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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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INT'L INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION FORUM WILL WELCOME 3,500 GLOBAL PROFESSIONALS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN OVER 70 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS P2

CASINOS LIMIT FREE SNACKS, IMPACT ON GAMING REVENUE UNLIKELY P2

PREMIER LI FOCUSES ON CRITICAL MINERALS, CLEAN ENERGY ON ENDING AUSTRALIAN VISIT P7



China targets European farmers, launching an anti-dumping investigation into EU pork imports. This move follows the EU's announcement of tariffs on China-made electric vehicles. The investigation covers various pork products and is expected to take one year. Chinese officials criticize the EU's tariffs as protectionist, while the EU asserts its farm subsidies comply with WTO obligations.

AP PHOTO



Philippines Chinese forces Monday seized two Philippine rubber boats delivering supplies to a military outpost in the disputed South China Sea, injuring Filipino sailors, Manila said. Meanwhile, the U.S. reaffirmed its defense treaty with the Philippines. Both countries accused each other of dangerous actions. The confrontation occurred at Second Thomas Shoal.

AP PHOTO



Thailand's Senate approved a landmark bill to legalize same-sex marriage, making it the first Southeast Asian country to do so. The bill grants full legal rights to marriage partners of any gender. It passed overwhelmingly, reflecting a shift towards inclusivity despite conservative values. The bill now awaits the king's endorsement and official publication.

AP PHOTO



India and the U.S. pledged to enhance defense and technology cooperation, removing trade barriers following a meeting between their national security advisers. They emphasized collaboration on semiconductor production, AI, and clean energy. This visit marks the first high-level U.S. engagement since Prime Minister Modi's recent election win, highlighting strengthened bilateral ties amid regional security concerns.

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Green Hotel Award considers food waste amid concerns over excess food generated by large enterprises, MDT learns P4-5



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HENGQIN SOON TO ALLOW FOREIGN MAIDS FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

Hengqin will soon allow foreign maids hired by Macau residents to work in the cooperation zone. This was announced by the director of the Livelihood Affairs Office Hengqin, Huang Yujie. Quoted by the Macao Daily, Huang Yujie said that this policy will be announced soon and that it will be implemented to respond to the needs of Macau residents, resulting from a dialogue between authorities from the Central Government, Macau and Hengqin.

MGM CHINA TO ISSUE SENIOR UNSECURED NOTES OF USD500 MILLION

MGM China has announced its plan to issue senior unsecured notes worth USD500 million. The proceeds from this issuance will be utilized to repay borrowings on the senior unsecured revolver and for general corporate purposes, Fitch Ratings noted. The institution has stated that there will be no significant changes to the capital structure and respective recoveries.

LAWMAKER URGES MORE SUPPORT FOR SMES

Lawmaker Lo Choi urged the government to implement extensive measures to support citizens and ease the burden on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in a plenary session yesterday at the Legislative Assembly. This comes amid the latest announcement from the government that it will extend the loan repayment of local SMEs and youth entrepreneurs amid uneven recovery of the market. Lo has also called to utilize land reserves, explore new economic sectors, and attract more foreign investments.

AL APPROVES NEW REGIME FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TRANSACTIONS

The new regime for the transfer of autonomous units of buildings used for public housing and sandwich-class housing was approved by the Legislative Assembly yesterday. The main objective of this bill is to expedite and streamline the transfer process for property owners. The proposal had initially been discussed in February, but had been postponed due to numerous uncertainties awaiting resolution.

GAMING

CASINOS LIMIT FREE SNACKS, UNLIKELY TO IMPACT GAMING REVENUE

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU'S gaming industry is undergoing a significant change as the local regulator, Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), has urged casino operators to stop offering free snacks to visitors. According to an analysis by investment bank Morgan Stanley, this move is expected to impact foot traffic to the casinos, but it is unlikely to have a substantial effect on gaming revenues.

The analysts, Praveen Choudhary and Gareth Leung, have pointed out that the new measure will mainly discourage visitors who are in the casinos



solely for the free snacks but who do not participate in gambling activities. However, casino patrons holding a membership card with at least one reward point will still be able to enjoy

complimentary beverages.

"We think this could hurt footfall to casinos but will only have a small impact on gross gaming revenue (GGR) since the new measure will mainly discourage

visitors who are in a casino for free snacks but never gamble," the analysts said. "Gamblers can still get free snacks easily."

The crackdown on free snacks is also likely behind a decline in Macau gaming stocks of between 3% and 7% last week, according to the analysts.

The move comes as Macau's gaming recovery has been driven by higher-end gamblers in the post-COVID era. "Mass GGR per Chinese visitation is 34% higher than 2019 in quarter one of this year," the analysts noted.

The practice of "zero-dollar tours," where mainland tourists would arrive on free shuttle buses to the casinos, pick up their free snacks, and then return to the border control points using those same shuttle buses, had become increasingly popular in recent years. However, the Macau government has cracked down on this model, and casinos are no longer allowed to provide free snacks and other complimentary services as freely as they once did.

EVENTS

Cotai outdoor venue ready by February 2025

LYNZY VALLES

THE temporary outdoor performance area to be built at Cotai will host its inaugural show in either January or February of the upcoming year, stated Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U.

Speaking to the press, Ao Ieong said efforts will be made to conduct a trial operation rehearsal by the end of this year, encompassing various aspects such as crowd control, traffic arrangements, and security management.

The outdoor performance area will be established on a 94,000 square meter state-owned land in Cotai, as announced by the government on Monday. The need for such a venue has been long discussed by officials, particularly after a concert by K-pop group sparked a



wave of noise and traffic complaints from nearby residents. The event also resulted in damage to the stadium's pitch, in respect of which the promoter was required to pay compensation.

Yesterday, the official stated that the selection process took into account factors such as maintaining a suitable distance from residential buildings and ensuring ample space.

Authorities deemed the chosen land to be convenient in terms of

crowd evacuation, access to food, accommodation, and transportation.

Authorities would level the land and provide an appropriate number of seats and restrooms, while the organizers would handle the remaining setup. The Secretary added that event organizers are required to meet specific requirements, including the necessary documentation, security arrangements, and safety considerations for equipment and facilities.

EVENTS

IIICF SEES 40% INCREASE IN GBA FIRMS' PARTICIPATION

THE 15th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) will welcome more than 3,500 global infrastructure professionals from government and industry, from over 70 countries and regions.

Kicking off today until June 21 at the Cotai Expo, this year's IIICF aims to promote interconnectivity in the sector, through more than 200 themed and supplementary activities and the largest exhibition in its history, covering 8,000 square meters.

Themed "Green Innovative Digital Connectivity," this year's exhibition has been "comprehensively upgraded in terms of exhibitors, exhibition content, exhibition methods and supplement-

tary activities," according to Fang Qiuchen, chairman of the China International Contractors Association and one of the co-organizers.

With a 60% increase in exhibition area, this year's expo will be attended by large and medium-sized engineering enterprises with technical prowess, resource integration capabilities and leadership in industrial development, as well as specialized and innovative equipment manufacturers with leading digital and intelligent technologies and innovative green technologies.

The event will see active participation from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Pan-Pearl River Delta region, with a 40% increase from last year. LV

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Times

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

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

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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

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RENATO MARQUES

SPORTS

THE 2024 edition of the Macau Kart Grand Prix starts tomorrow at the Macau International Karting Track in Coloane.

The four-day event brings together Round 5 of the 2024 AAMC (Automobile General Association Macao-China) Karting Championship and Round 3 of the 2024 China Karting Championship (CKC), including eight racing categories.

For the local races, the spotlight will be on the Mini ROK category, dedicated to the youngest of the racers (7 to 12 years old) with a total of five young future champions to take their first steps in motorsport, the majority of them being girls.

In total, the event will feature 27 entries of racers aged between 7 and 12 years old racing in both the Mini ROK class of AAMC and the Cadet class of CKC.

In addition to these are another 21 entries of ROK GP Junior (AAMC) and Junior class (CKC), which include racers aged between 12 and 14 years old.

In the KZ Class, the most senior class, local, Hong Kong and Taiwan racers with some experience will battle in a race that includes well-known names of local motorsport legends such as Tiago Rodrigues, Cheong Man Hei, Gonçalo Ferreira, Maximiano Manhão and Leong Kin On.

In the five classes included in the CKC, the field becomes larger and more diverse, with the presence of several racers from Singapore, Japan, the USA, the Philippines, Italy, Thailand, and Austria, alongside those from China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan.

