have fled their homes under weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones captured during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced the delay yesterday [Macau time], without providing a reason. Israeli media reported that some final details were still being worked out.

The Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, which played a key role in mediating with Hamas, said yesterday that a new time for the agreement to go into force would be announced "in the coming hours." It was originally set to begin at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Thursday. The U.S. and Egypt also helped negotiate the deal.

The Gaza Health Ministry meanwhile resumed its detailed count of Palestinian casualties from the war, saying over 13,300 have been killed. The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals in the north, where services and communication largely broke down earlier this month.

The Health Ministry stopped publishing casualty counts after Nov. 11, saying later that they had lost the ability to produce accurate counts as communications collapsed.

NETANYAHU SAYS TRUCE WON'T END WAR

The agreement had raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, now in its seventh week, which has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a nationally televised news conference that the war would resume after the truce expires, with the goal of destroying Hamas' military capabilities, en-

AP PHOTO



ding its 16-year rule in Gaza and returning all of the estimated 240 captives held in Gaza by Hamas and other groups.

"The war is continuing. We will continue it until we achieve all our goals," Netanyahu said, adding that he had delivered the same message in a phone call to U.S. President Joe Biden. Washington has provided extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel since the start of the war.

Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there. Israeli forces on Wednesday revealed what they said was a major Hamas hideout in a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital. The territory's largest medical center has been at the heart of a fierce battle of narratives over both sides' allegedly reckless endangerment of civilians.

Shifa's director, Mohammed Abu Selmia, was detained by Israeli soldiers, according to Medhat Abbas, the director of the Gaza Health Ministry. There was no immediate comment from the army.

Israel meanwhile ordered the full evacuation of the Indonesian Hospital in the north, Dr. Munir al-Boursh, a Health Ministry official inside the facility, told Al-Jazeera. He said hospital officials were trying to organize buses to evacuate some 200 patients, including children with burn inju-

ries. Fighting has raged outside the hospital for days, and hundreds of people have already been evacuated to the south.

Despite the advances in the north, Israeli officials acknowledge that much of Hamas' infrastructure remains intact. Israel has threatened to launch wider operations in southern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people who fled the north have crammed into overflowing U.N.-run shelters with dwindling food, water and basic supplies.

For Hamas, the cease-fire would provide an opportunity to regroup after weeks of apparently heavy losses. Hamas leader Yehya Sinwar, who is believed to be alive and in hiding in Gaza, is likely to claim the release of Palestinian prisoners as a major achievement and declare victory if the war ends.

HOSTAGES TO BE FREED IN STAGES

Under the truce deal, 50 hostages will be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will release women and children first, and Israel said the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed by Hamas.

The return of hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where their plight has gripped the country. Families of the hostages have staged mass

demonstrations to pressure the government to bring them home.

Qatar said the cease-fire would allow a "larger number of humanitarian convoys and relief aid" to enter Gaza, including fuel, but it gave no details on actual quantities. Israel cut off all fuel imports at the start of the war, causing a territory-wide blackout and leaving homes and hospitals reliant on generators, which have also steadily been forced to shut down.

Netanyahu said the deal includes a provision for the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the hostages in captivity.

Israel's Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible to be released, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offenses.

The war erupted when several thousand Hamas militants stormed into southern Israel, killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking scores of hostages, including babies, women and older adults, as well as Israeli soldiers.

Israel has a long history of agreeing to lopsided prisoner swaps with militant groups, and Hamas is expected to demand a large number of high-profile Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the soldiers.

HEAVY TOLL ON GAZA

The Health Ministry in Gaza does not differentiate between

civilians and militants, but says some two-thirds of the dead have been identified as women and minors. It says some 6,000 people have been reported missing and are feared to be buried under rubble.

The ministry says it has been unable to update figures from northern hospitals since Nov. 11, so the true toll from the war is likely higher than the 13,300 it reported yesterday.

Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, though it has presented no evidence for its count.

