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KISSINGER DIES AT 100: THE END OF AN ERA

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South Korea Dozens of dog farmers scuffled with police during a rally near the presidential office yesterday to protest a push by authorities to outlaw dog meat consumption. Earlier this month, government and ruling party officials agreed to introduce legislation by the year's end that would ban the centuries-old practice. Individual lawmakers have submitted similar anti-dog meat bills in the past, but this would be the first time for the government to back such legislation.



Japan suspended flights by its Osprey aircraft yesterday, officials said, the day after a U.S. Air Force Osprey based in Japan crashed into the sea during a training mission. Tokyo has also asked the U.S. military to ground all Ospreys operating in Japan except for those searching for victims of the crash. A senior Defense Ministry official, Taro Yamato, told a parliamentary hearing that Japan has suspended flights of Ospreys beginning yesterday until details of the crash and safety are confirmed.

Pakistan A province is setting targets for police to arrest and deport hundreds of thousands of Afghans who are in the country illegally, officials said yesterday. The measure is part of a nationwide crackdown following a sharp decline in the expulsion of Afghans living in Pakistan without legal permission. Near the Chaman border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan, local residents were protesting against new travel visa requirements aimed at cutting down on illegal immigration that have disrupted traffic in the area. Some of those targeted for deportation had apparently gone to remote areas in Pakistan to avoid arrest, authorities said.

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TOYS“R”US TO OPEN CONCEPT STORE AT STUDIO CITY THIS WEEKEND

Announced yesterday in a statement, international toy retailer Toys“R”Us will open a concept store in Macau at the Macau Studio City resort on Dec. 2. Referring to the new store as “a significant milestone” and “a paradise for Gen Z,” the retailer revealed that the new concept store will feature an upgraded collection of toys including popular brands such as Bandai, Mattel, and Hasbro. By incorporating vibrant and eye-catching red, blue and yellow color tones, the store design creates an energetic and innovative atmosphere that will give customers an immersive and exciting shopping experience. A ceremony will also be held to mark toy donations to Caritas Macau.

CROSS-BORDER VEHICULAR TRAFFIC INCREASED BY ALMOST TWO-THIRDS IN OCTOBER

Cross-border vehicular traffic in October increased by 60.1% year-on-year to 682,073 trips. Light automobile trips (639,141) contributed to this increase by surging 62.8%. Meanwhile, the gross weight of containerized cargo by land in October rose by 18.7% year-on-year to 4,223 tons; cargo passing through the checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (4,066 tons) made up 96.3% of the total. In the first ten months of 2023, cross-border vehicular traffic (5,912,510 trips) leapt by 93.5% year-on-year, while gross weight of containerized cargo by land (31,099 tons) slid by 26.7%. The number of traffic accidents in October climbed by 9.7% year-on-year to 1,185, with 351 persons injured.

MACAU WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM BEATEN 16-0 BY TAIWAN TEAM

The Macau women's football team lost yesterday 16-0 against its counterpart from Taiwan. The match took place in the neighboring city of Zhuhai and was part of the first round of the preliminary stage of the East Asian Football Tournament. The Macau team, which had played no official matches since 2019 due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, faced a very competitive team from Taiwan that scored eight goals in each half of the match. The Macau women's team will be back on the pitch tomorrow to face the National team of Guam. The final stage of the East Asian Football Tournament is scheduled to take place in 2024 in South Korea.



WATERS

GOV'T ADMITS YACHT TOURS 'NOT SO POPULAR'

ANTHONY LAM

DESPITE government attempts to bolster regional yacht tours, it has so far not been “very popular,” Director of Marine and Water Susana Wong has told parliament.

On Wednesday, Wong sat in

a parliamentary plenary with her superintendent, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, for policy questions.

When asked by lawmaker Ip Sio Kai about regional yacht tours, Wong admitted that the project has not been “very success-

ful” so far, although communications continue with mainland authorities about the the project.

The official sees problems in two areas. The first is that yachts from Macau to mainland China are subject to a deposit scheme that is similar to a tariff. The second problem is that privately-

-owned mainland yachts from localities such as Zhongshan or Shenzhen can easily visit Macau with prior application.

As far as she was aware, expenditure and costs are major discouraging factors. She pointed out that there are a series of fees required for customs and other services.

Wong emphasized that the city is prepared for regional yachting tours, with ample facilities such as 229 berthing spots. These factors and facilities mean the city can accommodate tourists arriving on their own yachts.

To further promote this type of travel, she said that efforts must be made in all areas of the community to attract more owners to Macau using their own yachts.

To further support her comments, she pointed out that there are almost no hurdles for Hong Kong yacht owners to travel to Macau on their own vessels. However, whether they are interested in sailing to Macau is a different and more complicated matter. Berth operators may consider organizing more events to incentivize this mode of travel. Local resort operators may also consider the same, the marine official added.

COOPERATION

Anti-graft chief highlights regional efforts with HK delegates



COMMISSIONER Chan Tsz King of the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in the area of anti-corruption during his meeting with a delegation from Hong Kong.

The official met with the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, Yang Mei Kei, who visited Macau yesterday, at the headquarters of the CCAC.

During the meeting, the two parties exchanged views on the way their respective legal regimes manage the

investigation and prosecution of corruption. Chan welcomed the delegation led by Yang Mei Kei and stressed the importance of their cooperation in combatting crimes of corruption.

As part of the meeting, the CCAC personnel explained the history and functions of the CCAC, the different types of corruption that are defined within Macau's criminal system, and case investigation procedures and measures, among others.

For his part, Yang explained the duties of the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice of Hong

Kong and its close relationship with the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong.

Both sides also discussed mutual assistance in progressing criminal cases, particularly cooperation in obtaining evidence, and exchanged views on how to combat money laundering.

A new, proposed structural bill concerning the CCAC was announced last week. The bill grants the CCAC authority to investigate cases of money laundering.

There were other participants in the meeting, including CCAC Deputy Commissioner cum Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ao Ieong Seong and Deputy Principal Government Counsel of Hong Kong, Li Shuk Kwan.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Macau faces extreme flood risk due to rising sea levels: study

STAFF REPORTER

A recent study has raised alarms over the imminent danger posed to Macau by rising sea levels, Lusa News Agency reported yesterday.

According to the research, led by Shi Huabin of the University of Macau, a one-meter rise in sea levels, as projected for this century, could plunge most of the territory into severe flooding. This risk echoes the devastation witnessed during 2017's Typhoon Hato, which resulted in 10 fatalities and 240 injuries.

Shi's study, to be published shortly and supported by the Fund for the Development of Science and Technology, focuses on quantifying flood risks from storm tides, using Typhoon Hato as a case study.

The research categorizes risks into five levels, primarily based on flood duration, highlighting that even one or two days of flooding



could have disastrous consequences.

Under the scenario of a one-meter sea level rise, Shi predicts dire outcomes.

Most of the Macau peninsula could face maximum risk, with

significant flooding expected at key locations like the airport and the Cotai area.

This situation is particularly concerning given that the Pearl River Delta, encompassing Macau, Hong Kong, and parts of

Guangdong province, experiences sea level rises significantly above the global average, the study concludes as cited by Lusa.

Forecasts by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and City University of Hong Kong suggest a potential increase of up to 118 centimeters in Macau's sea levels by century's end, surpassing the global average by 20%. Such a rise poses a critical threat to Macau, considering its low elevation, small size, and ongoing land reclamation projects.

Faith Chan, a professor at the University of Nottingham in Ningbo adds to the concern, pointing out that reclaimed lands, though relatively safer, are not immune to the combined dangers of sea level rise, storm tides, and extreme weather events like Typhoon Hato.

The scholar underscores the escalating threat as the temperature of the western Pacific, a breeding ground for tropical storms, continues to rise, leading to

a probable increase in typhoon frequency.

Macau's ten-year disaster prevention and reduction plan, extending to 2028, acknowledges the potential for an uptick in extreme weather-related incidents. Initially, proposed measures included the construction of a tidal retention gate and 1.5-meter-high walls around the Inner Harbor to mitigate flood risks.

However, these plans faced review in February 2023, with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, expressing doubts about their feasibility.

The government's reluctance stems from a desire to maintain the coastal appeal for tourists and residents, despite the evident risks. Chan highlights the community's growing awareness and concern about climate change and the increasing interest in projects aimed at risk reduction.

Nevertheless, Shi Huabin cautions against expecting a single, perfect engineering solution to this global challenge, emphasizing the need for community preparedness and individual actions in managing regular flood events.

This dire situation in Macau mirrors the global urgency to address climate change, as echoed in the latest UN report, Lusa recalls.

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URBAN DESIGN

PEDESTRIAN FLYOVER LINKING ZONES A AND B TO START CONSTRUCTION Q2 2024

RENATO MARQUES

CONSTRUCTION on the pedestrian flyover to connect Zone A of the new landfills and Zone B (on the Peninsula), near the Macau Science Center, will likely commence in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024, officials from the Public Construction Bureau (DSOP) said yesterday at the ceremony marking the opening of the public tender for the work.

According to DSOP, six contractors submitted proposals and, from them, the best five were pre-selected. Each of those five have submitted bids.

The flyover will be located between the Macau Peninsula and Zone A of the new landfills. It will connect, on the west side, with the roundabout located in front of the Macau Science Center and Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. From there, it will cross the canal between the Peninsula and Zone A towards the east and will also cross the Amizade Bridge.