The event is the first of two international-level karting events that Macau will be hosting this year, the president of AAMC, Roberto Carlos Osorio, said at the press conference

RENATO MARQUES



held yesterday at the karting track. The second one will take place in December this year and will include the Asian Finals of the IAME Series Asia, a kart racing championship founded by the engine manufacturer IAME (Italian American Motor Engineering) that takes place in two countries (Thailand and Malaysia) and five different circuits.

As announced by IAME, the Macau Asian Finals will award seats to the 2025 edition of the IWF (IAME Warrior Final), which attracts the best from around the world.

Osorio also noted that the AAMC has been, in line with the

guidelines of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), strengthening the base of the motorsport pyramid, advocating vigorously for the opportunities and growth of grassroots drivers. The FIA called on all their national and regional members to launch a series of kart racing programs, and to encourage associations to host competitions and provide racing opportunities particularly among the younger generations.

Osorio was also satisfied with the steady return of the Macau Kart Grand Prix, which had commenced here in 2010 but was suspended

during the pandemic, expressing hopes that it will continue without interruption every year.

At the same press conference, the president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, expressed joy at the return of the event this year, noting the importance of karting events in providing valuable experience for drivers taking part from the Macau Grand Prix, as well as providing training for auxiliary staff such as marshals.

Pun also commended efforts in seeking out new generations of drivers to keep the spirit of the sport alive in Macau.

MAN DIES AT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL, ID CONFIRMS HE NEVER ENTERED THE WATER

A 60-year-old man felt unwell and died while preparing to attend a swimming session at the Taipa Olympic Sports Centre swimming pool yesterday early morning. Initial reports claimed the man had drowned, but this has been refuted by statements in the afternoon from the president of ID, Pun Weng Kun. Questioned by the media on the topic, Pun said that after reviewing surveillance footage from the facility, it was clear that the man never entered the swimming pool and must have become unwell between the locker room and the poolside. For the time being, the cause of death is uncertain, but Pun conclusively ruled out the possibility of drowning, which had been suggested by some media sources in the early hours after the incident.

The 2024 Macau Kart Grand Prix starts on Thursday (June 20) with the first free practice sessions, and ends on Sunday (June 23) with the final races of all eight categories, scheduled to start at 1:50 p.m.

PUBLIC FINANCE

49 investment plan projects had zero implementation rate in Q1

STAFF REPORTER

THE Public Finance Affairs Follow-up Committee has reviewed the first quarter investment plan budget implementation report for 2024, revealing both progress and delays in various government projects.

According to committee chairman Wong Kit Cheng, the initial budget for the investment plan was MOP17.42 billion, with an approved budget of MOP17.48 billion, re-

presenting an increase of MOP59.79 million from the original plan. The overall budget implementation rate stood at 29.8%.

The investment plan included 222 projects in the first quarter.

Of these, nine were new projects that were registered. Additionally, two projects involving the Maritime and Water Bureau were cancelled. The government explained that cancellations of phase two construction projects in the Coloane

area and on the artificial island were due to the need to coordinate with the Coloane Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The committee noted that 49 investment plan projects had a zero implementation rate, with the Public Works Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau, Housing Bureau, Financial Services Bureau, University of Macau, and Environmental Protection Bureau each accounting for multiple stalled projects. Additionally, the

committee was informed that the completion of the local airport's expansion plan and the Taipa Grande tunnel would be delayed, with the latter pushed back by one year to 2029.

The committee has requested that the government provide further explanations of the reasons behind the various delays and cancellations, as well as the overall plan for the future upgrade of the Coloane Waste Water Treatment Plant.



HOW GREEN IS GREEN

Green Hotel Award 'considers' food waste amid

RENATO MARQUES

ESTABLISHED in 2007, the "Macao Green Hotel Award" has been awarding more "green" awards each year to the local hotel industry using an assessment criteria.

Since it was created, the number of hotel units receiving awards has quickly moved from eight (in the first year) to 54 hotels in 2023.

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has said that the current number of awardees are nearly half the total number of hotels, which, in DSPA's opinion, proves "the Award is highly recognized by the local hotel industry and has successfully driven the development of green hotels in Macau."

The DSPA also said that "in addition to reducing operating costs and enhancing their green image of hotels, participating hotels can also be better prepared for the government's future implementation of environmental laws and regulations, to respond to the demand on environmental protection from the community." It expected that the award "can also drive the community, including other corporations, schools and organizations, to work together towards environmental excellence, with a mission to turn Macau into a green city for citizens and tourists."

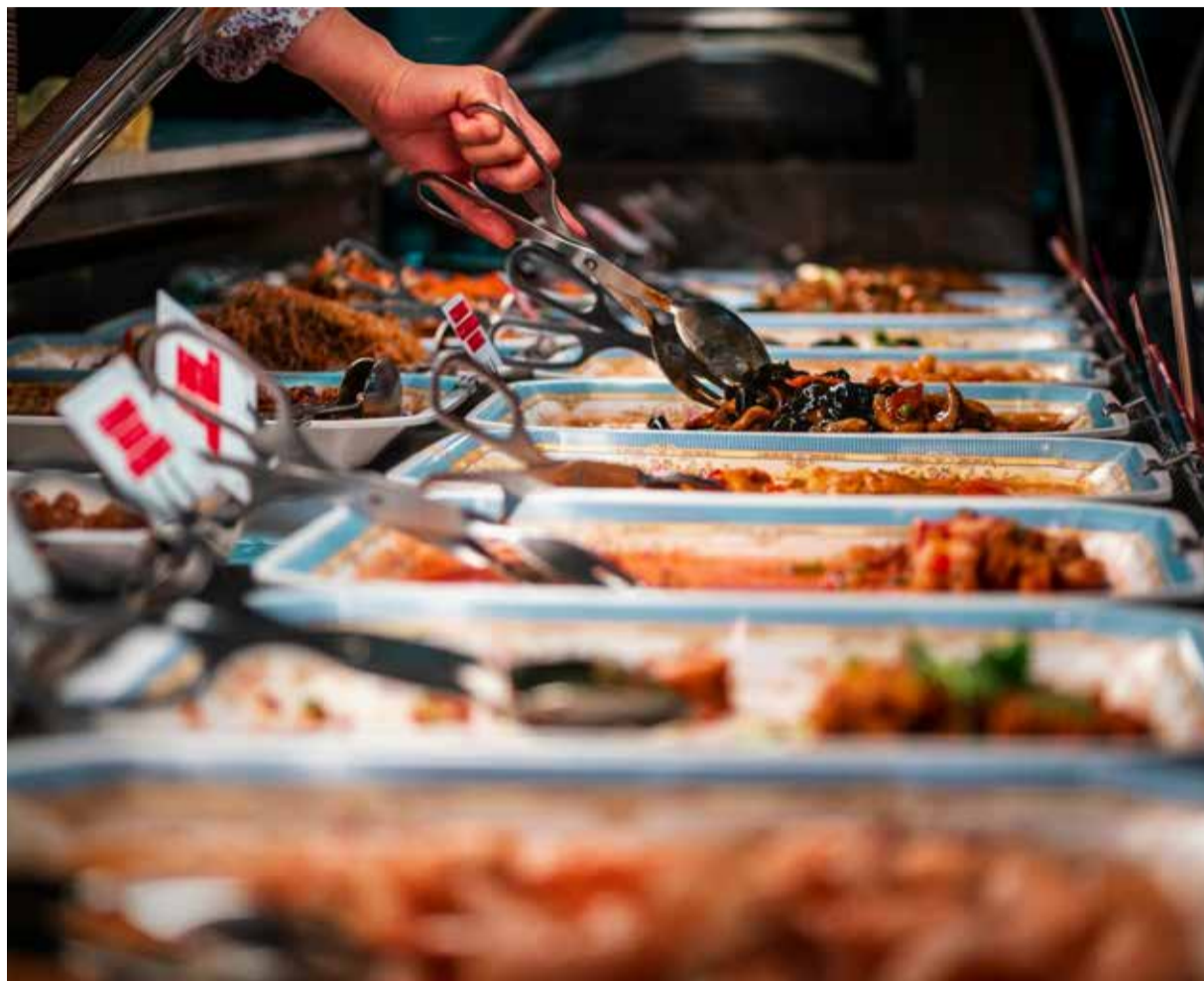
For the past few years, the local government, particularly the DSPA, has been expressing concern over the quantity of food waste produced in Macau namely by the restaurant and hotel businesses. Strangely, this does not seem to be an assessment criterion for the "Green Hotel Award."

In a response to an inquiry from the Times on the matter, the DSPA said that the awards take into account this issue by "encouraging the sector to develop food waste management plans to reduce food waste."

FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT IS NOT A SPECIFIC CRITERION

Despite the response from DSPA, a comprehensive analysis of the assessment criteria reveals that these assessment criteria are based on three areas: "Green Leadership and Innovation," "Green Programme and Performance" and "Partner Synergy."

In the detailed information about each area, the DSPA noted that "Green Leadership and Innovation" refers to the level of commitment made by the hotel management in the pursuit of



environmental objectives within the hotel, the commitment of management and staff to implement environmental initiatives, and how the hotel creates an environment that encourages staff participation in environmental programs.

"Green Programme and Performance" assesses the hotels' achievements in carrying out their environmental programs, adding to the effectiveness of environmental measures undertaken during daily operations, the evaluation of whether the hotel complied with environ-

mental regulations; conservation of energy and water; reduction of carbon emissions and waste materials; noise control; air pollution control; light pollution control; transportation; and other measures of environmental quality improvement.

The last of the areas under scrutiny is "Partner Synergy," which according to the rules and laws that regulate the awards, focuses on how a hotel explores opportunities to inform suppliers and contractors of the importance of environmental management and encourages

them to adopt environmental strategies in their operations. It is also said that these actions extend to how the hotel educates its customers and the general public about the importance of environmental protection and if it organizes environmental activities or participates in local environmental activities organized by other entities.

Although none of the above-mentioned areas specifically refer to the reduction or recycling of food waste, hotels can refer to their food waste reduction programs as their selection for their

"environmental program" of the year, rather than that category being assessed generally.

FOOD WASTE CONTINUES TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY

According to DSPA's report on the State of the Environment in Macau 2023, food waste produced last year continued an increasing trend with a total of 694.7 tons collected in the different programs of both the DSPA and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Year-on-year, the quantity of food waste amounted to an increase of 37.4% (505.5 tons in 2022).

The same report also noted that food waste alone has been accountable for about one-third (or more) of all urban solid waste with the share of this waste to reach 38% in 2021 and 2022 and 32.9% in 2023.

As the Times previously reported, according to official data from DSPA, in the first five months of this year (January to May), the IAM and DSPA have already collected some 324.78 tons of food waste.

The topic has been also raised on a couple of occasions over the past few years at the Legislative Assembly with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, who is also responsible for environmental protection.

In previous debates, Rosário also noted the high quantities of food waste as well as the lack of capacity to treat such waste. Ultimately the matter gave way to the launching of the project that aims to build an Organic Waste Recovery Center that soon will start construction in the land plot beside the current construction landfill in Cotai.

The construction will cost MOP1.15 billion and must be completed in 38 months.

When it commences operation, the Recovery Center facility will be able to produce electricity from biogas coming from the fermentation of food waste.

Currently, the food waste has only been processed to produce soil fertilizers.

Authorities estimate that, when the Center is in full operation, it will be able to process approximately 150 tons of food waste per day.

RESEARCHERS: BUFFETS CAUSE MOST WASTE

According to several academic studies, including a recent one from the University of Berkeley, California (USA), nearly half of the food at buffets is wasted, a fact that the study



concerns over excess waste by large firms

noted contributes to a yearly 108 billion pounds (49 million tons) of food wasted in the United States.

In the same study, researchers established a mechanism to quantify the number of meals that could be provided by the food waste from buffets, noting that the quantity previously mentioned would be equivalent to 130 billion meals, and it is worth over USD408 billion (MOP3.28 trillion) in food thrown away each year.

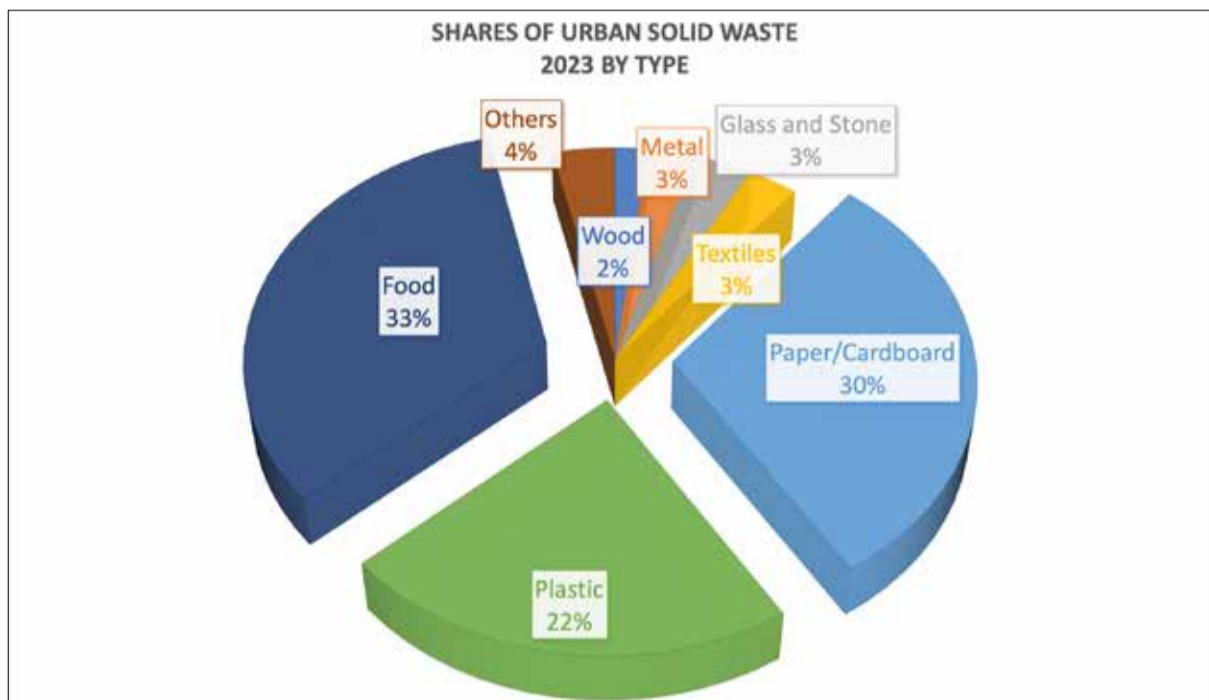
A different study done by two researchers in Taiwan (Emily Wu and Teng Chih-Ching) titled "Reducing Food Waste in Buffet Restaurants: A Corporate Management Approach" has reached similar conclusions. The study also quotes data from the United Nations (2019) reporting that one-third of the world's food is discarded every year before it has been eaten, amounting to 1.3 billion tons and occupying 1.4 billion hectares of land (an area equivalent to 28% of the world's agricultural land). This food waste was estimated to cost some USD750 billion per year in economic loss and envi-

ronmental costs.

In a report from the European Commission on the "Estimates of European Food Waste Levels" it is said that in Europe, the hospitality industry generated 12% of total food waste, the third largest proportion after household and manufacturing food waste. Another study done by Beretta C., Stoessel E., Baier U., and Hellweg S. on "Quantifying food losses and the potential for reduction in Switzerland" also stated that the hospitality sector is one of the main sources of food waste, accounting for 17% of total food waste, adding that more than two-thirds of this food waste is avoidable.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The "Macao Green Hotel Award" is organized by the DSPA in collaboration with the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and supported by several organizations including the Macao Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association, the Macao Hotel Association, the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, and the Macao Hotel Employees Association. The



Hong Kong Productivity Council is listed as the technical consultant of the awards.

The awards are divided into two groups, one for the general hotels and another dedicated to budget accommodation.

There are five award categories for the "Hotel" group, attributing Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Merit awards to

recognize hotels with different levels of environmental achievement. For the "Budget Accommodation" group, there will be a "Green Guesthouse Award" and "Basic Certificate" that is said to aim to encourage hotels and guesthouses to adopt green measures.

After being awarded, the awards have a validity of three

years, with DSPA noting that there is a follow-up mechanism for the environmental performance of the award-winning hotels during the validity period of the award. Awarded hotels are required to complete the follow-up assessment questionnaire every year and adhere to the DSPA's relevant follow-up measures.

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TOURISM

Gov't targeting Southeast Asia and European markets

STAFF REPORTER

THE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is actively working to promote the city as a top travel destination, with a focus on Southeast Asia and Europe, according to director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

"We hope to have more than two million international tourists by the end of this year," Fernandes said on the sidelines of an exhibition opening yesterday.

"This year's main focus will be on Southeast Asia, as we hope the recovery of flights will be faster in the short-term market."

The MGTO has been participating in travel exhibitions in Europe and the Middle East, and has also invited representatives from European travel agencies to visit Macau.

"The European Travel Association has listed Macau as a travel destination for 2025, and they will hold a meeting in Macau in June next year," Fernandes explained.

