

iPhone 15 Pro. Capture more than ever before.

iPhone 15 Pro



CTM5G: Fast · Entertaining · Unlimited
\$468 / 3-destination Unlimited Data Usage
Handset Bundle Price \$2,070 up

Note: Customers of the above promoters are bound by the respective service agreement.

CTM

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LAST 60 YEARS, THERE IS NO TYPE OF HYDROFOIL FERRY OPERATING BETWEEN MACAU AND HONG KONG: JETFOIL CONSERVATION GROUP

P5

MACAU BRIDGE EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR TRAFFIC IN Q3

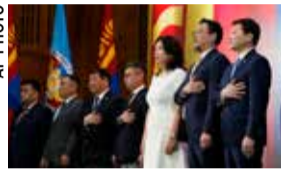
P2

SURVEY SHOWS CHINA ECONOMY GROWING BUT AT MODEST PACE

P6



AP PHOTO



Mongolia's ruling party won a much smaller majority in a parliamentary election than it had held previously, according to official results released yesterday, raising the possibility of a return to a coalition government for the first time in eight years. The Mongolian People's Party took 68 seats in the 126-seat body in Friday's nationwide vote, while the opposition Democratic Party won 42, according to a certified list of winners posted on the General Election Commission website.

AP PHOTO



North Korea test-fired two ballistic missile yesterday but one of them possibly flew abnormally, South Korea's military said, a day after the North vowed "offensive and overwhelming" responses to a new U.S. military drill with South Korea and Japan. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeasterly direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea.

AP PHOTO



Nepal A controversial spiritual leader known as "Buddha Boy" has been sentenced to a 10-year prison term yesterday for sexually assaulting a minor, court officials said. Ram Bahadur Bamjan — believed by some to be the reincarnation of the founder of Buddhism — was also ordered to pay \$3,700 in compensation to the victim by a judge at the Sarlahi District Court in southern Nepal. The man will have 70 days to appeal against the court order, court official Sadan Adhikari said.

More on backpage

VISA REFORM

Non-Chinese residents can now apply for a multiple-entry visa valid for five years

P3



VICTORIA CHAN



GAMING
JUNE REVENUES HIT LOWEST THIS YEAR

P3

CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Illegal gambling syndicate that facilitated over RMB1 billion in bets busted

P4

COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION INSTITUTE BEGINS OPERATIONS

The newly formed Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPCI) began operations yesterday following a merger. The organization combines the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and Forum Macau's permanent secretariat. A statement said the merger aims to optimize structure and boost efficiency. Key roles for the new institute include attracting business and investment as well as supporting firms exploring new markets. Public services and online access remain unchanged to maintain information flow. A new leadership board headed by president Vincent U takes over the merged entity as it launches operations.

MARRIAGE PROCESS GOES DIGITAL

Macau's amended civil code has taken effect, bringing a more digital marriage registration system. The changes include an upcoming "Marriage in One Step" online application program allowing residents to apply through their One Account starting in August. "The old process required submitting documents first to schedule an appointment before finalizing marriage in-person," said Wong Lok Mui of Civil Affairs Registry. "Now it's simpler with approval within five days," she added. Private notaries can also officiate ceremonies anywhere as the updated rules aim to ease procedures. Most Macau residents typically host wedding banquets and ceremonies together at hotels according to Wong.

APPLICANTS CAN NOW PICK PUBLIC HOUSING FOR ELDERLY ONLINE

Starting July 8, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) will allow eligible applicants to choose their preferred public senior living apartments either online or in person. Those with individual accounts can log into the "Electronic Application System for Government Residence for the Elderly" to select from available units. Alternatively, applicants without online access can visit one of 70 social centers for assistance during office hours. Applicants have 90 days from notification to make a selection using floor plans, views, and a demonstration video available on the website. Failing to choose within the period will result in losing a 20% discount on usage fees and automatic transfer to the waiting list.

MGTO UNVEILS ROADSHOW IN MALAYSIA FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will roll out a four-day "Experience Macao Malaysia Roadshow" at the popular Sunway Pyramid Shopping Mall in Kuala Lumpur from July 5 to 8. The roadshow will introduce Macau's latest tourism offerings, exclusive products, and discounted travel packages to Malaysian visitors. The event will also feature performances by Malaysian and Macau artists, interactive games, and a grand lucky draw with over RM80,000 in Macau travel prizes.

RENATO MARQUES



EPM SAGA

EPM FOUNDATION PRAISES IGEC PROBE TO SCHOOL

RENATO MARQUES

The Foundation of the Portuguese School of Macau (EPM) has praised the news that the Portuguese education authorities are investigating the dismissal of five staff members.

In a statement by the president of the Board of Directors of the foundation, Jorge Neto Valente, the EPM Foundation said this was "good news" and a way for the Portuguese authorities to appreciate the school's situation and its pro-

blems as well as to investigate the "irregularities" that have been detected within the institution procedures and methods.

Neto Valente has said that, in reality, the probe was a request from the foundation that wanted to see a full investigation into the school's operation and previous management.

The president of the Board of Directors insisted that the foundation was always in favor of launching a full probe of the school operations by a third

party and not just an audit by the Court of Auditors of the foundation.

In the same statement, the foundation expressed concern about the timing of this procedure at a time when "preparations for the upcoming academic year have [been] finalized." The foundation claims further that the delay from the Minister of Education, Science, and Innovation of Portugal (MECI) in approving the authorization for the new teachers' special licenses is "starting to worry the students, parents, and EPM's

governing bodies."

Neto Valente also said that those licenses aim to allow the teachers previously authorized to teach in Macau, last May, to replace some of those who expressed their wishes to leave the school.

The EPM Foundation also clarified that it is not trying to replace any of the four teachers and one technician whose working contracts were not renewed, since the institution dismissed them as unnecessary for the school operations.

Responding to an alleged claim of "lack of information" from the EPM Foundation on the recent polemic, Neto Valente said that EPM governing bodies have refrained from making too many comments to not "add fuel to the noise [around the issue] which is likely to harm people and jeopardize the reputation of the institution."

The statement was issued following news that the MECI had requested the Inspectorate-General of Education and Science (IGEC) to open an investigation into the EPM, so as "to determine the circumstances in which the director [Acácio de Brito] dismissed four teachers and one senior technician."

MECI also said that the investigation has immediate effects on the dismissal of the staff members who will stay on duty at the school, at least until the investigation is concluded.

TRANSPORT

Macau Bridge expected to be ready for traffic in Q3

The construction of the city's fourth bridge, Macau Bridge, is nearing completion, with the overall project essentially finalized and subsequent commissioning, acceptance, and handover work proceeding as projected.

The bridge is expected to be ready for traffic in the third quarter of this year.

Once the bridge is open, it will effectively alleviate the traffic pressure on the three exist-



ing bridges, improving the traffic capacity between the Macau Peninsula and the islands of Taipa and Coloane.

The new bridge will also support the trans-

portation needs of the ongoing development of Zone A in the new landfills.

The construction process has faced some challenges, with the re-

gion experiencing an unusually high number of rainstorms from April to June this year.