Three-fourths of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been displaced in the war. Many, if not most, will be unable to return home because of the vast damage and the presence of Israeli troops in the north.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said that more than 1 million Palestinians were seeking shelter in 156 of its facilities in Gaza, where many have been forced by overcrowding to sleep on the streets outside as a cold, rainy winter sets in.

Israel has barred imports to Gaza since the start of the war, except for a trickle of aid entering through Egypt's Rafah crossing. Humanitarian aid groups operating in Gaza said the truce was too short and the Rafah crossing's capacity was insufficient to meet urgent needs. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Geert Wilders, leader of far-right Party for Freedom

THE NETHERLANDS

IN POLITICAL SHIFT TO THE FAR RIGHT, ANTI-ISLAM POPULIST WILDERS WINS BIG

MIKE CORDER &
RAF CASERT, THE HAGUE

ANTI-ISLAM populist Geert Wilders won a huge victory in Dutch elections, according to a near complete count of the vote yesterday, in a stunning lurch to the far right for a nation once famed as a beacon of tolerance.

The result will send shockwaves through Europe, where far-right ideology is on the rise, and puts Wilders in line to lead talks to form the next governing coalition and possibly become the first far-right prime minister of the Netherlands.

With nearly all votes counted, Wilders' Party for Freedom was forecast to win 37 seats in the 150-seat lower house of parliament, two more than predicted by an exit poll when voting finished Wednesday night and more than double the 17 he won at the last election.

"I had to pinch my arm," a jubilant Wilders said.

Political parties were set to hold separate meetings to discuss the outcome before what is likely to be an arduous process of forming a new governing coalition begins today.

Despite his harsh rhetoric, Wilders has already begun courting other right and center parties by saying in a victory speech that whatever policies he pushes will be "within the law and constitution."

Wilders' election program included calls for a referendum on the Netherlands

leaving the European Union, a total halt to accepting asylum-seekers and migrant pushbacks at Dutch borders.

It also advocates the "de-Islamization" of the Netherlands. He says he wants no mosques or Islamic schools in the country, although he has been milder about Islam during this election campaign than in the past.

Instead, his victory seems based on his campaign to rein-in migration — the issue that caused the last governing coalition to quit in July — and tackle issues such as the cost-of-living crisis and housing shortages.

"I think, to be honest, very many people are very focused on one particular problem, which is immigration," voter Norbert van Beelen said in The Hague yesterday. "So I think that's what people voted for, immigration and all the other aspects of leaving the European Union looking very inward as opposed to outward are just forgotten. It's all about immigration."

In his victory speech, Wilders said he wants to end what he called the "asylum tsunami," referring to the migration issue that came to dominate his campaign.

"The Dutch will be No. 1 again," Wilders said. "The people must get their nation back."

But Wilders, who has in the past been labeled a Dutch version of Donald Trump, first must form a coalition government before he can take the reins of power.

That will be tough as mainstream parties are reluctant to join forces with him and his party, but the size of his victory strengthens his hand in any negotiations.

Wilders called on other parties to constructively engage in coalition talks. Pieter Omtzigt, a former centrist Christian Democrat who built his own New Social Contract party in three months to take 20 seats, said he would always be open to talks.

The closest party to Wilders' in the election was an alliance of the center-left Labor Party and Green Left, which was forecast to win 25 seats. But its leader, Frans Timmermans, made clear that Wilders should not count on a coalition with him.

"We will never form a coalition with parties that pretend that asylum seekers are the source of all misery," Timmermans said, vowing to defend Dutch democracy.

The historic victory came one year after the win of Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, whose Brothers of Italy's roots were steeped in nostalgia for fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Meloni has since mellowed her stance on several issues and has become the acceptable face of the hard right in the EU.

Wilders was long a firebrand lashing out at Islam, at the EU and migrants — a stance which brought him close to power but never in it, in a nation known for com-

promise politics.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who boasts of turning Hungary into an "illiberal" state and has similarly harsh stances on migration and EU institutions, was quick to congratulate Wilders. "The winds of change are here! Congratulations," Orban said.