Regarding the recent Macau travel exhibition in March, Fernandes announced that more than 190,000 people attended, and a significant number of discounted tickets were sold. "We are very happy to know that there are 45 flights to Macau in a week, and we hope to continue to promote Macau and bring more Thai friends to the city," she said.

The MGTO's efforts to promote Macau as a premier travel destination come as the city aims to capitalize on the recovery of international travel. Fernandes emphasized the importance of diversifying the city's tourism offerings, noting that the upcoming Children's Art Festival will be a key focus for the summer vacation period.

"We will continue to strengthen our promotion and invite various celebrities to help us," the director said. "Just last month, a young singer came to Macau and brought his fans for sightseeing and traveling."

As the MGTO looks to the future, Fernandes expressed excitement about the collaborations and international exchanges that are taking place.

"We hope that through our activities, we can promote international exchanges," she said.



ART

DEHUA PORCELAIN EXHIBITION CELEBRATES CULTURAL EXCHANGE

STAFF REPORTER

THE "Beauty of Perfect White – Masterpieces of Blanc de Chine" Porcelain from Dehua Exhibition opened yesterday at Artyzen Grand Lapa, showcasing the rich history and artistry of Dehua's renowned white porcelain. The event, hosted by the Dehua County People's Government, marks the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to China and highlights the cultural ties between the two regions.

Hong Yangxing, the Deputy County Mayor of Dehua County People's Government, expressed his delight in being in Macau for the occasion.

"I am very happy to be here in beautiful Macau to inaugurate the 100th

anniversary of the Chinese National Gallery," he said. "Dehua's white porcelain is famous all over the world because of its color, and its carving skills are also outstanding."

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the director of the Macau Government Tourism Office, echoed the sentiment, noting Macau's longstanding relationship with Dehua.

"Dehua is a thousand-year-old ancient county. It is a world-famous porcelain system. For thousands of years, our Dehua's porcelain has been passed down through our Sea Stone Road," she said.

The exhibition features a diverse range of Dehua porcelain, including pottery sculptures, export craft

porcelain, and daily pottery porcelain. Porcelain artist Li Zhang Gao, who has works on display, remarked on the exhibition's ability to integrate Macau's culture with his own.

"We want to know more about the local culture, and how it interacts with other cultures," he said.

For the organizers, the event not only showcases the exceptional craftsmanship of Dehua's porcelain but also serves as a platform for fostering closer ties between the two regions.

Rutger Verschuren, Area vice president of Macau Operations for Artyzen Hospitality Group, remarked, "We just launched the exhibition at our Amagao Art Gallery last week, featuring Portuguese

ceramics, and as we opened today the delicate porcelain artwork exhibit from Dehua, Fujian, we bring this form of art to the highest level."

Hundreds of years ago, the porcelain from Dehua was shipped to Europe via Macau, hence the name Blanc de Chine. For the executive, "This is another historical proof that Macau is a genuine bridge between the East and West cultures."

Questioned by the Times on whether the exhibition can enhance the local art scene, Verschuren said that the "exhibit of exquisite art pieces will surely promote Macau as a hub for arts and culture."

"We all note that integrated resorts put a lot of effort into non-gaming elements, which is admirable. However, the Dehua exhibition shows that not only integrated resorts can create art exhibitions, but also non-gaming venues in the peninsula where Macau's historical art hubs are located, such as Artyzen Grand Lapa, are very much able to do so too with a lot of passion and effort," he added.

CORPORATE BITS

Eric Moo and Ella Chen to perform at MGM Theater



This summer, MGM will welcome two figures in the music industry – 'Love Song Master' Eric Moo and 'Pop Diva' Ella Chen — to the MGM Theater on July 20, 2024.

This is their inaugural joint performance on the stage.

Eric Moo, a celebrated figure in the Chinese music industry, made history as the first Asian artist to be honored with the "Excellent

Artistic Music Award" by the American Billboard. His repertoire of beloved classics, including "Too Silly," "Shouldn't Keep You Waiting for Too Long," "I Can't Feel You," and "Heart Breaking Love Song," has encapsulated many of our youthful memories.

Ella Chen initially known as a member of Girl Band S.H.E, rose to fame across Asia with her humorous and straightforward personality, along with her warm and magnetic voice. Since embarking on her solo career, Ella has achieved great success in various fields such as performing arts, hosting, and singing.

Sands China takes part in 'International Cities of Gastronomy Fest, Macao'



Sands China Ltd. is participating in the 'Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao SAR – International Cities of Gastronomy Fest, Macao,' held at Macau Fisherman's Wharf from June 14 – 23.

This event is the largest international gastronomic and cultural event held in Macau in recent years and Sands Dining is presenting an array of epicurean experiences to highlight its diversity to residents

and visitors.

The event features representatives from 30 UNESCO-designated Creative Cities of Gastronomy in Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and South and North Americas.

Additionally, there are around 100 food stalls offering a selection of sweet and savory delights from Churchill's Table Boutique.

Tonight, Chris Yeap, Senior Chef at Churchill's Table, will participate in the 'City of Gastronomy Showcase' on behalf of Sands China, and demonstrate one of the restaurant's signature dishes, lobster seafood risotto. There will also be a sampling session of Sands Dining's gastronomic brilliance.

DIPLOMACY

Premier Li focuses on critical minerals, clean energy on final day of Australian visit

ROD MCGUIRK,
MELBOURNE

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang has ended his Australian tour yesterday in the west coast city of Perth where he has focused on China's investment in critical minerals, clean energy and business links.

Perth is the capital of Western Australia state, which provided 39% of the world's iron ore last year. Iron ore is one of Australia's most lucrative exports. Analysts say the commodity was spared the type of trade bans Beijing imposed on other Australian exports as bilateral relations soured three years ago because the steel-making ingredient was crucial to Chinese industrial growth.

Li last week became the first Chinese premier to visit New Zealand then Australia in seven years. He left Perth late yesterday for Malaysia, where he'll be China's first premier to visit since 2015.

While in Perth, China's second-most powerful leader after President Xi Jinping inspected iron ore miner Fortescue's clean energy research facility.

Fortescue's chairman Andrew Forrest said Li was interested in the company's plans to produce iron ore without carbon emissions and potentially "green iron."

"I think China chose us because it's not just the best technology to

go green in Australia, it's the best technology to go green in the world and we've got real examples of it in trains, ship engines, trucks," Forrest told The Associated Press before the visit.

The Perth facility is testing technology on hydrogen, ammonia and battery power for trains, ships, trucks and heavy mining equipment.

Li also visited Chinese-controlled Tianqi Lithium Energy Australia's processing plant south of Perth to underscore China's interest in investing in critical minerals. The plant produces battery-grade lithium hydroxide for electric vehicles.

Australia shares U.S. concerns over China's global dominance in critical minerals and control over supply chains in the renewable energy sector.

Citing Australia's national interests, Treasurer Jim Chalmers recently ordered five Chinese-linked companies to divest their shares in the rare earth mining company Northern Minerals.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wrote in an opinion piece published in Perth's main newspaper, The West Australian, yesterday that his government was acting to ensure foreign investment "continues to serve our national interests."

"This includes reforming the foreign investment framework so that it's more efficient, more trans-



Premier Li Qiang and Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese shake hands during a signing ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra

parent and more effective at managing risk," Albanese wrote.

Forrest said the national risk from Chinese investment in the critical minerals sector was overstated.

"Australia should be producing all the critical minerals in the world because we're a great mining country, so by all means let's go in harder after critical minerals, but let's not do it with panic because there is no reason for panic," Forrest said.

Qiang and Albanese flew to Perth in separate planes late Monday from the national capital Canberra where the two leaders held an official annual meeting with senior ministers in Parliament House.

Both leaders attended a round table of business leaders in Perth representing resource companies including mining giants BHP and Rio Tinto.

Business Council of Australia chief executive Bran Black said business dialogue was essential to the bilateral relations between the two free trading partners.

"While there have been challenging times in the bilateral relationship between the two nations, I think it's fair to say this is another positive point of progress," Black told the meeting.

"It shows that whilst the parameters of a bilateral relationship are set by governments, they will always be sustained by the quality of the personal relationships and especially those personal relationships that subsist on a business-to-business level," Black added.

Chinese premiers and Australian prime ministers met annually from 2013 until 2019, after which Beijing banned minister-to-minister contacts over the previous

conservative government's call for an independent investigation into the causes of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Relations had already been strained by Australian legislation that banned covert foreign interference in Australian politics and the exclusion of Chinese-owned telecommunications giant Huawei from rolling out the national 5G network due to security concerns.