Yellow, red, and black rainstorm warning signals were issued for a to-

tal of 20 days, 30% more than the same period last year. These frequent downpours presented obstacles for the outdoor construction work.

Despite the inclement weather, the construction team worked tirelessly, completing the 117,000 square meters of asphalt paving on the bridge deck in 102 days, two days ahead of the original 105-day schedule.

The bridge's protection facilities under the structure are in the final stage and are expected to be completed in July, with the temporary construction platform and trestle to be dismantled immediately thereafter. VC

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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

Advertisement_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

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

ZHUHAI UNVEILS PLANS FOR MASSIVE ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX AT BORDER GATE

Local authorities in Zhuhai have announced plans to transform several bustling streets near the Zhuhai-Macau border into a new entertainment and tourism hub. The 580-meter redevelopment project, led by Zhengyuan Holding, will convert the area that was once home to street vendors, hairdressers, and casual eateries into a center for "cultural tourism, consumption and socializing". Construction, originally scheduled to begin in March, is now underway and the project is expected to be one of the top 10 events in Xiangzhou district this year.

'YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2024' IS ACCEPTING ONLINE RESERVATIONS

The Labour Affairs Bureau, Macau Chinese New Youth Association, Macau Chinese Students Federation, and Macau Youth Development Service Center are hosting the "Youth Employment Expo 2024" from July 12 to 13 at the Galaxy International Convention Center. The expo will feature "1+4" industry lectures, interactive exhibition areas, and career planning consultation services. There will be 32 exhibitors including government departments, enterprises, youth clubs, and schools, who will showcase new industries like AI and VR.

INT'L CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL HOSTS MUSIC CAMP

The Cultural Affairs Bureau and Wynn Resorts (Macau), S.A. are co-hosting the "1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival - Music Camp" from August 16-21, featuring world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell and musicians from the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Orchestra. The camp offers young string instrument students one-on-one lessons, master classes, and the opportunity to perform in a concert with Bell and the orchestra. Outstanding violin participants will even have the opportunity to play the solo part of Bach's Double Violin Concerto with Bell. Registration is now open to both local and foreign musicians born between 2006 and 2016.



CRIME

GBA CROSS-BORDER ILLEGAL GAMBLING SYNDICATE BUSTED

NADIA SHAW

In a major crackdown on cross-border organized crime, police from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau have arrested 50 people, including a security department officer, for operating an illegal gambling syndicate that accepted over RMB1 billion in bets.

The joint investigation began when Macau police uncovered a money laundering case in November 2022, which led them to discover a criminal group running online gambling operations across the three regions.

Macau police led the charge, arresting 50

people - including key members and kingpins of the operation - in a series of raids across the city on June 29.

The three police forces took action as of last Saturday."

The Macau police delivered a significant blow to the syndicate's infrastructure, seizing over RMB10,000 in cash, hundreds of mobile phones, and a trove of computer equipment during their raids. This was just the beginning, as mainland Chinese authorities went on to arrest 42 additional suspects and seize 92 bank accounts containing RMB22 million in illicit gambling funds.

By working in close

collaboration, the police forces of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau were able to dismantle a major illegal gambling operation that had been accepting over RMB1 billion in bets since January 2016.

The criminal group had been operating websites and servers overseas to take bets on football and basketball events, offering odds higher than legal gambling platforms to attract customers. At the peak of their operations, the syndicate was believed to have accepted peripheral bets worth up to RMB72 yuan per week during the UEFA European Football Championship.

Macau airport introduces first cardless currency exchange machine

VICTORIA CHAN

TRAVELERS to and from Macau can now enjoy a more convenient foreign currency exchange experience, as the city's first cardless currency exchange machine is now operational at the airport's departure terminal, announced Banco Delta Asia in a statement.

The new machine, installed by Delta Asia Bank, allows residents and visitors to exchange Macau patacas for Japanese yen, Singaporean dollars, Thai baht, and Chinese RMB without the need for a bank card. Users can simply deposit pataca banknotes, select the desired non-local currency, and enter their personal information to receive the

corresponding cash.

Delta Asia Financial Group chief executive officer Au Lai-Chong expressed her delight in being the first bank in Macau to offer this innovative service, stating that it will provide a more efficient and user-friendly foreign currency exchange experience for both locals and travelers. The bank's statement highlighted the machine's 24-hour availability, making it a convenient option for those who need to exchange currency before their flights.

The currency exchange machine is located on the departure floor of the Macau International Airport, offering a solution for travelers who need to convert their patacas into other currencies.



SUBSIDIES

RESIDENTS TO START RECEIVING CASH HANDOUTS TODAY

STARTING today, July 2, the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government will begin distributing cash subsidies to eligible residents as part of its "Wealth Partaking Scheme 2024".

The subsidies from the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) will be disbursed through two methods: bank transfer and mailed crossed checks.

A total of 717,018 permanent residents will each receive MOP10,000, while 30,850 non-permanent residents will receive MOP6,000. The payments will be made via bank transfer or mailed crossed checks over the next five weeks until July 31.

Priority groups, including senior citizens, disabled individuals, and

1. Dates of distribution via automatic bank transfer			
Identity of beneficiaries	Bank Transfer Date		
(1) Persons receiving subsidy for senior citizens	2024.07.02		
(2) Retired civil servants receiving retirement pension and other persons receiving survivor pension	2024.07.02		
(3) Persons registered for receiving tax reimbursement or other payments from Financial Services Bureau through bank transfer	2024.07.03		
(4) Persons receiving disability subsidy	2024.07.04		
(5) Persons receiving financial assistance from the Social Welfare Bureau	2024.07.05		
(6) Teaching staffs receiving direct subsidy or subsidy for professional development	2024.07.05		
(7) Students in tertiary education receiving student aid from the Education Fund	2024.07.05		
(8) Civil servants have not yet registered for receiving tax reimbursement or other payments from Financial Services Bureau through bank transfer	Salary Payday in July, 2024		

2. Dates of distribution by crossed cheque			
Identity of Beneficiaries: General residents			
Year of Birth	Period of Mailing Cheque		Starting Date for Cheque Reissuance Request
	Week	Period	
≤ 1975	1	2024.07.09 - 2024.07.12	2024.07.29
1976 - 2005	2	2024.07.15 - 2024.07.19	2024.08.05
2006 - 2016	3	2024.07.22 - 2024.07.26	2024.08.12
2017 - 2023	4	2024.07.29 - 2024.07.31	2024.08.15

students receiving government assistance, will receive their payments first

via direct bank transfer starting July 2. The remaining residents will

receive mailed checks starting July 9, with the distribution staggered by birth

year. Residents born in 1975 or earlier will receive their checks from July 9-12, followed by younger age groups in subsequent weeks.

Residents can check the status of their payments and apply for reissued checks online through the Wealth Partaking Scheme website or their Macau One Account. They can also update their mailing address through these channels or directly with the Identification Services Bureau.