During the final weeks of his campaign, Wilders somewhat softened his stance and vowed that he would be a prime minister for all Dutch people, so much so that he gained the moniker Geert "Milders."

The election was called after the fourth and final coalition of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte resigned in July after failing to agree to measures to rein-in migration.

Rutte was replaced by Dilan Yeilgöz-Zegerius, a former refugee from Turkey who could have become the country's first female prime minister had her party won the most votes. Instead, it was forecast to lose 10 seats to end up with 24.

The result is the latest in a series of elections that is altering the European political landscape. From Slovakia and Spain, to Germany and Poland, populist and hard-right parties triumphed in some EU member nations and faltered in others.

In The Hague, Dutch voter Barbara Belder said that Wilders' victory "is a very clear sign that the Netherlands wants something different." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1963 KENNEDY 'ASSASSIN' MURDERED



The man accused of assassinating the US President, John F Kennedy, has himself been shot dead in a Dallas police station.

Lee Harvey Oswald, a 24-year-old former Marine, was being transferred from police headquarters to the county jail, at the centre of a large crowd of police officers, reporters and camera crews.

The event was being covered live on television, and Americans across the country watched in astonishment as a man - later identified as Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner - stepped forward, drew a gun and shot Mr Oswald at point-blank range.

Mr Oswald fell to the floor, grasping his stomach, as a confused scuffle broke out between police, reporters and the gunman.

An ambulance rushed Mr Oswald to the Parkland Hospital - the same hospital which had fought to save President Kennedy's life two days earlier - but he died within minutes of his arrival.

Mr Oswald was arrested about an hour after the assassination of John F Kennedy, carried out as the President's motorcade passed through the Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

He was initially taken into custody for the murder of a policeman, JD Tippit, who appears to have recognised him and approached him just 45 minutes after the killing of the President.

Soon after, Mr Oswald was also charged with the President's assassination.

He strongly denied that he carried out the assassination, saying to reporters, "I'm just a patsy."

Police gave no explanation of how Jack Ruby came to be in the police headquarters.

The building had been under heavy guard after several calls making threats against Oswald's life.

Ruby came to Dallas from Chicago 10 years ago. He runs a downtown striptease club, and is said to have links with organised criminals.

Police said Ruby had told them, "I didn't want to be a hero - I did it for Jacqueline Kennedy."

They said he wanted to spare the president's wife the ordeal of the trial of the man accused of killing her husband.

Ruby has been formally charged with murder and is now being held in custody without bail.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Jack Ruby was convicted of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald on 14 March 1964.

The conviction was overturned on procedural grounds, but before a re-trial could take place, Ruby died of cancer in prison on 3 January 1967.

Considerable controversy remains over whether Lee Harvey Oswald was in fact guilty of the murder of John F Kennedy.

The Warren Report, commissioned by President Johnson five days after Oswald's shooting to look into the assassination, concluded that he was the lone killer.

A later investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations during the late 1970s found that President Kennedy had been killed as a result of a conspiracy, although this report was later discredited.

But the conspiracy theories - ranging from claims that the president arranged his own death, to allegations that the driver was the murderer - continue to be hotly debated.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. You mustn't be so trusting. Do something that will be stimulating and creative.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Coworkers may not be completely honest with you; try not to rely on help from others. You just hate waste, and when someone else costs you dearly you see red.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. Personal problems may be hanging over your head but don't confront the situation.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
New hair, new outfit, new you. Catch up on your correspondence and reading. You're apt to make a move or experience changes at home.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. You have a real need to be vocal. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Do not let the reactions of others get you going. Take a short business trip if possible.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. Difficulties with female members of your family may result in estrangement's.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Don't be afraid to lay your cards on the table. Assist a relative or good friend by setting of a budget for them. Think about your budget before booking a trip.