Beijing initiated a reset in relations after Albanese's center-left Labor Party was elected in 2022.

The annual meetings resumed when Albanese visited Beijing in November last year.

Albanese revealed that his office had complained to the Chinese Embassy about the behavior of two officials during a media event with the two leaders after Monday's meeting.

Australia had "concerns" about two Chinese officials who stood in the way of cameras taking images of well-known Australian journalist Cheng Lei sitting with other reporters as the leaders spoke, Albanese said.

Cheng spent more than three years in detention in China for breaking an embargo with a broadcast on a state-run TV network while she was based in Beijing. She was released last year after interventions by the Australian government and now works for Sky News Australia. MDT/AP

WEATHER

Southern China faces heavy floods, and landslides kill at least nine

SOUTHERN China was reeling yesterday from heavy rains that triggered landslides killing at least nine people, knocking out power for entire villages and burying crops.

Meanwhile, northern parts of the country are battling drought, as the country faces two extremes of severe weather.

Four people were killed and two others were missing in Wuping county in the coastal province of Fujian due to landslides caused by torrential rain. Severe downpours

started on Sunday afternoon, with authorities measuring 372.4 millimeters of rainfall over a 24-hour period.

At least 378 houses collapsed in the county, and 880 hectares of crops were damaged, amounting to economic losses of at least 415 million yuan (\$57.2 million) in Wuping, authorities said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

In the southern Guangdong province, bordering Hong Kong, landslides triggered by

severe flooding killed at least five people in the city of Meizhou. Fifteen others were missing, according to local media reports.

More than 130,000 households in Meizhou experienced power outages, with some neighboring towns and villages out of contact as of Monday.

Three helicopters and more than 200 teams of rescuers were searching for survivors and delivering aid to the affected areas, according to local authorities.

More than 11,000 people were moved after the Hanjiang River in south China's Pearl River basin flooded, drowning crop fields and inundating homes.

In the southwestern Guizhou province, more than 1,100 people were evacuated due to flooding in several counties.

Meanwhile, much of northern China, including the capital, Beijing, has endured high temperatures in recent days. However, rainfall is expected in the drought-hit areas in the next 10



An aerial drone photo taken last weekend shows a landslide in an area affected by torrential rains in Tieshan Township of Zhenghe County, Nanping City in southeastern Fujian Province

days, according to China's national weather bureau.

Last month, flood-related disasters left se-

veral dead and missing in 17 provinces across China, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Russian President Vladimir Putin goes down the stairs upon his arrival at the airport of Yakutsk, republic of Sakha also known as Yakutia, Russia Far East, yesterday

RUSSIA-N.KOREA

Before his summit with Kim, Putin vows they'll beat sanctions together

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin thanked North Korea for supporting his actions in Ukraine and said their countries will cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions as he headed to Pyongyang yesterday for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Putin's comments appeared in an op-ed piece in North Korean state media hours before his expected arrival for a two-day visit as the countries deepen their alignment in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with Washington.

In the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the streets were decorated with Putin's portraits and Russian flags. A banner hung on a building said: "We warmly welcome the President of the Russian Federation."

Putin, who will be making his first trip to North Korea in 24 years, said he highly appreciates its firm support of his military action in Ukraine. He said the countries would continue to "resolutely oppose" what he described as Western ambitions "to hinder the establishment of a multipolar world order based on justice, mutual respect for sovereignty, considering each other's interests." Putin also said Russia and North Korea will develop trade and payment systems "that are not controlled by the West" and jointly oppose sanctions against the countries, which he described as "illegal,

unilateral restrictions."

North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programs, while Russia is also grappling with sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine.

Putin said the countries will also expand cooperation in tourism, culture and education.

Before heading to North Korea, Putin traveled to Yakutsk, a city in eastern Russia, where he reportedly planned to meet regional Gov. Aisen Nikolayev, and receive briefings on the area's technology and defense-related projects.

Putin's visit comes amid growing concerns about an arms arrangement in which Pyongyang provides Moscow with badly needed munitions to fuel Russia's war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that would enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

U.S. and South Korean officials say military, economic and other exchanges between North Korea and Russia have sharply increased since Kim met Putin in September in the Russian Far East, their first since 2019.

U.S. and South Korean officials accuse the North of providing Russia with artillery, missiles and other military equipment for use in Ukraine, possibly in return for key military technologies and aid. Both Pyongyang and Moscow deny

accusations about North Korean weapons transfers, which would violate multiple U.N. Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed.

Along with China, Russia has provided political cover for Kim's continuing efforts to advance his nuclear arsenal, repeatedly blocking U.S.-led efforts to impose fresh U.N. sanctions on the North over its weapons tests.

In March, a Russian veto at the United Nations ended monitoring of U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, prompting Western accusations that Moscow is seeking to avoid scrutiny as it buys weapons from Pyongyang for use in Ukraine. U.S. and South Korean officials have said they are discussing options for a new mechanism for monitoring the North.

Earlier this year, Putin sent Kim a high-end Aurus Senat limousine, which he had shown to the North Korean leader when they met in September. Observers said the shipment violated a U.N. resolution banning the supply of luxury items to North Korea.

John Kirby, spokesperson of the U.S. National Security Council, said the deepening relationship between Moscow and Pyongyang is concerning, "not just because of the impacts it's going to have on the Ukrainian people, because we know North Korean ballistic missiles are still being used to hit Ukrainian targets, but because there could be some reciprocity here that could

affect security on the Korean Peninsula."

"We haven't seen the parameters of all of that right now, certainly haven't seen it come to fruition. But we're certainly going to be watching that very, very closely," he said.

Lim Soosuk, spokesperson of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, said Seoul has been stressing to Moscow that any cooperation between Russia and North Korea must not "proceed in a direction that violates U.N. Security Council resolutions or undermines peace and stability in the region."

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, with the pace of both Kim's weapons tests and combined military exercises involving the United States, South Korea and Japan intensifying in a tit-for-tat cycle. The Koreans also have engaged in Cold War-style psychological warfare that involved North Korea dropping tons of trash on the South with balloons, and the South broadcasting anti-North Korean propaganda with its loudspeakers.

South Korea's military said soldiers fired warning shots to repel North Korean soldiers who temporarily crossed the land border yesterday for the second time this month. The South's military said North Korean has been increasing construction activity in front-line border areas, such as installing suspected anti-tank barriers, reinforcing roads and planting land mines. MDT/AP

this day in history

1986 SOVIETS LAUNCH SPACE STATION MIR



The Soviets have opened a new phase in space exploration with the launch of the world's biggest space station, Mir.

The successful launch of Mir comes just over three weeks after the American space shuttle Challenger disaster, in which seven astronauts died.

At next week's Communist Party congress in Moscow the Mir project is likely to be hailed as proof that the Soviets are leading the peaceful exploration of space.

Mir, which means both peace and world in Russian, is intended to provide a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

Too costly

It succeeds the Soviet Salyut models, the last of which, Salyut 7, was launched in April 1982 and is still in orbit.

The Americans also had a space station, Skylab, which suffered damage on its initial launch and eventually proved too costly to maintain and fell back to Earth in 1979.

Soviet officials say their new craft represents the transition from research to large-scale production activities in space.

The station has six docking stations, which means other modules or laboratories can be added to it, expanding its size and capability.

Remain in orbit

The deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, Alexei Leonov, said it would only be possible to determine how long Mir would remain in orbit after it had completed its first flight.

He said the cosmonauts, now taking part in a special training programme, would have separate cabins with windows and even individual desks and armchairs.

Mr Leonov explained that Salyut 7 was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

It has only two docking stations and can support a crew of only three, whereas Mir can carry between six and ten people.

The main work of the first cosmonauts on board Mir will be to continue with the experiments in materials processing, begun on Salyut 6 and 7.

Other activities will include observation of the Earth using high-powered cameras, as well as helping locate mineral deposits on Earth and monitor the seas for trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first crew arrived on board Mir on 15 March 1986 and it remained more or less continuously occupied until November 2000. Crew member Valeri Polyakov stayed up a record 439 days.

The end of the Cold War marked a new era of space co-operation.

In September 1993 US Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced plans for a new space station, which would later be called the International Space Station, or ISS. In preparation for this new project, the US became more closely involved with Mir.

From March 1995 seven US astronauts consecutively spent 28 months on Mir. Mounting costs contributed to the decision to bring down Mir.