The government has allocated over MOP7 billion for this year's scheme, which was first introduced in 2008 to help protect Macau's economic prosperity with its residents. **NS**

MARITIME

First time in 60 years that no hydrofoils are operating between Macau and HK, group claims

RENATO MARQUES

THE Jetfoil Conservation Concern Group has said that for the first time in the last 60 years, there is no type of hydrofoil ferry operating between Macau and Hong Kong. The group made the announcement in a post on their official pages on social media.

According to the same source, the Foilcats "Penha" and "Barca," the only two of this kind of vessel operating the ferry route since the pandemic, have both ceased operations and been returned to their shipyard.

The group that eagerly follows matters related to the preservation and operation of the historical vessels noted that Penha has been "out of service for some time already while Barca went out of service last month, the possibility



of [the vessels] return [operation resumption] is unknown."

The group noted that "Aside from the pandemic (and the early days of resumption), this is the first time since the introduction

of [the ship] "Coloane" by Shun Tak in 1964 that there are no hydrofoils of any kind servicing the Hong Kong - Macau route."

The group that has been consistently calling for the return of

the Jetfoils to operations as well as for the historic preservation of the vessels, has said on several occasions in the past that economic interests from the Shun Tak-owned TurboJet company are the

grounds of the discontinuance of the use of these type of ferries, that have been considered to be both safer and more comfortable.

In November last year the group said, citing information from the company, that at least one of the vessels, "Terceira," was almost ready to restart operations, which as yet has not happened.

In early September last year, TurboJet stated on the company's official Facebook page that Jetfoils could not resume operation due to aspects related to the construction of the fourth bridge between Macau and Taipa, noting it was unsafe to operate this vessel type during this phase.

According to the latest records, the company still possesses five Boeing 929 model Jetfoils including "Terceira," "Funchal," "Horta," "Cacilhas" and "Taipa."

The NB 1624 "Barca" and NB 1625 "Penha" are 35-meter Foil-Cats that were respectively the first and second vessels of the Ultra-High-Speed FoilCat design, with the patented Fjellstrand foil system.

Built back in 1995, the vessels can accommodate a maximum of 407 passengers and are propelled by gas turbines and water jets. The FoilCat is also equipped with a fully submerged foil system, active flap control, and an automatic flight control system developed by Kvaerner Fjellstrand A.S.

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha ° 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues ° 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata ° 趙魯 Zhao Lu °* 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陳芷喬 Joana Chan

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

陳健雄 Eurico Chan
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家及外地註冊律師

JURISTS AND LAWYERS

QUALIFIED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:

林思潔 Jessie Lin
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong

法律專家 JURISTS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
伍福賢 Domingos Ng
許栢桓 Rui Fernandes Brás

WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642/ 2837 2623

° 私人公證員 Notary Public * 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



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



Surveys show economy growing but at modest pace

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BANGKOK

SURVEYS of Chinese factory managers showed a mixed outlook for the world's second-largest economy in June, with growth steady but not picking up much steam.

The China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing's official purchasing managers index, or PMI, remained at 49.5, the same as in May, on a scale up to 100 where 50 marks the cut off for expansion.

"From the perspective of output, China's economy is maintaining expansion, but the momentum of recovery still needs to be consolidated," the official Xinhua News Agency cited Zhao Qinghe, senior statistician for the National Bureau of Statistics, as saying.

The PMI for new export orders slipped to 49.4 from 49.6, perhaps reflecting announcements by the European Union and United States of plans to increase their tariffs on imports of electric vehicles from China.

A private-sector survey released

AP PHOTO



Monday by the financial media group Caixin was more optimistic, edging up to 51.8 from 51.7 in the previous month. That was the fastest expansion of factory output

in two years, it said. Analysts had forecast that it would fall.

But while sentiment was positive, the level of confidence among purchasing managers fell

to the lowest in over four-and-a-half years due to worries over intense competition and uncertain market conditions, Caixin said.

The surveys offered scant insi-

ght into whether various measures to boost the property sector, such as cutting mortgage interest rates and down payments, have had much impact on an industry-wide slump that followed a crackdown on excessive borrowing by developers.

"The PMIs for June were mixed but on balance suggest that the recovery lost some momentum last month," Capital Economics said in a report.

The official PMI reading for high-tech manufacturing rose to 52.3 in June from 50.7 in May, reflecting the government's drive to boost investment in upgrading factories and equipment in new industries such as computer chip and electric vehicles.

"This shows that the transformation and upgrading of China's manufacturing industry has continued to advance," Zhao was quoted as saying.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has made growth of such advanced industries a top priority, a theme likely to dominate an upcoming meeting of top officials of the ruling Communist Party when they meet later in the month.

Xinhua said in a separate report that during the meeting the party would disclose a new round of "deep and comprehensive reforms."

Such measures will "chart the course forward for the world's second largest economy," it said. **MDT/AP**

17-year-old Chinese player died after collapsing during a badminton match in Indonesia

SLAMET RIYADI & EDNA
TARIGAN, YOGYAKARTA

A 17-year-old Chinese player died after collapsing on court during an Asian tournament in Indonesia's Yogyakarta province, Indonesia's Badminton Association said yesterday.

Zhang Zhijie was playing against Kazuma Kawano of Japan at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships on Sunday when he collapsed and had seizures.

Badminton officials said medical teams treated Zhang on court and he was rushed by ambulance to a nearby hospital.

He was later taken to the Dr. Sardjito General Hospital, a main government hospital in Yogyakarta.

"The conclusion of the



examination and treatment of the victim at both hospitals showed the same results, namely that the victim experienced sudden cardiac arrest," Broto Happy, spokesperson of Badminton Association of Indonesia, told reporters at a news conference.

Badminton players and officials in Yogyakarta paid tribute to Zhang by

holding a minute of silence on the court yesterday morning before the quarterfinals.

Badminton Asia said it was "immensely saddened" and expressed its condolences to Zhang's parents and family, adding: "The world of badminton has lost a talented player."

The Chinese Badminton

Association offered its condolences and support to Zhang's family, and described him as a player who "loved badminton and was an outstanding athlete of the national youth badminton team."

The Chinese association said its team's leader, coach, doctor, translator and the tournament medical staff acted quickly after Zhang appeared to faint on the court.

"We feel deeply distressed over the unfortunate death of Zhang Zhijie from a sudden illness while competing in an international competition," the statement said. "We express our sincere gratitude to all sectors of the society for the concern and help given to Zhang Zhijie. We will do our best to provide help to Zhang Zhijie's family." **MDT/AP**

EDUCATION

MOUNTAINOUS COUNTY SCHOOL IN GUIZHOU STUNS WITH GAOKAO RESULTS

A high school in Liupanshui, a mountainous region of Guizhou province, has defied expectations with its outstanding performance in the highly competitive national college entrance exam, the gaokao. Nearly all students in a single class at Liupanshui No 2 High School scored above 600 points, with the highest score reaching an impressive 694 points - the top score for science students in the entire city.

The total score for the gaokao in Guizhou is 750.

This remarkable achievement is even more significant considering the students' backgrounds. Most hail from mountainous re-

gions and often have parents working in cities. Despite these challenges, their dedication and hard work have paid off.