According to DSOP, the arri-



val point in Zone A will interconnect with the Fourth Macau-Taipa Sea Bridge.

The project has a total length of approximately 3.2km, which includes the flyover as well as the works on the road network connecting streets at both ends. It will complement other pedestrian overpasses and a pedestrian access tunnel.

The main structure of the

flyover has a total length of approximately 1,550 meters, roughly 900 meters of which will be a segment over water.

The flyover will have four spans that will allow vessel navigation.

The government has decided that design and execution of the flyover cannot take longer than 1,000 working days, or approximately three years.

The government has previously described the project as an important part of the development and interlinkage of the new reclamation Zones A and B, facilitating the transportation and commuting of people between the Peninsula and Zone A.

There had been previous discussions about making this new access a submarine tun-

nel, but the government decided against this idea because constructing, maintaining and operating such a tunnel would be too costly.

The DSOP also said that building this passage as a flyover would allow easier extension and linkage to other passages and pedestrian overpasses. This would achieve better connection to the streets at each end.

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SPORT

Estoril swimming pool ends season, ID expects new season as planned

YESTERDAY, the Estoril swimming pool, also known as San Fa Yuen, officially ended the 2023 bathing season. It was the last of the outdoor swimming pools operated by the Sports Bureau (ID) to close for winter.

This bathing season had

its typical run from May 1 to October 31 at most outdoor swimming pools, including Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Taipa Central Park, Cheoc Van, and Hac Sa Park. Estoril (San Fa Yuen) started its season one month earlier on April 1, and ended its season one month later

on November 30.

In a press statement, ID said that next year's bathing season for public swimming pools will operate as the current year's schedule. In the meantime, facilities will be inspected and undergo renovation to improve services. **RM**

TOURISM

Ant Group confident in facilitating visitor's transactions in Macau

ANTHONY LAM

FACILITATING payments by six non-local QR payment platforms, Ant Group is confident that payments made by visitors to Macau will become easier.

Ant Group is the parent company and service facilitator of Chinese QR payment platform AliPay. AliPay+, a sideline product, helps facilitate cross-border transactions.

The six external payment platforms are AliPay in mainland China, AliPay HK, KakaoPay from South Korea, Gcash from the Philippines, Touch 'N Go from Malaysia and True Money from Thailand.

Users of these platforms, when in Macau, can make seamless payments (charged



in their home currency and without applicable surcharges), provided that the relevant merchants use the MPay machine equipped with AliPay+ payment functions.

Yesterday, on the sidelines of a business event, an Ant Group spokesperson refrained from making comment on how many of these transactions in Macau had been logged.

The spokesperson attributed the lack of data to the fact that the service was only launched during the Hangzhou Asian Games back in September and October, implying that this period was too short to gather such data.

Despite the lack of data, the spokesperson reiterated that AliPay is one of the most popular QR payment methods in Macau among visitors from mainland China. The payment platform, in terms of popularity in mainland China, is the same as that of WeChat Pay. Another platform, which is far less popular, is operated by Chinese payment card brand UnionPay.

While recapping that there are 4 million active AliPay HK users, the spokesperson emphasized that visitors from Hong Kong are the second most frequent users of the platform in Macau.

The current Macau government has reiterated the importance of foreign visitors and made attracting these visitors a key policy in the coming year. When asked how AliPay will promote the availability of payment options using the aforementioned external payment platforms, the spokesperson explained that she was not in a position to comment.

The spokesperson added that foreign visitors can add their credit cards to the AliPay mainland China platform to make payments during their visits to the country. However, similar options are not available in the Hong Kong and Macau versions of the payment platform.

Meanwhile, Venetia Lee, the group's general manager of international business in Greater China, said during her speech that users of the six external payment platforms can enjoy the convenience of making payments in Macau using their home currency without any surcharge.

OVERSEAS ASSISTANCE

DSI extends online support to traveling residents

RENATO MARQUES

THE Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has announced it will extend the online overseas assistance service to support residents who have lost their Macau travel documents while traveling overseas.

Starting today (December 1, 2023), the online overseas assistance service will be implemented at over 200 Chinese overseas embassies or consulates.

Local residents aged 18 or over who have lost their Macau passport in another country can use the "Overseas Assistance - Lost Travel Documents in Journey" service through the "Macao One Account" mobile application.

Applicants can also request assistance for accompanying family members (including a spouse, children at least 5 years old as at the issuing date of their latest resident identity card, parents, or a spouse's parent).

The system will use facial recognition to verify the identity of those who are seeking assistance. After entering the required information into the system, applicants will be issued both an application number (valid for 24 hours) and a verification code by SMS.

The applicant must then attend their chosen Chinese overseas embassy or consulate and present the valid application number and verification code. The embassy or consulate can confirm their identity without needing further information from DSI.

According to DSI, through this system, it will be possible to expedite the issuance of one-time travel documents to those in need so they can return to Macau.

The DSI also noted that this new facility has the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macau.

Residents traveling abroad can also call 24-hour emergency hotlines for overseas assistance.

Details can be found on the DSI website (www.dsi.gov.mo/hotline_e.html).

GALAXY TO LEAD CITYWIDE CONSUMPTION BOOST IN DEC

IN association with Macau Pass, Alipay and a few local commercial groups, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) will take the lead in boosting consumption in Macau during the month of December.

Officially referred to as Macau Consumption Carnival, GEG will offer incentives to consumers when they pay with MPay, Alipay HK or Alipay from mainland China.

Each payment made with MPay or Alipay HK will have a corresponding entry into a lucky draw totaling MOP128 or HKD128 respectively. A similar lucky draw for payments made with Alipay from mainland China will be offered for transactions over RMB888.

Rewards sponsored by GEG include stays at

the new Andaz Macau or the Raffles at Galaxy Macau hotels, among other prizes. Cash rebates will also be offered as part of the reward scheme.

Rewards surpass MOP8 million in total value.

Raymond Yap, senior director of integrated resort and entertainment services of GEG, said in his speech that the campaign aims to both encourage local consumption and attract visitors from outside Macau. Another reason is to progress the government's plans to diversify Macau's economy and enrich tourist experiences. Yap added that the resort operator would also like to help enhance entrepreneurship among local business owners. **AL**

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HIGHER EDUCATION

UM STUDENTS WIN FIRST PRIZES AT INTERNATIONAL SPORTS SCIENCE CONFERENCE

RENATO MARQUES

STUDENTS of the Faculty of Education (FED) of the University of Macau (UM) won five awards at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Society of Chinese Scholars on Exercise Physiology and Fitness, the UM announced.

Among the awards are two first prizes and a second prize for oral presentation, as well as a first prize and a second prize for poster presentations, making UM's delegation to the conference the most awarded of this year.

According to the same UM statement, the reports submitted by the UM students provide scientific support for different types of sports research and received positive feedback from the judges.

The conference featured a total of 81 oral presentations and 117 poster presentations from post-graduate students and scholars from the U.S., South Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan.

The conference awarded a total of 10 first prizes and 10 second prizes for oral presentations, and

seven first prizes and nine second prizes for poster presentations.

The FED delegation had six participants, of whom five collected awards. This has been UM's best-performing delegation to this annual conference.

Hu Mingzhu, who holds a Ph.D. in education from UM, won two first prizes for the oral presentation of her project 'Physiological and Psychological Effects of a Ketogenic Diet Combined with Exercise under Hypoxia in Overweight Individuals.' Li Siqi, a master's graduate in physical education and sport studies, was awarded a second prize for the oral presentation of her project 'Exercise Enjoyment in High-intensity Interval Training and Moderate-intensity Continuous Training with a Low-carb Diet in Sedentary Young Women.' Li Jie and Yu Qian, both Ph.D. students in education, received a first prize and a second prize respectively for the poster presentations titled 'Research on the Relationship between Core Stability and Vertical Jump,' and 'Dose Response and Time Effect of Exogenous Ketone Supplemen-



(From left) Yu Qian, Li Jie, Kong Zhaowei, Hu Mingzhu, Li Siqi

tation on Blood Parameters.'

The research results of these four projects provide scientific support for sports training, nutritional supplementation, and public health, as well as new perspectives for interdisciplinary research that involves sports science, bio-

mechanics, nutrition, and psychology.

All students involved were supervised by associate professor Kong Zhaowei who, according to UM, ranks in the world's top 30 experts in the field of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) and

is a renowned scholar in research on simulated hypoxic training.

The Society of Chinese Scholars on Exercise Physiology and Fitness is the only international platform for regular academic exchange in the field of sports science in the Greater China region.

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GAMING

Mavs likely to end up in the hands of Las Vegas' most powerful family

MARK Cuban in many ways has been the face of the Dallas Mavericks franchise since he bought the club in 2000, so the news that he was selling a majority share to perhaps Las Vegas' most powerful family, the Adelsons, created a number of questions.

The head of the family, Dr Miriam Adelson, 78, is a medical doctor and widow of Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire founder and owner of Las Vegas Sands who died in 2021. She has no corporate role with the company, but her son-in-law, Patrick Dumont, is the company president and a board member.

LVS also controls major gaming operations in Macau and Singapore.