It re-entered the Earth's atmosphere near Nadi, Fiji, and what remained of the 135-tonne craft fell into the South Pacific Ocean.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Discuss ideas before implementing. Manage financial obligations. Surprising circumstances require adaptation. Work together to determine priorities and plans. Coordinate.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
An obstacle blocks your plan. Collaborate with your partner to manage an unexpected situation. Don't push. Shift directions gracefully to adapt. Support each other.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Prioritize mental, physical and spiritual health. Stay in action despite complications. Slow to avoid accidents. Relax and stay flexible. Take advantage of an unexpected opportunity.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
A romantic dream advances through communication rather than action. Barriers abound. Abandon stress. Have fun, take it easy and keep your sense of humor.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Domestic comforts have a magnetic pull. Pamper yourself and family with homemade treats. Imagine renovations or upgrades. Do the research.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Discover fascinating information and share it far and wide. Summarize what you're learning. Provide coverage of breaking news. Get the word out to your networks.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Have faith in your own imagination. Make lucrative deals. You're producing valuable work. Keep your customers and partners satisfied. Win through communication.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Discuss personal plans. Work out practical details. Check your course and make sure foundational structures are set up. Envision possibilities and schedule the steps.

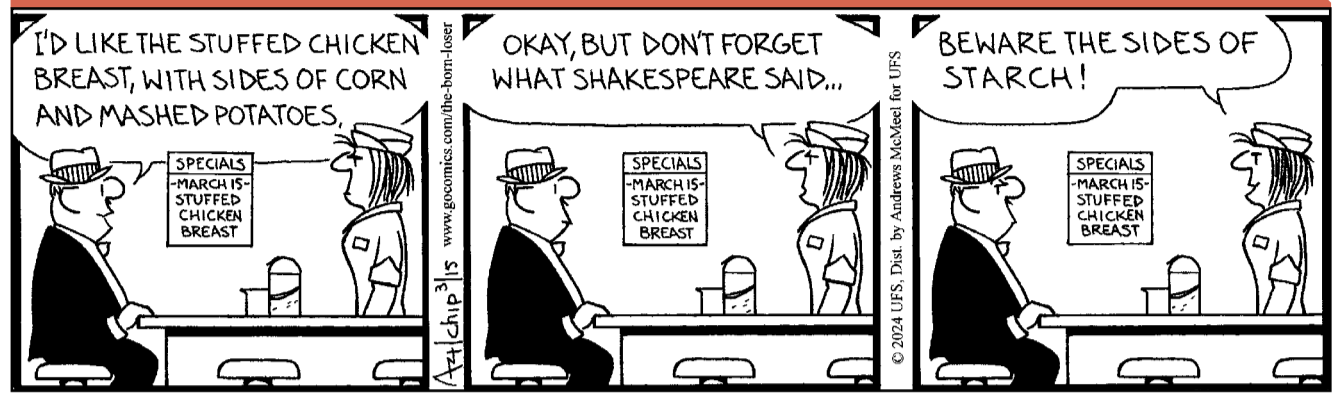
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Reflect on where you've been and are going. Meditate on desired results to clarify your direction. What would you love to happen? Organize for that.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Teamwork helps navigate unexpected opportunities despite obstacles. Slow and steady wins the race. Keep everyone informed. Patiently persist.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Creativity and communications flow at work. Stay flexible. Expect delays or barriers. Postpone important actions. Good preparation repays you with interest and ease.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Another's brilliant idea inspires you. Good news comes from afar. Explore and discover an amazing development. Unexpected deviations along the trail reveal hidden treasures.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

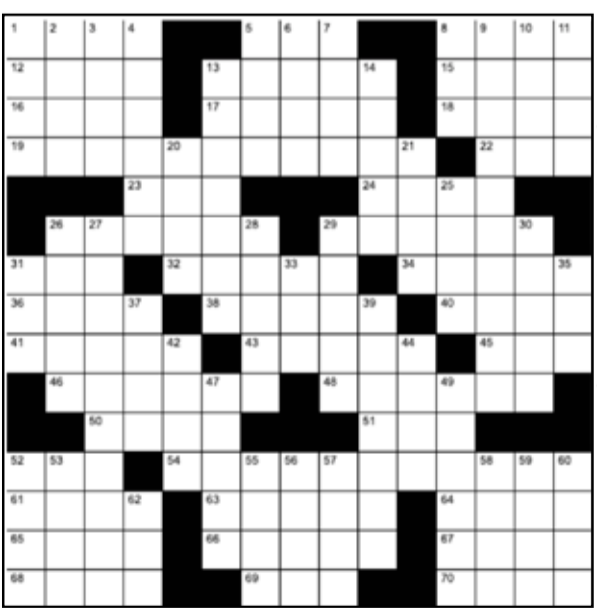
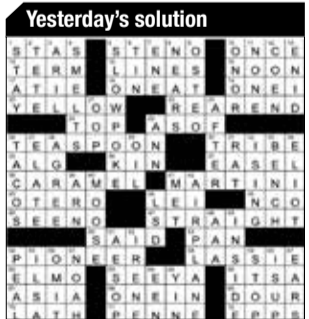
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	34	cloudy
Changchun	21	32	cloudy
Chengdu	23	31	rain
Chongqing	25	28	rain
Fuzhou	24	32	rain
Guangzhou	27	34	showers
Guiyang	19	24	showers
Haikou	27	36	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	21	28	rain
Harbin	17	30	thunderstorms
Hefei	24	31	rain
Nanjing	24	28	rain
Shanghai	22	26	rain
Taipei	25	30	rain
Wuhan	24	30	rain
Hong Kong	29	32	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	19	27	cloudy
Frankfurt	13	21	showers
Paris	16	21	showers
London	10	21	cloudy
New York	22	32	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Box; 5- Fancy marble; 8- Not quite shut; 12- Dorothy's dog; 13- metabolism; 15- String tie; 16- Car; 17- Rub out; 18- FDR's fireside; 19- Leaping insect; 22- Classical starter; 23- kwon do; 24- Faculty head; 26- Sunless; 29- Compositions; 31- Ich bin; 32- Ford flop; 34- Folded food; 36- Soft shoes; 38- Tortilla chip dip; 40- Presidents' Day event; 41- Graven images; 43- Works hard; 45- Crazy; 46- Hams it up; 48- More strange; 50- Rind; 51- ACLU concerns; 52- Sick; 54- Briefly; 61- Falsehoods; 63- European capital, in song; 64- Shampoo additive; 65- CPR pros; 66- Goofed up; 67- Como used?; 68- Poor grades; 69- Superlative ending; 70- Lion's den;

DOWN 1- For men only; 2- Rain cats and dogs; 3- boy; 4- Perches; 5- Poi ingredient; 6- Pronto; 7- Stinging insect; 8- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 9- Flat bread made with cornmeal; 10- Winklike parts; 11- Rooter; 13- Decapitates; 14- West Yorkshire city; 20- Ditto; 21- What's left; 25- Small batteries; 26- Electron tube; 27- Unfinished; 28- Atty.-to-be exams; 29- Borden cow; 30- Of the sun; 31- U.K. record label; 33- "Hold On Tight" band; 35- Fixed; 37- Gin type; 39- Warned; 42- Flower part; 44- Mex. miss; 47- Get hitched quick; 49- Sharon's land; 52- Three Lives; 53- Corona fruit; 55- Stable mate; 56- Miscalculates; 57- Nair competitor; 58- Rick's love in "Casablanca"; 59- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 60- Age unit; 62- Conscripting org.;



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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Va Fat
HKD 3,780,000 2 bed 1 bath

Tou Un
HKD 2,980,000 1 bed 1 bath

Jade Garden
HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

EURO2024 | REVIEW

MBAPPÉ SUSTAINED A BROKEN NOSE, BUT FRANCE GETS 'POSITIVE' NEWS

JAMES ROBSON, DUSSELDORF

AUSTRIA 0, FRANCE 1

KYLIAN Mbappé suffered a broken nose during France's opening game at the European Championship and will have to wear a face mask if he plays on at the tournament.

The French Football Federation said yesterday it had received "positive" news about Mbappé's chances of continuing at Euro 2024 as he will not need immediate surgery. But it did not specify how long it would be before he is able to play again.

"The news is rather reassuring so far as there are no operations planned for the immediate future. As for his participation in the rest of the tournament, it's a bit too early to give a timetable," federation president Philippe Diallo said.

The Federation said Mbappé was treated by Dr. Franck Le Gall at a Dusseldorf hospital following France's 1-0 win against Austria on Monday (yesterday, Macau time).

It said a mask would be made



Kylian Mbappe of France receives a treatment after suffering an injury during a Group D match between Austria and France

to allow Mbappé to "consider resuming competition after a period devoted to treatment."