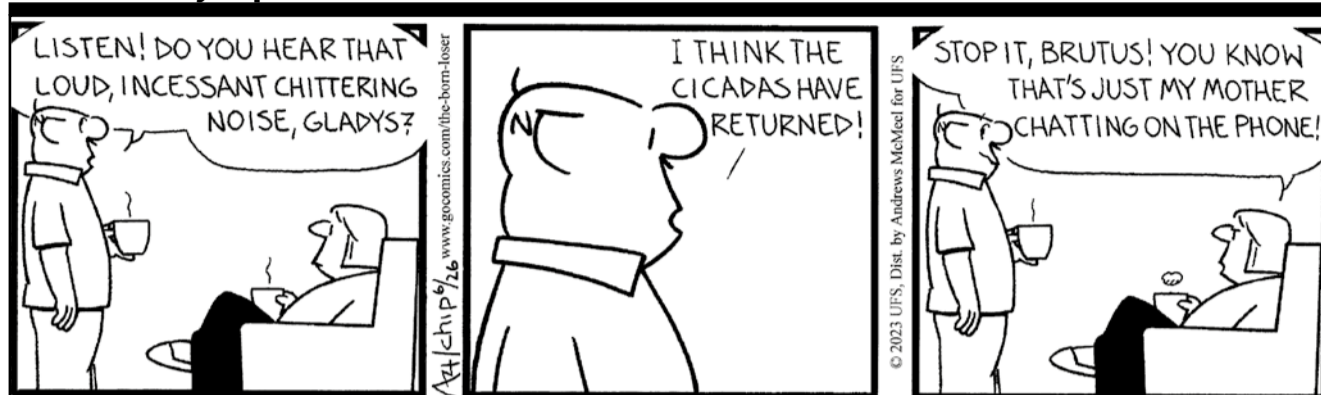
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Invite friends over rather than spending money on lavish entertainment. You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Don't overspend on luxury items. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. You will find that superiors may not see situations as you do.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Opportunities to go out with clients or colleagues will be in your best interest. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. Empty promises are evident.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

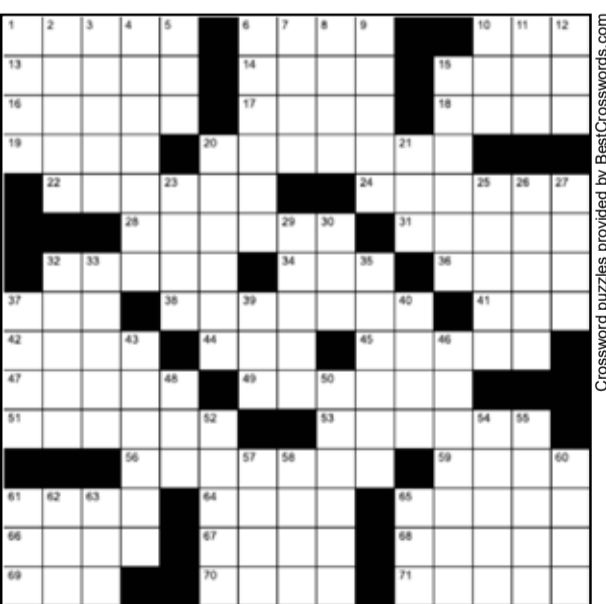
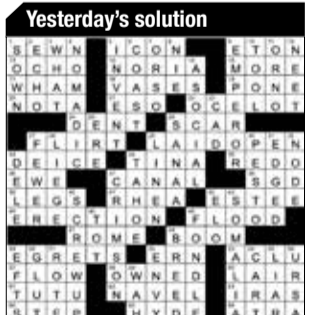
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-8	2	fine
Changchun	-13	-7	fine
Chengdu	11	15	overcast
Chongqing	14	20	cloudy
Fuzhou	14	20	fine
Guangzhou	15	26	fine
Guiyang	11	18	overcast
Haikou	19	25	cloudy
Hangzhou	6	14	fine
Harbin	-22	-12	cloudy
Hefei	0	10	fine
Nanjing	2	11	fine
Shanghai	7	13	fine
Taipei	17	20	rain
Wuhan	4	13	fine
Hong Kong	19	29	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-9	-3	snow
Frankfurt	1	7	rain
Paris	3	12	rain
London	1	8	overcast
New York	1	10	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Pertaining to bees; 6- Repeated, an island of French Polynesia; 10- "Today" rival, briefly; 13- Dogie catcher; 14- Actress Lena; 15- Distribute cards; 16- "Amadeus" director Forman; 17- Egypt's river; 18- Periphery; 19- A Baldwin brother; 20- Set apart; 22- Stain; 24- Stroll; 28- Skiing style; 31- Fasten, at sea; 32- Actress Shire; 34- Overhead trains; 36- Bamboozle; 37- ___ longa, vita brevis; 38- Darken; 41- Start of something?; 42- Actress Turner; 44- Invite; 45- Worker's reward; 47- Sour; 49- Quaking trees; 51- Story in installments; 53- Caught; 56- Sleep; 59- Sheltered, nautically; 61- Came to; 64- Pres., military; 65- Basil-based sauce; 66- Historical chapters; 67- Ruler division; 68- Extra-terrestrial being; 69- Grab a bite; 70- Remove from text; 71- Layers;