The student with the highest score played a significant role in motivating her classmates. Hua Can, the class monitor, describes the student's dedication as a spark that ignited a fire within the entire class. "She studied hard herself, and under her influence, every one of us is working tirelessly," Hua Can said.

This drive led to a shift in the classroom culture, with students arriving early for self-study and collectively raising the bar for academic performance. **CHINADAILY**

N. Koreans are seen wearing Kim Jong Un pins for the first time as his personality cult grows

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

FOR the first time, North Korean officials have been seen wearing lapel pins with the image of leader Kim Jong Un, another sign the North is boosting his personality cult to the level bestowed on his late dictator father and grandfather.

North Koreans are required to wear pins over their hearts which for decades bore images of either the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, or his son Kim Jong Il, or both. The existence of pins dedicated to Kim Jong Un had not been verified until state media published photos on Sunday showing officials wearing his pins at a ruling Workers' Party meeting.

The pins are part of a state-sponsored mythology surrounding the Kim family which treats Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il like gods. They are memorialized with numerous statues across North Korea, their birthdays are two of the country's main holidays and their portraits are hung in all homes and offices.

Few question current leader Kim Jong Un's hold on power, but few images honoring the 40-year-old have been displayed in public since he took power in late 2011 upon his father's death. Recently,



however, he has begun taking steps to boost his own personality cult while also trying to further move out of the shadow of his father's and grandfather's legacies.

In May, his portrait was publicly displayed along with those of the two other Kims for the first time at a Workers' Party training school. In January, Kim announced he will no longer pursue peaceful unification with South Korea, a decadeslong policy cherished by his father and grandfather.

Observers also say North Korea appears to be refraining from using terms like "the Day of Sun," a reference to the April 15 birthday of Kim Il Sung.

"The latest series of efforts to idolize Kim Jong Un is assessed as a move to dilute his predecessors while establishing his authority as a leader" different from them, Kim Inae, a deputy spokesperson for South Korea's Unification Ministry, told reporters Monday.

She said Kim is also likely trying

to boost internal solidarity behind his leadership as he grapples with economic hardships and the influence of South Korean pop culture.

Ahn Kyung-su, head of dprkhealth.org, a website focusing on health issues in North Korea, said Kim Jong Un is trying to phase out the symbols representing the legacies of his predecessors to promote his own era. But as the third-generation leader in the Kim family, he will find it dif-

ficult to push too far because that would weaken the legitimacy of its dynastic rule, said Ahn, who has interviewed many North Korean defectors and closely monitors North Korean state media.

"Kim Jong Un is in a dilemma. He wants to stay away from his father's and grandfather's legacies more but he can't do so," Ahn said.

He said North Koreans are now expected to wear Kim Jong Un pins.

Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said the wearing of Kim Jong Un pins isn't surprising, given that he has been consolidating his rule for over a decade.

"The question is, now that Kim has stepped out from the shadow of his predecessors, whether he will undertake policy adjustments to break with North Korea's past economic failures," Easley said.

In recent years, North Korea's fragile economy has suffered further setbacks because of strict pandemic restrictions, persistent U.N. sanctions and its own mismanagement. During a Workers' Party meeting on Saturday, Kim spoke about "some deviations obstructing" efforts to improve the country's economic status, according to state media.

Some experts say Kim's moves are also related to his reported push to make his preteen daughter his heir in another hereditary power transfer.

South Korea's spy agency said in January that it sees Kim's daughter, reportedly named Ju Ae and aged about 11, as her father's likely heir apparent. But some analysts say it's still too early to call her Kim's successor, citing her age and North Korea's male-dominated hierarchy. **MDT/AP**

Japan revises economic growth in Q1 downward, as data show sluggish demand

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BANGKOK

JAPAN revised its earlier estimates to show that its economy contracted at a 2.9% annual pace in the first quarter of the year, as meanwhile a survey by the central bank released yesterday showed conditions remain sluggish.

Analysts had expected the downward revision in the GDP data for January-March and said it was mainly based on a change in data on construction activity. The earlier estimate was of a 1.8% contraction in annual terms.

The quarterly survey

by the Bank of Japan showed a modest improvement in business sentiment among large and medium-size manufacturers. But details of the survey showed weakness in demand both in Japan and overseas.

"Across all industries and firm sizes, business conditions held steady at 12, which is on past form consistent with (quarterly) GDP growth of around 0%," Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in assessing the tankan.

"A renewed slowdown in GDP growth this quarter would be consistent with the slump in industrial production fir-



ms were predicting for June," he said.

A resumption of normal production among automakers after they had slowed factory lines due to shortages of computer chips last year was one factor behind the slight improvement in over-

all manufacturing sentiment, economists at ING Economics said.

The major highlight of the government's downward revision for growth early this year was that public investment contracted at a 1.9% rate. Earlier, it was estimated

to have grown 3%. Private residential, or housing, fell 2.9% instead of the earlier estimate of a 2.5% contraction.

Japan's economy grew at a 0.1% annual pace in the last quarter of the year, just barely avoiding two consecutive quarters of contraction, or a technical recession. It expanded at a 1.8% annual rate in full-year 2023.

Weakness of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar has benefited exporters, who see their profits earned overseas inflated in yen terms when they are brought back home. But it also has sharply increased

costs for the many commodities and products Japan imports, especially of oil and gas.

While the Federal Reserve in the U.S. has kept interest rates high to try to tame inflation that flared during the pandemic, Japan's central bank has kept its benchmark rate near zero to keep credit cheap in hopes of spurring more spending and investment.

But price increases have outstripped increases in Japanese workers' earning power, keeping demand relatively weak and sapping growth in an economy largely driven by consumer demand.

The latest data showed household spending falling in the first quarter of the year, in inflation-adjusted real terms. **MDT/AP**

Millions in Nigeria have little to no electricity. It's straining businesses and public services

TAIWO ADEBAYO, IBADAN

DIMLY lit and stuffy classrooms stir with life every morning as children file in. Rays of sunlight stream through wooden windows, the only source of light. Pupils squint at their books and intermittently the blackboard as teachers try to hold their attention.

It's a reality for many schoolchildren across Nigeria, where many buildings don't have access to the national electricity grid. In Excellent Moral School in Olodo Okin in Ibadan, "the entire community is not connected, including the school," said school founder Muyideen Raji. It acutely affects pupils, he said, who can't learn how to use computers or the Internet and can't study in the evenings.

About half of Nigeria's more than 200 million people are hooked up to a national electricity grid that can't provide sufficient daily electricity to most of those connected. Many poor, rural communities like Olodo Okin are off the grid entirely.