Adelson and her family own the Las Vegas Sands and Las Vegas Review-Journal, Nevada's largest newspaper. She also is the publisher of Israel Hayom, a Hebrew-language free daily newspaper distributed widely in the country where she was born that is friendly to prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Adelson and her family are major players in the Republican Party in the U.S., and she and her late husband were among the biggest contributors to the campaigns of former President Donald Trump.

Las Vegas Sands sold The Venetian, Palazzo and Venetian Expo Center in Las Vegas in February 2022 for \$6.25 billion to private equity firm Apollo Global Management and real estate investment trust VICI Properties. The convention hall was previously known as the Sands Expo and Convention Center.

The Adelson family was initially involved in efforts that in 2020 brought the NFL Raiders from Oakland, California, to Las Vegas, but pulled out of a \$650 million pledge to finance the stadium. The Raiders were able to complete the deal to build what would become Allegiant Stadium after a loan from Bank of America.



WILL THE MAVS RELOCATE?

It's doubtful Adelson would try to move the Mavericks to Las Vegas, especially since Cuban will retain responsibility over basketball operations. It's more likely the city would land an expansion team. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in July that the league would need to finish negotiating the next media-rights deal and then would turn its attention to potential expansion.

"There's no doubt that there's enormous interest in this (Las Vegas) market," Silver said at the time.

BETTING ON TEXAS

Adelson's goal of legalizing gambling in Texas is no secret.

She pumped more than \$2 million last year into a political action committee, called Texas Sands, which donated lavishly to state legislators and swarmed the GOP-controlled state Capitol with lobbyists. She also gave another \$1 million separately to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

But the spending blitz failed to deliver a breakthrough this year in the Texas Legislature, where resistance to legalizing casinos runs deep. Texas already has a billionaire NBA owner who is a casino operator, Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta, who also

supports bringing casinos to his home state but has watched lawmakers sink the idea year after year.

Underlining the political hurdles, the Texas GOP passed a resolution in March that renewed opposition among party activists, saying the purported benefits to allowing casinos "fail to overcome the substantial economic and social costs."

CUBAN'S FUTURE

Because Cuban is leaving the popular TV show "Shark Tank" after 16 years in addition to selling his majority stake in the Mavericks, speculation online wondered if this portends a move into politics.

Cuban's own history has long fueled whether he has such a move in his future. He considered a presidential run in 2020 as an independent, and Cuban has long been an outspoken critic of Trump, who is projected to be a top contender to reclaim the Republican nomination next year.

But Cuban poured cold water on such talk by telling NBC News he has "no plans" to launch a campaign.

"My family would disown me," he told the network in an email.

It's possible Cuban has an interest in making an impact in an entirely different field and will annou-

nce those plans at a later time. He also could simply decide to take a step back from the public eye.

WHAT'S NEXT?

It's standard for the NBA to take several weeks and put the prospective new

buyer of any franchise through a rigorous vetting process, going through not just financial records but anything and everything that might be problematic.

After that vetting occurs, the Board of Governors votes to decide whether or not to approve the sale. By that point, the "yes" vote is typically just a formality.

A statement by the Adelsons said they were hoping to complete the transaction by the end of the year.

It also would seem possible that the sale could be finalized by the All-Star break in mid-February when Silver holds a news conference to discuss league matters. Silver will also likely address the potential sale at the In-Season Tournament in Las Vegas when he speaks there during the Dec. 7-9 weekend. MDT/AP

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Foreign Minister Wang Yi

DIPLOMACY

China presents UN with Mideast peace plan

MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN,
UNITED NATIONS

CHINA yesterday [Macau time] presented the United Nations Security Council with a four-point plan for Middle East peace in a demonstration of its

ambitions to be a global superpower.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the council that the war shows the urgent need for a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"We should revitalize the political prospects of the two-state

solution with stronger determination," he said. The lack of a Palestinian state is "the crux of the repeated turbulence in the Palestinian-Israeli situation," he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden and other U.S. officials also have spoken in favor of working

toward a two-state solution for the conflict.

China made its biggest foray into Middle East politics when it brokered a deal in March for longtime opponents Iran and Saudi to reestablish diplomatic ties. The accord — sealed in Beijing after direct intervention by President Xi Jinping — helped ease the Saudi-Iranian rivalry that has fueled conflicts around the region.

"For the first time they showed a willingness to play a role in Middle East political and security matters," said Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. "That has then opened up

the floodgate of expectations."

Regardless, the United States remains a major power in the Middle East, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield emphasized Washington's attempts, with Middle Eastern allies, to help ease the current war.

"We're now on the sixth day of the humanitarian pause in Gaza," she said. "A pause that, quite frankly, would not have been possible without the leadership of Qatar, Egypt and the United States."

Wang took a longer historical perspective. "Israel has long established an independent state and the Jews are no longer without a home," Wang said told the Security Council. "But the right of the Palestinian people to statehood, their right to existence and their right of return, has long been ignored."

"Fairness and justice on the Palestinian question lies in the two-state solution," he continued. "This is irreplaceable."

On two of his other points, Wang told the council that the world should "work for a comprehensive and lasting cease-fire with the greatest urgency," and better protect civilians.

His fourth point was that the Security Council should "shoulder its responsibility on major issues of war and peace and life and death ... in light of the development on the ground, take further action promptly." Wang did not specify what action the council should take. **MDT/AP**

MILITARY

Beijing says US arms sales to Taiwan are turning the island into a 'powder keg'

CHINA'S defense ministry said Thursday that the U.S. should stop interfering in both Taiwan and the South China Sea, saying U.S. arms sales to Taiwan are making the situation more dangerous.

Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party is "turning Taiwan into a weapons depot and a powder keg," said Senior Col. Wu Qian, the defense ministry's top spokesperson.

He spoke less than two months ahead of a presidential election in which Taiwan voters will choose between the ruling party, which favors a stronger defense and close ties to the U.S., and opposition parties that advocate improving ties with China as the best way to reduce tensions.



Senior Col. Wu Qian, the defense ministry's top spokesperson, holds up souvenir pins to mark the Chinese Air Force anniversary during a press conference in Beijing yesterday

"Taiwan's security depends on the peaceful development of cross-strait relations instead of a

few pieces of U.S.-made weapons," Wu said at a monthly news conference. The 160-kilometer-wi-

de Taiwan Strait runs between Taiwan and mainland's east coast.

The self-governing is-

land is an integral part of China and Beijing says it must come under its control. The U.S. government does not support formal independence for Taiwan but is bound by its own laws to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

"We request that the U.S. side acts in accordance with its words and takes concrete steps to honor its commitment not to support Taiwan independence, stops arming Taiwan and stops undermining China's core interest," Wu said.

Some American lawmakers are calling for stepped-up support in response to threatening military drills by China.

Wu also criticized the U.S. for supporting the Philippines in the latter's territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has sought U.S. assistance, including a recent joint patrol conducted by their militaries.

"The U.S. has meddled in the South China Sea issue for its self-interests and instigated and supported the Philippines to infringe on (China's) rights and stir up trouble," Wu said.

He said that Chinese and U.S. defense officials are in contact to re-establish military-to-military communication at various levels. Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping agreed to do that during a summit meeting about two weeks ago. China had suspended communications for more than a year in a dispute related to the Taiwan issue.

Wu also said that China is paying close attention to fighting between a group of militias and the Myanmar army near the border with China. The Chinese military held live-fire drills on the Chinese side of the border earlier this week.

"The Chinese military always maintains high alert and is ready to respond to all kinds of unexpected situations," Wu said. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Young Local Golfers Play with 4 Pro Champions at Sands Golf Day

Macau Junior Golf Association members learn from Minjee Lee, Lydia Ko, Minwoo Lee, and Collin Morikawa

Sands China hosted four renowned professional golfers at the Front Lawn (between The Parisian Macao and the Four Seasons Hotel Macao Cotai Strip) and at The Venetian Macao Oct. 23 for **Sands Golf Day**, where they led a skills challenge with 16 young local golfers aged 7-15 from the **Macau Junior Golf Association**.

The event offered the young participants a unique platform of interaction, inspiration, and mentorship with the four accomplished golf pros:

- **Minjee Lee** – ten-time LPGA Tour winner, including two Majors: the Evian Championship and the U.S. Women's Open. An Australian of Korean heritage, she is the first female brand ambassador for Las Vegas Sands Corp.
- **Lydia Ko** – former Ladies Professional Golf World Number 1, and the youngest player to reach that milestone. The Korean-born New Zealander is a 19-time LPGA Tour winner, including two Majors.
- **Minwoo Lee** – 2023 Macao Open champion, winning by setting a new tournament record of a four-round aggregate of 30 under par. The brother of Minjee Lee, he is a star player in the European Tour and the Asian Tour.
- **Collin Morikawa** – two-time Ryder Cup player for the U.S., six-time PGA tour winner, and two-time Major champion. An American of Chinese and Japanese descent, he became the first player in history to win on two Major championship debuts.

During the event's **Front Lawn Challenge**, the professional golfers demonstrated their accuracy with long-distance shots at designated targets, with the participation of the amateur young golfers adding excitement to the event.

In the **Long Putt Skills Challenge**, four groups comprised of young golfers and pros played on behalf of either the Macau Deaf Association or Orbis Macau, after which Sands China donated a total of MOP 100,000 to the two organisations, based on the results of the friendly competition.

Sands Golf Day is the latest example of Sands China's commitment to giving young athletes rare opportunities to learn from professionals like Sands brand ambassadors David Beckham and Minjee Lee.