DOWN 1- Soprano Gluck; 2- Buckets; 3- Atoll unit; 4- Reclusive; 5- Figs; 6- Dwarfed tree; 7- Assortment; 8- Small rivulet; 9- Lend ___; 10- H.S. proficiency test; 11- Periodical, briefly; 12- Bass, e.g.; 15- Judged; 20- Classic Chevy; 21- Decorative flap on a garment; 23- Smooth-talking; 25- Depressed spirits; 26- Pass into disuse; 27- Sight organs; 29- Makes out; 30- North American deer; 32- Vestige; 33- Grant portrayer; 35- Tranquil; 37- Exclamation to express sorrow; 39- Al Jolson's real first name; 40- "Peter Pan" dog; 43- Comes to mind; 46- Begin, e.g.; 48- Phooey!; 50- Human mind; 52- Clear; 54- Beast of Borden; 55- Discourage; 57- Fork feature; 58- Business letter abbr.; 60- Seemingly forever; 61- Minuscule; 62- ___ mouse?; 63- Crazy ___; 65- Bit of butter;



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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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

IN RIDLEY SCOTT'S 'NAPOLEON', THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES BUT PLENTY OF EGO

IN Ridley Scott's "Napoleon," Joaquin Phoenix portrays the legendary French emperor in a film that defies the traditional grandeur of historical epics. With a runtime of two hours and thirty-eight minutes, the movie introduces us to a Napoleon who is far from the stoic conqueror of history textbooks. Instead, we see a young Bonaparte riddled with fear and impulsivity, qualities that persist throughout the film as he ascends to power and leads his armies across Europe with reckless abandon.



Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from "Napoleon" (Apple TV+)

Scott's biopic is more critical than celebratory, painting Napoleon not as a Great Man but as a petulant child in the guise of an emperor. This character-driven narrative focuses on Napoleon's internal struggles and the chaotic manner in which he gains and exercises power. His infamous ego is on full display, particularly in his confrontations with the British and his dismissive reactions to personal news during the Egyptian campaign.

The film also delves into the complexities of Napoleon's re-

lationship with Joséphine, portrayed by Vanessa Kirby. Their romance and subsequent marriage are fraught with tension and betrayal, yet it's a relationship that humanizes the often mythologized figure. As the story unfolds, the film portrays Napoleon's rise and reign as a series of tumultuous events, leading to his ultimate demise.

Scott's depiction of historical events like the siege of Toulon, the coup of 1799, and the Battle of Austerlitz is meticulous, yet the screenplay by David Scarpa

seems to question the authenticity of Napoleon's legacy. The film juxtaposes his public persona with his private vulnerabilities, making it difficult to reconcile the image of the legendary emperor with that of the insecure man presented on screen.