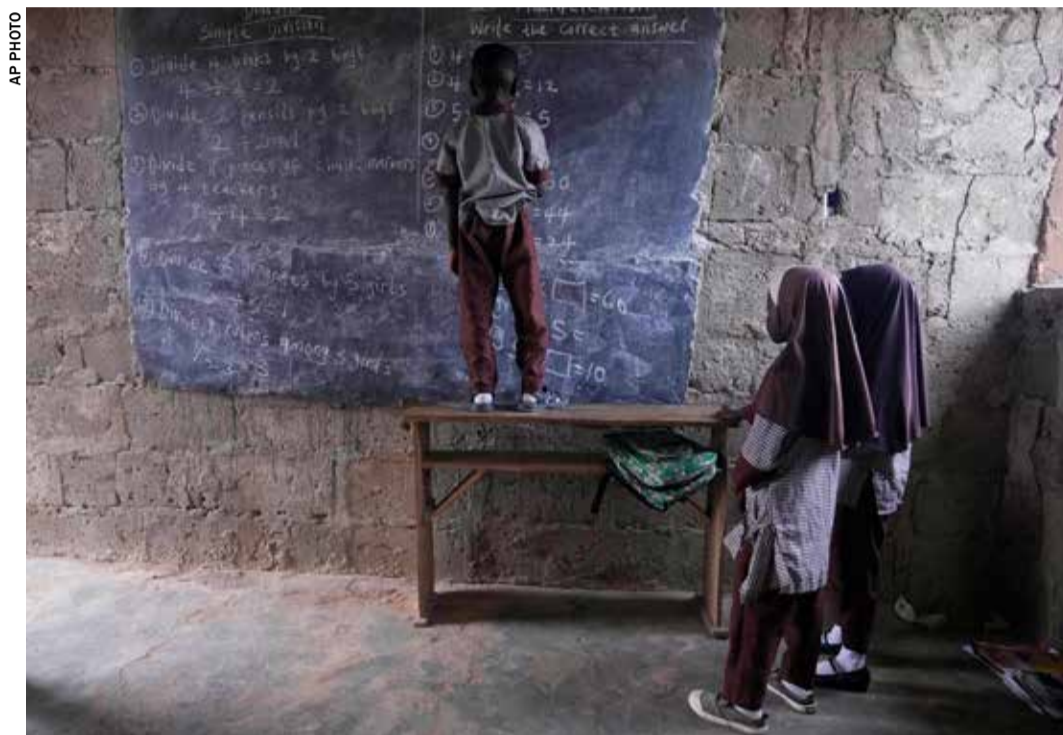
In a country with abundant sunshine, many are looking to solar energy to help fill the gaps, but getting risk-averse investors to finance major solar projects that would give Nigeria enough reliable energy is an uphill struggle. It means that millions in the country are finding ways to live with little to no electricity.

LOTS OF SUN, FEW FUNDS

Studies have shown that Nigeria could generate much more electricity than it needs from solar energy thanks to its powerful sunshine. But 14 grid-scale solar projects in the northern and central parts of the country that could generate 1,125 megawatts of electricity have stalled since contracts were signed in 2016.

Those trying to develop solar projects in the country blame interest rates for borrowing which can be as high as 15 percent, two to three times higher than in advanced economies and China, according to the International Energy Agency.

That means it's more costly for solar companies to work in Nigeria or other developing



nations than in rich countries. Africa only has one-fifth the solar power capacity of Germany, and just 2% of global clean energy investments go to the continent.

"The same project put up in Nigeria and Denmark; the Danish project will get funding for 2 to 3 percent" interest rate, said Najim Animashaun, director of Nova Power, one of the stalled solar projects. Meanwhile he struggles to get loans even with interest rates of 10 percent or higher, "even though my solar project can produce two and half times more power," than a Danish one.

Nigeria also does not set so-called cost-reflective tariffs, meaning the price consumers pay for electricity doesn't cover the costs to produce and distribute it. This means distribution companies can't fully pay producers and the industry relies on government interventions to stay afloat, scaring off lenders from investing in the solar industry.

Currently, power producers say they are owed up to 3.7 trillion Naira (\$2.7 billion) by the government, making it difficult to meet obligations to their lenders and contractors.

One option would be getting World Bank guarantees that would put investors at ease and make them more willing to put money into solar projects — but the government is wary of signing up to anything that would force them to pay large sums even

if electricity from the projects does not get the consumers because of inadequate transmission and distribution infrastructure.

But without World Bank guarantees "nobody will develop or finance a project with a government subsidy, because it can dry off," said Edu Okeke, the managing director of Azura Power. Azura Power has a stake in the now-stalled 100 megawatt Nova solar project in Nigeria's northern Katsina State.

STOP-GAP SOLUTIONS

With less than 8,000 megawatts of capacity and an average supply of less than 4,000 megawatts — less than half of what Singapore supplies to just 5.6 million people — power outages are an everyday occurrence in Nigeria.

Communities like Excellent Moral School's in Ibadan that have no access to electricity are often surrounded by more fortunate ones that are connected to the grid but experience frequent outages and have to use gasoline and diesel-run private generators.

With the long-running petroleum subsidies now removed, many households, schools, hospitals and businesses struggle with the cost of the fuel for their backup generators.

"We have stopped using a diesel generator as an alternative due to costs," said Abdulhakeem Adedaja, the head of Lorat Nursery and Primary

School in Ibadan. He added that although the school is in an Ibadan area that is connected to the grid, they could go two weeks without a power supply.

The problem is not just the lack of electricity for computer-aided learning, proper lighting, and fans to make classes less stuffy for pupils and teachers, but also that students are unable to complete their school assignments at home, Adedaja said.

For more energy-hungry small businesses like restaurants, they either close shop or continue with alternative power generation, incurring high costs that hurt their capacity for expansion.

Ebunola Akinwale, the owner of Nature's Treat Cafe in Ibadan, said she pays 2.5 million Naira (\$1,700) monthly to power backup generators in her four branches.

"If nothing changes, I probably would have to close one or two branches," she said, though she is planning to go solar which she enthuses will help us cut "pollution from the diesel (generators)." She's in talks with her bank for a low-cost loan package specially designed for young women entrepreneurs to finance the solar alternative.

However, not every business and household has such access or can afford the upfront capital for a private solar system. School heads Raji and Adedaja said they find the costs prohibitive. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



The Civil Rights Bill - one of the most important piece of legislation in American history - has become law.

US President Lyndon B Johnson signed the bill creating equal rights in voting, education, public accommodations, union membership and in federally assisted programmes - regardless of race, colour, religion or national origin.

The bill has caused much controversy since it was introduced last year by President John F Kennedy.

It was signed tonight in the White House five hours after the House of Representatives passed it by 289 to 126 votes.

After the signing, President Johnson shook hands with civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King.

In a television address to the nation he called on US citizens to "eliminate the last vestiges of injustice in America".

"Let us close the springs of racial poison," he said.

Parts of the bill take immediate effect, including the "public accommodations" element which means black people can no longer be excluded from restaurants, hotels, bars, cinemas, sports stadia and other public facilities.

Sections on voting rights and desegregation of schools are also enforceable from now and give the Attorney General more power to intervene where necessary.

The section on equal opportunity in employment will not begin to operate for another year and will not be fully effective for five years.

During the debate on the bill, segregationist politicians from America's deep south expressed their disappointment and anger.

Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia called it a "monstrous oppression of the people".

Civil rights activists have welcomed the new law. Roy Wilkins, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People described it as "the Magna Carta of human rights".