NORTH KOREA

Kim's sister rejects US offer of dialogue and vows more satellite launches

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

THE powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday dismissed U.S. calls for a return to diplomacy and lambasted its condemnations of the North's recent spy satellite launch, vowing more launches in violation of U.N. bans.

During a U.N. Security Council meeting earlier this week, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, called the North's satellite launch a "reckless, unlawful" action that threatens its neighbors. But she reiterated the U.S. offer for dialogue without any preconditions, saying North Korea "can choose the timing and topic."

Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, rejected the U.S. overture and threatened more satellite and other weapons launches.

"The sovereignty of an independent state can never be an agenda item for negotiations, and therefore, (North Korea) will never sit face to face with the U.S. for that purpose," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media.

"(North Korea) will continue to make efforts to develop everything belonging to its sovereign

rights and continue to exercise the sovereign rights, enjoyed by all the member states of the U.N., in a dignified manner without being restricted in the future, too," she said.

Multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions ban North Korea from performing any launches using ballistic technology, such as satellite liftoffs and missile tests. But the North has argued it has sovereign rights to launch spy satellites and test-flight ballistic missiles to cope with what it calls U.S.-led military threats. It views major U.S.-South Korean military drills as invasion rehearsal and often reacts with its own weapons tests.

Kim Yo Jong said the U.N. Security Council meeting last Monday was convened at "the gangster-like demand of the U.S. and its followers." She said Thomas-Greenfield must first explain why U.S. strategic assets have frequently appeared at South Korean ports, rather than branding the North's satellite launch as "illegal."

She apparently referred to the increasing temporary deployments of powerful U.S. military assets like aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines in line with an earlier U.S.-South Korean agreement to boost their defense against North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. **MDT/AP**

USA

Kissinger was a trusted confidant to Nixon until the bitter, bizarre end

NANCY BENAC, WASHINGTON

DECADES later, the scene still is almost too bizarre to imagine: a tearful president and his perplexed aide, neither very religious, kneeling on the floor of a White House bedroom in prayer in the waning hours of a shattered presidency.

Until the bitter end, Henry Kissinger was one of the trusted few in Richard Nixon's tight circle. That trust, combined with Kissinger's intellectual heft and deft manipulation of power, made him a pivotal player in a tense period in American history, a giant of U.S. foreign policy and a fixture in pop culture who stood witness to some strange moments in the White House.

The German-born diplomat who got the U.S. out of Vietnam after bloody, costly years of delay and into China in a sudden burst of secret diplomacy died yesterday [Macau time] at his home in Connecticut. He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding

public presence and behind-the-scenes maneuvers, Kissinger exerted unprecedented influence on global affairs under Presidents Nixon and Gerald Ford.

His power grew during Watergate, when he took on a role akin to co-president to the discredited Nixon.

"No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe."

A Jew who fled Nazi Germany with his family in his teens, Kissinger in his later years cultivated the reputation of respected statesman, giving speeches, offering advice to Republican and Democratic presidents alike and managing a global consulting business.

He turned up in Donald Trump's White House on multiple occasions. Initially, he told "PBS NewsHour" last year, he had some sympathy with Trump's views about America's national interests. But he lost enthusiasm as Trump

became "so centrally focused on one person" — himself — and turned issues into confrontations.

"At the end," he said, "for an American president to challenge the constitutional system and to try to overthrow the constitutional system is a grave matter. And I find no excuse for that."

After he left government, Kissinger was dogged by critics who argued that he should be called to account for his policies on Southeast Asia and support of repressive regimes in Latin America.

For eight years — first as national security adviser, later as secretary of state, and for a time holding both titles — Kissinger ranged across the breadth of major foreign policy issues. He conducted the first "shuttle diplomacy" in the quest for Middle East peace. He used secret channels to pursue ties between the United States and China, ending decades of isolation and mutual hostility.

He initiated the Paris negotiations that ultimately provided a fa-

ce-saving means to get the United States out of Vietnam. Two years later, Saigon fell to the communists, leaving a bitter taste among former U.S. allies who blamed Nixon, Kissinger and Congress for abandoning them.

And he pursued a policy of detente with the Soviet Union that led to arms-control agreements and raised the possibility that the tensions of the Cold War and its nuclear threat did not have to last forever.

Kissinger was a practitioner of realpolitik — using diplomacy to achieve practical objectives rather than advance lofty ideals. Supporters said his pragmatic bent served U.S. interests; critics saw a Machiavellian approach that ran counter to democratic ideals.

He was faulted for authorizing telephone wiretaps of reporters and his own National Security Council staff to plug news leaks in Nixon's White House. He was denounced on college campuses for the bombing and allied invasion of

Cambodia in April 1970, intended to destroy North Vietnamese supply lines to communist forces in South Vietnam.

That "incursion," as Nixon and Kissinger called it, was blamed by some for contributing to Cambodia's fall into the hands of Khmer Rouge insurgents who later slaughtered some 2 million Cambodians.

Kissinger sought to debunk what he referred to as a "prevalent myth" that he and Nixon had settled in 1972 for peace terms that were available in 1969. He insisted the only way to speed up the withdrawal of U.S. troops would have been to overthrow the government of South Vietnam.

Pudgy and messy, Kissinger incongruously acquired a reputation as a ladies' man in the staid Nixon administration. Kissinger, who divorced his first wife and mother of his two children in 1964, called women "a diversion, a hobby." He married Nancy Maginnes, a researcher for Nelson

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT KISSINGER

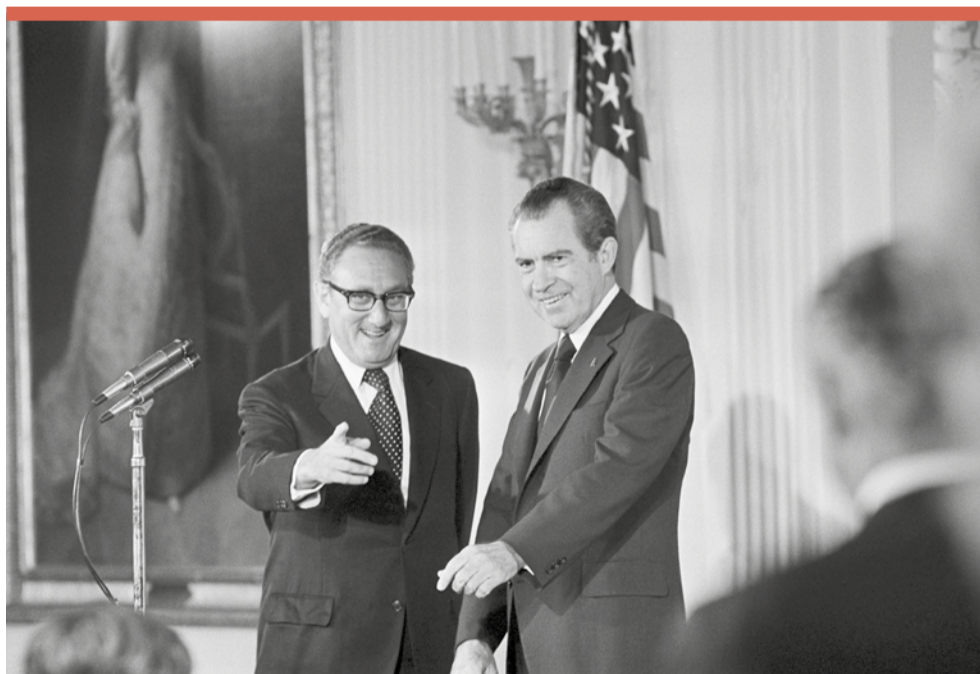
A dominant figure in global affairs in the 1970s

FORMER Secretary of State Henry Kissinger exerted far-reaching influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford between 1969 and 1977, earning both vilification and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Here are five things to know about his life in government and beyond:

HIS PORTFOLIO

For eight restless years — first as national security adviser, later as secretary of state, and for a time as both — Kissinger played a dominant role in foreign policy. He conducted the first "shuttle diplomacy" in the quest for Middle East peace. He used secret negotiations to restore ties between the United States and China. He initiated the Paris talks that ultimately provided a face-saving means to get the United States out of war in Vietnam. And he pursued detente with the Soviet Union that led to arms-control agreements.



Sept. 22, 1973: Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (left) gestures to the audience in the East Room of the White House, as President Richard Nixon watches

HIS BOSS

Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of the Watergate scandal, when the politically attuned diplomat took on a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon. "No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence

during Watergate. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe." Kissinger told colleagues at the White House that he was the one person who kept Nixon, "that drunken lunatic," from doing things that would "blow up the world," according to Walter Isaacson,

who wrote the 1992 biography "Kissinger."

HIS CACHET

Pudgy and messy, Kissinger acquired a reputation as a ladies' man in the staid Nixon administration. Kissinger called women "a diversion, a hobby." Isaacson wrote that Hollywood

executives were eager to set him up with starlets, whom Kissinger squired to premieres and showy restaurants. His companions included Jill St. John, Shirley MacLaine, Marlo Thomas, Candice Bergen and Liv Ullmann. In a poll of Playboy Club Bunnies in 1972, the man dubbed "Super-K" by Newsweek finished first as "the man I would most like to go out on a date with." Kissinger's explanation: "Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac."