"Napoleon" offers a satirical look at the emperor's life, as well as a critical assessment of the male ego in power. The film is a visual spectacle that showcases Scott's expertise in creating grand cinematic experiences. Yet, despite its ambitious scope,

the narrative sometimes struggles to integrate Napoleon's military genius with his flawed character, leaving the audience to wonder how such a man could have risen to such heights.

The movie is also expected to have a longer, four-hour director's cut, which may provide a more in-depth look at Napoleon's life and times. This cut could potentially balance the personal and political aspects of the story more effectively.

Scott's "Napoleon" stands out for its unorthodox approach

to the historical epic genre. It challenges the glorification of historical figures by exposing their weaknesses and failures. The film, like Scott's previous work "The Last Duel," is a commentary on the destructive nature of male ambition. This thematic choice is clear in the film's final moments, which depict Napoleon's downfall both literally and metaphorically.

While not everything in "Napoleon" may work seamlessly, the film's unique perspective and critical stance offer a thought-provoking and unconventional look at one of history's most iconic figures. It's a bold move from an accomplished director, one that suggests a continued interest in examining and demystifying the great men of history through the lens of cinema. **MDT/AP**

"Napoleon," an Apple Studios release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, some grisly images, sexual content and brief language.

Running time: 158 minutes.

★★★★

AD

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BASKETBALL

DAILY TRAININGS



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Healing Ritual

CONRAD Macao's award-winning Bodhi Spa has introduced Lapidem Rituals. These indulgent treatments at Bodhi Spa combine intensive pampering with Lapidem's critically-acclaimed products from Japan.

Founded in venerable traditions and wisdom, and adapted for a contemporary, the complete sensory experience leaves guests feeling nourished.

Lapidem is noted for its philosophy that only when the body, mind and soul are balanced is beauty created. This holistic outlook is showcased in Lapidem's best-selling products, which include skin, body and hair care ranges. Combining Lapidem's results-driven range and ancient Japanese beliefs towards health and wellness, with the expertise of Bodhi Spa therapists, has resulted in the creation of four

specially designed signature rituals, each lasting 2.5 hours.

One of them is the deeply relaxing Healing Ritual, which uses constant and fluctuating massage techniques, relieving fatigue, stress and chronic pain, while improving sleep quality. Included in this treatment is Lapidem's Calm bath and massage oil and a moisturising mist.

All rituals take place in private spa suites and begin with an aromatic bath and steam, plus a choice of Lapidem oils that are based on the Chinese philosophy of the five elements, and end with a reviving head massage and wakeup ritual.

To maintain and continue the results beyond the spa, a range of innovative Lapidem products, which are highly functional, predominately all natural (95-100%) and made in Japan, are also available for sale. IS



TASTE OF EDESIA

Off Menu Extravaganza

IRENE SAM, MDT

RECENTLY, Tatler Off Menu and Galaxy Macau curated a transcendent event experience for food aficionados. The event unfolded at Cabana at The Banyan Tree in Macau, delivering an unmissable treat for guests seeking the perfect intersection of culinary excellence, vibe-like entertainment and immersive luxury experiences. The festival transported visitors into a world where a galaxy of stars from Michelin-starred culinary masters and established Asia's 50 Best Restaurants and Bars' gastronomic talents redefined the essence of fine dining. As the culinary

geniuses paired up - many for the first time - they created a dining experience that transcended the ordinary, redefining palates amid the vibrant ambiance.

The collaboration between three-star chef Jimmy Lim of JL Studio in Taichung, Taiwan, and the one-star wonder Uwe Opocensky from Restaurant Petrus in Hong Kong was nothing short of a gastronomic match made in heaven. Yielding a mouthwatering Water Bamboo, Cherry Tomato, Straciatella, from Chef Lim at JL Studio; and a standout French Ice Kacang - shaved Foie Gras, French Beans, Croutons, Hazelnut from Chef Opocensky at Restaurant Petrus, to master-

fully ignite their collaborative influences in the kitchen.