He applauded the appointment of former governor of Florida Leroy Collins as director of the new Community Relations Service, set up to deal with issues arising from the desegregation of public facilities and institutions.

The Civil Rights Commission has announced a campaign to implement the law.

And Dr King said he would be seeking commitments from businesses and community leaders all over the south to respect the new law under a campaign called Operation Dialogue.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Extra civil rights measures were introduced in the following years.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed at removing the rights of states to introduce restrictions to stop certain people voting.

The 1968 Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Many states acted quickly to circumvent the law which led to a great feeling of injustice and resentment in the inner cities and the rest of the decade was marred by race riots and assassinations.

Black leader Malcolm X was shot in 1965 and Martin Luther King was killed in 1968.

The black ghetto riots between 1964 and 1968 marked the most prolonged period of unrest in the United States since the American Civil War. They were finally suppressed when tens of thousands of National Guardsmen were sent in to quell them.

Black people continued to remain at a disadvantage when looking for work, and programmes of "affirmative action" were introduced during the 1970s under President Nixon.

The Civil Rights Act of 1991 encouraged positive discrimination and allowed lawsuits against employers if their hiring had a "disparate impact" on women or minorities, even if there was no proof of discriminatory intent.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Consider spiritual questions. Faith can seem missing, with Neptune stationing retrograde for five months. Practice compassion, especially with yourself. Find a more fulfilling path.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Reminiscence with teammates over five months, with Pisces Neptune retrograde. Illusions could cloud your view. Abandon preconceptions. Support each other for practical priorities.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Revise long-term professional goals. Reaffirm old bonds over the next five months, with Neptune retrograde. Revisit your favorite people, projects and places. Enjoy nostalgia.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Look back on where you've been to clarify where you're going. Review adventures, with Neptune retrograde for five months. Cross a body of water.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Stick to what worked before with shared finances for five months, with Neptune retrograde. Revise arrangements and plug any financial leaks. Conserve resources.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Over five months, with Neptune retrograde, you're most comfortable with your inner circle. Collaborate and celebrate together.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Revise physical routines, with Neptune retrograde. Meditate. Balance stress or burnout with relaxation and peace. Take extra time for yourself. Listen to your imagination.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Reconsider your game. Review rules and instructions. Slow to let romance develop naturally over the next five months, with Neptune retrograde. Enjoy your favorite fun.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Slow to avoid burnout. Neptune's retrograde inspires a five-month homebody phase. Release unsatisfying pursuits. Practice compassion for yourself as well as others. Get yourself flowers.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Reconnect with old friends. Review history for context on current affairs, with Neptune retrograde. What was hidden gets revealed. Practice tact, compromise and diplomacy.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You're especially insightful and sensitive, with Neptune retrograde. Contemplate deep questions. Imagine the results you want, and revise plans and budgets to suit.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Resolve a personal issue. Reconsider the past, with Neptune retrograde in your sign for five months. Follow an old dream. Revise goals, dreams and fantasies.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	cloudy
Changchun	15	29	cloudy
Chengdu	21	33	rain
Chongqing	23	34	cloudy
Fuzhou	28	36	cloudy
Guangzhou	28	35	rain
Guiyang	20	28	cloudy
Haikou	27	35	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	25	35	cloudy
Harbin	16	28	cloudy
Hefei	24	31	rain
Nanjing	25	28	rain
Shanghai	26	33	overcast
Taipei	26	33	cloudy
Wuhan	23	30	rain
Hong Kong	28	32	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	22	33	sunny
Frankfurt	12	17	showers
Paris	13	21	showers
London	12	20	cloudy
New York	19	28	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Bundle; 5- Aromatic herb; 10- Riyadh resident; 14- Catchall abbr.; 15- Run away with a lover; 16- Dirty; 17- Look ____, I'm Sandra Dee; 18- Later, dude!; 19- Feeling achy; 20- Sweet wine; 22- Elevated; 24- Quattro minus uno; 25- You're making __ mistake!; 26- Circuitous way; 29- Violent whirlwind; 33- On one's toes; 34- Go it alone; 36- Checkers side; 37- Apt. divisions; 38- Move stealthily; 39- Funnyman Philips; 40- Snaky swimmer; 41- "... countrymen, lend me your ____"; 42- Teacher; 44- Pencil sketch; 47- "Gunsmoke" star; 48- Aardvark's meal; 49- Disencumber; 50- Two-piece bathing suit; 53- The day following today; 58- Dismounted; 59- Wynonna's mom; 61- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 62- Charge per unit; 63- Borden's spoked cow; 64- Hit with an open hand; 65- Watchful one; 66- Wears well; 67- Transmitted;

DOWN 1- Ray of light; 2- Westernmost of the Aleutians; 3- Hightails it; 4- Voter; 5- SAT giver; 6- "Hard ____" (sailor's yell); 7- Yuletide; 8- Engage in espionage; 9- High school memento; 10- Give, as homework; 11- Outback hoppers; 12- Suffix with concession; 13- Ran, as colors; 21- Stuck, after "in"; 23- Intangible mixture of gases used for breathing; 25- Collection of maps; 26- Challenged; 27- Bugs bugs him; 28- Physicist Nikola; 30- Aggregate of qualities that make good character; 31- Audition tapes; 32- Smells; 34- Catches; 35- ___ the ramparts we watched...; 38- Watchdog; 42- The Supremes, e.g.; 43- Disrobe; 45- Table attendant; 46- Roadside stop; 47- Military organizations; 50- Uncovered; 51- Now ___ me down to sleep...; 52- Toy with a tail; 53- Chuck; 54- Skip; 55- Make angry; 56- ___ epic scale; 57- Cried; 60- Menu words;



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



It's prime time to BUY & RENT!

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty

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

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

SPAIN BEATS GEORGIA TO REACH QUARTERFINALS. IT NEXT PLAYS HOST GERMANY

JAMES ELLINGWORTH,
COLOGNE

SPAIN 4, GEORGIA 1

Spain recovered from conceding an early own-goal to beat Georgia 4-1 for a spot in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals, ending one of the tournament's most compelling underdog stories.

Goals from midfielders Rodri and Fabián Ruiz brought Spain back into the game after Robin Le Normand's own-goal in the 18th minute had given Georgia a shock lead. Nico Williams and Dani Olmo took the game out of Georgia's reach with two more goals late in the game as heavy rain fell.

After the final whistle, Williams and the 16-year-old Lamine Yamal met up on the field for an impromptu game of rock-paper-scissors, apparently over who got to drink first from a water bottle.

It was a moment that summed up the unpredictability and sense of fun in a Spain team which had previously been prone to retreating into an unthreatening passing game, as in its loss to Morocco at the same stage of the 2022 World Cup.

Facing Georgia was a test of Spain's nerves, Rodri said.

"It was a tough game. We knew it before. Maybe they don't have the big names, but they made it hard for us," he



Spain's Fabian Ruiz, second right, scores his side's second goal during a round of sixteen match between Spain and Georgia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany, Sunday

said, adding that his goal "was key because we were a bit jittery at that point... We have things to improve."