HIS CRITICS

Kissinger for decades battled the notion that he and Nixon had settled in 1972 for peace terms in Vietnam that had been available in 1969 and thus had needlessly prolonged the war at the cost of tens of thousands of American lives. He was castigated for authorizing telephone wiretaps of reporters and his own National Security Council staff to plug news leaks in Nixon's White House. He was denounced on college campuses for the

bombing and allied invasion of Cambodia in April 1970, intended to destroy North Vietnamese supply lines to communist forces in South Vietnam. That "incursion," as Nixon and Kissinger called it, was blamed by some for contributing to Cambodia's fall into the hands of Khmer Rouge insurgents.

HIS LATER YEARS

Kissinger cultivated the reputation of respected elder statesman, giving speeches, offering advice to Republican and Democratic presidents alike and managing a lucrative global consulting business as he traveled the world. But records from the Nixon era, released over the years, brought with them revelations that sometimes cast him in a harsh light. Kissinger was dogged by critics at home and abroad who argued that he should be called to account for his policies on Southeast Asia and support of repressive regimes in Latin America. He had to think twice before traveling to certain countries to be sure that he would not be summoned by judges seeking to question him about Nixon-era actions. **MDT/AP**



Kissinger: death at 100

Rockefeller, in 1974.

Gallup found Kissinger was the most admired man in America in 1972 and 1973, the year he won the Nobel Peace Prize with Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief negotiator, for the accord under which America pulled out of South Vietnam.

(Tho declined the award.)

And yet Kissinger was reviled by many Americans for his conduct of wartime diplomacy. When Columbia University proposed giving Kissinger a teaching post after he left government in 1977, the idea drew such strong protest that the

job never materialized. In 2015, an appearance by the 91-year-old Kissinger before the Senate Armed Services Committee was disrupted by protesters demanding his arrest for war crimes and calling out his actions in Southeast Asia, Chile and beyond.

Kissinger told colleagues at the White House he was the one person who kept Nixon, "that drunken lunatic," from doing things that would "blow up the world," according to Walter Isaacson, who wrote the 1992 biography, "Kissinger."

The two men shared an ambivalent personal relationship, Kissinger writing in his memoirs that "deep down one could never be certain that what one found so disturbing in Nixon might not also be a reflection of some suppressed flaw within oneself."

Heinz Alfred Kissinger was born in the Bavarian city of Fuerth on May 27, 1923. Kissinger's family left Nazi Germany in 1938 and settled in Manhattan, where Heinz changed his name to Henry.

Drafted during World War II, he was assigned to Army counterintelligence and worked on reorganizing municipal governments in occupied Germany. He was educated at Harvard and wrote a 1957 book, "Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy," that established his reputation as an expert on global diplomacy.

In 1968, Kissinger offered himself as speechwriter and adviser to Rockefeller, who was seeking the Republican presidential nomination. When Nixon won the election, he invited Kissinger to be his national security adviser. Kissinger took the job, although he'd "spent 12 years of my life trying to keep

him from becoming president," he later recalled.

From the start, Kissinger and Nixon maneuvered to keep control over foreign policy in their hands and away from Secretary of State William Rogers and the State Department career diplomats, whom they both scorned.

During his 39 months as secretary of state between 1973 and 1977, Kissinger flew hundreds of thousands of miles, conferring with world leaders and trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In 1971, Kissinger feigned a stomach illness during a visit to Pakistan and vanished on a secret trip to Beijing that laid the groundwork for Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972.

One of the strangest moments in Kissinger's life occurred on Aug. 7, 1974, the night before Nixon gave up his fight to retain the presidency. Nixon summoned Kissinger to the family quarters in the White House, and they spent 90 minutes together.

As Kissinger was leaving, Nixon steered him into the Lincoln Bedroom and suggested they kneel in prayer. And so they did — the Quaker-born Nixon, the Jewish-born Kissinger, on the floor, Nixon in tears about the unfairness of his fate. Returning to his office, Kissinger told his closest aides: "He is truly a tragic figure," Isaacson wrote. **MDT/AP**

REACTIONS

China, world leaders praise Kissinger, but his record also draws criticism

GLOBAL leaders paid tribute to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger yesterday, but there was also sharp criticism of the man who remained an influential figure decades after his official service as one of the most powerful diplomats in American history.

Kissinger, who died at 100, drew praise as a skilled defender of U.S. interests. On social media, though, he was widely called a war criminal who left lasting damage throughout the world.

Kissinger served two presidents, Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, and dominated foreign policy as the United States withdrew from Vietnam and established ties with China.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called Kissinger an "old friend and good friend of the Chinese people, and a pioneer and builder of China-U.S. relations."

Many on social me-

dia in China mourned his passing. State broadcaster CCTV shared on social media an old segment showing Kissinger's first secret visit to China in 1971, when he broached the possibility of establishing U.S.-China relations and met then-Premier Zhou Enlai.

Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs long after he left office. In July, for instance, he met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing while U.S.-Chinese relations were at a low point.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was "in awe" of Kissinger.

"Of course, like anyone who has confronted the most difficult problems of international politics, he was criticized at times, even denounced," Blair said. But I believe he was always motivated not from a coarse 'realpolitik,' but from a genuine love of the free world and the need to protect it. He was a problem solver,

whether in respect of the Cold War, the Middle East or China and its rise."

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said as he met U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Tel Aviv that Kissinger "laid the cornerstone of the peace agreement, which (was) later signed with Egypt, and so many other processes around the world I admire."

Blinken said Kissinger "really set the standard for everyone who followed in this job" and that he was "very privileged to get his counsel many times, including as recently as about a month ago."

"Few people were better students of history," he said. "Even fewer people did more to shape history than Henry Kissinger."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a message to Kissinger's wife that he was "a wise and far-sighted statesman" and his name "is inextricably linked with a pragmatic foreign poli-

cy line, which at one time made it possible to achieve detente in international tensions and reach the most important Soviet-American agreements that contributed to the strengthening of global security."

French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that "Henry Kissinger was a giant of history. His century of ideas and of diplomacy had a lasting influence on his time and on our world."

Leaders of Kissinger's native Germany paid tribute to the former diplomat, a Jew who fled Nazi rule with his family in his teens.

"His commitment to the transatlantic friendship between the USA and Germany was significant, and he always remained close to his German homeland," Chancellor Olaf Scholz wrote on X.

In a message of condolences to Kissinger's family, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier wrote that "with

his détente and disarmament policy, Henry Kissinger laid the foundation for the end of the Cold War and the democratic transition in eastern Europe" which led to Germany's reunification.

Criticism of Kissinger, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in negotiating a cease-fire in Vietnam in 1973, was especially strong on social media, where many posted celebratory videos in reaction to his death.

A Rolling Stone magazine headline said, "Henry Kissinger, war criminal beloved by America's ruling class, finally dies."

"Henry Kissinger's bombing campaign likely killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians — and set (a) path for the ravages of the Khmer Rouge," Sophal Ear, a scholar at Arizona State University who studies Cambodia's political economy, wrote on The Conversation.

"The cluster bombs dropped on Cambodia under Kissinger's watch continue to destroy the lives of any man, woman or child who happens across them," Sophal Ear wrote.

The head of the independent Documentation

Center of Cambodia, Youk Chhang, described Kissinger's legacy as "controversial." Well over half of the population was born after the Khmer Rouge were ousted in 1979 and Kissinger left government, so there is not much awareness among Cambodians about his record, he said.

Kissinger initiated the Paris negotiations that ultimately provided a face-saving means to get the United States out of a costly war in Vietnam.

Nixon's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, said their father and Kissinger enjoyed "a partnership that produced a generation of peace for our nation."

"Dr. Kissinger played an important role in the historic opening to the People's Republic of China and in advancing détente with the Soviet Union, bold initiatives which initiated the beginning of the end of the Cold War," the Nixon daughters said in a statement. "His 'shuttle diplomacy' to the Middle East helped to advance the relaxation of tensions in that troubled region of the world," the Nixon daughters said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



GAZA STRIP

Truce extended another day but talks could get tougher

MELANIE LIDMAN,
JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and Hamas agreed yesterday to extend their cease-fire by another day, just minutes before it was set to expire. Any further renewal of the truce in Gaza appeared increasingly difficult as most women and children held by the militants have already been released in swaps for Palestinian prisoners.

As word of the extension came, gunmen opened fire on people waiting for buses along a main highway entering Jerusalem, killing at least three people and wounding several others, according to police.

The two attackers, brothers from a Palestinian neighborhood in annexed east Jerusalem, were killed. Hamas said they were members of its armed wing and celebrated the assault, but called it "a natural response" to Israel's actions in Gaza and elsewhere. It was unclear if the attack had been ordered by Hamas' leaders or if it would have an impact on the truce.

International pressure has mounted for the cease-fire to continue as long as possible after nearly eight weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground campaign in Gaza that have killed thousands of Palestinians, uprooted more than three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million and led to a humanitarian crisis.

U.S. Secretary of State An-

tony Blinken, who is on his third visit to the region since the start of the war, said "my heart goes out" to the victims of the Jerusalem attack. Blinken is expected to press for further extensions of the truce and the release of more hostages.

"This process is producing results. It's important, and we hope that it can continue," he said.