Out of the entire venue, our favorite dishes from the event were from Saffron's Suraja "Jan" Ruangnukulkit in Macau and Singaporean Barry Quek of Whey, both luminaries in their own right, embarked on a culinary journey that resulted in delicious and artful masterpieces. Unveiling Chef Jan's revolutionary Niang scallops, Gooseberries, Thai Herbs, Caviar on Betel Leaf; juxtaposed with Chef Quek's flavorful Curry Laksa Konjac rice, Octopus, Llama Island Dried Shrimp; their collaboration was a testament to the creative prowess sparked when two culinary masterminds join forces.

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

VISIT OF YAMAGUCHI BOOSTS HOPES OF REPAIRING TIES

The Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has long maintained a tradition of friendly exchanges with China. It has often played a role in sustaining and promoting China-Japan exchanges, even during periods of strained bilateral relations.

Daisaku Ikeda, founder of Komeito, who passed away on Nov 15, long advocated for the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. He proposed the formal recognition of the People's Republic of China as early as 1968.

Natsuo Yamaguchi, the current leader of Komeito, has carried on that tradition, acting as an envoy of friendship when ties between the two countries have encountered difficulties. In recent years, Yamaguchi has delivered no fewer than five personal letters from Japanese prime ministers to the Chinese leader expressing their messages of goodwill and cooperation, aiming to bridge the differences and disputes between the two countries.

He arrived in China for another bridge-building visit on Wednesday. His latest visit, originally scheduled for August, is expected to set the stage for a resumption of dialogue between the LDP-Komeito coalition and the Communist Party of China, after both sides broke off talks in 2018.

The visit comes hard on the heels of face-to-face talks between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is also the leader of the LDP, on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco last week, in which both sides affirmed the strategic relationship between the two countries.

The timing of Yamaguchi's rescheduled visit suggests that the two neighbors are looking to build on the two leaders' exchanges to try and inject momentum into the mending of their relations.

Ties between the two countries became strained after Japan became a player in Washington's geopolitical strategy to contain China, and they took a nosedive after politicians in Japan uttered irresponsible remarks about China's Taiwan. Japan's release of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean has also created consternation for its neighbor.

But no matter how commendable Yamaguchi's visit to Beijing is, the coalition in Japan needs to realize that mending relations with its neighbor depends on what the Japanese government does to verify its sincerity in this regard.

China, of course, hopes that the Japanese government will take substantial steps to improve ties instead of just paying lip service to the notion.

The Japanese government should be clear where to toe the line when it comes to the core interests of China, particularly on the Taiwan question.

China appreciates what Yamaguchi and his predecessor Daisaku Ikeda have done for the development of ties between the two countries. We sincerely hope that Yamaguchi's visit this week will help turn the page in China-Japan relations.

WHO ASKS CHINA FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RISE IN ILLNESSES AND PNEUMONIA CLUSTERS

THE BUZZ

The World Health Organization says it has made an official request to China for information about a potentially worrying spike in respiratory illnesses and clusters of pneumonia in children.

The U.N. health agency cited unspecified media reports and a global infectious disease monitoring service as reporting clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China. In a statement late Wednesday, WHO said it was unclear whether those were linked to a rise in respiratory infections reported by Chinese authorities.

Outside scientists said the situation warranted close monitoring, but were not convinced that the recent spike in respiratory illnesses

in China signaled the start of a new global outbreak.

The emergence of new diseases, particularly new flu strains or other viruses capable of triggering pandemics, typically starts with undiagnosed clusters of respiratory illness. Both SARS and COVID-19 were first reported as unusual types of pneumonia.

WHO noted that authorities at China's National Health Commission on Nov. 13 reported an increase in respiratory diseases, which they said was due to the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Other countries also saw a jump in respiratory diseases such as respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, when pandemic restrictions ended.