His own performance won praise from Spain coach Luis de la Fuente, who called Rodri "a walking computer, a perfect computer" in Spain's midfield, in translated comments.

Spain will play host nation Germany in the quarterfinals on Friday in Stuttgart.

"Obviously Germany at home is going to be very

strong but we have no fear. We have our own weapons," Rodri said.

The loss ends Georgia's first ever major tournament campaign, which included a 2-0 upset win over Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

Despite the lopsided score on Sunday, Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili had another standout game with nine saves to prevent a rout.

Spain had beaten Georgia 7-1 in qualifying last year, but

this game was a close contest until the last 20 minutes and testament to Georgia's rapid improvement under coach Willy Sagnol.

Playing its fourth game of Euro 2024, Spain had yet to concede a goal all tournament.

That soon changed when Otar Kakabadze surged down the right flank for Georgia and crossed low. Le Normand chested the ball past his own goalkeeper, with the defender

apparently distracted by Khvicha Kvaratskhelia arriving behind him to meet the cross.

Spain took its time to get back into the game, but Rodri -- back from a one-game suspension -- leveled the score in the 39th with a low shot from just outside the box.

Georgia remained a threat on the counter, including with an audacious shot from the halfway line by Kvaratskhelia, but Spain midfielder Ruiz made it 2-1 in the 51st when he rose unmarked to meet a cross from Yamal.

Needing a goal, Georgia had to open up its compact defensive formation and conceded twice more as Williams scored in the 75th, sprinting through the Georgian half on the break before shooting over Mamardashvili. Substitute Olmo added a fourth eight minutes later.

Sagnol said his team could have beaten Spain after Le Normand's own-goal but the combination of the equalizer from Rodri and an injury to Otar Kiteishvili just after took the wind out of their sails.

"We thought we could have a chance," Sagnol said. "We did lose a lot in these 20, 30 seconds."

After the final whistle, Georgia's players gathered in front of their fans for a slow-clap chant reminiscent of another European Championship underdog — Iceland — when it beat England in 2016. MDT/AP

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

Jude Bellingham scored a wonder goal and then turned to a speech by Theodore Roosevelt

JAMES ROBSON,
GELSENKIRCHEN

As one of the most exciting soccer players in the world, Jude Bellingham's wonder goal against Slovakia on Sunday was what many have come to expect from the England star.

His decision to mark the occasion by referring to a speech by former U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt, however, seemed a less likely move from someone who only celebrated his 21st birthday on Saturday.

Bellingham's overhead kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time rescued England after it had trailed Slovakia 1-0 in the round of 16 at the European Championship. It sent the game into extra time and Harry Kane sealed a 2-1 win, meaning England will play Switzerland in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

Bellingham later posted part of a speech by Roosevelt on his Instagram channel, likely in response to the fierce criticism the England team has received at Euro 2024.



England's Jude Bellingham celebrates at the end of the round of sixteen match between England and Slovakia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Sunday

The excerpt of the speech, commonly known as 'The Man in the Arena' begins with the statement "It is not the critic who counts" and goes on to say "The credit

belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."

England's players have been booed by fans during the Euros because of the team's unconvincing performances

in Germany. Former national team captain and now BBC presenter Gary Lineker used an expletive on his podcast when delivering stinging criticism of the performances.

Playing for "England is an enjoyable feeling, but it's also a lot of pressure here," Bellingham said. "People talk a lot of ru-

bbish and you know it's nice, when you deliver, you can give them a little bit back.

"Football and being on the pitch, scoring a goal and celebrating is a release and it was maybe a message to a few people."

The full speech by Roosevelt, which was entitled 'Citizenship in a Republic,' and was given at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1910.

Under his post, Bellingham wrote: "So proud of the boys tonight, we live to fight another day." MDT/AP

SCOREBOARD

Round of 16	Switzerland	2	0	Italy
Round of 16	Germany	2	0	Denmark
Round of 16	England	2	1	Slovakia
Round of 16	Spain	4	1	Georgia

Croatia fined USD112,000 by UEFA for fan misconduct

CROATIA was fined 105,000 euros (\$112,500) by UEFA for fan misconduct at a European Championship elimination game against Italy, the federation said.

The financial penalty is the biggest by UEFA announced at the tournament, and the second for Croatia. A separate investigation by UEFA is ongoing into alleged racism involving both sets of fans at Croatia's second Euro 2024 game, against Albania.

The separate fines for incidents at the Croatia-Italy game on Monday were 45,000 euros for throwing objects, including beer cups, 30,000 euros for lighting flares and fireworks, and 30,000 euros for "inappropriate behavior" that was not specified.

UEFA fined Croatia 27,500 euros for fans lighting and throwing fireworks at the game against Albania.

The Croatian federation earned 9.2 million euros in tournament prize money by UEFA.

Croatia was eliminated by drawing with Italy 1-1 in Leipzig. Italy scored in the eighth and final minute of stoppage time.

The game could have been the international farewell for Croatia great Luka Modric, at age 38. His goal against Italy set a tournament record as the oldest ever scorer.

EURO 2024

Fearless Georgia departs but leaves behind plenty of highlights

JAMES ELLINGWORTH,
 COLOGNE

KHVICHA Kvaratskhelia found himself in space on the halfway line and spotted Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón out of position. Why not take a shot?

The Napoli winger's effort bounced just wide of the post this time, but it was so nearly spectacular and showed an ambitious Georgia team that seemed to have no fear of failure at Euro 2024.

The lowest-ranked team in the tournament lost 4-1 to Spain in the round of 16 on Sunday, but it went down fighting after taking the lead early on. Any sadness from the loss will fade as players appreciate just what they achieved, Georgia coach Willy Sagnol predicted.

"I'm sure in some days we will realize what we have done and I think happiness is going to come back very quickly," Sagnol said.

Before the tournament be-

gan, Sagnol just wanted his team to gain experience on its debut in such a major competition as an independent nation. Results were secondary and political turmoil at home threatened to overshadow the whole campaign.

Then Georgia pulled off one of the biggest shocks in tournament history by beating Portugal 2-0. Suddenly it was in the knockout stages and the players were promised a \$10.7 million bonus from a politically connected billionaire back home. Another bonus was on offer for beating Spain.

"Believe," read a giant banner at the Georgian end of the stadium, just like in fictional coach Ted Lasso's locker room. Georgia did, and it leaves behind quite the Euro 2024 highlight reel.

In its opening 3-1 loss against Turkey, Georgia scored off an elaborate passing move. In its 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic, Georgia nearly won but missed a crucial shot on the last kick of the game. The shock



Georgia's players thank their fans after a round of sixteen match against Spain at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany, Sunday

win over Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal was built on audacious dribbling in the midfield and goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili hurling himself at the ball for crucial saves.

Where Georgia goes from here is unclear. Sagnol deflected a question about whether he might stay for the qualifying campaign for the 2026 World

Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"Sometimes you have to take the time to sit and look at what you have done and I think we can sit in peace and quiet, everyone, and look at the last year," he said.