Qatar, which has played a key role in mediating with Hamas, announced that the truce was being extended. In the past, Hamas has released at least 10 Israeli hostages per day in exchange for Israel's release of at least 30 Palestinian prisoners.

The announcement followed a last-minute standoff, with Hamas saying Israel had rejected a proposed list that included seven living captives and the remains of three who the group said were killed in Israeli airstrikes. Israel later said Hamas submitted an improved list, but gave no details.

The talks appear to be growing tougher, with Hamas having already freed most of the women and children kidnapped during the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war. The militants are expected to make greater demands in return for freeing men and soldiers.

Israel says it will maintain the truce until Hamas stops releasing captives, at which point it will resume military operations aimed at eliminating the

group. The Biden administration has told Israel that it must operate with far greater precision if it expands the ground offensive to the south, where many Palestinians have sought refuge.

INCREASINGLY TENSE HOSTAGE TALKS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under intense pressure from families of the hostages to bring them home. But his far-right governing partners are also pushing him to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed, and could bolt his coalition if he is seen as making too many concessions.

The initial truce — which began Friday and has now been extended twice — called for the release of women and children. Israeli officials say Gaza militants still hold around 30 women and children, who would all be released in a few days if the swaps continue at the current rate.

It's not clear how many of the women might be soldiers. For soldiers and the men still in captivity, Hamas is expected to push for comparable releases of Palestinian men or prominent detainees, a deal Israel may resist.

Israel says around 125 men are still held hostage, including several dozen soldiers. Thus far, Hamas has released some men — mostly Thai laborers.

An Israeli official involved in hostage negotiations said talks on a further extension for

the release of civilian men and soldiers were still preliminary, and that a deal would not be considered until all the women and children are out. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing.

So far, most Palestinians released have been teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces. Several were women convicted by Israeli military courts of attempting to attack soldiers. Palestinians have celebrated the release of people they see as having resisted Israel's decadeslong military occupation of lands they want for a future state.

With Wednesday's releases, a total of 73 Israelis, including dual nationals, have been freed during the six-day truce, most of whom appear physically well but shaken. Another 24 hostages — 23 Thais and one Filipino — have also been released.

Before the cease-fire, Hamas released four hostages, and the Israeli army rescued one. Two others were found dead in Gaza. Yesterday, the military confirmed the death of Ofir Tzarfati, who was believed to be among the hostages, without providing any further details. Israeli media say the 27-year-old attended a music festival where at least 360 people were killed and several others were kidnapped on Oct. 7. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1990 TUNNEL LINKS UK AND EUROPE



Construction workers have drilled through the final wall of rock to join the two halves of the Channel Tunnel and link Britain to France.

The momentous breakthrough links the UK to Europe for the first time since the Ice Age, about 8,000 years ago.

To a throng of cheers, construction workers celebrated with champagne - the only time alcohol has been allowed underground on the work site.

French worker, Philippe Cozette, and his British counterpart, Graham Fagg, waved flags and shook hands as the first men able to walk between the two countries.

Only moments earlier at 1100 GMT, a half-metre wall of rock separated Britain from mainland Europe.

The men continued drilling until a hole was created big enough to allow vehicles through.

The first Britons walked through the tunnel to have their passports stamped in France.

There were similar scenes on the other side as a French party which drove into Folkestone, Kent, headed straight over to customs and immigration officers.

Transport secretary Malcolm Rifkind was among the first through.

Speaking to the BBC, he said: "The physical contact that has been achieved between Britain and France today is symptomatic of many changes that we have been experiencing in the last 20 years.

"It is all happening and it is continuing to happen at an accelerating pace."

Downing Street called the event a "tribute to private enterprise".

The Channel Tunnel venture is expected to lead to the construction of a high speed train link across Kent, to match one France has already built.

Work on the Channel Tunnel began in 1986 and it is due to be completed by 1993.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Channel Tunnel was first formally proposed in 1963 although the concept had long been under discussion.

Its cost ballooned to £12bn - more than double original estimates and construction finished a year late in 1994.

Original expectations of public enthusiasm for the project proved over-optimistic and Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, unveiled a loss of £925m in 1995 - one of the biggest in UK corporate history. A fire in the tunnel which led to freight traffic being suspended for more than six months in 1996 added to its woes.

It eventually caught on as a mode of transport and Eurotunnel announced its first net profits in 1999.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Work quietly on your own. You will be able to communicate well today.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Get out and experience the spice of life. You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order. Someone around you may not be trustworthy.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Come to your own conclusions rather than taking the word of someone else. Be cautious not to get involved in office chatter that will cause problems for others.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Help an older member with a problem that faces them. Socializing or travel will lead to partnerships.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Don't let any small misunderstandings get in the way.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You will inspire confidence in others. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Be discreet and don't reveal any personal information. Don't overspend on items for your home. Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Your own small business on the side could ease your financial stress. Empty promises are evident and deception probable. You're in a high cycle for romance.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You will need to finalize important deals today. You need time to make things better. You may cause a fuss if you come on too strongly in public.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. You should include children in your activities. Try to spend time with those having similar interests.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it. Discord may arise with someone you're close to. Don't let your mate talk you into going somewhere you'd rather not go.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

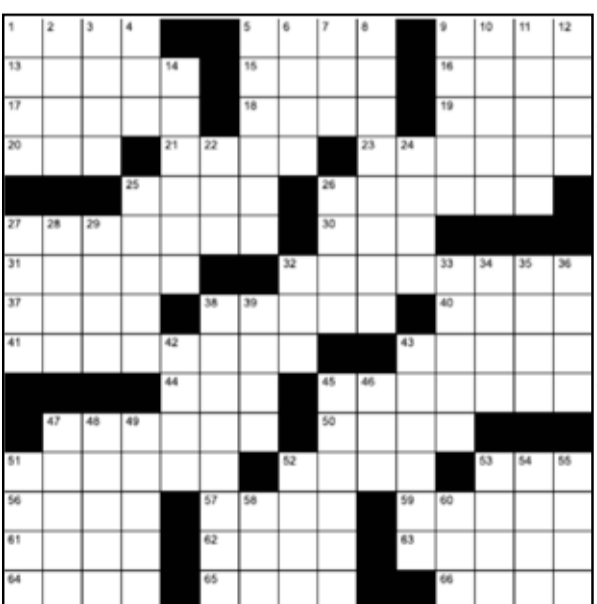
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	fine
Changchun	-14	-6	fine
Chengdu	6	12	cloudy
Chongqing	11	13	rain
Fuzhou	13	16	overcast
Guangzhou	14	21	overcast
Guiyang	4	7	overcast
Haikou	22	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	5	9	fine
Harbin	-21	-11	fine
Hefei	-3	9	fine
Nanjing	0	8	cloudy
Shanghai	5	8	fine
Taipei	15	18	rain
Wuhan	0	10	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	22	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-9	-4	snow
Frankfurt	-5	1	cloudy
Paris	-3	3	cloudy
London	-3	5	overcast
New York	7	10	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Slight; 5- Footfall; 9- Attention-getting sound; 13- Whiskey type; 15- Make weary; 16- Gen. Robert ___; 17- From that time; 18- Impersonator; 19- Verdi opera; 20- Approved; 21- Phooey!; 23- Dell dweller, traditionally; 25- Mal de ___; 26- Wheel; 27- Baccate; 30- Source of iron; 31- Redbreast; 32- Junior, to Senior; 37- Monogram ltr; 38- Ages; 40- Take ___ from me; 41- Concentrated extracts; 43- Like Humpty Dumpty; 44- Wildcatter's find; 45- Official permit; 47- Recompense; 50- High cards; 51- Less fresh; 52- German Helmut; 53- Star Wars letters; 56- Rabble; 57- Mine entrance; 59- Not concealed; 61- Et ___ (and other men); 62- Ticks off; 63- Hire cars; 64- Actor Connery; 65- Campbell of "Scream"; 66- Word processing error;

DOWN 1- Japanese soup; 2- Actor Estrada; 3- Orange cover; 4- PC key; 5- Declared; 6- Rewards for waiting; 7- Before; 8- Acts; 9- Bit of wisdom; 10- Thin glutinous mud; 11- Passover meal; 12- Pull apart; 14- Throughout this document; 22- Chowd down; 24- "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell); 25- Hackneyed; 26- Horse of mixed color; 27- Soft cheese; 28- Seemingly forever; 29- Diamond stats; 32- Votes against; 33- Rescues; 34- ___ impasse; 35- Sets of equipment; 36- Blunted blade; 38- Environmental awareness topic; 39- Electric fish; 42- Zilch; 43- Leopardlike cat; 45- Taoism founder; 46- ___ bin ein Berliner; 47- ___ of Two Cities; 48- Secret organization; 49- Pixyish; 51- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 52- Capital of the Ukraine; 53- Hot; 54- Faucet problem; 55- Wishing won't make ___; 58- Rapping Dr.; 60- Large container;

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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AD

DRIVE IN

'EILEEN,' A WONDERFUL NOVEL ABOUT AN 'INVISIBLE' YOUNG LADY BECOMES A ODDBALL FILM

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

SOMETHING strange has happened to Eileen Dunlop, and we don't just mean the plot of "Eileen." The adaptation of novelist Ottessa Moshfegh's delicious coming-of-age heroine has had a weird birth onto film.