AP PHOTO



EUROPEAN UNION

FRANCE REMAINS 'LE GRAND FROMAGE', AND CAMEMBERT REMAINS IN A WOODEN BOX

RAF CASERT, BRUSSELS

THE European Union has long known that the way to France's heart is through its stomach. So, don't touch the Camembert — never, ever.

Yesterday [Macau time], legislators at the European Parliament made sure it won't happen anytime soon.

Tucked in a proposal on streamlining and optimizing waste management throughout the 27-nation bloc, some French cheese producers in recent weeks sniffed out something and turned it into a culinary stink.

They claimed that the proposal's wording would make it illegal for the famous cheese to be cradled into its usual wooden packaging for its final weeks of ripening and, eventually, sale. The round box is as essentially Camembert as its unctuous texture and pungent smell.

Suddenly, there was a frenzied flutter that something fundamentally French would fall foul of the Brussels bureaucrats — derisively known by many as Eurocrats — who are all too often blamed for flaws real and false.

"It is a matter of common sense. Don't touch our Camemberts!" said Jean-Paul Garraud, a member of the European Parliament for France's far-right Ras-

semblement National.

The reasoning was this: If Camembert were forced into something easier to recycle like plastic, the perfect breathing of the cheese through wood might instead produce something sweaty and flabby. Wood, however, is hard to recycle sustainably, and the EU wants to remove it from food packaging as much as possible.

Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius said ahead of the vote that the EU would make sure that the raw-milk specialized non-industrial Camemberts — those with a controlled designation of origin — will be exempt from any such regulation.

Even Gen. Charles de Gaulle, the French World War II hero and later president of the nation, knew all about such gourmet sensitivities. "How do you want to run a country that has 246 kinds of cheese," he was quoted as complaining.

Yesterday's action proved that cheese can be an effective binding agent, as European legislators ranging from free-trade liberals to the far-right made sure that an amendment to allow wooden boxes in case of exceptional circumstances would survive.

"We have saved our Camemberts," said French free-trade Renew Europe legislator Valerie Hayer af-

ter the vote. And she said others will be safe under the measure: "Camembert, Pont l'Évêque or Mont d'Or will be well protected."

The center-right European People's Party, the biggest group in the European Parliament with a traditional farming electorate and penchant for heritage protection, led the defense of the wooden boxes for Camembert and other cheeses.

"Who can imagine a Camembert or a Mont d'Or without its wooden strapping? Packaging them in plastic would be a gustatory and environmental aberration," said French MEP Laurence Sailliet.

"Europe must know how to protect the environment, but never to the detriment of the specific characteristics of its member states," she added.

And food is one of the touchiest characteristics for sure.

The British used anti-EU food foment to the extreme in the years leading up to Brexit, with former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, then still a Brussels journalist, leading the tabloid assault with stories that the EU would insist that bananas would have to be straight and eliminate beloved British biscuits.

It helped turn the United Kingdom against the EU, and voters decided in a referendum to leave. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



USA Beloved characters like Snoopy and SpongeBob SquarePants will take to the skies above New York City today [Macau time] while bands march along the streets below as the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ushers in the holiday season.

The parade starts on Manhattan's upper west side and makes its way alongside Central Park in front of big crowds and a national television audience before ending up in front of Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

AP PHOTO



USA Oscar-winning actor Susan Sarandon (right) and "Scream" star Melissa Barrera were each dropped by Hollywood companies after making comments on the Israel-Hamas war that some deemed antisemitic. Spyglass Media Group, the production company behind the upcoming "Scream VII," acknowledged Barrera's exit from the horror franchise. The Mexican-born actress had posted statements on Instagram Stories calling the war "genocide and ethnic cleansing."

AP PHOTO



Argentina's President-elect Javier Milei (pictured) has called for the wholesale reinvention of the government but he has precious little time. And with less than three weeks until his Dec. 10 inauguration, Milei has no executive experience and few allies in his bullpen. From the moment of the wild-haired outsider's decisive victory, the clock started ticking. Argentina's presidential transition period is one of the shortest in Latin America.