"Now it's the end of a journey but I'm sure the next one will be also very exciting." MDT/AP

UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Wed	Jul 3	0:00	Romania	Netherlands	H 9.5, D 4.6, A 1.44
		03:00	Austria	Turkey	H 2, D 3.4, A 4.5

ODDSCHECKER.COM

AD



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
 澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS



Enjoy the **Good Life**
 Boa Vida Starts Here

Discover
 Now



T +853 2856 7888
 Terms & conditions apply



ARTYZEN
 GRAND LAPA MACAU
 澳門維辰酒店

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

MIDDLE EAST AT MOMENTOUS CROSSROAD

Tensions between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah were effectively eased last week thanks to the mediation efforts that successfully hammered home the point that an all-out war between the two sides will serve no party's interest. That makes more sense if the presidential elections of both Iran and the United States are taken into account.

But the Houthis of Yemen and the Islamic Resistance of Iraq, both backed by Iran, launched at least two joint attacks on Israel's Haifa port last week, and claimed their anti-Israel military collaboration will intensify.

So the latest attacks on Haifa indicate Teheran and its regional allies are seeking to put Israel under continued international pressure.

The anti-Israel forces view maintaining their military pressure on Israel from the north and other directions as extensions of the Gaza conflict, and they hope to help drain and distract the Israeli military, and fuel the internal political divisions and build tensions with Israel's allies.

However, as long as the Benjamin Netanyahu government does not change its opposition to Palestinian statehood, the continuous trade of hostility between Israel and its regional rivals will only serve to make the former more determined that violence must be met with violence.

Instead of prompting Tel Aviv to give a serious thought to a truce with Hamas, the looming war to the north with Hezbollah, a much more powerful group than Hamas, is only spurring the Netanyahu government to prepare for an attempt to create a new 10-mile (16.09-kilometer) buffer zone above Israel's current border with Lebanon through a new war.

That means the attempts regional forces have been making to try and force Israel to end its offensive in Gaza have stimulated the situation to go the opposite way, forcing Tel Aviv to reevaluate Israel's security conditions in other directions and act accordingly.

Although the US does not support a war between Israel and Hezbollah, it will by no means sit idle while its closest regional ally faces more security threats than it did before the start of the Gaza conflict.

By mooring its amphibious assault ship USS Wasp strike group and the Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Eastern Mediterranean coast of Israel, the US is projecting its military power in a bid to deter Israel's regional rivals.

Anonymous White House officials have already bristled at the "purported logic" of Hezbollah arguing that Israel would see an end to Hezbollah attacks by reaching a cease-fire agreement with Hamas in Gaza, claiming that an elusive cease-fire deal in Gaza would go a long way in quieting tensions on the Israel-Lebanon border.

It is clear that while Hezbollah, Houthi and Islamic Resistance are trying to give support to Hamas in Gaza by coordinating their respective pro-Palestine campaigns, neither Tel Aviv nor Washington buys that, as both of them are intent on addressing threats from these groups separately.

Tel Aviv is now still focused on Gaza seeking to consolidate its gains in the Palestinian enclave as permanent Israeli strategic assets, just as it has done with Palestinian lands that it has occupied since 1967.

Netanyahu will hope to take advantage of his planned visit to Washington this month, when he is due to address the US Congress on July 24, to lobby for more US support for his government to effectively address Israel's security threats, including those from Hezbollah. But Washington might try to convince him that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, as the Republican presidential candidate holds a more pragmatic attitude toward the way in which the Gaza crisis should be settled.

He seems to recognize that the onus will always be on the US to end the Gaza crisis.

Australia appointed Sam Mostyn yesterday as only its second woman governor-general, a largely ceremonial role representing the British monarch who is the nation's head of state.

It is the first such Australian appointment since the reign of King Charles III began in 2022 and the first by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party government that wants to replace the British monarch with an Australian president as head of state.

The businesswoman and gender equality advocate, who in 2005

became the first woman Australian Football League Commissioner, was sworn in as Australia's 28th governor-general since 1901.

In her first speech in her new role, Mostyn quoted Australia's first woman governor-general Quentin Bryce, who described her role in 2013 as "striking a balance between observing traditions and protocol and being thoroughly contemporary."

"I will be an optimistic, modern and visible governor-general, committed to the service and contribution that all Australians expect and deserve from the holder of this office," Mostyn said.



JAPAN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES AN ADVANCED EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE ON ITS NEW FLAGSHIP H3 ROCKET

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPAN successfully deployed an upgraded Earth observation satellite for disaster response and security after it was launched on a new flagship H3 rocket yesterday.

The H3 No. 3 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island and released its payload about 16 minutes later, putting it into a targeted orbit as planned, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said during a livestream.

The Advanced Land Observation Satellite, or ALOS-4, is tasked primarily with Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapping, including for volcanic and seismic activity and other land movements. It's also capable of mo-

nitoring military activity, such as missile launches, with an infrared sensor developed by the Defense Ministry.

JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa praised yesterday's successful launch as "a big first step" toward ensuring Japan's access to space and international competitiveness. "I believe the two successful flights in a row would help gain trust from in and outside the country."

JAXA's H3 Project Manager Makoto Arita said the mission was "almost a perfect success."

The ALOS-4 is a successor to the current ALOS-2 and can observe a much wider area. Japan will operate both for the time being.

The launch was the third of the H3 system, after the successful one on Feb 17, and the shocking failed debut flight a year earlier when the rocket had to be des-

troyed with its payload — a satellite that was supposed to be the ALOS-3.

Japan sees a stable, commercially competitive space transport capability as key to its space program and national security.

JAXA and its main contractor Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have been developing the H3 launch system as a successor to its current mainstay, H-2A, which is set to retire after two more flights. MHI will eventually take over H3 production and launches from JAXA and hopes to make it commercially viable by cutting the launch cost to about half of the H-2A.

"We will continue to improve our success record and gain trust from our customers," said Koji Shimura, H3 project manager at MHI's defense and space segment. MDT/AP



Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital yesterday after holding him for seven months without charge or trial over allegations the facility had been used as a Hamas command center. He said he and other detainees were held under harsh conditions and tortured. The decision to release Mohammed Abu Selmia (pictured), apparently taken in order to free up space in overcrowded detention centers, sparked uproar from across the political spectrum, with government ministers and opposition leaders saying he should have remained behind bars.

Pakistan A court sentenced a Christian man to death for sharing what it said was hateful content against Muslims on social media after one of the worst mob attacks on Christians in the eastern Punjab province last year, his lawyer said yesterday. In August 2023, groups of Muslim men burned dozens of homes and churches in the city of Jaranwala after some residents claimed they saw two Christian men tearing out pages from Islam's holy book, the Quran, throwing them on the ground and writing insulting remarks on other pages, authorities said. The two men were later arrested.



Canada's second largest airline, WestJet, has reached a deal with its mechanics to end a strike that had disrupted the travel plans of tens of thousands of passengers over the Canada Day long weekend. WestJet said yesterday (Macau time) there will still be flight disruptions in the week ahead as its planes are brought back into service. In its own news release, the Airplane Mechanics Fraternal Association urged its members to return to work immediately pending a vote on the temporary agreement.