The plot and setting haven't changed: It's late 1964 in a frigid coastal town in Massachusetts. "Everybody's kind of angry here — it's Massachusetts," Eileen explains in one her best lines. She works as a clerk at a juvenile corrections facility, goes home to an alcoholic dad and repeats. Her whole world is a prison.

In print, she is dark and self-obsessed and deliciously willing to poke into every squeamish horror, even her own "folds and caverns." On celluloid, she is just a plain, anti-social Jane. In print in one scene, she scratches her nether regions and pointedly uses the unwashed fingers to shake hands with a boss. In the film, she just walks away. Eileen has been neutered.

It's not clear what has happened since Moshfegh — along with Luke Goebel — is a screenwriter as well as a producer. Moshfegh's original creation is a "fabulous

AP PHOTO



Anne Hathaway (left) and Thomasin McKenzie in a scene from "Eileen" (Neon)

shoplifter" who keeps a dead field mouse in the glove box of her smoky Dodge Coronet and loves National Geographic issues that feature unusual, painful tribal rituals. None of that made it to the film. That leaves her too inert, too passive — wide-eyed without the naughty.

"Eileen" was always going to be a hard book to adapt, especially since it's so internal. It's really a

character study for most of the way, then events get jolted by an unexpected outsider—a real deus ex machina — and then it evolves into a low-stakes noir thriller, right down to the film's too heavy Hitchcockian end credits.

Thomasin McKenzie playing the titular character has a lot to do and she does it admirably, appearing mouse-ish from the outside, pulling pubic hair out of

a bar of soap with delightful glee and taking the occasional flight of fancy by dreaming of executing her dad or having a hot and heavy tryst with a guard. "Get a life, Eileen. Get a clue," says her unamusing dad.

The deus ex machina here is Anne Hathaway as the glamorous Harvard-trained psychiatrist Rebecca Saint John, who drinks cocktails, smokes furiously — "It's

a nasty habit. That's why I like it" — dances alone in bars and doesn't buy any '50s conventions. "I don't get what's popular," she says. Hathaway could have pulled back the throttle a little, often over-awing McKenzie's mouse.

Hathaway's sophisticated character is the key to unlocking Eileen, and the young woman begins mimicking the older, often wearing her dead mother's clothes as she smokes or drinks martinis. They have a sort of flirtation — game recognizing game. "You really think you're a normal person?" the psychiatrist asks Eileen.

While director William Oldroyd often gets lost in the heavy darkness of noir, the screenwriters have some fabulous lines, like when Saint John tells Eileen: "You remind me of a girl in a Dutch painting. You have a strange face. It's plain but fascinating — with a beautiful turbulence."

Or when gin-soaked dad — a great Shea Whigham — calmly destroys his daughter: "Some people, they're the real people. Like in a movie. They're the ones you watch, they're the ones making moves. And other people, they're just there, filling the space," he says. "That's you, Eileen. You're one of them."

And that's the fate of "Eileen," too, unfortunately. By sanding off all the dark human quirks from their deeply human heroine, the filmmakers have left us a film that's just filling the space.

"Eileen," a Neon release in theatres Dec. 1, is rated R for "violent content, sexual content and language." Running time: 97 minutes. ★★☆☆

ZAHRA Hankir opens "Eyeliner: A Cultural History" by marveling over her mother's elegant beauty process as she delicately sweeps black kohl on her waterline, dreaming of displaying that same confidence one day.

For Hankir, eyeliner is more than just a cosmetic product. It provides protection and empowerment. It provides cultural connection. It exists beyond borders, gender roles and Western beauty standards. Lining one's waterline or drawing a delicate black line across an eyelid is more than aesthetics. For many of the underrepresented groups and communities of color highlighted in Hankir's book, applying the product is a ritual deeply rooted in spirituality, culture, identity and more. If self-care is an act of resistance, then eyeliner is a tool in the rebellion.

BOOK IT

'Eyeliner' examines the staple makeup product's revolutionary role in global society

The Lebanese-British journalist seamlessly takes her readers on a global investigation of how the cosmetic product is used worldwide. Through intimate narratives with varied characters from different cultures and communities, we learn more about the product's rise in prominence while having a fly-on-the-wall inside look at the ways it serves medicinal purposes, fuels spiritual practices, uplifts self-expression and how its mere existence on someone's eyelid can be viewed as a form of defiance.

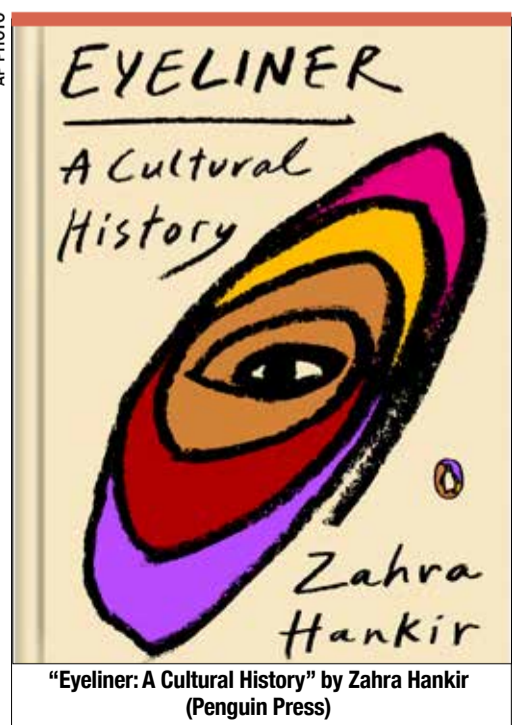
Hankir begins this thoroughly researched journey by educating her rea-

ders on Egypt's Queen Nefertiti and her rise as a symbol of "ideal feminine beauty." The Egyptian queen posthumously influenced mainstream culture, leading eventually to the beauty item's spot in shopping mall stores and in makeup ads across Western society. But while detailing Nefertiti's legacy, Hankir does not shy away from reflecting on how the queen's thick-lined trademark became twisted and co-opted by white Western culture. She addresses it head-on and shares the complete history of its popularity. All of the good and the bad that follows popularity.

The book is a little over 300 pages long and packs enough information for readers to walk away with more in-depth knowledge of the staple product sitting idly inside their makeup bag.

"Eyeliner" comes full circle, highlighting today's beauty influencers and allowing viewers to see the ripple effects of popularity and cultural exchange as this one beauty product carries the constant line of simultaneously emphasizing the beauty and power each person possesses as they line their eyes and prepare to embark on their personal journeys. LESLIE AMBRIZ, MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



"Eyeliner: A Cultural History" by Zahra Hankir (Penguin Press)



TASTE OF EDESIA

Fit for a diva

IRENE SAM, MDT

LATELY, the newly opened W Macau - Studio City brings a unique presentation of lifestyle luxury through its beverage and food experiences. **DIVA**, the hotel's specialty restaurant, offers an immersive contemporary Cantonese dining experience and has been quickly gaining popularity among guests since the hotel opened its doors. The venue is inspired by silver screen divas whose looks and stage presence commanded attention and exuded the power to seduce. The bold yet intricate interior design theme speaks to these traits and reflects their sensual and daring charm. With the eclectic music programming by resident music curator Murphy Kin, the hotel creates an immersive ambiance across its diverse venues and locations. Through the tastefully crafted playlists for **DIVA**, guests are truly soak into the contemporary vibe of the restaurant which transcends the boundaries of traditional dining.

The restaurant is also set in a halo shape and features a magnificent ceiling fixture that resembles the scales of a dragon. This subtly exemplifies that the hotel is guarded and helmed by the most highly regarded mythical creature in Chinese history, symbolizing imperial power, good fortune, and most importantly, a pioneering spirit.

Comprising of a main dining area and three private dining rooms, **DIVA** presents sensational dishes that are just as photogenic as they are delightful to taste. Proving that the show ne-

ver stops at **DIVA**, one of the private rooms gives diners a front-row seat to watch the masters at work in an exclusive private dining room that opens up to the main kitchen.

With a nuanced yet polished culinary flair, the restaurant also serves tea, Te Jiu (tea-infused cocktails), Japanese sake, and wines as the drinks of choice. This unique food and beverage pairing at **DIVA** brings the brand's passion points for taste to life and sets **DIVA** stand out from other venues in the city. The three featured Te Jiu cocktails include Bi Luo Chun Tea Flavored Spirit with Peach extract, an Herbal Souchong Flavored Spirit, and a Phoenix Dan Chong Flavored Spirit with Fig extract.

Executive Chinese Chef Yap Kim Leong, a master of reinventing traditional dishes, brings his 21 years of experience and expertise in Cantonese cuisine to the culinary team at **DIVA**. His menu includes recipes that incorporate Macau's spice trade heritage. This fusion of flavors adds depth and complexity to the dishes, making them stand out while delivering authentic experiences.

One highlight is Stir-fried Boston Lobster in Spicy Chili and served with Scallion Pancakes. The unique creation explores the fusion of Chinese and Portuguese cuisines to create a strong connection to Macau. Every bite of lobster takes inspiration from Southeast Asian and Portuguese spices and seasonings, while the pairing with the Chinese scallion pancake instead of steamed bread gives it a contemporary twist.

OPINION

The Conversation

Mend Mariwany, MDT/The Conversation



ISRAEL-GAZA: WHAT THE TERM GENOCIDE MEANS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

In the weeks since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 and the Israeli bombardment and ground assault on Gaza, both sides have traded accusations of genocide. Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took more than 200 hostage, while Israel's subsequent aerial and ground attacks on Gaza have killed more than 15,000 Palestinians and displaced millions.