"They tried to reduce the aftermath of his fracture, for him to be able to stay in the tournament," Diallo said. "We'll wait until the end of the day to see how things develop. But all in all, I'd say the information was

pretty positive."

Mbappé stayed on the ground after his face collided with the shoulder Austria's Kevin Danso as he attempted a header during the Group D match at Dusseldorf Arena. His nose was badly swollen and blood poured from his face, turning parts of his white jersey red.

Austria goalkeeper Patrick Pentz signaled for urgent medical assistance.

"We're worried to see Kylian leave the field like that," France midfielder N'Golo Kante said afterward.

Mbappé's injury is a big deal for France, as the country's captain, its best player and one of the

biggest stars of the tournament. It's a concern for Real Madrid, too, after he left Paris Saint-Germain as a free agent to sign for the Spanish club in the offseason.

Mbappé is widely regarded as the heir to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the best player in the world and led his country to the World Cup title in 2018 at the age of 19.

He became only the second player in history to score a hat trick in a World Cup final four years later in Qatar as France was runner-up to Messi's Argentina.

Champions League winner Madrid ended its years-long pursuit of Mbappé earlier this month and he will join its roster of superstars.

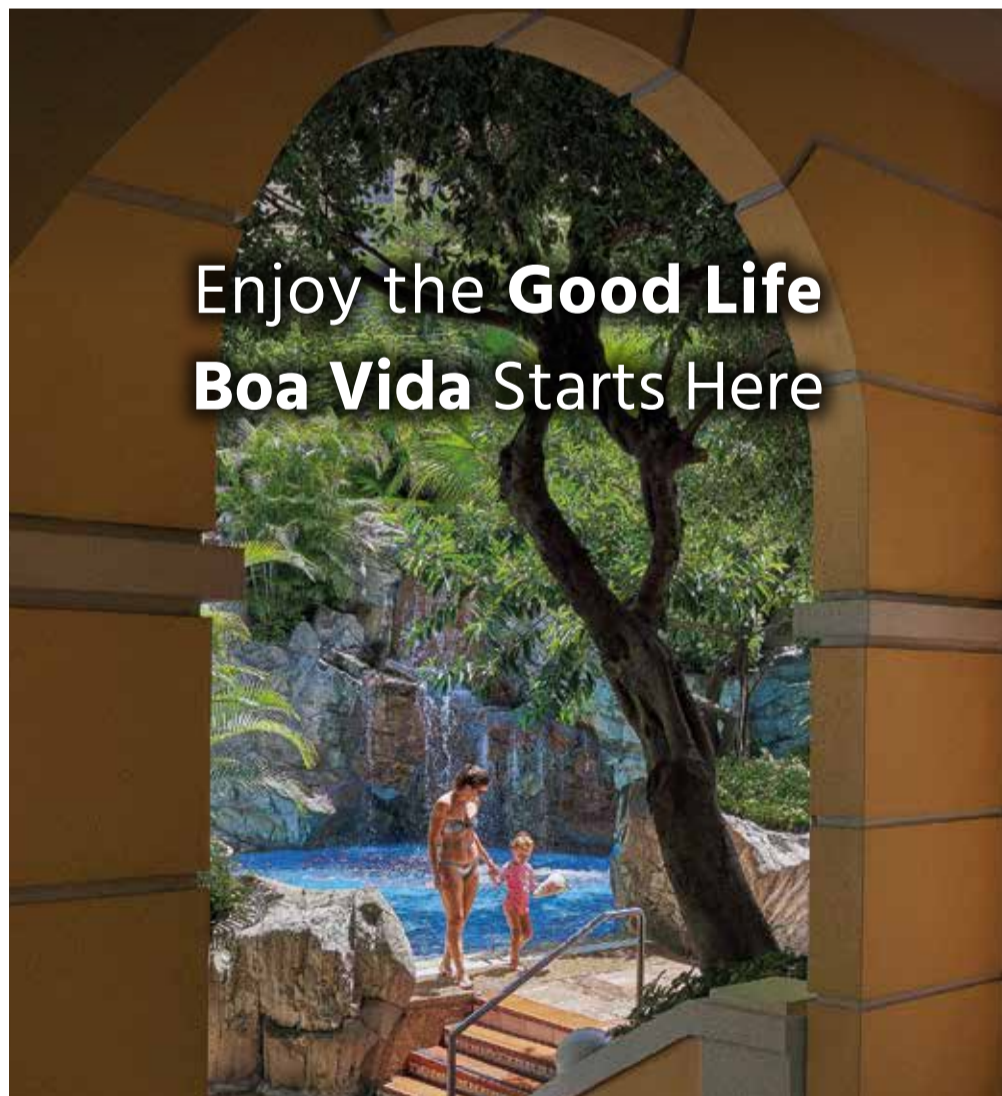
If he is to play on at the Euros, he will need to wear the type of protective face mask worn by Son Heung-min and Josko Gvardiol at the World Cup in 2022.

But the speed of his return will depend on the level of discomfort he feels.

A broken nose can take weeks to heal and the National Health Service in the U.K. says sport should be avoided for "at least six weeks if there's a chance your face might be hit."

Mbappe, who has returned to the team's training camp with the rest of the squad, appeared to see the lighter side of his injury.

"Any ideas for masks?" he posted on X. **MDT/AP**



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EURO 2024 | PREVIEW

Germany looking to book spot in knockout stage with another win against Hungary

GERMANY faces Hungary in Stuttgart in their second Group A match. Germany tops the group after beating Scotland 5-1 in the opener while Hungary lost 3-1 against Switzerland. Kickoff is at midnight [Macau time].

Here's what to know about the match:

Match facts— Victory for Germany would all but guarantee a spot in the knockout stages and it would definitely advance if Switzerland also beats Scotland in the other group match.

— Another defeat would not end Hungary's chances as it could still claim one of the four best third-place spots up for grabs.

— Germany is winless in its last three meetings against Hungary and was beaten 1-0 in the last game between the two teams, in September 2022.

— Germany had to twice come from behind when the teams met in the group stage at the last European Championship. That was the teams' first competitive meeting since the 1954 World Cup final, won 3-2 by West Germany.

— There were off-the-field arguments and protests against the Hungarian government's anti-LGBTQ law during the Euro 2020 match between the two teams in Munich.

Team news— Hungary coach



Germany's head coach Julian Nagelsmann celebrates after the Group A match between Germany and Scotland

Marco Rossi is hopeful French-born midfielder Loic Nego will have recovered to face Germany after he was only fit for a place on the bench against Switzerland.

— Germany has reported no injury concerns.

By the numbers— Germany's five goals scored against Scotland leaves it just one short of its best-

ever group stage tally at the European Championship, when it scored six at Euro 2020.

— Hungary midfielder Ádám Nagy, who turned 29 on Sunday, could make his eighth tournament appearance if he plays against Germany. That would be a new record for Hungary, breaking the joint mark Nagy holds with

former captain Ádám Szalai.

— Germany's victory over Scotland saw the team win its European Championship opener for

a record-extending eighth time.

What they're saying "Hungary is an unpleasant opponent, they can sometimes be wild and they're difficult to get a hold of. There are a lot of free spirits out there" — Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann.

"We beat them (Germany) in 2022, so I'm sure it will be an extra motivation for them. They'll be thinking: 'Not again.' But it's clear from the first game that this Germany side is a completely proposition to what they were back then or even last year." — Hungary forward Martin Ádám.

"On the pitch you felt how every single one of our players was annoyed that we conceded. That is a good sign. Scoring goals is nice, but we are thinking defensively and want to have stability at the back." — Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

Germany	5	1	Scotland
Hungary	1	3	Switzerland
Spain	3	0	Croatia
Italy	2	1	Albania
Poland	1	2	Netherlands
Slovenia	1	1	Denmark
Serbia	0	1	England
Romania	3	0	Ukraine
Belgium	0	1	Slovakia
Austria	0	1	France

UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Wed	Jun 19	21:00	Croatia	Albania	H 1.5, D 4.7, A 8
Thu	Jun 20	00:00	Germany	Hungary	H 1.29, D 6.75, A 12
		03:00	Scotland	Switzerland	H 4.5, D 3.85, A 1.91

ODDSCHECKER.COM

EURO 2024

YouTube prankster says he was on the field at Euro 2024 opening ceremony dressed as mascot

A German YouTuber says he made it onto the field during the European Championship opening ceremony while disguised in a mascot costume, in an incident which revealed flaws in tournament security.

Marvin Wildhage published a video appearing to show how he entered the Munich stadium last Friday in a fake costume and danced on the corner of the field before being led away by a UEFA staff member.

UEFA said in a statement, "We can confirm that there was an incident with a fake mascot costume



Dancers perform during the opening ceremony

me at the match in Munich ... between Germany and Scotland. Three people have gained unauthorized access.

"UEFA has assessed the situation and initiated the

necessary organizational measures. Three individuals have been banned from entering stadiums hosting UEFA Euro 2024 matches. Please understand that we cannot provide

any further information due to the ongoing proceedings of the investigating authorities."

Wildhage said he ordered his bear costume online from China for 3,200

euros (\$3,400) and made his own fake tournament credentials by copying the design from photos posted on social media by Euro 2024 employees.

The credentials didn't pass a scan at the entrance to Allianz Arena but Wildhage and an associate were waved in by a security guard who was convinced by an imitation parking pass, according to the account shown in the video.

Wildhage said he was eventually detained by security after appearing at the opening ceremony, and he was held in a detention arena within the

arena before being released long after Germany's 5-1 win over Scotland finished.

It wasn't the first time Wildhage flagged up security gaps around the tournament. In an earlier video, he entered the field dressed as a player at a Germany training session last month.

The tournament draw in December was also interrupted when moaning noises were played at the ceremony at a Hamburg concert hall. A British prankster said he planted a cell phone on site and made calls to it to activate a ring tone. **MDT/AP**

OPINION

World Views

Jessica Damiano, MDT/AP



YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN THE TROPICS TO GROW PEANUTS

Peanuts are generally grown in southern climes. Most come from China, India, Nigeria and the southern U.S., which all fall squarely in climates in or similar to USDA hardiness zones 8-11. Which is to say, their summers are long enough to allow for the up to 150 days necessary for the plants to reach maturity.

But with some planning, home growers as far north as zone 6 can also have success growing peanuts for snacking, peanut butter and, of course, bragging rights.

If you live in one of those more northern areas, direct sowing isn't possible, so you'll have to purchase starter plants or start seeds early indoors (or in a greenhouse, if you have one). Then transplant them outdoors two to three weeks after the danger of frost has passed.

With that date in mind, research your first fall frost date and calculate whether there are enough days between them to allow your chosen peanut variety to mature: Valencia takes 90-110 days; Spanish, 90-120; Virginia and runner types, 130-150. If not, calculate the number of extra days (but no less than 14) they'll need to develop indoors and start seeds accordingly. Don't subtract more days because starting seeds too early can result in leggy, stressed plants.

I recommend buying seeds from a specialty garden center or a seed catalog. Yes, you can theoretically crack open raw, unsalted, in-the-shell peanuts from the grocery store and plant them - and if you do, take care not to remove the red seed coat - but you'll have no way of knowing which variety you are planting or how long they've been sitting in their shells and under what conditions.

In zones 8-11, plant seeds directly outdoors in full sun (a south-facing slope is ideal) between mid-April and mid-June. Loosen soil and sow 2 inches deep and 10 inches apart in rows 20 inches apart. Keep the soil moist until they sprout, then provide 1 to 1½ inches of water per week, including rainfall.

In zones 6 and 7, sow seeds indoors about 1 inch deep in individual biodegradable pots, and place them under grow lights or by your sunniest window. Water about once a week and transplant the entire pot outdoors two to three weeks after the soil temperature has warmed to at least 60 degrees and the danger of frost has passed. Starter plants, if using, should be set out at the same time.

Hill soil around the bottoms of plants, as you would potatoes, beginning when they are a foot tall, by applying 2 inches of straw or dried grass clippings around them to encourage "pegging," or underground seed production. Those seeds are peanuts, so they must be dug up to be harvested.

Because peanuts aren't actually nuts but rather legumes, like beans and peas, they capture nitrogen from the air and add it to the soil, so avoid applying nitrogen fertilizers around plants.

Self-pollinating yellow flowers will emerge roughly 40 days after planting. Petal drop is a sign that peanut formation, or pegging, has begun underground.

Depending on your variety and growing conditions, leaves will turn yellow about four to five months after seeds are planted, signaling it's time to harvest.

Dig up plants -- roots and all -- shake off excess soil, and place in a dry spot with good air circulation for two to three days until the remaining foliage dries completely. Remove peanut pods from roots, then roast, or store unshelled peanuts in airtight containers. They'll keep for about a year.

HALF A MILLION IMMIGRANTS COULD EVENTUALLY GET US CITIZENSHIP UNDER A NEW PLAN FROM BIDEN

THE BUZZ

President Joe Biden is taking an expansive election year step to offer relief to potentially hundreds of thousands of immigrants without legal status in the U.S., aiming to balance his own aggressive crackdown on the southern border earlier this month that enraged advocates and many Democratic lawmakers.

The White House announced yesterday that the Biden administration will, in the coming months, allow certain spouses of U.S. citizens without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship. The move could affect upwards of half a million immigrants, according to senior ad-

ministration officials.

To qualify, an immigrant must have lived in the United States for 10 years as of Monday and be married to a U.S. citizen. If a qualifying immigrant's application is approved, he or she would have three years to apply for a green card and receive a temporary work permit and be shielded from deportation in the meantime.

About 50,000 noncitizen children with a parent who is married to a U.S. citizen could also potentially qualify for the same process. There is no requirement on how long the couple must have been married, and no one becomes eligible after Monday.



HOWARD TONG

MACAU POLICE ARREST MAN UNDER SUSPICION OF TELEPHONE FRAUD

HOWARD TONG

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has announced the takedown of a fraud and money laundering operation. The case involved two elderly female victims from Macau who were targeted in a telephone scam.

According to the police, on the evening of June 16, they received a report from a Macau woman who said she had been the victim of fraud. The woman explained that on June 14, she had received a call from someone claiming to be her grandson, who said he was being detained by police in mainland China and needed MOP10,000 in bail money. Fearing for her grandson's safety, the woman withdrew the cash and handed it over to a man claiming to be a lawyer.

Half an hour later, the victim received another call demanding an additional MOP15,000. Again, she withdrew the cash and met the same man to hand it over. Two days later, the woman realized she had been scammed

and reported the incident to the police.

Further investigation by the PJ identified the person who collected the money as a man named Cao, a 30-year-old unemployed Hong Kong resident. Evidence indicates Cao was part of a Hong Kong-based criminal group that had dispatched him to Macau to carry out the fraud scheme.

While investigating the case, the police received a report of a second victim who had also been targeted in a nearly identical scam. In that instance, the suspect Cao had demanded MOP30,000 from the victim before he was apprehended by officers.

In total, the two victims lost over MOP25,000 and MOP30,000 respectively to the suspect. The police recovered the 30,000 MOP from the second victim, but the larger sums taken from the first victim remain unrecovered.

The PJ have vowed to continue their investigation, tracing the flow of funds and pursuing other members of the criminal group. They are also

urging the public, especially elderly residents, to be wary of such "relative in distress" scams and to verify any suspicious calls directly with their family members before providing any money.

Last week, the PJ has arrested three Hong Kong men in connection with a phone fraud case involving a criminal syndicate. The syndicate is believed to be involved in four cases targeting elderly female victims residing in Macau.

The police received reports from two victims who claimed to have received calls from someone posing as their grandson, asking for compensation for injuries. The victims handed over MOP60,000 and MOP10,000 respectively to a man claiming to be a lawyer.

The police also received a report from a third victim who received a fraudulent call from someone claiming to be a relative in need of MOP100,000 for business compensation, while the fourth victim was scammed of MOP200,000.

Ukraine NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced that 23 of NATO's 32 members will meet the defense spending target this year, spurred by Russia's war in Ukraine. This marks a nearly fourfold increase from 2021. Stoltenberg and President Biden emphasized NATO's unity and increased military spending as a deterrent to further Russian aggression in Europe.



AP PHOTO

Lebanon U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein yesterday met with Lebanese officials to find a diplomatic solution to the escalating cross-border attacks between Israel and Hezbollah. Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court reviewed a law granting far-right Minister Ben-Gvir sweeping police powers. Israel's war in Gaza has resulted in significant casualties, raising international concerns about regional stability.



AP PHOTO

USA Extreme heat alerts affected millions in the U.S., with record-breaking temperatures and cooling centers activated. New York activated the National Guard for heat emergencies. Chicago broke a 1957 temperature record, while Phoenix continued to experience dangerous heat levels. The National Weather Service warned residents to take precautions as the heat wave continues.



AP PHOTO

Italy A Bain study revealed that global luxury sales are flattening due to creativity crises and price hikes. The sector's focus has shifted to the wealthiest customers, neglecting the middle class and Gen-Z. Economic uncertainty in China and political instability in the U.S. also contribute to the slowdown. Major fashion houses are adjusting strategies.