The term genocide was first coined by the Polish lawyer Raphael Lemkin in 1944 amid the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

Lemkin, who was Jewish, originally defined genocide as "the destruction of a nation or ethnic group", encompassing both physical killings and an assault on the spirit of a group, including its social, economic and political ways of life.

Lemkin's definition laid the foundation for the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, which specifies that genocide can occur "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". This can be through killing, destroying a group, preventing births, or transferring children to another group, among other means.

This convention was instrumental in setting up international tribunals in the 1990s to prosecute war criminals in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

However, Alexander Hinton, a professor in anthropology at Rutgers University Newark in the US, says that the need to prove intent can pose a significant hurdle to prosecutions for genocide.

It's much better to have a legal definition than not to have one ... but it also means that when horrific acts take place that don't fall within the purview of that legal definition, people say, 'well, it's not genocide'.

Hinton is an expert on the Cambodian genocide and testified during the UN-backed international tribunal that convicted some of the Khmer Rouge leaders of genocide. He cautions against focusing too much attention on proving the crime of genocide, rather than on other types of crimes that may be taking place. "Atrocity crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing are all horrific," he says, adding that the priority should be on "crimes against humanity".

Cases for atrocity crimes brought under international law can be slow, such as in The Gambia's ongoing prosecution of Myanmar for the genocide of the Rohingya people. But Hinton hopes that the Genocide Convention, alongside institutions such as the International Criminal Court and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention, provide tools that can be used to bring an end to a conflict more swiftly.

Countries can also take independent actions against alleged perpetrators, such as naming and shaming or imposing sanctions.

When it comes to the current conflict between Israel and Hamas, Hinton refuses to be drawn on whether genocide is taking place under the legal definition of the term.

It has limitations and it's also used politically, and so it's important to understand there are other ways of understanding the term. And so ultimately each of us needs to bring our knowledge to bear, our critical thinking, and make a determination of what is taking place in Israel and Gaza.

An official survey of Chinese manufacturers shows that factory activity contracted for a second straight month in November, an indicator of weak demand despite various stimulus measures aimed at supporting the economy.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell to 49.4 in November, down slightly from October's 49.5, according to data released yesterday by the National Bureau of Statistics.

A figure below 50 indicates a contraction in manufacturing activity while a number above 50 reflects an expansion, on a scale up to 100.

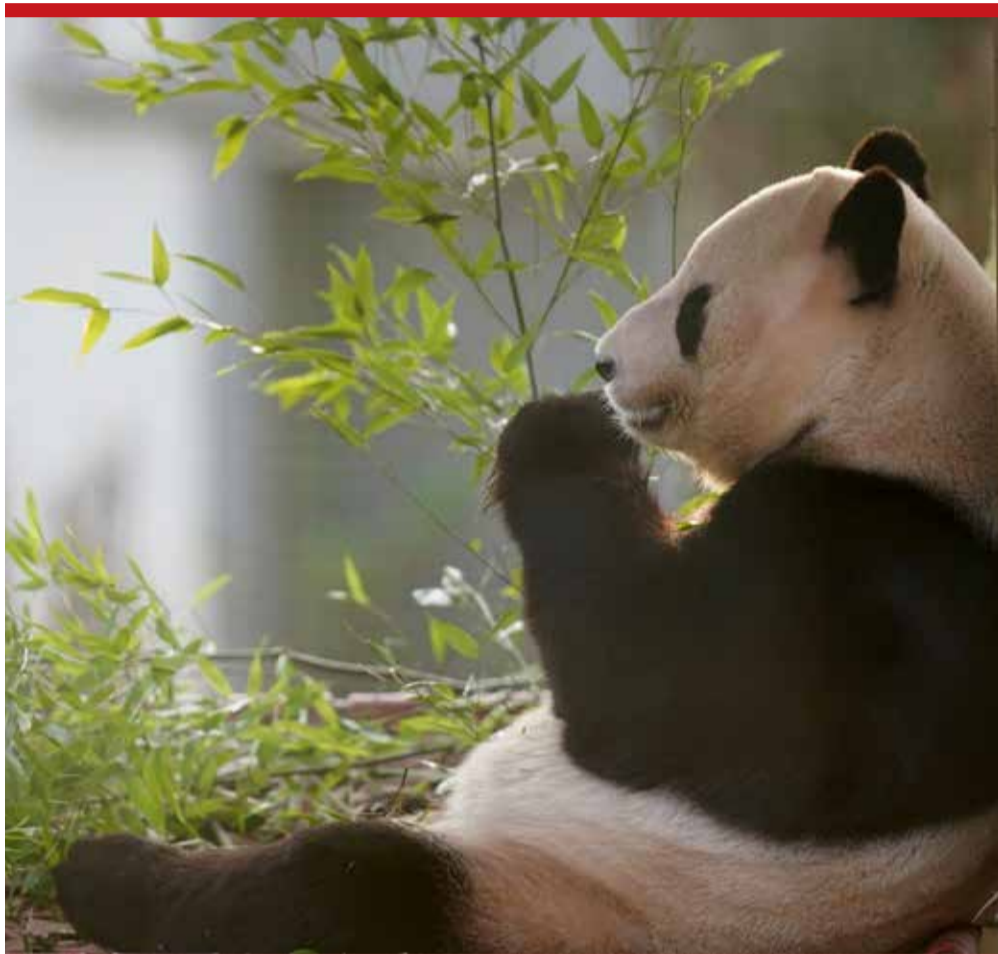
The index has fallen in seven of the past eight months, with an in-

crease only in September. Despite prolonged weakness after the pandemic, the economy is expected to grow at about a 5% annual pace this year.

The new orders sub-index contracted for a second consecutive month, while two other sub-indices for raw material inventory and employment also were lower.

China's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has faltered after an initial burst of growth earlier in the year faded more quickly than expected. Despite prolonged weakness in consumer spending and exports, the economy is expected to grow at about a 5% annual pace this year.

AP PHOTO



Giant panda Yang Guang sits as visitors have one final opportunity to say goodbye before zoo keepers get him ready to make his way back to China, at Edinburgh Zoo, yesterday

SCOTLAND BIDS FAREWELL TO ITS GIANT PANDAS THAT ARE RETURNING TO CHINA AFTER 12-YEAR STAY

VISITORS to the Edinburgh Zoo had their final chance to see and bid farewell yesterday to a pair of popular giant pandas who are returning home to China after more than a decade in Scotland.

Yang Guang and Tian Tian are leaving in early December after a 12-year stay. They have been a popular attraction since people lined the road outside the zoo to greet them when they arrived in 2011.

They are the latest pandas to leave the West after exchange agreements have expired and not been renewed by China.

The only U.S. zoo with pandas is in Atlanta and its agreement expires next year. Washington's National Zoo sent its three pandas — Mei Xiang, Tian Tian and their cub, Xiao Qi Ji — to China earlier in November. The black and white bears at the San Diego Zoo were sent home in

2019 and the remaining panda at the Memphis, Tennessee, zoo returned earlier this year.

Veteran China-watchers have speculated that the People's Republic is gradually pulling its bears from American and European zoos due to tensions with Western governments over a host of issues.

However, Chinese President Xi Jinping said during his recent trip to the U.S. that his government was "ready to continue" lending bears to American zoos, giving hope to U.S. panda fans that they haven't seen the last of them.

The pair in Scotland are the only pandas in the U.K. After unsuccessful breeding attempts — natural and artificial — the zoo said it has no plans to bring in others because a global biodiversity crisis requires it to work on protecting more endangered animals.

"With more than a million species at risk of extinction and our natural world in crisis, Yang Guang and Tian Tian have had an incredible impact by inspiring millions of people to care about nature," said David Field, chief executive of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. "That added interest in the pandas' departure this year has allowed us to connect many more people with the conservation causes (we are) actively involved with, and with nature more generally."

The pandas were loaned to the zoo in 2011 under a 10-year agreement that the China Wildlife Conservation Association extended for two more years.

The panda exhibit was being closed to the public in the afternoon to allow staff to begin preparing the bears for their return. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



UN weather agency said yesterday that 2023 is all but certain to be the hottest year on record, and warning of worrying trends that suggest increasing floods, wildfires, glacier melt, and heat waves in the future. The World Meteorological Organization also warned that the average temperature for the year is up some 1.4 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times — a mere one-tenth of a degree under a target limit for the end of the century as laid out by the Paris climate accord in 2015.

AP PHOTO



Russian missiles tore through apartment buildings in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, local officials said yesterday, killing at least one person and burying families under rubble as the Kremlin's forces continued to pound the fiercely contested area with long-range weapons. Russian military units simultaneously launched six S-300 missiles during the night, according to Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Ihor Klymenko. The missiles struck three Donetsk cities — Pokrovsk, Novohrodivka and Myrnohrad, he said. The cities lie 25-40 kilometers from the front line.

AP PHOTO



Canada's government said it reached a deal with Google for the company to contribute \$100 million Canadian dollars annually to the country's news industry to comply with a new Canadian law requiring tech companies to pay publishers for their content. The agreement removes a threat by Google to block the ability to search for Canadian news on Google in Canada. Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta already has been blocking Canadian news since earlier this year.